

# Aldersgate

## United Methodist Church



**11:00 a.m.**

Greeter/Ushers: Colleen & Dave Nielsen  
Lector: Stacey Lienemann

**March 2, 2026**

Second Sunday in Lent

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.*



March 1, 2026

**Prelude****Welcome and Announcements** (*Stacey*)**Music for Centering Prayer**

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul” — Joseph P. Holbrook

**Call to Worship** (*Stacey*)

LEADER: Today, God comes to us, to gather us in worship:

ALL: **to wait in silence for the Word, to sit at the Table of grace.**

LEADER: Tomorrow, the Word of God comes, calling us to go forth to serve:

ALL: **to bring hope to those who have none, to love all tossed aside by indifference.**

LEADER: The next day, and the next day, the Holy Spirit will come:

ALL: **so we might discover the gift of peace and offer it to our broken world.****Hymn #577** (red)

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

**Opening Prayer**

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.** Book of Common Prayer**Special Music**“O Love” — *Aldersgate Choir***Old Testament Scripture** (*Stacey*)

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

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** (*Stacey*)

Luke 13:31-35

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**

“Commitment to Service”

**Prayers of the Faithful**PASTOR: Lord God, in your holy word today we heard that you ask us to come to you — and more — you seek us out like a hen seeks out her chicks; that you offer us the protection and the safety of your strong wings. Help us, O God, to stop each day and to listen for your call; to pause and allow you to overtake us; to wait and to have your warmth and your wisdom overwhelm us.  
Lord, in your mercy.ALL: **Hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Father and Mother of us all, you have given us many images of what you are like in the law and the prophets and through the ministry of Christ Jesus our Lord. You have been compared to a hen seeking out her chicks, to a rock which cannot be moved, to a mother suckling her child, to a wind which cannot be controlled and a fire which cannot be quenched, to a woman seeking out a lost coin, to a king who invites everyone to his wedding feast, to an eagle who stirs up her wings and shields the young in her nest, and in each of these images we learn more about you. Grant us,

O Lord, a personal image of your presence — an image which will sustain us. We seek to love you with all our heart and soul and mind and strength as we seek to love one another as Jesus loves us. Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: **Hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Loving God, we stop here today to think not only of ourselves and our needs. We pause not just to have our cups filled by your love. We stop as well on behalf of others. We hold before you those whose cups are filled with bitterness and anger, those who have lost their way and who worship success and the idols of our world. We name them before you and ask that you give them new hearts — hearts that are filled with goodness and with faith. (pause)  
Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: **Hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: God who died, we are heavy with grief. We've been promised freedom in the divine, but this wilderness reeks of death. The landscape is so thorny that we're beginning to feel nothing at all. We feel betrayed and confused and tired, God. Please, not one more thing. Just let us live. Let us heal. This Lent, instill among us rituals of remembrance that allow space for rest and wailing. Relieve any pressure we feel to resolve our pain before we've truly felt it. And as we're healing, grant us wisdom to know we don't have to carry every sadness all at once. Walk with us as we protect our minds and bodies from despair. We lift this up in your holy name.

ALL: **Amen.**

### **Invitation**

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**

PASTOR: God's face is not hidden from us but turns to us full of grace and mercy. God does not turn away from us in horror, but reaches out to gather us together as brothers and sisters. Let us trust such a God with our prayers of confession, saying,

ALL: **Refuge of our hearts, we must speak of how we have not made you the center of our lives. We look for shelter in the false security of the world, not in your promises. Our fears are driven by our emotions and decisions, not by our trust in you. We look to the powerful, the beautiful, the athletic to be our role models, instead of the One who comes in your name. Have mercy on us, our Light and our Hope, and touch us with your forgiving grace. Fill our hearts with your presence, so we might recognize the One who has come to gather us up and lead us into your Kingdom, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.** (silent prayer)

PASTOR: God does not give us up to the temptations and ways of the world, but shelters us with love, with hope, with grace.

ALL: **We are forgiven people. Our songs of joy are lifted to the One who forgives us and saves us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

PASTOR: This is Christ's table. All are invited, especially children. 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. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your proph-

et Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice. 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. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. 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. Now, when we, your people, prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

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 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 #419 (red)

**“I Am Thine, O Lord”**

### Blessing and Sending Forth

PASTOR: People of God, let us claim the freedom Christ gives us by his self-giving on the cross. May he enable us to serve together in faith, hope and love, and the Blessing of God Almighty: Creator, Christ and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR: Go in peace to love and serve God and all God's children in all that you do.

ALL: **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**

"Little Tocatta" — Colin Curtis

**THE ALDERSGATE MISSION:**

To transform lives and prepare disciples through the compassionate love of God.

**THE ALDERSGATE VISION:**

To welcome everyone to a faith journey in a vibrant world.

# Announcements

## Today, March 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](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org). You may also search YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Fellowship Hall

## Tuesday, March 3

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation Fresh Expression — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St.
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" by Rachel Billups — Denton, 9335 W. 3rd St.
- 7:00 p.m. Money Matters Series "Retirement Accounts" with John Dannenbring, CFP — Worship Center and online

## Wednesday, March 4

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Playground* by Richard Powers — Room 4. One of the top 10 finalists for the 2025 One Book / One Lincoln. Discussion led by a librarian.
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Choir Room

## Thursday, March 5

- 12:30 p.m. Worship — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" by Rachel Billups — Room 4. Taught by Pastor Matt.

## Friday, March 6

### World Day of Prayer

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

## Saturday, March 7

- 6:00 p.m. Iftar (Breaking the Ramadan Fast) — Sunshine Room

## Next Sunday, March 8

- 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time begins
- 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, March 9

- 10:00 a.m. Board of Trustees — Zoom
- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" with Sheila Kellenbarger — Room 4. Hostess: Nelda Boswell
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma — Fellowship Hall
- 7:15 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

## Tuesday, March 10

- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" by Rachel Billups — Denton, 9335 W. 3rd St.

## Thursday, March 12

- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" by Rachel Billups — Room 4

**Friday, March 13**

6:30 p.m. Friday Fling with meatballs — Room 4

**Tuesday, March 17**

**St. Patrick's Day**

6:30 p.m. Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" — Denton, 9335 W. 3rd St.

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Shark Heart: A Love Story* by Emily Habeck — Room 4. One of the top 10 finalists for the 2025 One Book/One Lincoln. Discussion led by Morgan from One Book/One Lincoln.

**Wednesday, March 18**

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

**Thursday, March 19**

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

6:30 p.m. Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" by Rachel Billups — Room 4

**Saturday, March 21**

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

**Tuesday, March 24**

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group "Importance of Respite" with Lifespan Respite Network and Messiah Respite Project — Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" — Denton, 9335 W. 3rd St.

**Thursday, March 26**

6:30 p.m. Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" by Rachel Billups — Room 4

**Monday, March 30**

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

**Tuesday, March 31**

6:30 p.m. Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" — Denton, 9335 W. 3rd St.

## Prayer List

### Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

<b>1</b>	Leticia Atkinson	Maury Woudenberg
<b>2</b>	Doug Wysocki	
<b>7</b>	Joe Gores	David & Julie Huston

Judy Faubel	Keller Hustad	Dallas Huston
Ruth Maier	Laura Marshall	Lynda Nordyke
Gaylene Nutzman	Loyal Park	Zach Steward

Maggie Struble

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

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, Iran and Venezuela

