

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church



## 9:00 a.m.

Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward  
Videographer: Nancy Taylor  
Greeter/Usher: Phyllis Nelson and Gaylene Nutzman

**June 411 2023**  
Women in Mission Sunday

## 11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Pat Marshall and Pat Ruth

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



June 11, 2023

## Greeting and Announcements (*Sheila*)

**Music for Centering Prayer** (9) "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" — arr. Mark Hayes  
(11) "Jesu/Tapestry" — arr. Penny Rodriguez

## Call to Worship

LEADER: The church is made up of all kinds of people: short and tall, young and old and in between, skin of every tone on Earth and colorful languages to match.

ALL: **Together we celebrate!**

LECTOR: All are welcome by the Spirit of Christ: when we doubt and when we hold firm to beliefs, when we feel like being outgoing extroverts or quiet contemplatives, the rainbow expressions of faith are all gathered in.

ALL: **Together we celebrate!**

LECTOR: Each one of us has an important part to play: a story to tell, a voice for singing, an insight to share, a talent to offer.

ALL: **Together we celebrate!**

## Opening Prayer

LEADER: We give you thanks, Gracious God, that you invite us and all people into your presence, to feast at your table, to share together as equals and to welcome one another. Keep us ever mindful that it is by your grace that we are welcomed here. May we never do anything to suggest that others of your children are any less worthy of your grace.

ALL: **May we be always grateful for your holding each and every one of us dearly. And may we tell of your unconditional love to all and sing of your glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Hymn #2117 (black)

### "Spirit of God"

Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,  
blow as you always do; create us anew.

Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

2. Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,  
healing upon your wings for all living things.

For when we live your peace, captives will find release,  
Held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

3. Spirit of God, bright Hands, even in far-off lands  
you hold all the human race in one warm embrace.

No matter where we go, you hold us together so,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

4. Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,  
the power to heal, to share your love everywhere.  
We cannot fail or fall, or know defeat at all,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

5. Spirit of God in all, we gladly hear your call,  
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.  
Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

WORDS and MUSIC: © 1987 Steve Garnaas-Holmes

### **Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation**

LEADER: O God, our prayers often falter when we think we need to get it all right with every word in its proper place, every sentiment correctly stated. Yet we know life is not like that. Our feelings wander, our thoughts scatter, our motivations are mixed. Save us from a politeness of faith that often shrinks back from the messy soul of what it means to be human. From these messy places, we find life-giving desires longing to be felt and given voice. Save us, too, from a sterility of faith that, for the sake of precision, remains closed to wonderment, the facing of hard questions, and possibilities of new adventures. In the deep and hospitable silence,

ALL: **enlarge our trust and free our hearts to live the generous ways of your love.**

LEADER: (pause) God's voice carries over the waters of creation, reaching out to you and assuring you that you are loved into life's fullness over and over again. You will drink of the living waters and never be thirsty again.

ALL: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

PASTOR: Gracious God, we know that we have something to say and that there is good news to share. We know that you have promised peace everlasting and we can lift our voices to proclaim such possibility. But, we are also full of doubt that our voices are strong enough or loud enough. Sometimes, we know we must use our voices. It has to be us that speak up. We must find the courage, like the woman at the well, to break through our insecurities and the expected boundaries to give voice to what matters most. Gracious God, we will never feel quite ready. We will always stumble over the words and question how we use words to bring about the change you imagine. As we find the courage to speak, we turn to you, Gracious God, to listen for what most needs to be said. We are listening. (pause)

What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)

God of shared desire, we entrust these prayers and our voices to you in the hope of love, compassion, peace, justice and faith. We pray in the name of Jesus who taught his disciples to pray 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.**

**Hymn (vs. 1-3)**

**“A Place at the Table”**

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.

And God will delight when we are cre-a-tors  
of justice and J—O—Y, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are cre-a-tors of justice, justice and joy!

2. For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that’s fair.

And God will delight when we are cre-a-tors  
of justice and J—O—Y, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are cre-a-tors of justice, justice and joy!

3. For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong.

And God will delight when we are cre-a-tors  
of justice and J—O—Y, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are cre-a-tors of justice, justice and joy!

**Sermon**

“Seeking Justice by Dippin’ into the Living Water” — Lynn Wallasky

**Hymn (vs. 4-6)**

**“A Place at the Table”**

4. For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live.

And God will delight when we are cre-a-tors  
of justice and J—O—Y, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are cre-a-tors of justice, justice and joy!

5. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.

And God will delight when we are cre-a-tors  
of justice and J—O—Y, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are cre-a-tors of justice, justice and joy!

6. For gay and for straight, a place at the table,  
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and color,  
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace.

And God will delight when we are cre-a-tors  
of justice and J—O—Y, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are cre-a-tors of justice, justice and joy!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray; © 1998 Hope Publishing Company. Vs. 6 by Brian Mann  
MUSIC: Lori True; ©2001 GIA Publications, Inc.

**Offertory (11)**

“Lamb of God” — Twila Paris

**Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self**

LEADER: We are called to put our faith and love into action in our local, national and global communities. God’s love has no boundaries. We ask for your guidance.

ALL: **Loving God, we commit ourselves to be transformed by your Spirit and share your love with all your children and all of creation.**

LEADER: Our God is a God of justice who stands with the marginalized.

ALL: **Give us thirst for your divine justice and fill our hearts and spirits with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Show us how to stand in solidarity with one another, especially the oppressed, the poor and the marginalized. Show us how to put our faith into action. Amen.**

LEADER: God’s blessing be with you, Christ’s peace be with you, the Spirit’s outpouring be with you, now and always. Amen.

**Postlude (9)**

(11)

“Standing on the Promises” — arr. Ralph Long

“Blessed Assurance” — Fanny Crosby and Phoebe Knapp

# Announcements

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## Today, June 11

### National German Chocolate Cake Day

9:00 a.m. Women in Mission Sunday with Lynn Wallasky — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463> or at your convenience at [www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org). You may also search YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

11:00 a.m. Women in Mission Sunday with Lynn Wallasky — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=c1RSQUlOZjYrQjIyZk0aTzVqZFMQT09>

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/j/kcFkfw3laD>



## Monday, June 12

### Magic Day

1:00 p.m. OLLI “Sips and Wishes” — Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Trustees — Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09>

Meeting ID: 326 776 8816

Passcode: 4024891510



## Tuesday, June 13

### Sewing Machine Day

7:00 p.m. Finance — Room 4

## Thursday, June 15

### National Lobster Day

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

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom. Share prayer concerns.

## Friday, June 16

### National Vinegar Day

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

## Saturday, June 17

### National Eat Your Vegetables Day

9:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast (Lighthouse Tour, 2601 N St.) Everyone is invited. Carpool from the church.

## Next Sunday, June 18

### Father’s Day

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

10:00 a.m. Sunday School with the Earth Stewards — Room 4

10:15 a.m. One-Shot Choir Practice — Choir Room

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

## Next Monday, June 19

### Juneteenth

6:00 p.m. Vic’s Pizza Meal — Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the Church Office.

6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School “Shine God’s Light” stories, songs, crafts, games  
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 quilts for missions.  
 6:00 p.m. Mini Runza Meal — Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the Church Office.  
 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School “Shine God’s Light” stories, songs, crafts, games  
 Mary Carol Bond, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department discussing sustainability —  
 Worship Center
- Friday, June 23**      **National Pink Day**  
 6:00 p.m. Pulled Pork Meal — Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the Church Office.  
 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School “Shine God’s Light” stories, songs, crafts, games  
 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
- Monday, July 10**      **Pick Blueberries Day**  
 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith with Frankey Ostlund — Room 4
- Friday, July 14**      **National Tape Measure Day**  
 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and enjoy the fellowship of playing  
 cards (10-point Pitch)
- Saturday, July 15**      **National Give Something Away Day**  
 8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast — Room 4. Catered by Hy-Vee
- Sunday, July 16**      **National Fresh Spinach Day**  
 10:15 a.m. One-Shot Choir Practice — Room 9
- Tuesday, July 18**      **World Listening Day**  
 7:00 p.m. Book Club *Punching the Air* by Ibi Boboi & Yusef Salaam — Room 4
- Wednesday, July 19**      **National Hot Dog Day**  
 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4.
- Thursday, July 20**      **National Lollipop Day**  
 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom
- Tuesday, July 25**      **National Hire a Veteran Day**  
 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group “Exploring Senior Centers” — Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — zoom
- Tuesday, August 1**      **Play Ball Day**  
 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th St. Seniors fellowship over lunch.
- Wednesday, August 2**      **National Coloring Book Day**  
 1:30 p.m. Book Club “Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt — zoom