

Aldersgate

United Methodist Church



October 5, 2025
World Communion Sunday

11:00 a.m.
Greeter/Usher: Tom Beckenhauer
Lector: Kari Beckenhauer

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

Aldersgate
United Methodist Church
8320 South Street
Lincoln, NE 68506-6540
www.aldersgatelinc.org
402-489-1510 (church office)
aldersgatelinc@gmail.com

Matt Borland, Pastor
402-499-8839
mborland@GreatPlainsUMC.org

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



October 5, 2025

Welcome and Announcements (*Kari*)

Music for Centering Prayer

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow” — Robert J. Hughes

Call to Worship (*Kari*)

LEADER: Welcome to a time of wonder

ALL: **and music that calls us home.**

LEADER: Welcome to hear God’s words that inspire and challenge

ALL: **and to reminders that we are offered holy hospitality —**

LEADER: hospitality that teaches us how to open our lives to others

ALL: **leading us to fully live open minds, open hearts, open doors.**

LEADER: Let us rise in body or in spirit and sing:

Hymn #581 (red)

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

Opening Prayer

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **God of the Widow at Zarephath, God of Joseph the Forgiver, we stand in awe of people who showed hospitality in the midst of sacrifice and betrayal. Take us deep into the heart of hospitality. Help us to understand that the generosity the world needs often demands sacrifice on our part. Be with those who have never known a table blessed by laughter and welcome, who have seldom heard affirmations and who do not know your abiding love. Remind us, O God, that we are to set many tables, to speak blessings often and to be your love in the world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

Cynthia Langston Kirk

Special Music

“The Whisper” — *Aldersgate Choir*

Scripture Lesson (*Kari*)

Deuteronomy 15:7-11 (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 (*Kari*)

Luke 14:12-14

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

“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner”

Response to the Word #882 (red)

Ecumenical Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of the Faithful

PASTOR: Lord, we pray that you will teach us all how to provide for our own lives, mindful of our own needs, yet also of the call of Christ to put our trust in him. Help us to spend our time and our money in a manner worthy of your kingdom of love. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Lord, make this church a place of generosity where people work together, giving all that they are and all that they have, so that the wonderful resources of our world may be better shared. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Generous God, because you treat us with your tender love, we take time to pray for our friends, family members and others who need you more than ever. Pour out your healing on all who need it. Be generous with your transforming love for those who need it in their lives. Bring forth your reconciliation in families, and in places where it is needed. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray that the Church, the People of God, may never cease to proclaim by its teaching, life and liturgy that love of God and neighbor is the heart of the gospel and that people are God's gift to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: That in our Christian communities we may uplift one another rather than tear down, accept each other with trust and affection, forgive one another from the heart and go forward together in hope and love. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Loving God, who holds together all things, we pray for our immediate community; particularly those in seasons of loneliness, need or grief. Those suffering from ailing physical or mental health. Would you bring life to our bodies and reveal yourself as near to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Gracious God, accept all these prayers silently and aloud offered in Jesus' name, and give us now the strength to wait patiently for your answer, and to live faithfully in response to your call. Through Christ, our Lord.

ALL: **Amen.**

Reading

Yeast Thoughts by Mike Hodge; pp. 4-5

Yeast makes bread rise because of the bubbles of gas that it produces. When the yeast is mixed throughout the dough, the bread rises and has the proper rough and airy texture. But if all of the yeast is lumped together in one small part of the dough, the bread won't rise evenly and will have big, empty holes in it. Even so, the church — the people of the Kingdom — must be intimately involved in life, in the world, in the flour of humanity. When we have clustered ourselves together, fearfully barricaded behind sanctuary walls, we have created great, empty holes in God's world that are filled with nothing but hot air. But if we who call ourselves yeast are willing to become so involved in the pain, the despair, and the laughter of life that our main concern becomes enabling people to grow into all that they can be — then God's bread will become perfect in quality, with yeast permeating every part of the dough. Being involved with life — intimately mixed through and through it — sounds dangerous. Yeast dies in the oven, having lost itself to the creation of something new. May we also be willing to lose ourselves.

Hymn #2260 (black, vs. 1, 3)

"Let Us Be Bread"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

PASTOR: This is Christ's table, all are welcome to receive Holy Communion! Most people receive a piece of bread and dip it lightly in the chalice — which is an ancient way of receiving Communion! The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PASTOR: It is right, good and a joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks and praise to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth: when we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

- ALL: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**
- PASTOR: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
- ALL: **Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**
- PASTOR: Likewise, when the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
- ALL: **Drink from this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**
- PASTOR: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
- ALL: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**
- PASTOR: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
- ALL: **Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**
- 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.**

Receiving Holy Communion

Covenant Prayer

- PASTOR: Let us join our lives in the Wesley Covenant Prayer together.
- ALL: **I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

Hymn #378 (red)

"Amazing Grace"

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!**

Postlude

"The Sweet By and By" — Robert W. Thygerson

Announcements

Today, October 5

- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and coffee — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School with Harry Kellenbarger — Room 1
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463> or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org. You may also search YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

Monday, October 6 – Friday, October 10

Midwest Mission Distribution Mission Trip — Pawnee, IL

Monday, October 6

- 7:00 p.m. P.E.O. — Room 4

Tuesday, October 7

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St.
- 6-7:30 p.m. Generation Alpha — light meal then program in Worship Center and online. This is recommended for church leadership working with children and youth or parents and grandparents. Please register at: <https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/KidsMinGenerationAlpha2025>

Wednesday, October 8

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Project Connect — Pinnacle Bank Arena
- 10:00 a.m. Retired Ministers and Spouses (A.R.M.S.) — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, October 9

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

Friday, October 10

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 11

- 11:00 a.m. Citizen's Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, October 12 Clergy Appreciation Day

- 9:30 a.m. *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton — Room 4. Six week video study exploring the Apostles' Creed led by Keith Johnson and Jim Miller
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and coffee — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School with Harry Kellenbarger — Room 1
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 1:30 p.m. Missing & Murdered Indigenous Relatives: How to Support Families Who Have a Missing Loved One — New Visions U.M. Church, 1610 S. 11th St.
- 4:12 p.m. Fall Family Ministry — Nielsen Farm, 18900 Pioneers Blvd, Walton. Pumpkin carving (bring your own pumpkin and carving tools, if you have them), hayrack ride, campfire meal, s'mores, and singing. Please RSVP to Colleen at 402-525-0303 or c66nielsen@gmail.com

Next Monday, October 13 Indigenous Peoples Day

- 11:00 a.m. Moore Family — Sunshine Room
- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith "Ruth" with Suzy Campbell — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

Wednesday, October 15

1:30 a.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, October 16

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Saturday, October 18

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

9 a.m.-1 p.m. District United Women in Faith Fall Meeting — St. Mark's U.M. Church, 8550 Pioneers Blvd.

Sunday, October 19 Children's Sabbath

12:15 p.m. Finance Celebration Potluck — Sunshine Room. Followed by Pre-Church Conference Congregational meeting — Worship Center

Tuesday, October 21

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See — Room 4. One Book/One Lincoln top 10. Discussion led by a librarian.

Tuesday, October 28

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group "Planning for the Journey Ahead" — Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Taco 'bout Jesus — Super Taco, 5501 Holdrege. Food, fellowship, faith conversations

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 4

8 a.m.-8 p.m. Election Day — Fellowship Hall

11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St.

Wednesday, November 5

1:30 p.m. Book Club *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See — Room 4. One Book/One Lincoln top 10. Discussion led by a librarian.

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

6 Colleen Nielsen

7 Luke Stone (45) Roni Vlasnik

Dick Easley

Keller Hustad

Laura Marshall

Zach Steward

Judy Faubel

Dallas Huston

Lynda Nordyke

Maggie Struble

Merrilee Faubel

Ruth Maier

Loyal Park

Jody Anderson, Hayley Jambor's mother who has a brain tumor

Elaine Fetsch, Kitty Anton's sister who started chemo on 5/12/25

Iva Maxey, Reba Wysocki's sister, who is undergoing dialysis treatments

Ava Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece, was diagnosed with gastroparesis.

Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece

Tim Murphy, a veteran with memory issues

Richard Rockenbach in Las Vegas with 2 cerebral hematomas is slowly showing improvement

Alex Ronne, Pat Ruth's cousin, a 7-year-old girl living in Colorado diagnosed with MLD, a rare, incurable, genetic disease.

Ross Teske and his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain

People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine

