

Gatepost

OCTOBER 2025



ISSUE No 10

WHAT IS ALPHA

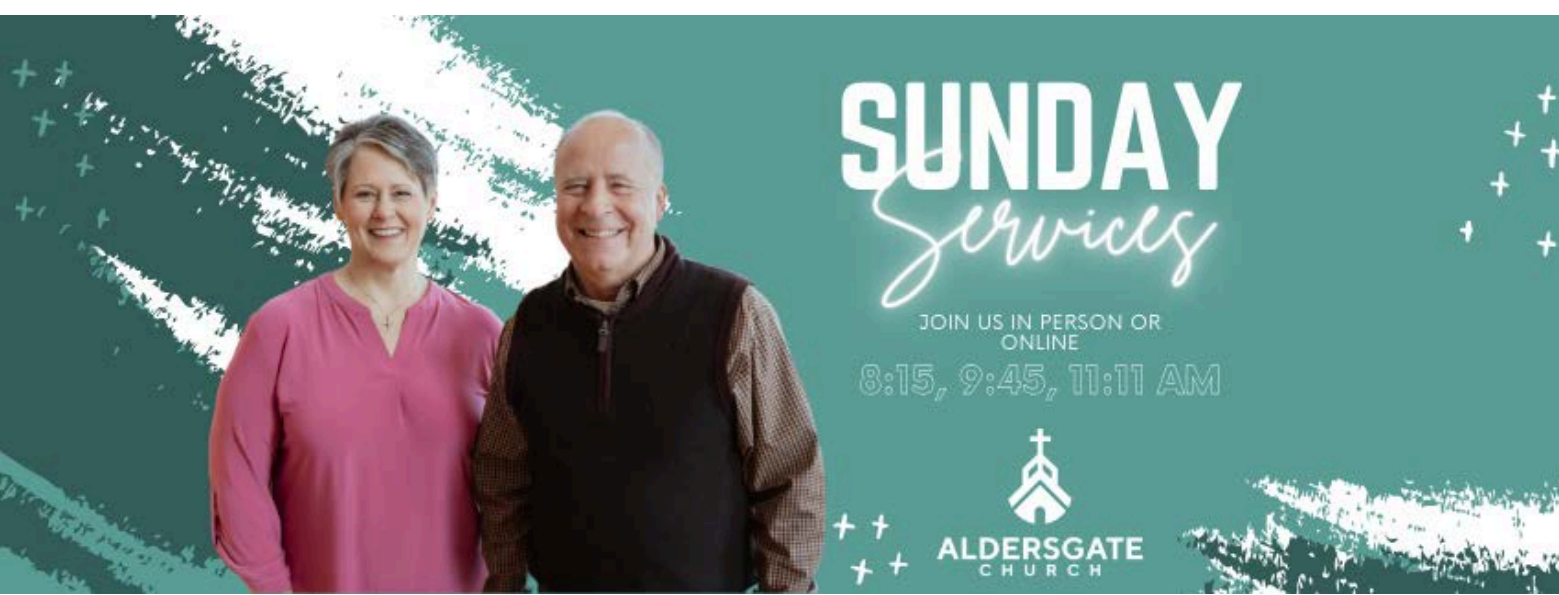
FALL AT THE FARM

FINANCIAL SEMINAR

Upcoming Events for October

01	SOCKTOBER AND COAT DRIVE KICK-OFF CHARITY SEWING	1:30 PM
02	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	6:30 PM
03	MEN'S BREAKFAST STEAK DINNER	7:30 AM 5:30 PM
05	CHURCH BOARD MEETING	12:30 PM
07	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR RETREAT	
09	FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR	6:30 PM
12	JOYFUL NOISE SINGERS FALL AT THE FARM	2:30 PM 3:00 PM
14	PROPERTY OVERSIGHT MEETING	6:30 PM
18	STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING	8:00 AM
19	TOM O'HARA CELEBRATION OF LIFE	1:30 PM
21	FINANCE MEETING	6:30 PM
22	CHRISTMAS CANTATA KICK-OFF	6:30 PM
23	PREGNANCY CARE CENTER SPOTLIGHT	6:30 PM
24	YOUNG ADULT HALLOWEEN PARTY	6:00 PM
26	TASTE OF ALPHA EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP CANTATA REHEARSAL	12:30 PM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM
29	FALL FESTIVAL	6:30 PM





Learning Continues

Greetings Aldersgate,

As the season of fall has begun and we were greeted with drought-ending rains, the blessings of the Lord keep pouring out. My new granddaughter, Kalora Nadine Bakken, is celebrating 2 weeks of life when I write this. New Life even happens in the fall, and the encouragement of our movement into the Global Methodist Church by the end of the year is such a blessing. As indicated in Ben Stone’s article, we are covering our expenses and find ourselves 140+K ahead of where we were last year. Growth in our discipleship and all of our classes of learning at every age level is experiencing tremendous participation. We are reaching outward in all that we are about at Aldersgate.

Where are you today in your faith? Are you fully encouraging others, as it is called “Today”? My prayer is that we continue the journey God is leading us through with “unlimited boldness” and confidence in what we believe. Salvation is in Christ alone, and we will be who we are in Christ, in order to be Christ in the world. Invite others to church, to the Fall at the Farm Event, Church Steak Dinner, and/or Concert, or to Wednesday Night Dinner. Look for whom you may encourage!

We will be finalizing our 2026 Ministry Operating Budget this month. Pray for our leaders as we listen to the Spirit on how we reach the world with Christ’s love!!

See You Sunday in Worship (here or where you are!)

Love In Christ,

Pastor Dennis



A LEGACY OF LOVE AND APPLES: THE STORY OF ALDRSGATE'S PIE MINISTRY

By Sarah E. Rogers

It started, as many good things do, with one woman and a recipe.

In 1992, Jean Logan gathered with the United Methodist Women's Group with a simple but powerful idea: to make pies to help reduce the church debt. What began with around 12 bushels of apples and 200 pies soon became a tradition that has nourished Aldersgate's ministry for more than three decades.



Jean's mother handed down the recipes that became the heart of the ministry, one for the crust, taken from a can of Spry shortening, and one for the filling, discovered on the back of a can of lard. Jean faithfully tested and adapted the recipe until she could coax 15 pies out of a three-pound can. Today, Crisco has replaced the lard, but the spirit of stewardship remains the same.

In the early years, nothing was wasted; even the apple peels were boiled down into jelly, until the task became too much alongside pie-making itself. In 1993, the group used 25 bushels of apples, even experimenting with cherry pies for a season, before focusing fully on the apple pies that are now a hallmark of Aldersgate. Each year, an additional five bushels of apples were added until 50 bushels of apples were being used to make pies. It wasn't until COVID hit that 50 bushels became too much to manage.

Hands at Work, Hearts in Service



Since the beginning, every pie has been shaped by the hands of volunteers. The work unfolds in two stages: one to prepare the filling, another to make the crusts, fill pans, and top each pie. On pie-making days, at any given time, around 25 to 30 people gather in the church kitchen peeling, slicing, stirring, and assembling. The air hums with chatter, laughter, and the occasional good-natured debate over who makes the best-looking lattice.

Each pie is offered in two varieties, lattice-topped or crumb-topped, and each one carries a signature touch: three hearts cut from leftover dough, a symbol of the love baked into each dessert. They are frozen and sold unbaked, with instructions for finishing at home so families can enjoy the aroma of fresh pie filling their kitchens.

The first year, apples were bought at Nixa Hardware from a peddler. Since 1993, they have been donated by Peters Orchards in Waverly, MO, which was founded by Susan Harbison's great-grandfather. The tradition of apple donations began with Susan's parents, a gift that has been faithfully carried on year after year. This generous gift makes the continuation of the ministry possible. Until this year, every apple was peeled by hand, a true labor of love. In 2025, the team will introduce a few electric peelers to the process, lightening the load while keeping the tradition strong.



Stewards of the Work

Over the years, the project chair position has been faithfully passed from one set of hands to another. After Jean Logan's pioneering efforts, others stepped in to guide the ministry, including Barb McCalley, Susan Harbison, and Ron Grant. In 2022, Vickie Giesen took over, and this year marks her fourth season of organizing the apple pie project. Around ten dedicated individuals now oversee the logistics, while dozens more contribute their time and energy during the pie-making weeks.

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Aldersgate Righteous Kids

October Bible Buddy:
Ray the Glowworm

Bible
Buddy



October Verse: "This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." ~ 1 John 4:10

Join us each Sunday morning at 9:45 AM, PK–4th grade, in the ARK Wing for Sunday school, and 5th and 6th in CLC.



COME SERVE ON THE ARK!!

Interested in serving in our Children's ministry? Needing a fresh way to serve this fall? We are looking for people who have a heart for the Lord to help on either Sunday Mornings or Wednesday nights! Please reach out to Camilla Hyde or Shannon Dodson to take the next steps in getting you serving on the ARK (Aldersgate Righteous Kids).



Bring in those new socks for Isabel's House for the whole month of October! We will have collection bins in the ARK Area.



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!

**WE NEED
CANDY
DONATIONS!!**

Bring donations by the office or Sunday mornings

**FALL FESTIVAL
WED. OCT. 29
6:30–7:30 PM**



Preaching, Teaching, Healing

MATTHEW 9: 35-38 NIV

By: Ed Vigneaux

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field."

Jesus is always and ever doing three things.

1. Preaching
2. Teaching
3. Healing

Certainly, Jesus is involved in many other things as well, like attending a wedding feast, eating at a tax collector's house, and visiting a garden. But most of all, he's doing three things that turn out to be one thing.

- 1. Jesus preaches. He's got a message to be shared. The Kingdom of God is here right now, in this place. The light is replacing the darkness, life is defeating death, and a new creation is breaking through the chaos. He has the authority to change and heal a broken, contrite heart by restoring hope, vision, and turning the impossible into possible. He invites people to join him and become this new creation.
- 2. Jesus teaches. He gives many classes and lessons, yet they all point to one curriculum: the kingdom of heaven coming to earth. Remember the priority, seek first the kingdom, and there is no second. His teaching is a revelation, and it invites all to change their mind and hearts to a new way of living. It moves us from the old way of "believe and behave" to the new way of "behold and become."
- 3 Jesus heals. Everywhere he goes, he is causing the blind to see, the lame to walk, cleansing the leper, raising the dead, feeding the hungry, and mingling with the sinners. He heals hearts, homes, communities, cities, and nations.

His main goal is not just to make us compassionate; His goal is to put his own heart for people into us. He knows the only way the mercy of God moves is one person or heart at a time – from one heart to another.

Jesus doesn't call us to pray for the sheep. He calls us to pray for the workers.

We are blessed to be a blessing to others.

NEW MEMBERS



Scott, Michelle and
Mason Oliver



Royce and Toni Allen



Ken and Jamie Rathjen

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays -

Crossroads Study - 8:15
Club Aldersgate - 9:45 AM
Seekers Study - 9:45 AM
Young Adult Study - 9:45 AM
Handbell Rehearsal - 11:15 AM
Disciple 1 - 5:00 PM
High School Small Groups - 6:00 PM

Mondays -

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

Tuesdays -

Count It All Joy Study - 9:30 AM
Aldersgate Time of Prayer - 6:30 PM

Wednesdays -

Youth Praise Band - 5:00 PM
Dinner - 5:30 PM
7th -12th Youth - 6:00 PM
ARK Club - 6:30 PM
5th & 6th Grade - 6:30 PM
Art of Marriage - 6:30 PM
The Deep End - 6:30 PM
Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM
Pastor's Bible Study - 6:30 PM
Young Adult Bible Study - 6:30 PM

Thursdays -

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

Fridays -

Men and Women of the Old Testament -10:00 AM

Saturdays -

Cardio Workout - 9:30 AM
Peace in the Storm - 6:30 PM

Sunday
Oct. 12

3:00-5:00 PM

FALL AT
THE FARM

ALL CHURCH EVENT

Rutledge-Wilson Farm
3825 W Farm Rd 146, Springfield, MO 65807

RESERVED BONFIRE AREA

Hot Dogs and Smores provided



ALDERSGATE YOUTH

First Sunday of every month is
SERVE SUNDAY!! No Sunday school.

High School Small Groups 9th-12th students

High School small groups meet off-campus at host homes. They will share a meal and break off for devotion time.

October Dates:

Oct. 5 at Devin and Emalie Lindsey's House
Oct. 19 at Lee and Mary Cunningham's House
Oct. 26 at Drew and Cherie Gregory's House



ALDERSGATE STEAK

DINNER

ENTERTAINMENT BY:
ABUNDANCE QUARTET

SAT. OCT. 4

DINNER - 5:30 PM SHOW -
7:00 PM

DINNER TICKETS \$25 EACH
SHOW INCLUDED

460 W. ALDERSGATE NIXA, MO

STEAK DINNER

The annual Men's Fellowship Steak Dinner is a time for believers to gather and enjoy a meal together, praising God for what He has provided and for being always present in each of our daily walks with Him.

The date is October 4 at 5:30 with a concert by the gospel group Abundance Quartet to start about 7:00 pm.

The menu is steak or chicken, roll, baked potato, green beans, salad, and dessert.

Tickets are on sale and may be purchased at Wednesday dinner and on Sunday mornings in the Commons. Cost is \$25 cash or check. A QR code for credit or debit will be available only at the table for \$26 each ticket. Proceeds go to youth missions, youth fellowship, and other ministries within the church.

A love offering will be taken for the Abundance Quartet.

Golf Tournament Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's golf tournament. We had a lot of fun and can't wait for next year. A big thank you to Ralph Ernst, Dick Williams, Johnny Wilson, and Steve Taylor for their work on the golf committee.



A Flight Winners - John Creachly, Gene Thompson, Jack Doran, Charles Keith

B Flight Winners - Carl Presley, Bill Brandt, David Russell, Nicholas LaBelle

Men's Long Drive - Steve Taylor

Senior Men's Long Drive - Carl Presley

Longest Putt - Bob Allen

Closest to the Pin - Steve Taylor

Women's Prize - Vickie Giesen

A LEGACY OF LOVE AND APPLES: THE STORY OF ALDERSGATE'S PIE MINISTRY

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In the early days, freezers at Price Cutter, Harter House, and Least of These, Inc. were called upon to store the finished pies, a logistical juggling act that required extra planning. Today, the church has its own collection of freezers, allowing every pie to be prepared, stored, and distributed right at Aldersgate.

A Ministry that Multiplies

At its core, this ministry is about more than apples, flour, and sugar. It's about people coming together, working side-by-side, sharing stories, and laughing over sticky counters and flour-dusted aprons. It's about a recipe that has been passed down, not just in flavor, but in spirit.



Even though there are no pre-orders, and the pies are only sold in person by word of mouth, the community has come to count on them each fall. They are sold at the bargain price \$15, though the true value is found in what they represent: love, fellowship, and faith at work.

The reach of this ministry is far greater than the kitchen. Though the earliest years weren't fully documented, the Apple Pie Ministry's efforts from 1997 through 2024 brought in more than \$166,114 to reduce the church's debt. In 2020 and 2021, the ovens fell silent due to COVID-19, but the tradition returned stronger than ever. In 2024 alone, 421 pies were sold, a 1/3 to 1/2 of which were gone in just two days, with the rest selling out in just two weeks. This year, with five extra bushels of apples, the team expects to produce around 500 pies.

The Sweetness of Service



Every pie carries more than apples and sugar between its crusts; it carries the prayers, laughter, and fellowship of the people who made it. It's a living testimony that when God's people come together, even the simplest ingredients can be transformed into something extraordinary.

If you ask the volunteers why they keep coming back year after year, the answer won't be about money. It will be about memories, the joy of working side-by-side, and the way a simple pie can bring people together - volunteers in the kitchen, families around a table, and a congregation bound closer by tradition.

More than just a fundraiser, the Apple Pie Ministry is a story of faithfulness. It is a reminder that small acts, done with love, can grow into a legacy. What started with a mother's recipe and a handful of willing hearts, has become a ministry that has blessed a church, a community, and all who have shared in its fruit.



APPLE PIE SALES

- SEP 29 11:30 AM—2:30 PM
- SEP 30 11:30 AM—2:30 PM
- WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING OCT 1 5-7:45 PM
- SUNDAYS BEGINNING OCT 5 BETWEEN SERVICES & AFTER 11:11 SERVICE UNTIL 1 PM





Aldersgate Financial Planning Seminar

October 9, 2025

6:30PM

Aldersgate Church
Room 207

Please join us for a night of education around Investment, Tax, and Estate Planning.

Covered topics will be centered around charitable giving, non-cash gifts, and legacy planning. Tax, Estate planning, and Investment professionals will be available for Q&A as well.

Hosted by Stephen Ministers



Calling all Crafty People

Aldersgate Church will be hosting its first-ever Craft Fair on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Booth space is available for a \$60 donation to the Least of These Food Pantry. We will open this event to outside vendors, but want to save space for anyone in our church who is interested.

If you don't want to do a full space, you can combine with someone. There will be an Aldersgate Church booth available with donated items from our crafty people who would rather use that space. If you're interested or have any questions, please call Carolyn Jacobs at 501-226-9125 or Grace Bryson at 417-830-6706, and they will send you a registration form.

Stephen Ministry will be hosting PCC Pregnancy Care Center on Thursday, October 23rd at 6:30 in Rm 207 LC.

The Pregnancy Care Center's mission is to save lives and strengthen families with planned and unplanned pregnancies. PCC believes every untimely pregnancy should have access to a personalized plan and a coach to walk beside them.

PCC offers pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and coaching for both moms and dads. This includes labor and birth classes, lactation and postpartum care, and education. If adoption is chosen, adoption referrals are available. All their services are free of charge.

What a great Christian-based service they provide to expectant moms and dads, free of charge! If you have loved ones or friends who are going through challenges of pregnancy and need education and/or services, please invite them to attend on Thursday night. All are welcome.



Financial Brief

By: Ben Stone

Year-to-date financial summary through August 31, 2025:

Revenue \$ 840,990
Budgeted Expenses \$ 958,341
Actual Expenses \$ 800,557
Net \$ 40,433

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200.

The current balance as of August 31, 2025, is \$2,929,495.

We are in the midst of annual budgeting season at Aldersgate, where we begin to make plans for the next year. In a couple of Pastor Dennis' sermons recently, he has mentioned the idea of looking for "God's plan for my life" versus living "my life for God's plan." This has reminded me of how we develop our budget and then manage our finances during the year. We want to always be focused on furthering God's plan, no matter which month we are in on the calendar. As our budget is developed, we should first think "how much can we do?" and not "how much will we have?" Of course, we have to be good stewards and not commit recklessly, but budget season is a time of strengthening our faith as we strive to do evermore for God's plan.

The evening of Thursday, October 9, Aldersgate will host a financial planning seminar that will feature experts in law, tax, and retirement planning. There will be great information shared on financial planning in general, while also touching on how to effectively include the church and other important organizations in your plans. The next step in your financial plan should be planning to attend this great event with your church family!

What is ALPHA?

more information at alphausa.org

jhuber@aldersgatechurch.com

What is Alpha and How Does It Work?

Alpha is a non-denominational evangelistic tool to help people begin or strengthen their Christian faith. It's an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening way. Anyone can benefit from the Alpha course - no matter his or her background, whether they're investigating Christianity for the first time, revisiting their faith, or just want to have an honest conversation about some of life's biggest questions. Aldersgate will be starting Alpha in February 2026.

If you're curious about Alpha, then you're invited to join us on October 26th or November 16th at 12:30 PM (following the 11:11 service) for "A Taste of Alpha" in the library/conference room WC 110.

This gathering offers a firsthand look at what Alpha is all about. You'll experience a "mock" Alpha session designed to give you a taste of what a typical Alpha session feels like. There will be food, a short talk, and conversation, followed by information on how you can help. If you have questions about "A Taste of Alpha," please contact Jeff Huber. He would LOVE to talk with you. To sign up...



Please scan the QR Code to sign up. Interested people can also let Jeff or the office know if they're coming. Thank you!!

September HIGHLIGHTS

Encounter Night



High School Small Group



Apple Pie Time



5th and 6th Grade
Park



New Room Conference



Wed. Nights



Full classes



Wed. Night Youth

