

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*“Look at the birds of the air;
they do not sow or reap or store
away in barns, and yet your
heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not much more
valuable than they?”*



M A T T H E W 6 : 2 6 , N I V

11:00 AM

Usher/Greeter: Colleen & Dave Nielsen
Lector: Kari Beckenhauer

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
Custodian: Scott Hoyt
Digital Media Specialist: Nancy Taylor
Accounting Consultant: Jennifer Hunter

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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.*



August 23, 2026

Welcome and Church Life Opportunities (*Kari*)

Music for Centering Prayer

“As the Deer” — Douglas E. Wagner

Call to Worship (*Kari*)

LEADER: We gather for worship out of many needs:

ALL: **a need for guidance, insight, tools for life. . . .**

LEADER: What God provides in response may surprise us —

ALL: **inviting us simply to breathe, to gaze, to laugh, to embrace.**

LEADER: Such gifts are portals into health and freedom.

ALL: **Lord, lead us in the path of wholeness.**

Hymn #189 (black)

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Confession and Assurance of Pardon (*Katherine*)

PASTOR: In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! Isaiah 30:15, 18

ALL: **God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to you as a people hungry for good news. We have been so dead to miracles that we have missed the world’s rebirth. We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures and have overlooked the joy you offer us. We have been so concerned with making a living that we have missed the life you set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift; open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PASTOR: Hear the Good News! All the prophets testify about Christ that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Live in the sure hope of Christ’s promise.

Acts 10:43

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #191 (red)

“Jesus Loves Me”

Gospel Scripture (*Kari*)

Matthew 6:25-27; Mark 10:13-16

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Katherine Ebling-Frazier

Worry Paper Airplanes or Crumpled Balls (*Kari*)

LEADER: We invite you to write a single worry, frustration, or stuck thought on the paper. Fold it into an airplane (if you know how) or crumple it up into a ball and fly your worry toward the altar as we pray this prayer:

ALL: **God, hold what I can’t.**

Prayers of the Faithful (*Kari*)

LEADER: Almighty God, gracious parent, in the presence of your bounty keep us humble, in the presence of all people’s needs make us compassionate and caring. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

LEADER: Help us to make your name and the nature of your grace larger and easier for people to see. Help

us to live and to worship in such a way that we become like magnifying glasses through which our neighbors, co-workers, children and friends can see you come into focus in ways they may not have seen before. Lord in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

LEADER: For children who climb aboard buses and study at school,, be with them and keep them safe even as they, day by day, deepen their awareness of the world of wonders you have made, Creator God. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

LEADER: Loving God, help us to turn our lives around to be people of restoration. Help us build just relationships among human beings and with the rest of creation. Help us to live sustainably, rejecting consumerism and the exploitation of creation. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

LEADER: Powerful God, so often we intend and desire to obey you, but fail to live up to those intentions. As Jesus taught, our spirit is willing, but our flesh is weak. May your Spirit anoint us today and provide us strength: in areas of life where we are tired and burned out; to tackle challenges and obstacles that we face; in situations that have no easy solution; to persevere when we feel like giving up; and to love those around us, especially those whom we find it hard to love. God, today may we remember that in and through your strength, we can do all things.

ALL: **Amen.**

Offering & Offertory Prayer (*Kari*)

“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

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 Lord’s Prayer #895 (red, *Katherine*)

PASTOR: Let us pray.

ALL: **O God our Provider, you have seen every hour that we have spent worrying. By your Holy Spirit, take those worries away so that we can give you thanks and praise as you deserve. Free from worry, remind us of the curiosity and trust we are called to live in as your children. We ask this in the name of Jesus.**

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 #368 (red)

“My Hope Is Built”

Benediction and Sending Forth (*Katherine*)

PASTOR: The blessing of our God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

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

PASTOR: Go now 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

“Triumph” — Raymond H. Herbek

Church Life Opportunities

Today, August 23

- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and coffee — Fellowship Hall
- 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, August 24

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

Tuesday, August 25

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group “AARP Resources for Caregivers” — Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Lincoln-Lancaster County Legislative Candidate Environmental Forum — Unitarian Church, 6300 A St. Followed by a reception. If you can't attend in person, use this link to watch a livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/live/QdZUe1L901k>
- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 26

- 10:00 a.m. Lasting Legacy Team — Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group — Denton U.M. Church, 9335 W. 3rd St.

Thursday, August 27

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

Friday, August 28

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

Saturday, August 29

- 5:00 p.m. Faith & Family Night Concert — Haymarket Park
- 6:05 p.m. Saltdogs vs. Kansas City Monarchs — Haymarket Park. The first 50 requests for tickets will be filled, please email Joel (joel.stoltenow@onelfs.org) or Jens (jens.acamo@onelfs.org)

Next Sunday, August 30

- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and coffee — Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online

Tuesday, September 1

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- 5:30 p.m. Young Adult Bowling — Parkway Lanes, 2555 S. 48th St.

Wednesday, September 2

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *No Two Persons* by Erica Bauermeister — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Back to Choir Practice — Worship Center

3 p.m. Friday, September 11 – 1 p.m. Saturday, September 12

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

Friday, September 11 Patriot Day

- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling Game Night with Swedish meatballs — Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 14

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith “Aldersgate Gardens” with Steve Schafer — Room 4

Tuesday, September 15

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

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Culpability* by Bruce Holsinger — Room 4. This is one of the three finalists for the 2026 One Book / One Lincoln.

Wednesday, September 16

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, September 17

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Saturday, September 19

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

Monday, September 21

9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Using A.I. Tools in the Church — St. Mark's, 8550 Pioneers

Tuesday, September 22 **First Day of Autumn**

9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Both/And Hospitality — St. Mark's, 8550 Pioneers

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group "What Caregivers Need to Know about Dementia Behaviors" — Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 26

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Southeast Nebraska District Fall Meeting "Abundant Life" — St. Paul U.M. Church, 1144 M St. \$15 for chicken catered by Hy-Vee.

5:30 p.m. Worship — Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 27

4:00 p.m. Fall Community Celebration — Malcolm U.M. Church, 520 Malcolm Rd. Worship service, fellowship activities and a community meal.

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

24 Kari Beckenhauer

25 Doug Janak

29 Kitty & Tony Anton Jan Drbal

Bob Boyce

Laura Marshall

Linda Pearson

Keller Hustad

Lynda Nordyke

Zach Steward

Dallas Huston

Loyal Park

Maggie Struble

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

Mike Matthews, Kendra Hartwig's cousin with a tumor growing near his ear

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

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

Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece

Tim Murphy, a veteran with memory issues

Kevin Murray, Kitty's brother who had colon cancer surgery 6/16/26

Richard Rockenbach in Las Vegas

Cammie Schuerman, Chuck Schuerman's daughter

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

People in Ukraine, Israel, Iran and Palestine

