



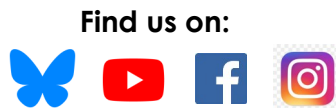
Good Samaritan welcomes and affirms all persons regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or socioeconomic background. We seek to reconcile any differences that divide us.

PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Rev. Max Richter, Lead Pastor max@good.org (952)452-9395
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E-News
 Email cindy@good.org to receive the weekly e-news.

Prayer Chain
 Email jim@good.org for prayer requests or to receive the weekly prayer chain email.



Thank you...
Ushers: Dean Kraus, Janet VanBenthuyssen
AV Techs: Brad Carlin, Noemi Dooley
Liturgist: Rev. Gail Alexander
Special Music: Carey Shunskis, soloist
Communion Servers: Gail Miller, Pat Olson, Rev. Max Richter, Serena Steffenhagen
Nursery: Shelley Scharping
Fellowship Hosts: Jeff Jelen, Lynn Timmer

WORSHIP
10:00 AM

January 4, 2026
 Epiphany

Our Vision

Inspiring
 Joyful Faith

Building a
 Loving
 Community

Serving
 Neighbors
 Near and Far

Today's
 Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Matthew 2:1-2

GOOD SAMARITAN
 Who we are. What we do.



Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
 5730 Grove Street, Edina, Minnesota 55436
 (952) 929-0049 ~ good.org

WELCOME !

Nursery care is available for ages 6 weeks-3 years.

Large print hymnals and bulletins are available from the ushers.

Hearing assist devices are available at the sound booth.

Thank you for supporting our ministries! Offering plates are available by the Sanctuary doors as you exit or scan this QR code to give securely online.



Please join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall after worship.

*Standing or sitting.

PRELUDE "Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring" J.S. BACH

GREETING & WELCOME

*HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH 206

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The New Dawn will arise upon us.

All: We shall see and be radiant.

The New Dawn will arise upon you.

The Holy One will bless the people with peace.

The New Dawn will arise upon you.

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

The New Dawn will arise upon us.

God is here among us.

Let us rejoice and be glad in God's presence.

HYMN "We Three Kings" vs. 1, 2, 3 UMH 254

CHILDREN'S TIME Jan Russell
After Children's Time, children are invited to Sunday School in 200.

WELCOME ALDERSGATE UMC

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC "Rejoice Greatly" from *Messiah* G.F. HANDEL

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-2 (NRSVUE)
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "Our Finest Gifts We Bring" Rev. Max Richter

*HYMN "We Three Kings" vs. 4, 5 UMH 254

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Living God, from the beginning you have been teaching us what goodness is and how we should live together with integrity and justice. Forgive our lack of imagination, our inability to read the value of each person and to bring out the best in everyone. Teach us humility, keep our hope alive, and sustain our love for all humanity, as we recognize the gift of diversity in your creation.

The Great Thanksgiving

FWS 2257-a,b,c,d

The Lord's Prayer

Our God*, 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.

*(*Mother, Father, Creator, etc. - use the word that is most meaningful for you.)*

Receiving the Elements

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen or Alleluia.**

The cup of the New Covenant, poured for you. **Amen or Alleluia.**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

*HYMN "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" UMH 251

*BLESSING

One: May the path that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth, to bring light to those who sit in darkness, to bring out those who live in bondage,

All: to bring new things to all creation: may this path run through our life. May we be the road Christ takes.

POSTLUDE

"We Three Kings"

ARR. PAUL MANZ

Call to Worship: adapted from a longer liturgy by Seekers Church, a Christian community in the tradition of the Church of the Savior. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/contemporary-call-to-worship-for.html>

Blessing: written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on *The Painted Prayerbook*. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/01/epiphany-blessing.html>



Good Sam Happenings

You're in a GOOD place to ... connect, grow, worship ...

Welcome, Aldersgate!

We're so glad you're here!

All are invited to a light brunch following worship today in our newly renamed Aldersgate Hall to honor the history of both Aldersgate UMC of St. Louis Park and the original event of John Wesley's heart being "strangely warmed" in our United Methodist history.



Pancake Brunch next Sunday

Join us after worship next Sunday, January 11, for a pancake brunch! We will serve buttermilk and gluten-free pancakes, pork and vegan sausage, hot regular and sugar-free syrup, orange juice, and regular and decaf coffee. A free-will offering will be taken, and any amount over expenses will be donated to the Missions Team. This will be a wonderful opportunity to chat with our new friends from Aldersgate and celebrate our merger!



Small Group Opportunities

Serena Steffenhagen, former staff member at Aldersgate, will lead a couple of small groups here at Good Samaritan:

Monday Nights (1st and 3rd Mondays of each month) at **6:30 p.m. in the Lower Lobby** (right inside lower doors). As our first topic of the New Year, this small group will explore faith and science. How do scientists reconcile their knowledge with the creation story? How is their faith challenged by science? How is their pursuit of science challenged by their faith? These are some of the questions we're interested in discussing. Our first gathering, **tomorrow, Monday, January 5**, will be to determine a book to help us explore these questions. All are welcome. Bring any ideas or questions you may have as we explore, wonder about and discuss, and in doing so deepen our own faith.

Thursday Mornings at **10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room**. The first topic for this small group is social justice. As this covers a wide range of areas, at our first gathering, **this Thursday, January 8**, we will discuss topics of interest and books and/or authors. All are welcome as we explore how our faith speaks to social justice issues and shapes our responses to what is happening in the world around us.

Upcoming Winter Course: Discovering Your Spirituality Type



Are you a Sage, Lover, Mystic, or Prophet? People have varying spiritual styles, which, when recognized, can bring forth richer spiritual experiences, deeper personal growth, and greater appreciation for others' religious beliefs. Pastor Jim will be leading this enlightening class starting in January. Class registration is now open through Tuesday, January 13.

To sign up, use the QR code, go to tinyurl.com/GSDiscovering, sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex, or email Pastor Jim at jim@good.org. Childcare will be available if needed. Choose the timing that works best for you:



Two Sessions after Worship

Sundays, January 18 and February 1 from 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

or One Half-Day Workshop

Saturday, January 24 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday Afternoon Book Group

This Thursday, January 8, 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room



We will kick off our new year with a discussion of *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller. Joanie Smith will lead the discussion and Julie Young will provide refreshments! A special invitation to our devoted Aldersgate readers!

Questions: Contact Vicki Dunn, 952-930-3431, victoria.dunn@myctl.net (please note her new email address).

ASP Mission Trip

Our next Intergenerational Mission Trip is schedule for June 20-28, 2026.

We will have an **information session on Sunday, January 18** in Youth Room 201.

More Details can be found at www.good.org/event/appalachia-service-project-asp. Contact Jan Russell at jan@good.org with questions.

