

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

March 15, 2026

U.M. Committee on Relief Sunday

11:00 a.m.

Greeter/Ushers: Harry & Sheila Kellenbarger
Lector: Carol Clymer

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



As long
as I am
in the
WORLD,
I am the
LIGHT
of the
WORLD.

John 9:5

**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.*



March 15, 2026

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

“Open My Eyes” — Clara H. Scott

Call to Worship ()

Joyce Berger, Reformed Worship

LEADER: If you are feeling lost, alone or scared,

ALL: **God welcomes you here and says come, take a seat at my table.**

LEADER: If you are feeling like you are at home sitting in the familiar chair,

ALL: **God welcomes you here and says come, take a seat at my table.**

LEADER: If you are full of doubt and wonder if God is real or cares about you,

ALL: **God still welcomes you here and says come, take a seat at my table.**

LEADER: If you come feeling settled in your faith,

ALL: **God welcomes you here and says come, take a seat at my table.**LEADER: If you didn't really want to come, if you come in the midst of grief and pain,
if you come eagerly and are full of joy, if you are a confused mix of many emotions,ALL: **God welcomes you as you are and says come, take a seat at my table.****Hymn #103** (red)

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Opening Prayer

Book of Common Prayer

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **Gracious God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.****Special Music**“Gonna Sit Down and Rest Awhile” — *Aldersgate Choir***Epistle Scripture** (*Carol*)

II Corinthians 5:16-21

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 (*Carol*)

John 9:1-41

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

“Service as Radical Hospitality”

Prayers of the Faithful

based on Psalm 120:1 © Sam Hargreaves@engageworship.org

PASTOR: The psalmist writes: “I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me.”
Lord, we call to you in our distress.ALL: **We trust you to answer us.**

PASTOR: We lift up the people of the Middle East before you. We call to you for mercy and peace. Bring comfort to the bereaved, bring an end to violence. Lord, we call to you in our distress.

ALL: **We trust you to answer us.**

PASTOR: We pray for the church in these countries, give strength to use their hands for healing, and courage to speak truth, justice and love. Lord, we call to you in our distress.

ALL: **We trust you to answer us.**

PASTOR: We pray for world leaders, guide their responses to this crisis, may hope and grace triumph over fear and hate. Lord, we call to you in our distress.

ALL: **We trust you to answer us.**

PASTOR: In a moment of silence, we lift our fears, our sorrows, and our hopes to you. (Silence)
God of peace, God of love, have mercy on our world, have mercy on the Middle East.
Lord, we call to you in our distress.

ALL: **We trust you to answer us. Amen.**

Offering & Offertory Prayer

“Galilean Waters” — Sylvia K. Riggs

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

Closing Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer #895 (red)

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us. When we face darkness and death, journey alongside us. When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. 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.**

Closing Hymn #454 (red)

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Blessing and Sending Forth

PASTOR: May the God of love, who showed us love, strengthen us in our love for others. May Christ, who shared his life, grant us grace that we might share ours. And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, empower us to be Christ’s ambassadors wherever we go and to whomever we meet.

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

“Immortal, Invisible” — Gerald Peterson

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.

Miracle Sunday

Aldersgate will recognize Miracle Sunday with an offering on Sunday, March 22. The funds raised will become an endowment that will provide theological education for pastors outside the United States.

Within our denomination, more than 70% of our pastors have a master's degree or even a doctorate in theological education. Outside the United States, that number plummets to around 10%. The funds raised during this effort will provide even more United Methodists around the world an opportunity to receive preaching, teaching and pastoral care from a Wesleyan theological perspective.

In many cases, these pastors are serving in areas with high potential for growth and engagement, so this effort is meant to give them the tools they need to introduce more people to the risen Christ. In some ways, this effort is similar to raising up home-grown missionaries around the world.

The offering during the ordination service at Annual Conference will also go toward this effort. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this attempt. We are expecting a miracle to show our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world what we value the work that they do on behalf of our Creator God and Jesus Christ.

Bishop David Wilson

Celebrate Easter

3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock

2-5 PM

Sunday, March 22, Saturday, March 28, Sunday, March 29, Thursday, April 2, Friday, April 3

Announcements

Today, March 15 **UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday**

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. J.S. Bach's "Mass in b minor" — First Plymouth, 2000 D St. Offering for Food Fort.

Monday, March 16

- 1:00 p.m. PEO — Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Norden Group — Sunshine Room

Tuesday, March 17 **St. Patrick's Day**

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" by Rachel Billups — 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
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, March 19

12 noon Nebraska Caregiver Coalition “Where Do You Go for Help?” — <https://go.unl.edu/caregivers>

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

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81939800475?pwd=K1EwbjFqTTZ3OS9rNnBHSC9ubWZyQT09>

Meeting ID: 819 3980 0475

Passcode: 832006

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,81939800475#,,,,*832006# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb0zFweCd1>

6:30 p.m. Lenten Study “An Unlikely Lent” by Rachel Billups — Room 4. Taught by Pastor Matt.



Friday, March 20

First Day of Spring

8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4

Saturday, March 21

9:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast “U.M. National Mission Institutes” — Room 4

Next Sunday, March 22 Miracle Sunday

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

2-5:00 p.m. Celebrate Easter — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock

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.

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

16 Rick & Roxie Swyers

17 Pat Ruth (80)

18 Ginger Lanum

20 Kitty Anton

21 Juli Emry

David Huston (65)

Judy Faubel

Ruth Maier

Gaylene Nutzman

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

