



# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**September 7, 2025**  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members  
Pastor: Matt Borland  
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith  
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward  
Organist: Lynette Boyce  
Digital Media Specialist: Nancy Taylor  
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann  
Child Care Attendant: Katie Softley  
Custodian: Scott Hoyt  
Accounting Consultant: Jennifer Hunter

**11:00 a.m.**  
Greeter/Usher: Karl Schwabauer  
Lector: Carol Clymer

**Aldersgate  
United Methodist Church**  
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**Matt Borland, Pastor**  
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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.*





September 14, 2025

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements** (*Carol*)

**Hands and Hearts at Aldersgate**

**Music for Centering Prayer**

“More Love to Thee, O Christ” — arr. Mark Hayes

**Call to Worship** (*Carol*)

LEADER: The world cries to us in its distress. How shall we answer?

ALL: **We cannot pass by as though nothing is wrong.**

PASTOR: How shall we answer?

ALL: **We cannot become so focused on ourselves that others mean nothing to us.**

PASTOR: How shall we answer?

ALL: **We shall be the neighbor in service, reconciliation, and compassion wherever we can.  
In Jesus' Holy Name. Amen.**

PASTOR: Let us rise in body or in spirit and sing.

**Hymn #57** (red)

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

**Opening Prayer**

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **Merciful God, we are called to go and do. Help us to remember also to stop and to listen for your still small voice. Quiet our hearts and minds and invite us to be in your presence and sit in your peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen.**

**Special Music**

“Here I Am, Lord” — *Aldersgate Choir with Joslyn Morgan*

**Reception of New Members**

*Bob & Lynette Boyce, Kevin & Melody Hill*

PASTOR: As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?

NEW MEMBERS: *I will.*

PASTOR: Members of the household of God, I commend Bob, Lynette, Kevin & Melody to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

ALL: **We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

PASTOR: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Let us now welcome our new members in Bob, Lynette, Kevin & Melody here at Lincoln Aldersgate United Methodist Church with your love and hospitality.

**Scripture Lesson** (*Carol*)

Psalm 82 (NIV)

LEADER: The word of God for the people of God.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Response #159** (red, refrain only)

**"Lift High the Cross"**

**Gospel Scripture** (*Kitty*)

Luke 10:25-37

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LEADER: "Jesus," asked a man, one day. "What must I do to live forever with God." "What have you been taught?" asked Jesus. "Love God — with everything I am," answered the man. "And love my neighbor in the same way I love myself." "Good," Jesus smiled. "That's what I would have said." "But who exactly is my neighbor?" asked the man. So Jesus told him a story: there once was a man who went for a walk, from Jerusalem down to Jericho.

ALL: **Oh my, that's a dangerous road!**

LEADER: Robbers grabbed hold of the man, and beat him, and took his clothes, and left him lying helpless by the side of the road.

ALL: **I don't think I can watch.**

LEADER: Soon, a priest walked by.

ALL: (shout) **He'll help the man!**

LEADER: But the priest didn't. He walked past the helpless man and left him lying there.

ALL: (shaking heads sadly) **Oh dear.**

LEADER: A man who worked at the temple came by next.

ALL: (shout) **He'll help the man!**

LEADER: But he didn't either. He walked past the helpless man and left him lying there.

ALL: (shaking heads sadly) **Oh dear.**

LEADER: Then a Samaritan came by.

ALL: (puzzled face) **What's a Samaritan?**

LEADER: The beaten man was Jewish. And Samaritans didn't believe the same things about God as Jewish people. Also, some very bad things had happened between Jews and Samaritans, years and years before. So they didn't get along. So once again, a Samaritan came by.

ALL: (shout) **He'll never help the man!**

LEADER: But he did! He bandaged his wounds.

ALL: **That feels better!**

LEADER: He put him on his donkey.

ALL: **Hee-haw.**

LEADER: He took him to an inn and paid the innkeeper to take care of him.

ALL: **Here's some money.**

LEADER: And he promised to pay even more, if needed, when he returned.

ALL: **And here's more money too!**

LEADER: "So which of the three men," Jesus asked. "Was a neighbor to the man who has been beaten?"

ALL: **What do you think?**

LEADER: The one who showed him mercy and cared for him," answered the man who asked the question. "Then go and be a neighbor, too," said Jesus. We don't know how that man responded, or even if he helped anyone, at all. But, think about it for a moment. Who needs your help? Who needs you to be a neighbor? (bow for a moment of silence)

LEADER: The word of God for the people of God.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Response #159** (red, refrain only)

**"Lift High the Cross"**

**Sermon**

**"Ditch Your Agenda"**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

PASTOR: O God, whom we cannot love unless we love our neighbors, remove hate and prejudice from us and from all people, so that your children may be reconciled with those we fear, resent, or threaten, and may live together in your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: So open our eyes that we might see what the Good Samaritan saw. Grant us the insight to see the need in others, the wisdom to know what to do, and the will to do it. And so we pray for all those, who in many and various ways, have been stripped, beaten and left for dead. Lord, in



Your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for children who must grow up in the most awful of circumstances, especially for those starved of love, or food, or shelter or security. May they receive the future you have planned for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those whose need we would rather not face up to, because it requires action of us, those who suffer atrocities because of war, unjust trade rules, or oppressive governments. May the world receive a true picture of their suffering and the factors that cause it, that justice may be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: May the God who exists in a multitude lead you into communities of true belonging. May they protect you from spaces that demand a selfhood that is no longer true of you and guide you toward those who can glimpse your true face. May God preserve those friendships that are meant to last, and may they grant you the stability of heart to let go when the time has come to find belonging elsewhere. And to the lonely, the isolated, may the divine be company to you as you wait for the embrace you are worthy of. Go in peace, one sacred soul in a collective.

ALL: **Amen.**

### Offertory Prayer

#### Offering

“Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound” — arr. Mark Hayes

#### Doxology (to the tune of #75 red)

#### “Praise God”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

MUSIC: attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1551

### Covenant Prayer

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Book of Common Prayer

PASTOR: Now join us in the way that Jesus taught us to pray together by saying:

ALL: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

#### Hymn #432 (red)

#### “Jesu, Jesu”

### Blessing and Sending Forth

PASTOR: The blessing of our God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you always.

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

PASTOR: Go now, and serve God and all of God’s children in all that you do.

ALL: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!**

(Thank you to those who have participated in today’s worship.  
You are invited to stay and listen to the Postlude or leave as you wish.)

### Postlude

“There Is a Fountain” — trad. American melody, arr. Victor Labenske