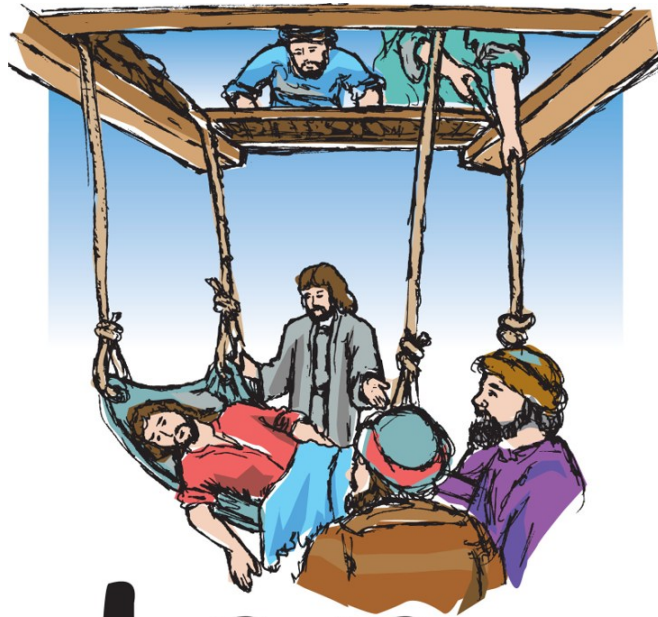


Aldersgate United Methodist Church



Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

11:00 AM

Greeter/Usher: Doug & Reba Wysocki
Lector: Rod Moore

May 17, 2026
Ascension Day

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Matt Borland
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Organist: Mandy West
Live Stream Technician: Dylan Lapointe
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann
Child Care Attendant: Katie Softley
Digital Media Specialist: Nancy Taylor
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.*



Welcome and Announcements (*Rod*)

Music for Centering Prayer

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” — Aldersgate Choir

Call to Worship (*Rod*)

Inspired by Acts 1:9-11 by Rev. Mindi

PASTOR: A new day has begun.

ALL: **Hope wins!**

PASTOR: A fresh start is granted.

ALL: **Faith wins!**

PASTOR: Today you have the opportunity to do something new.

ALL: **Hope wins!**

PASTOR: Christ is entering your life in a new way.

ALL: **Faith wins!**

PASTOR: Come, let us worship God, who is inviting us into life in a new way, a way that transcends death, a way of hope and faith.

ALL: **Love wins! Let us worship Christ, who overcame death to give us new life!**

Hymn #593 (red)

“Here I Am, Lord”

Opening Prayer

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **Loving God, I need you. I want to sit at your feet, experience your healing love, and help others to also find peace in you. Examine my heart and give me eyes to see any ways that I may be crowding out those who need to see you. Help me to remove barriers and make space for those desperate to experience your transforming love. Amen.**

Special Music

“A Servant in Your Heavenly House” — *Aldersgate Choir*

Old Testament Scripture (*Rod*)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

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 Scripture (*Kathy*)

Mark 2:1-12

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

“Unstoppable Love”

Prayers of the Faithful

PASTOR: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

God of all creation, who called every being into life, who is mindful of humankind in all its diversity, who embodies us with dignity, granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this world, we ask for your Spirit to unite us where we face lack of understanding and disunity in our churches, in our communities, in our countries. And in silence, we lay before you the burdens of our hearts. Lord in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We ask for your Spirit to unite us in the face of conflicts, hatred, and violation of life experienced in so many regions of the earth and, in silence, we bring to you the pain of the victims.

Lord in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We ask for your Spirit to unite us wherever fear prevents us from caring for our neighbor, from meeting people of different ethnicities, cultures, and faith communities with respect, and, in silence, we bring to you the brokenness of human relationships. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: God of all creation, in Christ we are reconciled, and so we ask for your uniting Spirit to help us to overcome all our divisions that we may live in peace. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Holy God, though high above all things, you enter into my life to save me and restore me to your goodness. Open my eyes to see: how you are guiding me, how you are speaking to me through others, how you are empowering me to leave behind old behaviors, and how you are directing me to new things. When I fail, I pray that you would pick me up and help me to walk in the way that leads to life.

ALL: **Amen.**

Offertory Prayer & Offering “Sinfonia” — J.S. Bach

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 Book of Common Prayer

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. 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.**

Hymn #374 (red) **“Standing on the Promises”**

Blessing and Sending Forth

PASTOR: People of God, let's not just stand here, gazing into heaven as the disciples did after they saw Jesus leave. Instead, let's take up the mission Jesus left us: to be his witnesses, to tell everyone we meet who Jesus is, and how he has changed us. And may the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit go with us all. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

ALL: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

ALL: **Alleluia! Alleluia! 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 “Grand Processional” (Finale of Symphony No. 1) — Johannes Brahms

Announcements

Today, May 17

Ascension 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 — Worship Center
- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Choir Picnic — Smith, 336 S. 89th St.

Monday, May 18

- 7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

Tuesday, May 19

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 12:00 p.m. Nebraska Caregiver Coalition “Taking Care of Yourself: Refill Your Cup” — Zoom. <https://go.unl.edu/caregivers>.
- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore — Room 4. One of the 2025 One Book/One Lincoln top ten finalists

Thursday, May 21

- 12:30 p.m. Worship — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Burgers & Bible — Denton Daily Double, 7230 Lancaster Ave.

Friday, May 22

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 5:00 p.m. Party — Sunshine Room

Saturday, May 23

- 8:00 a.m. Coffee, Conversation & Community — Denton Legion, 7226 Lancaster Ave.
- 10:00 a.m. Nebraska Herbal Society — Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, May 24

Pentecost

- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and coffee — Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 12:15 p.m. Aldersgate Day Celebration Lunch — Sunshine Room. Please RSVP to the Church Office by Wednesday, May 20
- 6:00 p.m. Party — Fellowship Hall

Next Monday, May 25

Memorial Day

Office is closed.

Tuesday, May 26 – Saturday, May 30

Annual Conference — Younes Center North, Kearney, NE

Tuesday, May 26

- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group “Planning Ahead for the Financial & Legal” — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, June 2

- 7:00 p.m. Money Matters Series “Buying a House” with Scott Wolf — Worship Center and online

Wednesday, June 3

1:30 p.m. Book Club *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore — Room 4. Discussion led by Jennifer Jackson, Librarian

Sunday, June 7

3:37 p.m. Family Ministries Fishing Outing — Holmes Lake

5:30 p.m. Family Ministries Worship then cook-out — Holmes Lake

Friday, June 12

11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Lee's Chicken, 1940 W. Van Dorn St.

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

Tuesday, June 16

6:30 p.m. Taco 'bout Jesus — Super Taco, 5501 Holdrege

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner — Room 4. United Women in Faith Reading Program — Nurturing for Community

Wednesday, June 17

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, June 18

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Friday, June 19 – Saturday, June 20

Conference United Women in Faith Leadership Team Meeting — First U.M. Church, North Platte

Saturday, June 20

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

Prayer List

Anniversaries & Birthdays This Week

17 Cheri Hobson

18 Nelda Boswell Dan Ruth & Sara Barr

20 Aleta & Don Stone

21 Dave & Sandy Lightle

22 Eric & Ginger Lanum

23 Char & Tom Haggar Keller Hustad Karen Stone

Bob Boyce

Keller Hustad

Dallas Huston

Keith Johnson

Ruth Maier

Laura Marshall

Lynda Nordyke

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, was 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, Iran and Palestine

