

THE
GATEPOST

MARCH 2024



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Easter Egg Hunt
Journey to the Cross a Worship Experience
A New Lay Leader

March Highlights

March 2

Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM

March 3

Youth Mission Team Building 11:00 AM
Confirmation 4:30 PM
High School Small Group 6:00 PM

March 6

Charity Sewing 1:30 PM

March 7

Leadership Development Meeting 6:30 PM

March 8-9

SuperStart 1:30 PM

March 10

Joyful Noise Singers 2:30 PM

March 11-15

Spring Break

March 12

Property Management Meeting 6:30 PM

March 13

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT

March 19

Finance Meeting 6:30 PM

March 20

Journey to the Cross 6:30 PM

March 24

Exploring Membership Class 4:00 PM

March 28

Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM

March 29

Good Friday Service 7:00 PM

March 30

Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 PM

March 31

Easter Sunday 8:15, 9:45, and 11:11 AM



Weekly Calendar

Mondays

Stronger - Men's Group 5:30 AM
W.O.W Ladies Bible Study 9:30 AM
Women of Hope Bible Study(2nd & 4th) 6:00 PM
Spirit Sisters Bible Study (1st & 3rd) 6:30 PM
Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM

Tuesdays

Overcomer Bible Study 9:00 AM
GriefShare Class 1:00 PM
Disciple 1 - New Testament 6:30 PM
Aldersgate Time of Prayer 6:30 PM

Wednesdays

Youth Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM
Dinner 5:30 PM
Ark Club 6:30 PM
5 & 6 Grade Class 6:30 PM
7 & 8 Grade Small Group 6:30 PM
High School Gathering 6:30 PM
Family Matters Class 6:30 PM
Grow Group 6:30 PM
Choir Practice 6:30 PM
NOVA Young Adult Study 6:30 PM

Thursdays

Knitwits 10:00 AM
Stephen Ministry Meeting (2nd & 4th) 6:30 PM

Fridays

Office Closed

Sundays

Time of Prayer 8:00 AM
Handbell Rehearsal 11:15 AM
NOVA Lunch 12:15 PM
Disciple 2 6:00 PM
High School Small Group 6:00 PM

Sunday School Classes

Sundays

Crossroads Sunday School 8:15 AM
Club Aldersgate 9:45 AM
Seekers Sunday School 9:45 AM
Youth/Children Sunday School 9:45 AM

Sundays at Aldersgate

Services

Traditional Service 8:15 AM
Contemporary Service 9:45 AM
Family Service 11:11 AM

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE CROSS TO THE EMPTY TOMB

Hey all, I just finished Chapel with the children in our Ark Preschool. It is one of my favorite times of the every other week we get to share with each other. They are so full of life and ready to sing, listen, learn, and pray. I hope your Lenten journey includes all of those elements, including some fasting and praying combined. God will carry you through it if you truly are surrendered to His will. Keep the altar fire burning every day as we journey to Holy Week at the end of this month. Remember our Good Friday service from last year and how impactful it was. Well if you didn't make plans to come this year, March 29th. (and Maundy Thursday, 28th)

We also had a Finance meeting last night and discussed our monthly reports and other items. Please remember we finished the year in a 9k surplus, (giving over ministry expenses), but this year we have an operating budget with great financial responsibility as we pay all of our mortgage payments out of the budge. Let's please finish this quarter in a strong financial position as we enter April. Only give what God puts on your heart to give. We have had great generosity during February with a successful Shoeper Souper Bowl, Red Envelope youth fundraiser, and giving to the operating fund. Trusting how God will move in powerful ways this month!

I want again welcome Rob Howard, as our new Youth Director, who has hit the ground running. Make sure you find him on a Sunday, and introduce yourself to him and his wife Dora, and kids Cass and Kipp. You will see them at the 11:11 service, as a family, and during the Sunday School hour in their classes.

See You Sunday in Worship (here or where you are!)
Love In Christ, Pastor Dennis





Pastors

Dennis Miller - Lead Pastor
Sarah Fotopulos - Executive Pastor

Staff

Brenda Clark - Business Administrator
Casey Freeland - Communications Director
Christian Barnard - Contemporary Worship Director
Ellie Bakken - Children's Director
Jeff Huber - Traditional Worship Director
Jared Middleton - Worship Technical Lead
Jennifer Kelley - Church Secretary
Rob Howard - Youth Director
Shannon Dodson - Early Childhood Director

A.R.K. and Aldersgate Youth

This Month's Bible Verse

For the month of March, our ARK Kids will be memorizing: "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Romans 5:8

Our Bible Buddy is Skylar the Parrot. Be sure to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM to hear all about it.



SUPERSTART!!

Parents, we are taking our 5th and 6th-grade students to the CIY event SuperStart in Tulsa, on March 8th, and 9th. This will be a wonderful weekend full of fun and learning about God.

This is an overnight trip, and we will stay one night at a local church using their facilities for sleeping, eating breakfast, and getting ready. The cost is \$25.

Volunteers needed

SCAN ME!



The New Year is a great chance to form or continue habits and routines. We hope being a part of the ARK is, or will become, one of those loved routines. Our children at Aldersgate are so eager to learn about Jesus and form connections through relationship. Christ's love poured out to these children is changing lives for eternity. What a priceless gift!

Please take a look at our March and April sign-up and see when you would be available to serve on the ARK! Scan the QR code to the left!

SAVE THE DATE

June 23-27

We are gearing up for VBS and we would love your help. Every year the preparations and planning help make VBS extra special. Please take a look at our amazon wish list!

We have a variety of ways for

you to use your gifts. Please reach out to Ellie and Shannon about helping in these areas: Crafting/organizing, Administrative gifts, Decorating, Station leader/helper and crew leaders, and Clean-up!!



Summer Mission Trip

We are Going to Houston!!

All current 8th-12th graders are invited to attend the summer Mission Trip to Houston, TX. The dates will be June 29-July 4 and the cost will be around \$100 per student.

We are very excited about this opportunity to serve and hope that we can have a good group of students attend. So far we have 16 students signed up to attend and we do have room for more.

On Sunday, March 3, they will meet in the Youth Building at 11:00 AM for some team building and fun.

If you have questions, email rhoard@aldersgatechurh.com.

Finance Brief

By: Ben Stone

Year-to-date financial summary through January 31, 2024:

Revenue	\$ 67,448
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 102,790
Actual Expenses	\$ 76,745
Net	\$ (9,297)

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of January 31, 2024, is \$3,248,945.

Through the last several weeks and into the season of Lent, we have been talking a lot about fasting and prayer. It has been noted that fasting is about food, but it can also be a spiritual blessing. To receive the full blessing of a fast, it should be accompanied by prayer and worship. Tithing is similar; it IS about money, but it's less about money than it is about faith. Tithing is a show of love for the Lord while helping to build the kingdom of God. Fasting allows us to know a feeling of hunger while turning us to rely on God. Similarly, tithing may cause feelings of discomfort, but it can lead us to a growing faith that the Lord will provide what we need. In fact, it is true in most aspects of life that if you're not uncomfortable, you're not growing. May we all be filled with the hope and joy of knowing we can find our comfort in the Lord!

SPRING BREAK

Spring Break for area schools is March 11-15 so we will not have any activities or dinner on Wednesday, March 13. Some of our classes will meet throughout the week, so you will need to touch base with your leaders and see if you will meet during Spring Break.



For the month of March, we are doing a Protein Food Drive for Least of These. Bring in canned tuna, canned salmon, canned chicken, beans, and peanut butter. We want to be a blessing to our neighbors in need.

**GOD
LOVES A
CHEERFUL
GIVER**
2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

Journey to the Cross

On Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 PM our entire church family is invited to a worship experience for all ages.

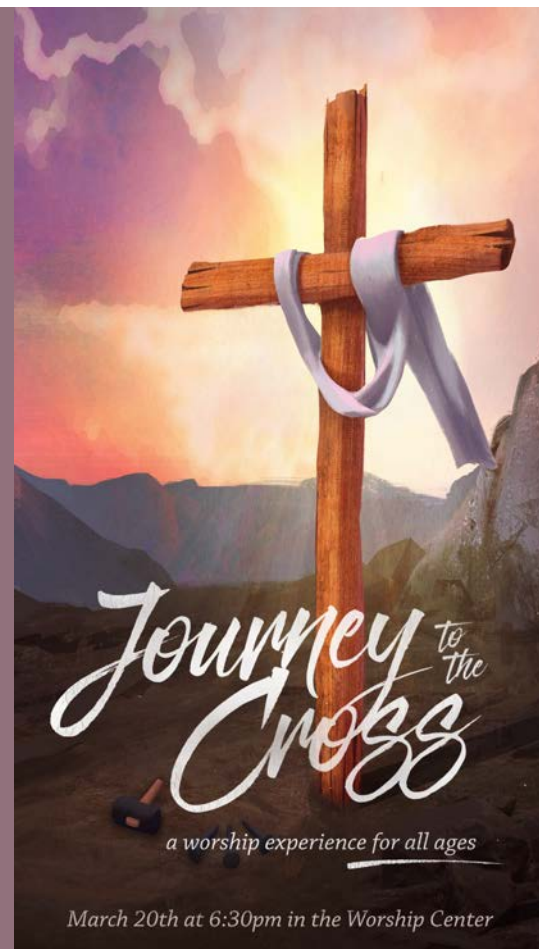
We will begin in the sanctuary with some praise and worship with our praise team, have time for reflection, communion, and anointing, and then everyone will be invited to take their own journey to the cross with some interactive elements that will be engaging for adults and children.

We hope that you will make plans to join us for this wonderful night of worship as we are making our way towards the end of the Lenten season.

For those who have attended previous night of worship events, the music portion of the event will be very similar to that setting.

We would love for you to invite your friends and family to attend with you, as we hope that this will be a truly worshipful experience for everyone who attends.

We will have childcare available for those who may need it.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28th at 7pm

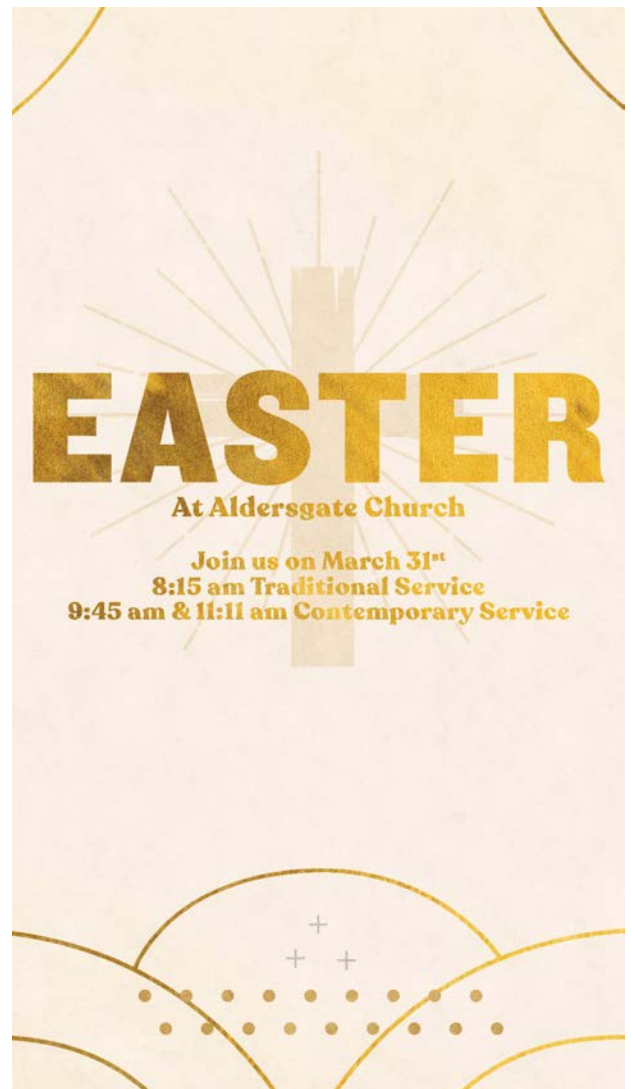
Maundy Thursday commemorates the night Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples, washed their feet, and gave them the continuing to remember him in communion.

You're invited to this special celebration of Holy Communion as together we remember the love Jesus poured out for all his disciples before he gave his life for us all.

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29th at 7pm

Good Friday remembers the most outrageous act of love ever when the Creator and Sustainer of all life laid down his life and paid for sin once and for all. You're invited to this special celebration as together we remember the love Jesus poured out with his blood when he gave his life to redeem all who would accept his gift of grace, mercy, and pardon.



Lay Leader

By: Ed Vigneaux

For those of you who don't know me personally, let me introduce myself. My name is Ed Vigneaux. I was recently asked to serve as Lay Leader at Aldersgate Church. As I pondered and prayed about accepting this position, I thought about what it means to be a Lay Leader. Although I have known many Lay Leaders, I wasn't sure what a Lay Leader was supposed to do in a church.

I certainly understand the terms Lay and Leader, but what exactly does a Lay Leader do? The more I pondered it, I finally came to the following conclusion.

Lay stands for laity, or members of a congregation except for the Pastors of the church. They have a different role. And I know what it means to be a leader. I've held several positions inside and outside the church that provided leadership to others.



To me, a leader is someone who leads by example. As a Christian, our greatest leader and one who led by example is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Everything he did and said once he began his ministry was to show and tell others how they should live their lives. I thought of three areas where he was a perfect example of how people should live in this world.

First, He prayed. A lot. Many times, he went off alone to pray to His father for strength and wisdom to carry out His ministry. He also prayed with others and even taught His disciples how to pray.

Second, he taught through the Holy Scriptures. He wanted his followers to understand that He came to fulfill scripture and what His mission was. And then He showed them how to live according to His teachings.

Third, he served. He served others to meet their needs. He told His disciples that He came not to be served, but to serve. And He taught them how to serve by being an example.

My hope for 2024 is that I get to know Jesus well enough that I will do what he would do and say what he would say in any situation. That is something we all should do if we are to follow Jesus Christ and be an example to others what it means to be a Christian.

Let us love one another. Let us Be Love. Let us be Christ in the world.

We are blessed to be a blessing.



See a Need, Fill a Need

We are launching a new campaign called, "See a Need, Fill a Need". There are many ways to serve at our church and many jobs that are not seen by a lot of people. This campaign will encourage you to step in when you see a need in the church.

It could be as simple as cleaning up the aisle between services, weeding the islands in the parking lot, or stepping up to help in the sound booth on Sunday mornings.

Be on the lookout for ways you can fill a need.

“Why Aldersgate and What YOU Love and Are Looking For?”

By: Dorothy Brucks

Back in October when the leaves were colorful and beginning to cover our yards, your task force members were brainstorming about you! After about 15 minutes that day, we came to the conclusion that we really didn't know why people came to Aldersgate, but more importantly, we didn't know why people stayed. Amongst the seven of us, the theme that emerged was that of welcoming, friendliness, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and biblical preaching and teaching.

Our priority is to seek God's will in our task and at our meeting that day we decided we really need to know your thoughts, needs, and desires and how they match up with where we've come from, where we are, and where we are headed. Perhaps you were in one of the Sunday school classes, discussion groups, bible studies, or individuals we spent time with listening to your responses to these three questions:

- What brought you to Aldersgate?
- What keeps you here?
- What would you like to see that you don't see now?

By listening and not leading your responses, they became personal and truthful. Some even said they appreciated being asked. In January as we reviewed various responses we were humbled to see just how spiritually centered they were. Here are just a few of your sharings:

You came and stayed because ...

- We came because of what we had heard from friends and seen in the community.
- We believe God led us here as we had been unhappy until we found Aldersgate.
- We stay because this is 'home'. Good, nice, caring people, and the love of God is conveyed through them.
- We found acceptance and love.
- The pastors are great, humble, and approachable.
- Biblical preaching is relatable and challenges us to think and respond.
- Strong children's and youth program
- Love the varied offerings for prayer, worship, bible study, and retreats.
- Leadership and programs set us apart.

Want to see ...

- Focus on mission outreach and evangelism – leading people to believe in Jesus for salvation
- Challenge the adults to grow spiritually by attending bible studies, Sunday School, small groups, retreats, etc.
- See the youth program excel to the former state and beyond, leading peers to Christ.
- Encourage us all to be more open and willing to talk with those we don't know, visitors, and new members. Invite them to attend something we do. Wear name tags to help remember names
- At the end of worship, the pastor offers a personal invitation to the guests to go to the information booth and have people handing out things, answering questions, and showing genuine care. Make it a personal invite, not on the announcement video.

What does this have to do with our future affiliation decision, you ask? Seeking and responding to God's will for Aldersgate will take prayer, vision, support, resources, leadership, and participation. How will you meet these? If not you then who?