

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



THE PARABLE OF THE FRUITLESS FIG TREE

Luke 13:6-9

March 8, 2026
Third Sunday in Lent

11:00 a.m.

Greeter/Ushers: Karl Schwabauer
Lector: Jim Miller

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
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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 8, 2026

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

“ ” —

Call to Worship (*Jim*)

LEADER: The season of Lent can be barren and lonely,

ALL: **but God goes with us through the wild wilderness.**

LEADER: Our lives are lived in seasons of transitions and transformations.

ALL: **Lent is a time to ponder God’s providence and persistence.**

LEADER: Together, we seek fruitfulness, for it has been promised to us;

ALL: **the barrenness of Lent will give way to the fruitfulness of Easter.**

LEADER: In this season of penitence and pondering, let us gather before God.

ALL: **We come, as a family, to wait for the Lord with strength and courage.**

LEADER: Come, let us worship God!

Hymn #57 (red, vs. 1-5, 7)

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Opening Prayer

PASTOR: We gather today, O Lord of Life, seeking fullness.

ALL: **Not the fullness our world offers, but fullness that comes from You.**

PASTOR: We spend so much of our lives on things that do not matter,

ALL: **things that promise much and give little.**

PASTOR: Help us now . . . today, to find fulfillment in Your love,

ALL: **may we discover all you have to give,**

PASTOR: and seek You while we yet have the gift of days.

ALL: **Lift us O God, to a higher plane of living, as we lift our hearts and minds and souls into Your Holy presence. Amen! Make it so Lord! Amen!****Special Music**“Seek Ye the Lord” — *Aldersgate Choir***Old Testament Scripture** (*Jim*)

Isaiah 55:1-9

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 (*Jim*)

Luke 13:1-9

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

“Heart of Service”

Prayers of the Faithful

PASTOR: Journey with us, O holy God, as we continue our way to the cross. Sharpen our focus, that our attention may center more on you than ourselves. Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts, that we might be a people of prayer, ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: **Hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: God of all seasons, in your pattern of things, there is a time for keeping and a time for losing, a time for building up and a time for pulling down. In this season of Lent, as we journey to the cross, help us to discern in our lives what we must lay down and what we must take up, what we must end and what we must begin. Give us grace to lead a disciplined life, in glad faithfulness and with the joy that comes from a closer walk with Christ. Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: **Hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: God, if we are honest, its not just our busyness that gets in the way of our relationship with you, we simply don't desire you. We know you are there and we take that for granted. Maybe there is even a part of us that fears desiring to follow you would require us to change, to let go of things and practices that we love too much but that we know are not good. Forgive us and plant in us a deep thirst and longing for you. Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: **Hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Gracious God, so often we fail to see how patient you are with us. There is a pattern in our life, we ask for forgiveness and say we want to change our ways, and yet within hours we have forgotten, and fall back into old patterns. Lord, open our eyes to our own hypocrisy. Let us have a state of mind of metanoia, a change within ourselves, an authentic change that leads us to love, that leads us to saying no more, I am here to know you Jesus, my friend, my confidant. Let us fully see where God is nudging us. Lord, in your mercy.

ALL: **Hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: God of the still small voice, today slow me down and calm my spirit so that I can hear you calling me out of my comfort zone, prompting me to reach out to a friend, nudging me to speak up and make my voice known, and convicting me to confront that which is unhealthy in my own life. May I be more attentive today to the ways your Spirit is speaking to me, and may I have the willingness to listen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Offering & Offertory Prayer

“ ” —

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

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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 #357 (red)

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

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

“ ” —

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 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 <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, March 9

- 10:00 a.m. Board of Trustees — Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVdkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=82114263382>
- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith “Call to Prayer and Self Denial” with Sheila Kellenbarger — Room 4.
Hostess: Nelda Boswell
- 5:30 p.m. Burgers & Bible — Denton Daily Double, 7230 Lancaster Ave.
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma — Fellowship Hall
- 7:15 p.m. Church Council — Room 4



Tuesday, March 10

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study “An Unlikely Lent” by Rachel Billups — Denton, 9335 W. 3rd St.

Wednesday, March 11

- 10:00 a.m. Retired Ministers & Spouses (A.R.M.S.) — Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Lincoln Women’s Connection — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

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 13

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

Saturday, March 14

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

Next Sunday, 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

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

Tuesday, March 31

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

Wednesday, April 1

April Fool’s Day

1:30 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 a librarian.

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service “Lest We Forget” — Worship Center and online

Friday, April 3

Good Friday

Good Friday Service — Pleasant Dale, 201 Main St.

Sunday, April 5

Easter

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online

12:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

14 Molly & Seth Lienemann

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

