

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

May 21, 2023  
125 Years of Mission and Ministry



**HEBREWS 13:1, NIV**

**10:30 a.m.**

Greeters/Ushers: Colleen, Dave & Jared Nielsen  
Lector: Stacey Lienemann

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members  
Pastor: Joseph Rafique  
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward  
Organist: Jan Malone  
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith  
Digital Media Specialist: Nancy Taylor  
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann  
Child Care Attendant: Katie Softley  
Custodian: Scott Hoyt

**Aldersgate  
United Methodist Church**  
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Lincoln, NE 68506-6540  
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402-489-1510 (church office)  
[aldersgatelinc@gmail.com](mailto:aldersgatelinc@gmail.com)

**Joseph Rafique, Pastor**  
402-499-7101 (cell)  
402-483-7250 (home)  
[jrafique@GreatPlainsUMC.org](mailto:jrafique@GreatPlainsUMC.org)

*Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.  
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.*



May 21, 2023

**Prelude**

*Deanna Steward*

**Greeting and Announcements** (*Stacey*)

**Music for Centering Prayer**

“Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place” — *Aldersgate Choir*

**Hymn #57** (red, vs. 1, 3-4, 7)

**“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;  
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739

MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

**Call to Worship** (*Nancy Tomlinson*)

PASTOR: A house of worship, a place of peace, where hearts are filled and souls released;

ALL: **we come together to give thanks and to pray  
for the blessings that guide us each and every day.**

PASTOR: We remember the history of this sacred space, the memories made and the love we've embraced.

ALL: **We honor the past and look to the future,  
with hope in our hearts and the Lord as our suture.**

PASTOR: We give thanks for the beauty that surrounds us here,  
for the light that shines and the love that's near.

ALL: **We sing hymns of praise and lift our voices high  
for the glory of this church that touches the sky.**

PASTOR: As we celebrate this 125th anniversary, we give thanks for the past and look forward with clarity;

ALL: **we pledge to continue, to grow and to learn,  
with the Lord as our guide and God's love as our yearn.**

**Opening Prayer** (*Stacey*)

LECTOR: Gracious God, our helper, we seek the assurance of your presence in this time of worship. On this special day of celebration, we have come to listen and to receive your counsel.

ALL: **Melt our hearts to remove the barriers that keep us from seeing your glory and doing your will. Challenge all that is worthless and unprofitable in our lives, that we may become worthy imitators of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**Hymns #553** (red)

**“And Are We Yet Alive”**

And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?  
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!

2. Preserved by power divine to full salvation here,  
again in Jesus' praise we join, and in his sight appear.

3. What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,  
fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!

4. Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love;  
and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.

5. Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power,  
which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.

6. Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain,  
and gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1749

MUSIC: Johann G. Nägeli; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845

### **Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Inviting God, in the midst of our business-as-usual, you come close; you come in and invite us to go deep. You assure us that, in the deep places, we will find new life in abundance. You ask us to trust and to take risks, to cast ourselves fully into the depths of community where we will find our true selves and be empowered to serve. (pause 6-8 seconds)

We hear your invitation but we do not always respond in faith. Because of fear, habit and closed hearts, we hold back and do not follow your lead. When we recognize how we have fallen short, we can be tempted to run away. Help us, Lord. (pause 6-8 seconds)

What you offer is what we need, yet we often reject your love with negative self-talk and resistance. Search for us again, O love of our hearts, and may we be mindful of who we are in your love so we can become all you have created us to be. (pause 6-8 seconds)

Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

PASTOR: When we call, the One who is all love, answers and gives us strength for our weariness. Though we fall short, Love draws near to us again and again, bringing us out of our fear and resistance and into our calling as reflections of Christ. We have strength for the task and love for the journey. This is our good news today.

### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer #895** (red, *Joseph*)

PASTOR: God of all goodness, by glimpsing something of your vision of a just and merciful world, we become acutely aware of how much inhumanity and suffering still exists in the world. It would overwhelm us if it were not for the tender beauty and hope that arises each new morning and shimmers from the heavens at night. And so, from graced places of gratitude and wonder we pray: for Earth staggering under the weight of global warming and deforestation,

ALL: **together, may we see and find another way.**

PASTOR: For people staggering under the weight of poverty, violence and loss,

ALL: **together, may we see and find another way.**

PASTOR: For nations staggering under the weight of pride and a need to impose their will,

ALL: **together, may we see and find another way.**

PASTOR: And for the Christian Church staggering under the weight of seeming irrelevance within secular cultures,

ALL: **together, may we see and find another way.**

PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)  
For these prayer needs we ask of the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: God of all, honor the desires in our hearts and may they flourish within the people of grace and compassion we seek to be as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

ALL: **Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Special Music**

Medley of Hymns from 1898 — *Aldersgate Choir*

**God's Word Proclaimed** (*Stacey*)

Hebrews 13:1-3, 6-8

**Sermon** (*Bishop David Wilson*)

“Remember, Consider, Imitate”

**Offertory** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Through our offering, we extend to the world God's banquet invitation. As we reach out to people who have not known our advantages, we are blessed. Let us not neglect to do good and to share generously what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**Offertory Music**

“Doxology” — arr. M. Hayes

**Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: In joyous thanksgiving for the banquet of life that you have set before us, O God, we invite those who live in poverty to share our wealth. We give up some of our luxuries for the sake of brothers and sisters who lack food, shelter or medical care.

ALL: **We reach out to help, O God, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us. We dedicate our time and abilities along with these fruits of our labor. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

**Hymn #2226** (black)

**“Bind Us Together”**

Bind us together, Lord,  
bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord,  
bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.  
There is only one God, there is only one King;  
there is only one body, that is why we sing.  
Bind us together, Lord,  
bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord,  
bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Bob Gillman  
© 1977 Kingsway's Thank You Music

**Commissioning and Blessing**

BISHOP: God, thank you for your mercy that birthed the vision for this church. Pour out your mercy on this church as it continues in mission and ministry. May your presence in its services be stronger in the coming years. Great God, who inhabits the praises of your people, receive our celebratory thanksgiving as it is offered today in the name of Jesus Christ. The Lord says “in everything acknowledge me and I will straighten your path.” Encourage this church, Lord, to continue trusting you always and not lean into their own understanding. Amen.

**Happy Anniversary to Aldersgate United Methodist Church**

Person with the longest Aldersgate membership

*Loyal Park*



Recognize former pastors (*Keith*)

How did Pastors John and Pam come to be involved with Aldersgate (*Joseph*)

Looking to the future: newer members, those who have reconnected and those who have just started attending (*Joseph*)

Aldersgate Gardens and Blessing of the tree (*Larry*)

Grace for the meal (*Bishop Wilson*)

**Postlude**      “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” — arr. Molly Ijames  
Duet by *Mary K. Burns and Jan Malone*

# Announcements

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**Today, May 21**

**World Baking Day**

10:30 a.m. 125 Years of Mission and Ministry Worship with Bishop David Wilson — online and Worship Center. <https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463>. Or at your convenience at [www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org)

12:00 p.m. 125 Years of Mission and Ministry catered roast beef meal — Sunshine Room.

6:00 p.m. Choir Picnic — Clopper-Smith, 336 S. 89th St.

**Monday, May 22**

**National Buy a Musical Instrument Day**

4:15 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma Executive Meeting — Room 4

**Tuesday, May 23**

**World Turtle Day**

1:30 a.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group “Dealing with Dementia”— Fellowship Hall. Learn about resources in Lincoln.

5:30 p.m. Honey Do Extension Club Salad Supper — Courtyard

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry “A Flood in Lincoln? You Betcha” with Larry Ruth — zoom  
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81778191841?pwd=aVNobS9qU2FabmdrZlJScU8wSkVHQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 7819 1841

Passcode: 832006

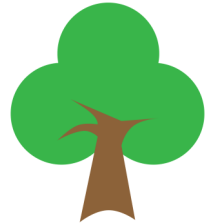
One tap mobile

+16699009128,,81778191841#,,, \*832006# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kpGzFaqtB>



**Thursday, May 25**

**Towel Day**

12:30 p.m. Prayer and Worship Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn

**Friday, May 26**

**National Paper Airplane Day**

8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4

**Saturday, May 27**

**Sunscreen Protection Day**

10:00 a.m. Nebr. Herbal Society — Sunshine Room

**Next Sunday, May 28**

**Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=cIRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZlZk0aTZvQzFMQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 243 946

Password: 021075

One tap mobile +12532158782,,812243946#,,1#,021075# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcFkfw3laD>

**Sunday, June 4**

**Peace with Justice Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Dreams for the Next 125 Years of Mission and Ministry — Room 4

**Tuesday, June 6**

**National Eyewear Day**

11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th. Fellowship over lunch ordered off the menu.

- Wednesday, June 7**      **Trial Technology Day**  
 1:30 p.m. Book Club “You’ll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories about Racism” by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar — zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 7 – Saturday, June 10 Noon**  
 Great Plains Annual Conference — LaVista, NE
- Friday, June 9**      **National Strawberry-Rhubarb Pie Day**  
 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and enjoy the fellowship of playing cards (10-point Pitch)
- Sunday, June 11**      **National German Chocolate Cake Day**  
 9 & 11 a.m. Women in Mission Sunday with Lynn Wallasky
- Monday, June 12**      **Magic Day**  
 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith with Brianna Morris — Room 4
- Thursday, June 15**      **National Lobster Day**  
 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom. Share prayer concerns.
- Saturday, June 17**      **National Eat Your Vegetables Day**  
 9:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast (Lighthouse Tour)
- Sunday, June 18**      **Father’s Day**  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School with the Earth Stewards — Room 4
- Monday, June 19**      **Juneteenth**  
 6:00 p.m. Vic’s Pizza Meal — Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the Church Office by Sunday, June 11.  
 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School “Shine God’s Light”  
 Pete Allman speaking on Lighthouse Youth Program — Worship Center
- Tuesday, June 20**      **New Identity Day**  
 7:00 p.m. Book Club “The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell: A Novel” by Robert Dugoni — Room 4
- Wednesday, June 21**      **First Day of Summer**  
 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4. Tying  
 6:00 p.m. Meal — Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the Church Office by Sunday, June 11.  
 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School “Shine God’s Light”  
 Mary Carol Bond, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department discussing sustainability —  
 Worship Center
- Friday, June 23**      **National Pink Day**  
 6:00 p.m. Meal — Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the Church Office by Sunday, June 11.  
 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School “Shine God’s Light”  
 Keith Johnson “125 Years of Mission and Ministry” — Worship Center
- Sunday, June 25**      **Descendants’ Day**  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School with the Earth Stewards — Room 4
- Tuesday, June 27**      **National Bingo Day**  
 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group “Exploring Legal & Financial Tips” — Fellowship Hall.  
 Learn about resources in Lincoln.  
 7:00 p.m. Earth Stewards Ministry — zoom
- Wednesday, July 5**      **National Graham Cracker Day**  
 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Punching the Air* by Ibi Boboi & Yusef Salaam — zoom