

Gatepost

NOVEMBER 2025



ISSUE No 10

WHAT IS ALPHA

NIGHT OF THANKS

SURVIVING THE
HOLIDAYS

Upcoming Events for November

01	MEN'S BREAKFAST	7:30 AM
02	TOLLING OF THE BELLS	
03	SPR MEETING	6:30 PM
05	CHARITY SEWING	1:30 PM
08	VETERANS BREAKFAST CRAFT FAIR ENCOUNTER NIGHT	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 6:00 PM
09	5 TH 6 TH GRADE BOWLING JOYFUL NOISE SINGERS	2:00 PM 2:30 PM
10	ALDERSGATE BOOK CLUB	5:30 PM
11	PROPERTY OVERSIGHT MEETING	6:30 PM
15	YOUNG ADULT PROGRESSIVE DINNER	6:00 PM
17	FINANCE MEETING	6:30 PM
18	SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS	1:00 PM 6:00 PM
20	NIGHT OF THANKS	7:00 PM
23	YOUTH EVENT - BATTLE BOWS	4:00 PM
26	NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES	
27	HAPPY THANKSGIVING - OFFICE CLOSED	
30	HANG GREENS AND SOUP LUNCH	12:30 PM

Happy
Thanksgiving





SUNDAY *Services*

JOIN US IN PERSON OR
ONLINE

8:15, 9:45, 11:11 AM



ALDERSGATE
CHURCH

Time To Be Thankful

Greetings Aldersgate,

The cold has arrived, and the days are getting shorter with daylight savings ending on the 9th; we will have nightfall occurring earlier. These are the days winding down another year and challenging us to finish strong as a church. We need to keep showing up for one another and our community around us. Please be here on November 20th, 7:00 p.m., for the Night of Thanks we will be hosting with the Nixa Ministerial Alliance. This is a great night of praise, and we should help to fill our Worship Center with the power of the Holy Spirit!

I also want you to mark your calendar and show up for our Burn Bright Conference on January 16 & 17! More information will follow, but I want to emphasize how important this will be to our church and community. We can be thankful for all the opportunities God gives us to show up and use our gifts together. We are in the best financial shape we have been in as a church in my 20 years of ministry at Aldersgate, and we are prepared to finish the year strong. In November, we want to remember Least of These and help with their holiday meals, and in December, we will have a One Day to Feed the World, Christmas Eve Offering.

We will finish the sermon series on Encouragement this month and celebrate our thankfulness on the 23rd! Advent begins on the 30th, and we will be celebrating the arrival of our Savior!!

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

Love In Christ,
Pastor Dennis



*Least
OF These, Inc.*
Christian County Food Pantry

Least Of These needs a \$7,000 donation match to take immediate advantage of a grant opportunity from Ozarks Food Harvest allowing us to buy \$14,000 worth of food for families. Double your donation, double your impact. Contact Angela Hudson at 417-840-2066.

GIVING THANKS TOGETHER: THE STORY BEHIND NIXA'S COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

By Sarah E. Rogers

As Thanksgiving approaches, churches across Nixa are once again preparing to come together in gratitude, worship, and community for the annual Community Thanksgiving Service, organized by the Nixa Ministerial Alliance (NMA). This beloved tradition, now decades old, represents far more than a single evening of worship, it's a testament to the unity and shared faith of local congregations who serve one God and one community. This cherished evening is a living expression of what Scripture calls believers to be: one body, united in love and purpose. Behind it lies a story of vision, fellowship, and faith in action.

Planting the Seeds of Unity

To understand how the Thanksgiving Service came to be, you have to go back almost four decades to the establishment of the NMA.

"When I came to Nixa in May of 1986," recalls Gary Swearengen, retired pastor of Nixa Church of the Nazarene, "there was no formal ministerial alliance. Local pastors knew each other, and there was friendly communication, but nothing organized."



Having served in other towns where ministerial alliances were strong, Swearengen saw an opportunity to build something meaningful. "In late summer or early fall of 1988," he said, "I wrote a letter to most of the churches in or near town regarding starting a formal Ministerial Alliance."

That letter sparked the first official meeting, a small but powerful gathering of pastors: Swearengen himself, Donnie Blansit of First Assembly, Richard Eakins of First Baptist, and Joe Fahl of Calvary Bible Church.

"We agreed that day to start the Nixa Ministerial Alliance," Swearengen said. "From the beginning, our goal was simple: to build unity among pastors, support one another, and better meet the needs of our community."



at mission, rooted in Scripture and lived out through fellowship, has guided the alliance from the very beginning. The Bible calls believers not only to gather together in worship, but also to serve those in need.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42 (NIV)

Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by actions." 1 John 3:18 (NLT)

These verses perfectly capture the heart of the Alliance's work in Nixa, pastors and congregations uniting in prayer and service, and putting love into action by caring for those in need in the Nixa community.

A Thanksgiving Tradition Is Born

Just a year or two after the Alliance was formed, Swearengen proposed an idea that would become one of its most enduring traditions: a Community Thanksgiving Service.

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Aldersgate Righteous Kids

November Bible Buddy:

Moe the Sloth

Bible
Buddy

Verse: "The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love." ~ Psalm 145:8

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).



We are stuffing the Turkey this month for Least of These! Bring your change in each week and we will send the total to Least of These.

YOU'RE INVITED

BOWLING

5th & 6th

CENTURY LANES - NIXA, MO

Sunday, November 9
Starts at 2:00pm-4:00pm
855 W. Tracker Road, Nixa, MO

Only \$5

SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP

SIGN UP

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

**NO CLASSES ON
WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 26
THANKSGIVING BREAK**

The Golden Rule

Luke 6: 37-38

By: Ed Vigneaux

Do you know or remember the Golden Rule? And no, it's not, do unto others before they can do it to you. That's the world's definition or vision of what it is. The Golden Rule is, do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Or treat others as you would have them treat you. Or how about loving others as you would like to be loved?

I learned the Golden rule from my parents, grandparents, Sunday school teachers and pastors, and from the Word of God. How has the Golden Rule lost its luster? It's a good concept, but how often do we really think about it? Has it become an integral part of who we are?

In one of his devotions this week, J. D. Walt gave a list of ideals of what the golden rule means to him.

- 1 I want others to treat me with respect without having to prove myself.
2. I want others to be glad to see me coming rather than ignoring me.
3. I want others to give me the benefit of the doubt when they are apt to suspect my motives.
4. I don't want others to be critical and judge me when there is a problem.
5. I want others to encourage me and assume I don't need encouragement.
6. I want others to be helpful to me when they don't really feel like it.
7. I want others not to make assumptions about me based on my past performance.

Of course, the opposite is true as well, by starting each ideal with I will treat others, etc.

The Word says that our faith is known by our doing.> There's an old song that goes like this: "They will know we are Christians by our love."

God came to earth as a human being to show us that we must love all others and to be willing to die for all others.

When he left this earth, Jesus gave us a command to share the good news to all the world. What is the good news? Love. It wasn't a suggestion. It was a command!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Especially love.

Let us love others as He has loved us. We are truly blessed (loved) to be a blessing (love) to others.

Grieving?

Know someone who is?

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our **Surviving the Holidays** seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS



www.griefshare.org/holidays

Tuesday, November 18 at 1PM & 6PM

Call today for more information
417-725-4949

Sponsored by Aldersgate Church
www.AldersgateChurch.com

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
Christmas Cantata Rehearsal - 4:00 PM
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
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
Christmas Cantata Rehearsal - 7:30 PM

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

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

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.

November Dates:

Nov. 2 at Lee and Mary Cunningham's House

Nov. 9 at Devin and Emalie Lindsey's House

Nov. 16 at Damon and Robyn Thomas' House

Summer Mission Trip

The High School Summer Mission Trip will be headed to Minnesota from June 27 - July 3. This is open to all current 8th graders to 12th grade students. If you are interested please talk to Rob Howard to get a commitment letter.

SANTA'S TOY DRIVE

Santa's Toy Drive was started in 2021 by Ryan and Shelby Malin to provide gifts for Christian County children who would otherwise not have gifts for Christmas. That first year they served over 200 kids. This number has grown every year, with the goal for this year being 700 children!

Besides Christmas gifts, they find ways to help families all through the year. Look at some of the ways they have helped since 2021!

- \$400 donated in medical supplies that were not covered by insurance was donated to children with disabilities
- 4 families received assistance from a total loss due to fire
- 1,838 children received toys for Christmas morning
- 30 families at the women/children shelter received donations on Christmas morning
- Over \$2,000 of toys were donated to Project Birthday Bag to help supply gifts for children's birthdays that would otherwise go without

While they do provide assistance throughout the year, their main focus is the Santa's Toy Drive event. **For the first time, Aldersgate will be the location for this event. Thursday, December 18, will be set up. Friday, December 19, will be more prep work, and for the first time, they will offer an evening shopping time for parents who are coming without their children. Saturday, December 20, is the big event!** Parents will drop off their children to watch a movie, do a craft, play games, have breakfast, and even see Santa! While the kids are being entertained, parents will shop for their kids and have the gifts wrapped and loaded in their cars. During this event and in all of the things this ministry does, people are shown the love of Christ. They are prayed over before they even set foot on campus.

No ministry this big can function without a lot of volunteers. Aldersgate, this is your chance to make a big impact in our community. People are needed to put together and drop off toy collection boxes, they need shoppers to purchase gifts with monetary donations, they need many volunteers to set up and run the event. Sign up below to volunteer: If you are short on time, you can purchase gifts and put them in the collection box once we get it. They ask that gifts be in the \$25 - \$50 range, so all kids get similarly priced items. Watch for more information on this event.



Are you looking for a way to spread the love, make a positive impact, and bring joy to those in need? We need you to join our team of dedicated volunteers for our Toy Drive! Every hour you give helps make a world of difference in the lives of children who deserve a little extra joy this holiday season. Whether it's collecting, sorting, or distributing toys, your efforts will directly impact our community. Let's come together to make this Toy Drive unforgettable. Your kindness and generosity can make the holidays brighter for so many families.

BENEFITS

- ✓ Make a Real Impact
- ✓ Build Connections
- ✓ Develop New Skills
- ✓ Create Meaningful Change



GIVING THANKS TOGETHER: THE STORY BEHIND NIXA'S COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

continued from page 4

"I had always been a part of a Community Thanksgiving Service in my past and pushed to start one here as soon as possible after the organization of the Alliance," he said.

By late 1989 or early 1990, that idea became reality. The service rotated among churches large enough to hold a crowd, and leadership roles rotated as well. One pastor would preach, while others handled Scripture readings, prayer, and worship and congregational singing filled the sanctuary with a sound that truly reflected the heart of the Kingdom.

Adapting and Growing Together

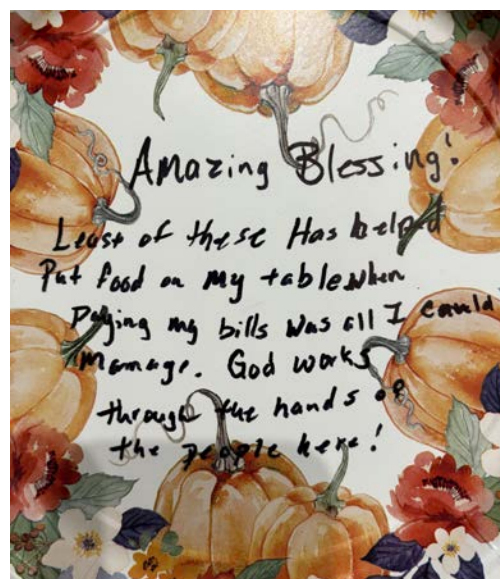
As the years passed, attendance ebbed and flowed. Around two decades ago the Alliance decided to invite a school choir to participate. That minor change had a significant impact. "It not only got younger people from the community involved, but also gave their parents a reason to come," Swearingin noted. This addition connected the faith community with the broader community in a beautiful way.



Then, three years ago, the NMA decided to try something new once again: a pie fellowship following the service. "We wanted to create more opportunity for people from different churches to really connect," Swearingin said. "Now, people bring pies and other desserts, and it has been a great success."

The laughter, conversation, and fellowship that fill the hall afterward are every bit as sacred as the hymns sung earlier in the evening. Breaking bread together, or in this case, pie, has a way of reminding us that we're one family.

Love in Action



Each year, an offering is collected during the service, and those funds go right back into helping neighbors in need. Sixty percent of the proceeds stay with the NMA to support transient and emergency assistance, such as covering fuel, food, lodging, or bus tickets for those facing sudden hardship. The remaining forty percent is donated to Least of These, the local food pantry that serves families throughout Christian County.

The goal of the service has never just been attendance numbers; it's about faithfulness. It's about showing the community what the love of Christ looks like in action.



NEW MEMBERS
Samantha and Abbey
Anderson

WHO WILL CARRY THIS SHIELD?

Plutarch, Greek historian and philosopher (46-120 AD), describes a quote from King Demartus of Sparta (510-491 BC), when he was asked why it was more dishonorable for a Spartan to return from battle without a shield as opposed to having no helmet. The king replied, "Because the latter they put on for their own protection, but the SHIELD is for the common good of all".

The SHIELD safety and security ministry is for the common good of all persons attending Aldersgate. Our presence and vigilance is intended to bring peace of mind to those who worship so that they know, if trouble comes, SHIELD will respond until law enforcement arrives.

When SHIELD was created in 2012, some of us had past law enforcement service and serve on SHIELD because protecting others is what we know best. However, with time, that has changed. There are only two of us now. But whether or not you have law enforcement experience, YOU can help.

SHIELD needs help! We need those, with certain qualifications, especially ages 30-50, who are physically more capable, robust, and with greater endurance, to reinforce our membership and our ability to protect. We implore you. Join SHIELD. We will train you. Contact any SHIELD member for an application today!

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock in whom I take refuge, my SHIELD and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior from violent men you save me. I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. 2 Samuel 22: 3-4



Aldersgate Craft Fair

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

Please make plans to join us for a wonderful craft fair, featuring a lot of our church members. We have 19 vendors signed up to participate and are looking forward to sharing their handiwork with you. Get your Christmas shopping done early and support our church family.



Senior Resource Panel

Thursday, November 13th at 6:30 in Rm 207 LC.

Stephen Ministry will be hosting a presentation by Senior Resources Network of The Ozarks. On Thursday, November 13th, in room 207 at 6:30 PM. This is an organization comprised of professionals in the community who focus on the needs of senior citizens. They will discuss a wide range of resources, all of which most seniors, or their parents, will likely need at some point in their lives.

Come and learn about the many resources available in our community, so you can make good decisions as an active senior and your aging parents. Personally meet each professional after the seminar to discuss your own personal questions or concerns. See you there on November 13th.

Financial Brief

By: Ben Stone

Year-to-date financial summary through September 30, 2025:

Revenue \$ 953,889
Budgeted Expenses \$ 1,078,134
Actual Expenses \$ 913,351
Net \$ 40,538

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of September 30, 2025, is \$2,915,830.

As a sports fan, what a time to be alive! There is college or pro football on TV every night of the week, and we can watch almost every sporting event of the local high school streaming live on YouTube – we've got almost anything we could want! And it's not just sports; most of us enjoy lives of relative luxury that couldn't have been imagined a couple of generations ago. Ironically, there is a side effect to many of these things that are supposed to make our lives easier and better – increased busyness, stress, and anxiety.

On a recent Wednesday night at church, during a study of the wisdom in Proverbs, a group of 5th and 6th graders talked about the peace that can come from believing God will provide us with everything we need. Whether we are worrying about taking care of the stuff we have, or yearning for new things we want, or perhaps going through a period of serious difficulty, there is great security in knowing that God provides us with everything we need. During this season of Thanksgiving, we can be thankful we have a God who knows what we need, and it is always available.

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 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!!



GIRL SCOUT TROOP 71364
INVITES YOU TO:



VETERANS DAY

BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, NOV 8TH
8:30-10AM



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

BREAKFAST, SONGS AND CAMARADERIE

ALDRSGATE CHURCH

★ 460 Aldersgate Drive Nixa MO ★

YOUNG ADULT

ENCOUNTER NIGHTS

NOVEMBER 8TH 6-8PM
IN THE ARK DECK

DYNAMIC WORSHIP

ENCOURAGING MESSAGE

EXCITING GAMES

TASTY CHICK-FIL-A

PRESENTED BY THE
NIXA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

NIXA NIGHT OF THANKS

A CITYWIDE WORSHIP SERVICE

NOV. 20TH AT 7PM | HOSTED AT ALDRSGATE CHURCH