

Gatepost

November 2024

Night of Thanks
Generations Village
It's a Big Church



November Highlights

November 2
Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM

November 3
Daylight Savings Time Ends
Tolling of the Bells

November 5
Election Day

November 6
Charity Sewing 1:30 PM
Cantata Rehearsal 7:30 PM

November 7
Leadership Development Meeting 6:30 PM

November 9
Veteran's Breakfast 8:30 AM

November 10
Annual Church Business Meeting 1:30 PM
Joyful Noise 2:30 PM
Cantata Rehearsal 3:30 PM

November 12
The Great Disappearance Bible Starts 9:30 AM
Property Oversight Meeting 6:30 PM

November 13
Cantata Rehearsal 7:30 PM

November 17
Operation Christmas Shoebox 8:00 AM
5th and 6th Grade Friendsgiving 2:00 PM

November 19
Surviving the Holidays 1:00 and 6:00 PM
Finance Meeting 6:30 PM

November 24
Cantata Rehearsal 2:00 PM

November 26
Night of Thanks 7:00 PM

November 27
No Wednesday Night Activities

November 28
Happy Thanksgiving
Office Closed

Weekly Calendar

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

Tuesdays
The Great Disappearance Bible Study 9:30 AM
Disciple 1 2:00 PM
Aldersgate Time of Prayer 6:30 PM

Wednesdays
Youth Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM
Dinner 5:30 PM
Ark Wed. 6:30 PM
5 & 6 Grade Wed. 6:30 PM
7 & 8 Grade Wed. 6:30 PM
High School Wed. 6:30 PM
Choir Practice 6:30 PM
Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 PM
Young Adult Study 6:30 PM
Families Matter Bible Study 6:30 PM

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

Saturdays
Cardio Strength/Dance Exercise Class 9:30 AM
Peace in the Storm - Worship Service 6:00 PM

Sundays
Handbells Rehearsal 11:15 AM
Young Adult Lunch 12:15 PM
Disciple 3 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

THANKFUL

November 2024

Greetings Aldersgate,
It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of the year and Thanksgiving is a few weeks away. We have the honor of hosting a community service, on Tuesday, November 28, called A Night of Thanks. This has been a tradition in Nixa for decades and we hope it will have a new feel and the attendance is filled with at least 13 of our churches having a great turnout. I hope we will have a wonderful response from our congregation inviting all to our campus for the service and a pie feast following in our Commons. See the QR Code to sign up genius to provide pies for the fellowship! Please join me in praying for the potential revival in Nixa and how this service can be a powerful movement of the Holy Spirit.

October was amazing with Socktober, the Coat Drive, the Hurricane Relief Effort, and the completion of our focus to help Least of These. Apple Pies sold out in days to benefit debt reduction

and the Men's Steak Dinner raised over \$2,000 for our student ministries. Please remember when we have special giving opportunities, they are just that, an opportunity to know of a need and to pray for how God would have you respond. I completely trust in our church to be as generous as we can.

I am thankful for the message Ed Vigneaux shared on Laity Sunday and praying that our Army of Love is on the move. I am so grateful we have at least 15 reading buddies heading to help students at High Pointe Elementary. Let's keep serving and praying!!

Please watch for our students to be serving on November 3rd, throughout the 9:45 hour!

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

Love In Christ,
Pastor Dennis



ALDRSGATE RIGHTEOUS KIDS

Pk-Grade 6

November Bible Buddy & Memory verse

Meet Tommy the Turkey!
"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1Thessalonians 5:18.
This month we are going to be "Harvesting Gratitude" in Sunday School by learning to appreciate God's blessings.



Stuff the Turkey!

ARK will be collecting coins and dollars for Least of These all month long!



5th & 6th grade ART Zone Friendsgiving

Bring your favorite treat to share and be ready to paint! We will meet at ART Zone on November 17th from 2:00-4:00 pm. Parents, you are also welcome to stay and share in the fun with us. Sign-up will be coming soon.



No Wednesday Night

No Wednesday night classes November 27th. Happy Thanksgiving!



**ALDRSGATE
CHURCH**

FALL FESTIVAL

WED. OCT. 30

460 W Aldersgate Dr. Nixa, MO

6:30 PM until 7:30 PM

Trunk or Treat | Games | Inflatable

FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE



YOUTH GROUP

“I have prayed about where God wants us to go next year and He is telling me that we need to go to the Appalachian Mountains.”

Melissa Trebilcock

WHERE TO NEXT YEAR?

Our high school team will be headed to the Appalachian Mountain region next summer. We know that the need is great out there and our students are ready to go and help.

We would love the support from our church family as this group will be doing various fundraisers to help raise funds for this trip.

You can even sponsor a student for the full amount of \$300 if you would like.

We know that God has a lot in store for our

High School students and we are excited for them to have this opportunity.

If you have any questions on how you can help or if you would like to donate

specifically to the mission trip please contact Rob Howard or call the church office.

This trip will be for our current 8th grade - 12th grade students.

We also never want finances to stand in the way of a student getting to go on the trip.

SMALL GROUP

Our High School Small Groups meet in host homes three Sundays a month and we are extremely blessed to have Lee and Mary Cunningham, Damon and Robyn Thomas, and Drew and Cherie Gregory opening up their homes and providing meals for our students. We also have two great leaders who have stepped up to lead their study time. Caleb Miller and Stacey Kohler spend time with these students

and help them dig deeper into what God has in store for them.

All High School students are welcome to attend. For November they will meet:

November 3: Gregory House

November 10: Thomas House





GRIEF SHARE®

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

A ONE TIME SEMINAR

Give people the tools they need

◆
“Should I hang his stocking even though he’s not here anymore?”

◆
“I just want to hibernate through this season, but I keep being invited to events.”

◆
“She always decorated the tree. I just can’t bring myself to put one up this year.”

The holidays present unique challenges for people who are grieving. With Surviving the Holidays, you can gain support, understanding, and the tools to navigate through it.

Join our GriefShare team on Tuesday, November 19 at 1:00 PM or 6:00 PM in LC 207.

The "Surviving the Holidays" workshop is open to anyone 18 years old or older that has experienced the loss of a spouse, child, family member or friend. There is no cost to attend and all of the materials will be provided. Please register at griefshare.org.

Save the Date

Service of Comfort and Hope will be Saturday, Dec. 7th at 4:00 PM



Typically, October is Pastor Appreciation Month however, here at Aldersgate, we like to show our gratitude for not only our pastors but also the staff who are so important to our church. So, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, we are calling November our Staff Appreciation month, to recognize our wonderful Pastors and Staff!

There are many ways to show appreciation to our entire Staff. We encourage you to do so in a manner that you find meaningful. Here are just a few ideas:

1. Drop them a note or card of thanks or encouragement.
2. Gift them a book.
3. Give them a gift card (food, movies, activities) for a date night or fun evening out.
4. Provide them with a meal or baked goodies.
5. Donate to a specific ministry.
6. Support the various ministries they are involved in with your attendance or volunteering.
7. Make a point to pray for our Pastors and staff by name.

In addition, until Wednesday, December 11, SPR will be collecting cash* funds to be distributed among our pastors and staff for a Christmas gift. Please place your cash gift in a sealed envelope, marking it “Staff Appreciation” and either (1) place it in the offering, (2) give it to an SPR Committee member, or (3) drop it off in the church office.

* We cannot take a check for this gift since it would have to be deposited into the church bank account, and the funds would have to be allocated to church expenses.

We hope you will find it in your hearts to help us show just how much we appreciate everything our pastors and staff do for our church family and to help us be Christ in the world!

With Love in Christ,

Staff-Parish Relations Committee
 Kathrine Clem, Stacy Evans, Mike Freyer, David Hayes, Vera Hunziker, Gary Jacobs, Mark McClanahan, Debbie Rice, Rhonda Wilson, Jeff McCurry – SPR Chair, Ed Vigneaux – Lay Leader

Operation Christmas Child

COLLECTING UNTIL NOV. 17

If you have taken a box to fill, please return that box back to room 207 by November 17.



An innovative solution to the foster care crisis is coming!



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS FOSTERING?
DO YOU KNOW GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE RAISING GRANDCHILDREN?
WAS YOUR OWN FAMILY IMPACTED BY THE NEED FOR FOSTER CARE?
WERE YOU A FOSTER CHILD?
ARE SOME OF YOUR FRIENDS' FORMER FOSTER CHILDREN?

Fostering is all around us and the need for more foster homes is acute. Right now, in Greene Co., there are almost 800 children in foster care, and in SW MO there are over 1000 kids in foster care.

SW MO has the most children in foster care of any region in the state.

We have the highest rate of child abuse and neglect in the state AND one of the highest rates in the entire country!

Generations Village will be opening next year to provide a community of hope and healing for foster kids that will also provide a meaningful and fulfilling place to live for senior adults.

There will be homes for 12 foster families with up to 6 kids in each, 36 homes for seniors who are willing and interested in being a part of the healing and redemptive process for traumatized kids, and 8 units for youth who have aged out of foster care but still want and need the emotional, mental, and spiritual support they received in Generations Village as foster kids to continue their journey towards a successful future and a satisfying life.

Generations Village will be a lively, active, and restorative community where all Villagers will be part of a loving, caring, and supportive neighborhood and where everyone--no matter the age, race, gender, or economic level--is valued and appreciated as a unique child of God.

Join us in all 3 services at Aldersgate on Sunday, Nov. 3 to learn more about what's coming and how you can be a part of this exciting change in the lives of so many of our most vulnerable citizens.

PLEASE JOIN US IN HELPING THE HEALING.
REMEMBER: IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO BUILD A VILLAGE.
BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!



GENERATIONS VILLAGE

IT'S A BIG CHURCH. SOMEONE ELSE WILL DO THAT!

BY: PASTOR SARAH FOTOPULOS

You're busy. I'm busy. Your calendar, like mine, is crammed with commitments from work, family, school, friends, and community activities. And somewhere, if you find a free space, a little R & R sounds like heaven.

Our church calendar is even more busy! Our Aldersgate family continues to grow as we continue in our commitment to reach out with the love of Christ and teach the Word to make disciples with an active faith in Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Praise God for the work of his Holy Spirit!

With over 500 people worshipping here together across multiple services each Sunday, our church family has reached a size where it is difficult to know everyone, and that makes it easy to get detached from the heartbeat of the church. As a result, we are struggling to staff vital ministries with unpaid servants.

I know we have many teens and adults who really love kids and want them to know how much Jesus loves them. Our superb turnout of VBS helpers each year is proof! But we are always so short of teachers and helpers for children's Sunday school and Wednesday Night Kids that it becomes a crisis whenever a teacher has to call in sick.

I know we have many adults who love teens and know how important it is to connect them to God the Rock in the storms of adolescence who would make great youth sponsors! (Even helping provide snacks on a regular basis would be a huge help!)

I know we have many adults who recognize the need for church security and who have a protector's heart of service required for such a role. But we still don't have enough members of SHIELD to provide security for all activities where kids and youth are present, let alone all our other activities.

I know we have plenty of good writers and photographers who would make great Gatepost reporters, plenty of smiling faces who would make great greeters and ushers, plenty of singers and musicians who would make great additions to our choir and praise teams and plenty of growing disciples who would make great small group leaders or class facilitators. We have no lack of spiritual gifts among us and no one who lacks a spiritual gift because the apostle Paul affirms in 1 Corinthians 12:7, "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

This is an encouragement, not a guilt trip. Take the time to discover your spiritual gifts and how you can use them "for the common good." Just like other abilities, spiritual gifts can get rusty with disuse. No one can do everything. But growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ means everyone should be serving somewhere and somehow.

Need help figuring out your spiritual gifts? Our Leadership Development Team would love to help!

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

stephen
MINISTRY®

SENIOR RESOURCE



Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 PM

Stephen Ministry will be hosting a presentation by the Senior Resources Network of The Ozarks. On Thursday, November 14TH 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 14Th.

WHO NEEDS A STEPHEN MINISTER Cancer—Now What?

All too often we hear that someone we know is facing cancer. A friend, relative, or neighbor—or a colleague, church member, customer, patient, care receiver, or client—receives the devastating news of a cancer diagnosis.

During such a difficult time, we want to reach out with support and care, to offer help and hope. But how? A simple, powerful way is to get them connected with a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are trained to guide and help cancer patients and their loved ones navigate the medical, emotional, relational, and spiritual challenges of cancer.

We have an amazing team of Stephen Ministers at our church and they are willing and ready to be there to listen and support through tough times.

If you are someone you love is needing some extra care please call the church office at 417-725-4949.

VISITOR BREAD

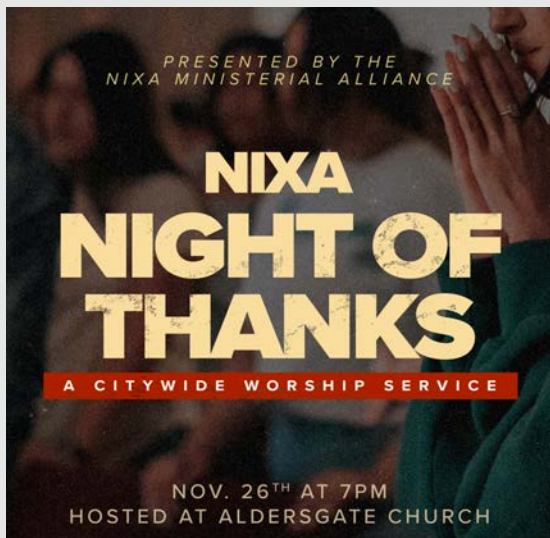


There's something about the smell of fresh bread that says, "Home!" Sharing fresh homemade quick bread with our new visitors is a beloved Aldersgate tradition we are excited to resume this Fall! To make that happen, we are currently recruiting bakers and deliverers to serve on rotating teams.

We are looking for two bakers per month who can make four small loaves (approx. 6" x 4") of their favorite homemade quick bread (i.e. banana, pumpkin, cranberry orange, etc.), wrap them in foil, and bring them to the church office the last week of the month!

We are also looking for two deliverers per week who can take these delicious treats along with a note from one of our pastors to our new visitors as part of our warm Aldersgate welcome!

If you want to be part of bringing happy smiles to new friends-in-the-making, call the church office.



Do you enjoy our Nights of Worship? We are excited to be hosting a Night of Thanks for the city of Nixa.

This community-wide worship service will have the feeling of our Nights of Worship with other Nixa churches being invited to participate in the praise team.

We will have a guest pastor delivering a message and end the night with pie! Invite all of your friends, family, and neighbors to join you on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 7:00 PM.



Ever wondered how all the ministries of Aldersgate happen?

Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 10, at 1:30 PM to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes at our annual business meeting in the sanctuary.

We'll worship together and hear updates on church staffing, finances, facilities, leadership teams, and the work of our denominational task force. Don't miss out on your chance to be in the know!

On Saturday, November 9th, Girl Scout Troop 71364 invites all veterans to a Veterans Day Breakfast at 9:00 AM. This wonderful event will include breakfast, a reader's theater performance, patriotic songs, and fellowship.

This is open to any Veteran who would like to attend. Last year was the first year we had this event and it was a wonderful success.



GIRL SCOUT TROOP 71364 INVITES ALL VETERANS TO A



VETERANS DAY *breakfast*

A celebration to thank our Veterans



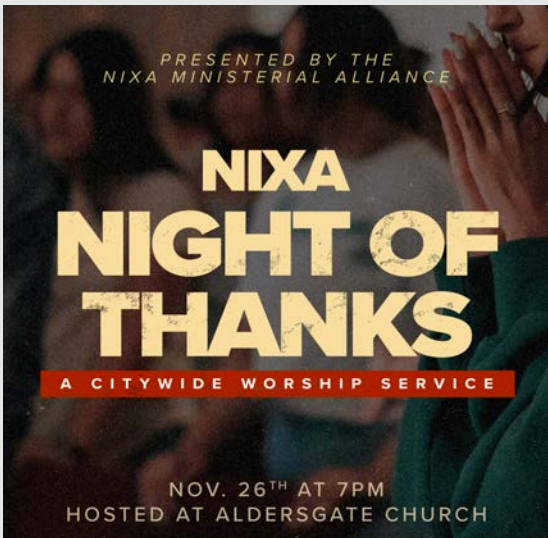
Breakfast, reader's theater performance, patriotic songs, and fellowship



ALDRSGATE CHURCH
COMMONS AREA
460 ALDRSGATE DR, NIXA



SATURDAY
9 NOV 2024
9:00-10:00 AM



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Aldersgate Financial Update

Overview of Giving



FINANCIAL BRIEF

By: Ben Stone

Year-to-date financial summary through September 30 of this year and last year:

	2024	2023 (excluding disaffiliation costs)
Revenue	\$ 760,522	\$ 714,973
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 990,012	\$ 918,957
Actual Expenses	\$ 873,323	\$ 851,008
Net	\$(112,801)	\$(136,035)

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of September 30, 2024, is \$3,085,576.

The end of the year is quickly approaching. The members of Aldersgate have supported many local causes this year, including Least of These and Abundant Blessings, and we are looking into ways to support world missions during the Christmas season. Each year, we take a special offering at each of the Christmas Eve services, and we are considering partnering with Convoy of Hope to use this additional offering to spread Christ's light to a place in the world where that love is needed.

If you're doing some year-end tax planning, keep in mind Aldersgate can accept donations of stock. The church can also accept QCDs (IRS slang for qualified charitable distributions), which are tax-free distributions from an IRA (more cool slang – individual retirement account, or “individual retirement arrangement,” if you're really hip to IRS vernacular). Either stock donations or QCDs can be effective ways to reduce tax liability while maximizing giving to the church. Please contact the church office if you are interested in more information.



YOUTH CORN MAZE



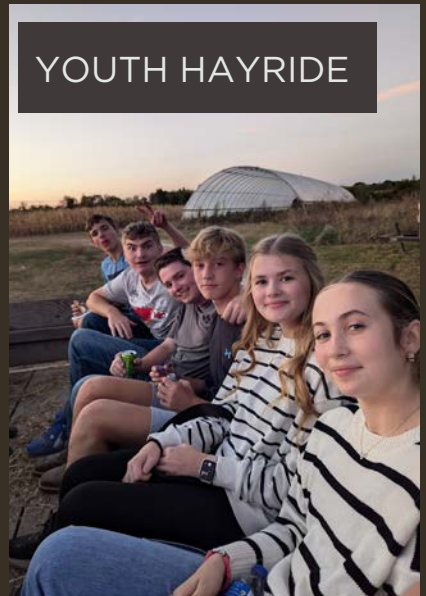
YOUTH PRAISE TEAM



APPLE PIES



PET BLESSING



YOUTH HAYRIDE



LINDLEY CREEK



STEAK DINNER



APPLE PIES



5TH AND 6TH BONFIRE

