

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



11:00 a.m.

Greeter/Ushers: Harry & Sheila Kellenbarger
Lector: Rod Moore

February 1, 2026
Ecumenical Sunday

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

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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.*



February 1, 2026

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements (*Rod*)

Music for Centering Prayer

“Beautiful Saviour” — John F. Wilson

Call to Worship (*Rod*)

based on Acts 17:26-28 by Johan Daza

LEADER: From one person our Lord made all nations to inhabit the whole earth.

ALL: **We come from north, south, east, and west to worship his Holy Name.**

LEADER: God is not far from each one of us.

ALL: **In God we live, move, and have our being.**

LEADER: God made us one in Jesus Christ.

ALL: **We celebrate God’s presence in multiple languages and cultures. Amen.**

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

Hymn #92 (red)

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Opening Prayer

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **Great God of the universe and God of our hearts, we come to worship you. We come before you in awe and in thanksgiving; for it is in you that we live and breathe and have our being. Touch us, speak to us, renew us during this time. Amen.**

Special Music

“Nearer, My God, to Thee” — *Aldersgate Choir*

Epistle Scripture (*Rod*)

Acts 17:16-34

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Response #159 (red, refrain)

“Lift High the Cross”

Gospel Lesson (*Rod*)

John 4:27-42

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Response #159 (red, refrain)

“Lift High the Cross”

Sermon

“God Is Not Far from Any of Us”

Prayers of the Faithful

PASTOR: O Lord, you have given us your Word for a light to shine upon our path. Grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day. Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: **Hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: In your mercy, cool our hotspots, restrain the lawless, and stimulate the imagination of peacemakers. Defend the weak, heal the sick, and send forth prophets who preach good news to the poor. Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: **Hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Lord, our Lord, you are so awesome! You are beyond what we can imagine possible. When we take a look at all that you have done and all that you have made, we wonder why you care for people like us. You have given us an honorable position on this earth of ours — to care for the things you have made, to preserve them and maintain them. You have entrusted living things to

us! Lord, our Lord, the whole earth recognizes how awesome you are! Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: **Hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Loving God, our faithful parent, you who created us in your image and likeness, and are willing to meet with us here, as market vendors, barbers, teachers, nurses, doctors, secretaries, hosts, waiters, mechanics, financial advisors, mothers and fathers. We confess that in our sweat and toil, we often forget your presence. In our struggles and weariness and frustration we are often lukewarm. Forgive us.

Shelter with us. We need you now more than ever. Drained of strength and energy we come, that we might be re-energized and filled. So, come Lord. Come as the wind, blow your breath gently over us, blow the dust off our lives. Come as the fire, burn out all hate and anger we feel toward those who oppress us and treat us unfairly. Come as the water, wash the dirt of poverty off our stalls, the marketplace, and our lives. Come as the dove — settle all matters concerning us. Let peace reign.

May we encounter you today. Ignite our hearts to worship and serve you. Take our place and rule and reign in Jesus' name as we leave our struggle at the foot of the cross and liberate us to worship you.

ALL: **Amen.**

Invitation to the Table

PASTOR: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

ALL: **Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** (silent prayer)

PASTOR: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion and Lord's Prayer #895 (red)

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 our thanks and praise.**

PASTOR: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. 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. 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, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners.

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. 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. 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: 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 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Receiving 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.**

Closing Hymn #428 (red)

"For the Healing of the Nations"

Blessing and Sending Forth

PASTOR: Go now into the world. Search for the God who is not far from each one of us.
Offer to all who ask an account of the hope that is in you.
Keep your conscience clear as you live the commandments in love.
And may God greet your prayers with constant love;
may Christ Jesus give you life through his own life;
and may the Spirit of truth abide with you and within you, always.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

ALL: **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

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

Postlude

"For the Beauty of the Earth" — John F. Wilson

Announcements

Today, February 1

- 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, February 2 Groundhog Day

- 7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team — Room 4

Tuesday, February 3

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation Fresh Expression — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- 7:00 p.m. Money Matters Series: A Faithful Approach to Financial Planning "Investing" with John Dannenbring, CFP — Worship Center and online

Wednesday, February 4

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *There Are Rivers in the Sky* by Elif Shafak — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, February 5

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

Friday, February 6

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Lasting Legacy Team — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 7

- 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Groundhog Celebration — Unadilla U.M. Church, 472 F Street. Free will offering for sausage & biscuits, chicken noodle or chili soup, hot dogs, BBQ or ham salad sandwiches, pie or other desserts.

Next Sunday, February 8

- 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

Next Monday, February 9

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith "Pledge Service" with Pat Ruth and "Installation of Officers" — Room 4. Hostess: Colleen Nielsen
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees — zoom

Tuesday, February 10

- 6:30 p.m. Taco 'bout Jesus Fresh Expression — Super Taco, 5501 Holdrege St.

Friday, February 13

- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling with the Kellenbargers — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 14 **Valentine's Day**

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Legislative Briefing Day — Christ U.M. Church, 45th & A Streets. \$20 includes lunch if registered by Saturday, January 31

Tuesday, February 17

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Playground* by Richard Powers — Room 4

Wednesday, February 18 **Ash Wednesday**

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service — Worship Center and online

Thursday, February 19

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

Saturday, February 21

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast "Electric Vehicles" with a speaker from LES — Room 4. Everyone is invited.

Tuesday, February 24

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group "Palliative Care & Hospice" with HoriSun Hospice — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 28

1:28 p.m. Wedding Shower for Matt Borland and Tatiana De Los Santos "They Are Fresh Off the Market" — Sunshine Room. Women are invited to RSVP to Barb, 402-429-2395 or Stacey, 402-489-1510 or aldersgatelinc@gmail.com by Sunday, February 15.

Tuesday, March 3

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

7:00 p.m. Money Matters Series "Retirement Accounts" with John Dannenbring, CFP — Worship Center and online

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

3 Gypsy Anton (15)

6 Jeanette Fagerberg

7 Aleta Stone

Carol Clymer

Beth Siebe (45)

Judy Faubel

Ruth Maier

Gaylene Nutzman

Maggie Struble

Keller Hustad

Laura Marshall

Loyal Park

Dallas Huston

Lynda Nordyke

Zach Steward

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

Dick Easley has been having trouble breathing

Elaine Fetsch, Kitty Anton's sister, recovering from a heart procedure

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

Diane Mayer, Chuck Schuerman's daughter

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

Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece

Tim Murphy, a veteran with memory issues

Richard Rockenbach in Las Vegas

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

People in Ukraine, Israel, Palestine and Venezuela

