

Gatepost

Season of Love

FEBRUARY 2025

ISSUE No 02

ALDRSGATE ARTS
FESTIVAL

RED ENVELOPE
FUNDRAISER

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

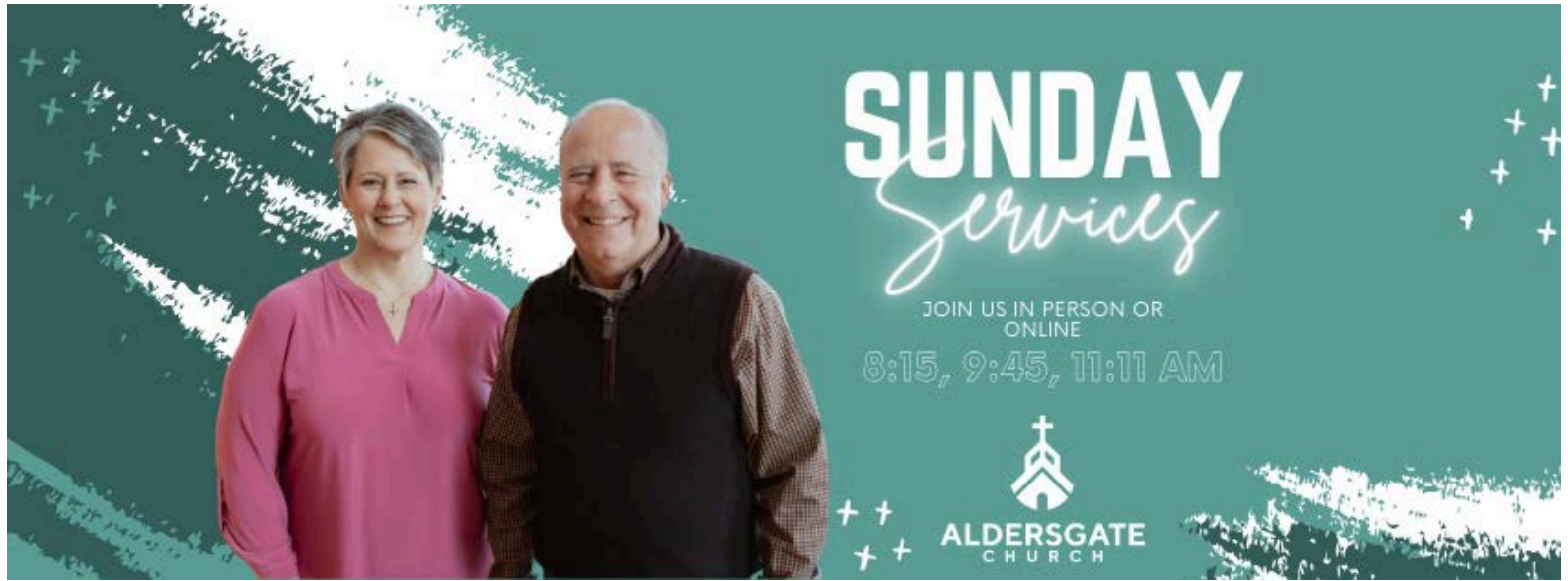
Upcoming Events February

01	MEN'S BREAKFAST	7:30 AM
02	RED ENVELOPE STARTS SHOEPPER SOUPER BOWL EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP CLASS	4:00 PM
03	SPR MEETING	6:30 PM
05	CHARITY SEWING	1:30 PM
06	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MEETING	6:30 PM
08	NIGHT OF WORSHIP	6:30 PM
09	JOYFUL NOISE SINGERS	2:30 PM
11	PROPERTY OVERSIGHT MEETING	6:30 PM
15	PARENTS' NIGHT OUT	5:00 PM
16	NOVA PALENTINE'S PARTY	6:00 PM
18	FINANCE MEETING	6:30 PM
23	YOUTH PINBALL EVENT	4:00 PM



Download the church app to stay up-to-date on all church events. Search Aldersgate Church of Nixa in your App Store.





Holiness

Greetings Aldersgate,

We have already reached the 2nd month of the new year and as we look back at 2024 we have been richly blessed with faithfulness to close out the year: almost \$20k given for our Christmas Eve offering for Convoy of Hope and over \$30k in new giving to our operating fund. Giving has been down to churches and charities, but we have seen an increase. We did have funds in reserve to cover the deficit from 2024, and with the inclusion of our principal in last year's budget, and the December purchase of a new mower we are looking good for 2025. I would encourage everyone to stay up to date with your regular giving and let's try and get through the first quarter with at least \$300k in giving to cover ministry expenses.

We will schedule Town Halls from our Task Force to discuss how we will move forward as a local church in the future. We continue to pray for discernment but are excited to hear more about the direction God is leading us in faith.

Are you growing in holiness? How might you take this month to seek God's holiness in your life? We are challenged to grow together and increase in our love and encouragement to one another and the world!

Please watch for our students to be serving February 2nd, throughout the 9:45 hour!

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

Love In Christ,
Pastor Dennis

Dennis Miller
LEAD PASTOR

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



Shooper Souper Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 2- Sunday, Feb. 9

Every year we have a fun time giving back to our local non-profits. This Shooper Souper Bowl helps out Abundant Blessings and Least of These. Please bring in new or gently used shoes and non-perishable food items and place them in the shopping cart of the team you want to win the Super Bowl. The teams you have to choose from are the Eagles or the Chiefs.....choose wisely.

Parents' Night Out

Saturday, Feb. 15 from 5:00-9:00 PM

It's Valentine's Weekend and our Youth Mission Trip team is happy to host a Parents' Night Out to help raise money for their Mission Trip this year. The students will be hosting a VBS-style night so your kids will be entertained all night!

Age range: infant-6th grade

The first child is \$30

Second child \$15

Third child \$10

Four or more are free.

SCAN ME



Red Envelope Fundraiser

All of February

The Red Envelope fundraiser is for student missions. All offerings received will go toward helping the students of Aldersgate serve God's people locally and nationally. This year our mission team will be headed to the Appalachian Mountains to serve. Each envelope has a dollar amount listed. With envelopes ranging in price from \$1-\$150, there is sure to be an envelope to fit any budget. Supporting our students through this campaign requires as little as picking up an envelope that best meets your

planned gift and returning your gift one of three ways:

- 1) By a one-time offering through the Aldersgate Church App (designation Red Envelope)
- 2) Dropping your red envelope with the enclosed gift in the Sunday morning Worship offering
- 3) Dropping it off at the church office

If you are unable to find an envelope that matches your desired gift amount there will be blank envelopes, because all offerings are welcome and valued.

Please take the time to pray about your gift to the youth of Aldersgate and fill an envelope during the month of February. This campaign can pave the way to spiritual growth and ministry beyond our campus.

The goal this year is \$10,000 and that will help cover the costs of transportation, travel, and supplies for students to use while they are serving.



CHOOSING TO SERVE

By: Ed Vigneaux

I Corinthians 12: 4-11

Luke 22:27

I read an article recently about a man who had been playing the guitar since he was a teenager, and now in his 60s, he still had the desire to play. One day, a member of the church praise team asked him if he would like to play with them. He wanted to answer yes, but he was anxious about how he would perform for this group. He decided to sit in one day to see if he could add anything to the group. The members were patient, kind, and very supportive. He eventually became a member of this group.

Each of us has a God-given gift or talent. As the Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 12, there are a variety of gifts in each congregation, but the same Holy Spirit; there are a variety of services, but the same Lord; and there are a variety of activities, but the same Lord leads and empowers each of us.

In Luke 22, Jesus asks his disciples which one is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? They replied the one who reclines is greater; but Jesus tells them that He is among those who serve?

Which one are you? One who serves or one who is served?

My prayer is that each one discovers what your gift from God is and then use it to advance His Kingdom. We as disciples of Christ are called to serve one another and to think of others as more important than ourselves.

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

We are blessed to be a blessing.



Night of Worship

Join us Saturday, Feb. 8 at 6:30 PM for an inspiring Night of Worship as we come together in unity to lift our hearts and voices in praise. This special evening will feature powerful music, heartfelt prayer, and an atmosphere of reverence and celebration. Whether you're seeking renewal, connection, or simply a moment to draw closer to God, this is an opportunity to experience His presence in a profound way. All are welcome—come as you are and leave refreshed!



Youth Update

High School Small Group for February
Sunday, February 2 at Robyn Thomas'
Sunday, February 16 Cherie Gregory's.
If you are a high school student and haven't
come to Small Group, please give it a shot.
This is an enjoyable way to connect and
grow spiritually with your peers. Each
Sunday we meet at 6:00 PM at the host
home, share a meal and break off into small
groups for bible studies.



Summer Mission Trip

This summer our Youth Mission Trip team will be going to the Appalachian Mountains to serve. We are currently finalizing our team, so if you would like to go, we need to know ASAP.

Upcoming events/fundraisers for the Mission Team is the Parents' Night Out event on Saturday, February 15. Details are on page 4.

They also have the Red Envelope Fundraiser happening for the entire month of February. All funds raised will go to the Youth Mission Trip.

Continue to pray for this group as they continue to bond and band together as a team.



Going to Perfect Tilt Pinball!

For 7th-12th grades

Sunday, February 23rd

4-6pm

\$10

(includes all games and dinner!)

We will meet at Perfect Tilt
521 S. Glenstone Ave. 65802

We can arrange for rides if it is
needed. Just let Rob know.





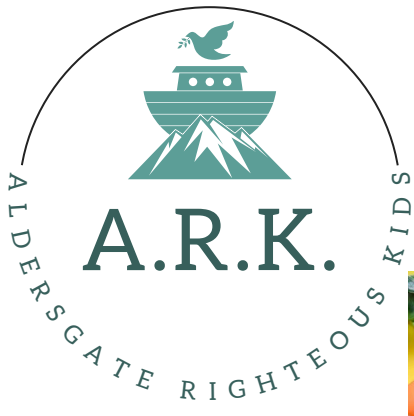
We ♥ our Volunteers



We are constantly looking for extra help on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights for our ARK classes. As we start the new year, we want to have our classes full of volunteers. That means you! Find out how you can get involved this year, the commitment is what you make it. We are happy to have you every week or once a month, you get to decide. Scan the QR code to get started.

February Bible Buddy:
Rae the Giant Manta Ray

February Verse: "For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does."
Psalm 33:4



Join us each Sunday morning at 9:45 AM PK-4th grade in the ARK Wing for Sunday school.



Save the Date!

We are excited to have our Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12. We are adding a family event to our Easter Egg Hunt so be on the lookout for more details soon.



Attention 5th and 6th graders!!

Welcome to the 2025 SuperStart: "Shaped," where we'll explore the incredible truth that our lives are molded by the choices we make, the people we surround ourselves with, and, most importantly, by the hands of God. We are Shaped daily by our experiences, relationships, and environment. However, the most powerful Shaping comes from God, who has crafted each of us with a unique purpose for His Kingdom. Your preteens will learn how to evaluate the different influences in their lives and lean into God's Shaping process, allowing Him to mold their hearts and minds for

the work He has planned for them. We'll be teaching all of this through an exciting competition called the "Shaped Challenge," where students will compete to accomplish outrageous challenges that are guaranteed to create lots of laughs. Don't miss out on the chance for your students to be Shaped by a life-changing experience this year at SuperStart!

We will be going to Tulsa, OK on March 7-8th. We need parents to drive and kids to sign up to go! We will also need food donations so please reach out to Ellie Bakken if you are able to help. You can call the church office at 417-725-4949 or email EBakken@aldersgatechurch.com.

Financial Brief

BEN STONE

CURRENT AS OF 12-31-24

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

Revenue	\$1,124,074
Budgeted Expenses	\$1,336,770
Actual Expenses	\$1,188,664
Net	\$ (64,590)

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of December 31, 2024, is \$3,044,196.

We entered December with a year-to-date budget deficit of almost \$140,000. December was a tremendous month for giving – about twice the amount of a normal month! This made up more than half of the deficit; we ended the year in the red by about \$65,000. Thank you to everyone who sacrificed in December to give extra to the church to help try to make our budget. We have cash reserves to cover that deficit this year, but we obviously can't have a shortfall every year or eventually, we would not be able to support our ministry. A prayer for the future is that we all continue to grow in our stewardship.

Notably, while we had an operating fund deficit of \$65,000, there was \$69,000 given to the Legacy fund during 2024. Since the loan principal payments were included in the operating budget starting in 2024, the giving to the Legacy fund was used for additional principal payments on top of our normal monthly payments, helping to pay down the loan quicker, which is great. But since the scheduled monthly payments are now included in the operating budget, giving to the Legacy fund is no longer absolutely necessary; if you have been giving to the Legacy fund, please consider redirecting these gifts to the general operating fund starting in 2025, at least until we are meeting our budget on a consistent monthly basis.

While we came up short in meeting our annual budget, the special offering collected at the Christmas Eve services was a great success! A goal had been set of \$16,450, and we exceeded it – Aldersgate was able to give Convoy of Hope a little over \$20,000! It is glorious that despite hearing in recent weeks and months about our own budget issues within our comfortable church in Nixa, you were inspired by hope to take advantage of an opportunity to offer God's blessing to others on the other side of the globe. While we must take care of our own business, would we be fulfilling our purpose if we were not shining God's light to the world? It is exciting to see what we can do together as a church!

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and
whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

2 Corinthians 9:6



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
Aldersgate Time of Prayer 6:30 PM

Wednesdays

GriefShare 1:00 PM
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
The Art of Marriage 6:30 PM
How to Share Your Faith 6:30 PM

Thursdays

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

Saturdays

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

Sundays

Handbells Rehearsal 11:15 AM
Young Adult Lunch 12:15 PM
High School Small Group 6:00 PM
Disciple 3 6:00 PM

Sunday School Classes

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

Weekly events are always being added so be sure to download the church app or check on the church website to stay current.

WWW.ALDERSGATECHURCH.COM



Dear Aldersgate Church,
 Thank you for your prayers and the beautiful shawl. It was extremely thoughtful for you all to think of me during my cancer season. I do know that your prayers are helping me with comfort. After the double mastectomy, I am now in chemotherapy. Thank you for your love,
 Rene Koban



Newborns in Need is so blessed by the generosity of our friends and with appreciation, we acknowledge your gift of accessories, 25 sets of burps and bibs, hats, and toys. Such gifts encourage our volunteers as well as provide the resources for our mission of assisting families so their little ones can thrive. Your gift makes a difference.

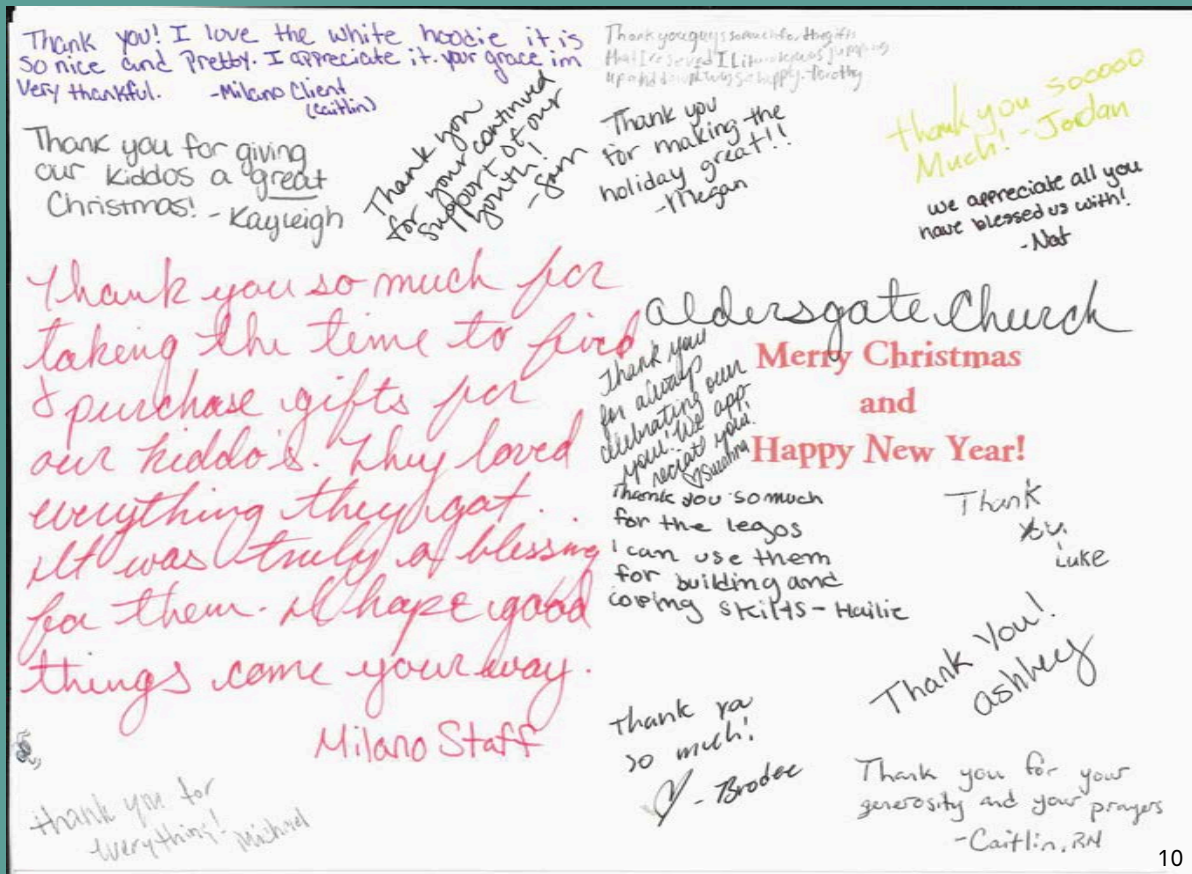
Sincerely, Newborns in Need

thank you

Aldersgate,
 Thank you so much for your participation in Least of These Sunday. You're a big part of our mission to help our neighbors in need. We send our best regards to all of you!
 Staff at Least of These

Thank you for everything that you have done and are continuing to do for foster families in your church! Thank you for supporting them and encouraging them as they care for the children in their home. We are thankful for you!
 Fostering Hope

The picture to the right is a card that the church recieved from the Milano House.



Aldersgate Arts Festival!

Do you have an artistic talent that you would like to share with our church family? Do you have children that take music, dance, or other lessons? Do you create pottery, paint, sculpt, knit, embroider? This spring we will be having our first-ever Aldersgate Church arts festival. We have had our Concert 4A Cause in the past and this will be an expansion to that event.

There will be a program open for all ages to share their musical, dramatic, or other gifts on Saturday afternoon May 3rd. In addition, there will be a display in the Commons for visual arts - painting, sculpture, pottery, and other crafts.

As a conclusion to the festival, there will be a Hymn Sing of our church's favorite hymns on Sunday afternoon, May 4th. Be watching for a survey in April asking about your favorite hymn.

This event will be open to all ages, especially children and teens who play a musical instrument or have other artistic talents... beginners to advanced. God has blessed us with many talented people and we want to encourage you to share your gift(s). We want to celebrate YOU!

If you have any questions or would like to participate, please email Jeff Huber at JHuber@aldersgatechurch.com or call the office 417-725-4949.



Do you have a need for Durable Medical Equipment? Aldersgate church has been gifted with several items that we'd love to loan you as you need them. We currently have wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, shower chairs, and other items to help with your recuperation. Please contact the church office at 417-725-4949 for more information.

Valentine's Party!

NOVA Young Adults
are invited on
Sunday, Feb. 16
6:00-8:30 PM, LC 204.

All young adults are invited.
Please RSVP to Christian Barnard at
CBarnard@aldersgatechurch.com



Knitwits



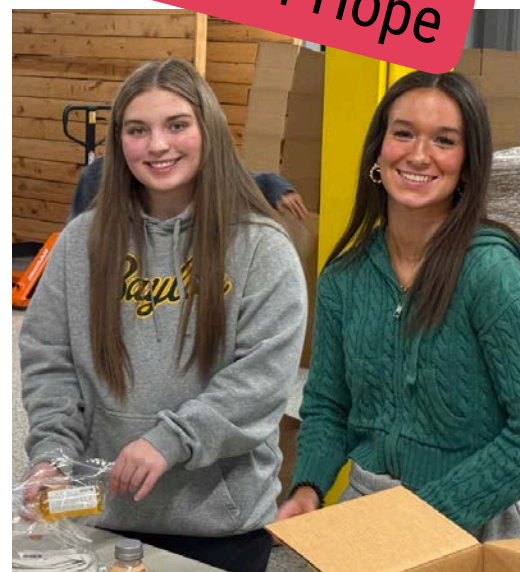
Youth Mission Trip Team at Convoy of Hope



Baptisms



Youth Praise Team



Passion Conference



5th & 6th Grade Glow Party

