

Gatepost

JANUARY 2025

New Year, New Opportunity



ISSUE No 01

**THE ART OF
MARRIAGE**

**HOW TO SHARE
YOUR FAITH**

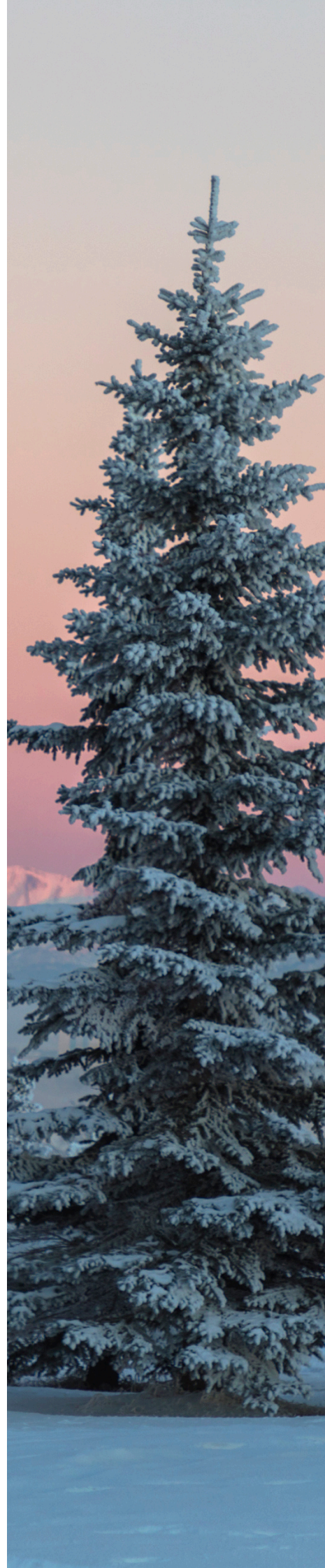
**WHAT YOU GAIN FROM
CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

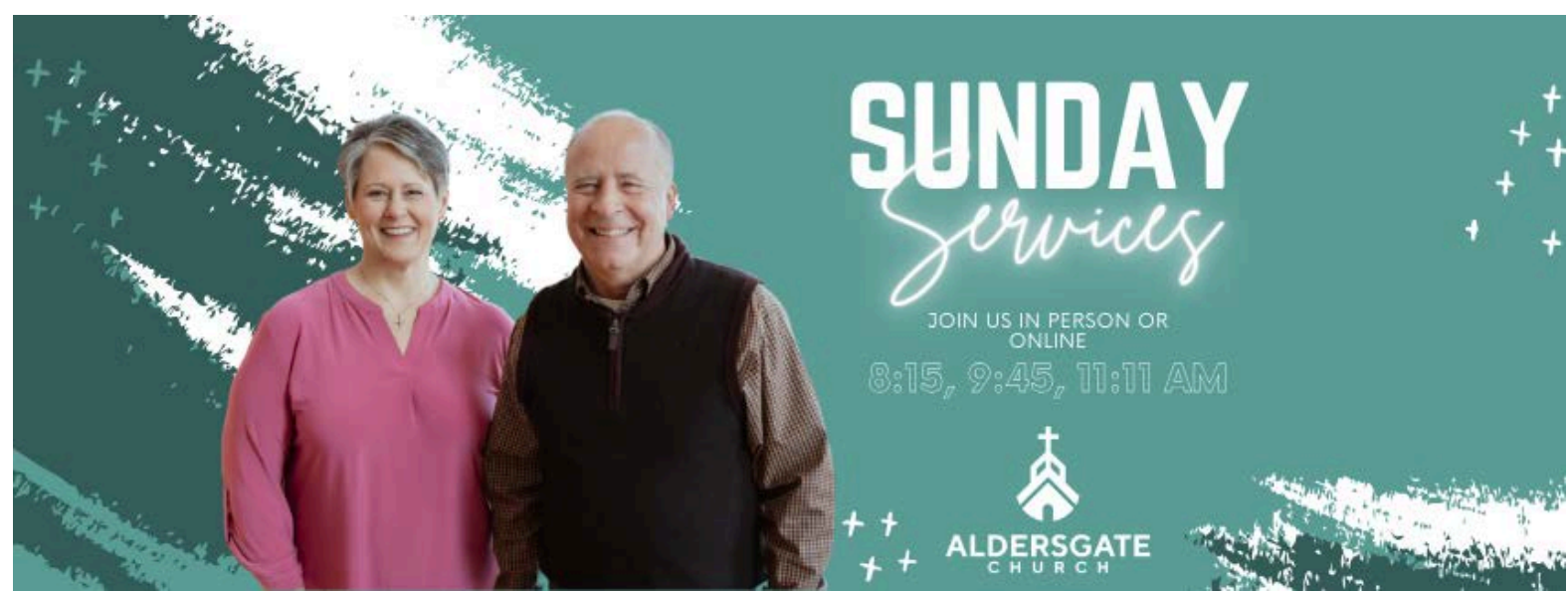
Upcoming Church Events January

05	DISCIPLE 3 STARTS	6:00 PM
08	GRIEFSHARE STARTS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE BACK	1:00 PM
11	WORSHIP MINISTRY PARTY	11:00 AM
12	JOYFUL NOISE SINGERS	2:30 PM
	YOUTH MISSION TRIP MEETING	4:00 PM
	5TH AND 6TH GRADE GLOW PARTY	5:00 PM
	HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUP	6:00 PM
14	PROPERTY OVERSIGHT MEETING	6:30 PM
19	LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION	2:00 PM
21	FINANCE MEETING	6:30 PM
26	YOUTH CAPTURE THE FLAG EVENT	6:00 PM
27	ALDERSGATE BOOK CLUB	5:30 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,

In preparation for the New Year, I am writing this article before Christmas and do so with great expectation for the Spirit of God to work in mighty ways through Aldersgate and His children!

The wonder of our Lord is always present in every situation and will have made it possible to do great things through our Christmas Eve offering and our overall year-end giving to eradicate our deficit for 2024. We won't know until later in January how God showed up, but I know it is strengthening our faith and who we are in Christ!

The New Year begins with a sermon series on holiness that Pastor Sarah kicks off on January 5th. We will look at holiness in an in-depth way and challenge each other to begin this year with a call to holiness. To know who we truly are in Christ, we must understand God's holiness and how it continues to transform our lives. You may begin with a time of fasting and preparation as the year starts. Will 2025 see the Holy Spirit moving powerfully in your life? I pray for all of us, our community, and the world!

This year we will hear from our Task Force about how we will move forward as a local church in the future. Continue to pray for all of our discernment as we hear from them and trust all of the hard work they have done to date, for over a year until now inform us of their consensus.

Please watch for our students to be serving on January 5th, throughout the 9:45 hour!

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

Love In Christ,
Pastor Dennis

Dennis Miller
LEAD PASTOR

How to Share Your **FAITH**

How to Share Your Faith: Bringing forth good out of the good stored up.
Jan. 8, 6:30 PM in LC 218

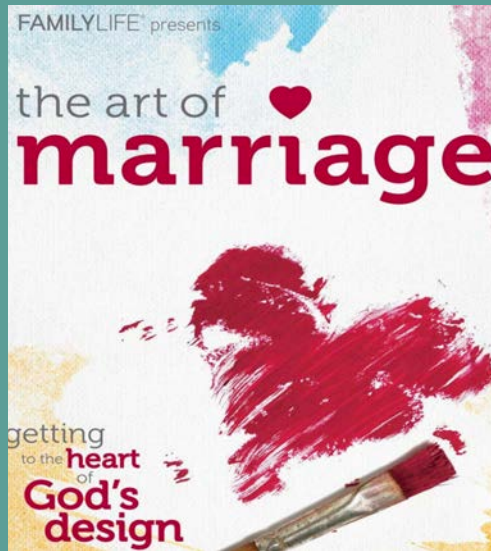
The word "evangelism" can be scary. It brings to mind knocking on strangers' doors and asking them if they know Jesus, but the heart of evangelism is Jesus' command to love others as he has loved us. What could be more loving than sharing Jesus' love with those we know who don't yet know him?

In the six to eight weeks, we will spend together, we will explore the essential aspects of the Gospel and develop some strategies for practicing our faith more effectively in the relationships God has given us. We will discuss our many understandings of the basic tenets of faith, what C. S. Lewis terms, "Mere Christianity." This will include sharing bible study tools and common preconceptions about the Gospel.

Along with mapping out the "What" of our faith, we will also discuss the "How" of sharing your faith in Jesus with kindness and respect. All of us have witnessed attitudes and techniques that are more and less successful. Greg Koukl will introduce an inductive approach to sharing our faith with others. We will also look at scripture to help understand the heart of evangelism. The Gospel of Mark has been described as the story of Jesus who cares. We will look at several New Testament passages that illustrate Christian caring.

In the book of Exodus, we are told about Moses going into the Tent of Meeting to talk with God "as a friend speaks with a friend." He emerged with a kind of glow about him that we too as bearers of Good News can have. The class will be Wed. nights at 6:30 PM.

UPCOMING CLASSES



Picture-perfect is overrated. Maybe your marriage has been different from the original sketch in your head. It's included far darker tones than you'd hoped. Or you'd love to move it toward "masterpiece" level, but you have no idea where to start. Either way, there's a Master at work.

Whether you're a newlywed or have been married for decades, *The Art of Marriage* is your path to a stronger, more beautiful masterpiece of God's handiwork. In this seven-week class, experienced hosts Huck and Camilla Hyde will help you explore new levels of intimacy, communication, and connection with your spouse.

Course materials will help you identify your strengths and areas for growth and enjoy devotional time together as you strengthen your bond of love. This class will meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM, Jan 8-Feb 19, in room 206 of the Learning Center. The cost is \$30/per couple for materials. (If you need financial assistance, please speak with a pastor.) This class is limited to the first five couples who register, so sign up now!



A support group to help you move through the grief process

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

While everyone's response to loss is unique, people facing loss and grief will experience many of the same challenges. The weekly GriefShare topics address these common struggles—providing valuable tips, encouragement, and direction.

Loneliness

Find your way through the overwhelming loneliness of grief.

Fear

Guidance to manage worry and anxiety in the face of crippling fears.

Anger

Learn healthy strategies to deal with your anger.

Regrets

"If onlys" are common in grief. Discover how to move beyond them.

Relationships

Tips on responding to well-meaning, but insensitive, comforters.

Hope

Move forward by remembering and honoring your loved one.

Hunger

By: Ed Vigneaux

MATTHEW 5:6

Are you hungry? I'm not referring to the fact that you haven't had any food for a few hours. Are you hungry for the word? Are you hungry for a more intimate relationship with the Almighty and His Son, Jesus?

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus told those who were there that they would be blessed and satisfied if they were hungry and thirsty for righteousness.

What is righteousness? I've heard that it means to be right with God. God is holy and pure! If we are to be right with him, doesn't that mean that we are to be holy and pure as well?

One of my favorite authors, Max Lucado, once wrote, "Jesus meets us right where we are, but He doesn't want to leave us there". To me, that doesn't mean that Jesus is coming down to my level of sin, but that He wants to lift me up to his level of righteousness.

God gave His most precious gift, Jesus, to rescue us from our life of sin and death. God laid all of our guilt and shame on Him, even unto death, and then raised Him from the dead and brought Him up to sit at the right hand of His throne. God did this so that our faith and hope should be in Him.

Amos 8:11 says, "The days are surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send hunger and thirst on the land; neither a hunger for bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the Lord's word."

John 1:14 says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth".

Those days have been fulfilled as God promised. Jesus came and lived among us. He told us that man shall not live by bread alone but by the very Word of God.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the bread of life.

Let us always seek Him and live according to his Will as found in His Word.

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

We are blessed to be a blessing.



MARK 5:6 ***"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."***

Youth Update

High School Small Group starts back on Sunday, January 12 at Cherie Gregory's house and Sunday, January 19 will be at Mary Cunningham's House. 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.



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.

We will have our next team meeting Sunday, January 12th at 4 pm in the church gym. We will go until 5:45 and then anyone going to small group at 6 pm we will transport you to the Gregory's house.

Teams, please communicate before that date. We need to make some decisions that day about fundraising, service projects and if the devo team can plan a short devo that would be awesome.



CAPTURE
the Flag
snowball fight edition

JANUARY 26

7-12TH GRADE
6-7:30 PM

walking taco dinner

A vibrant graphic with a black background and a yellow border. At the top, the words 'CAPTURE the Flag' are written in a stylized font, with 'CAPTURE' in yellow block letters and 'the Flag' in a green script font. Below this, 'snowball fight edition' is written in a smaller green font. The center features five colorful silhouettes of people in various dynamic poses, holding white snowballs. Two flags, one blue and one pink, are positioned at the top corners. At the bottom, there are two starburst shapes: a green one on the left containing 'JANUARY 26' and a yellow one on the right containing '7-12TH GRADE' and '6-7:30 PM'. At the very bottom, the text 'walking taco dinner' is written in a green font.



WED. NIGHTS BACK JAN. 8



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.

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*



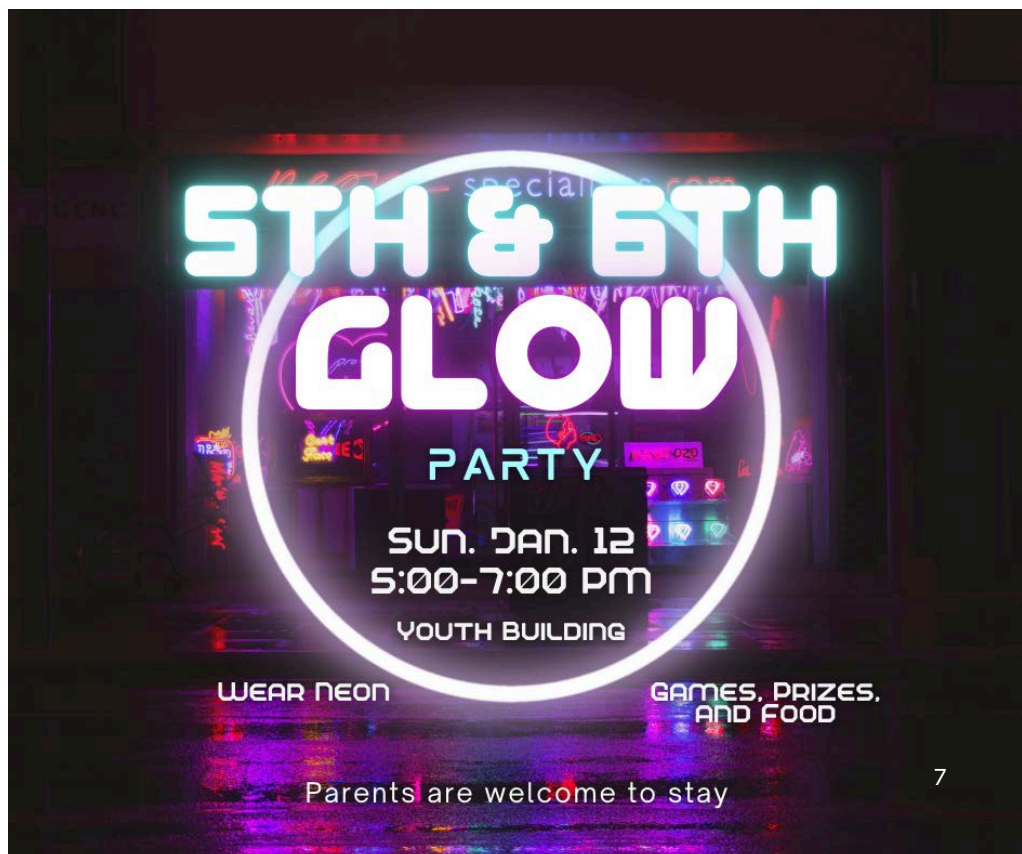
January Bible Buddy: Savannah

January Verse: "And may you have the power to understand, as God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is."
Ephesians 3:18

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

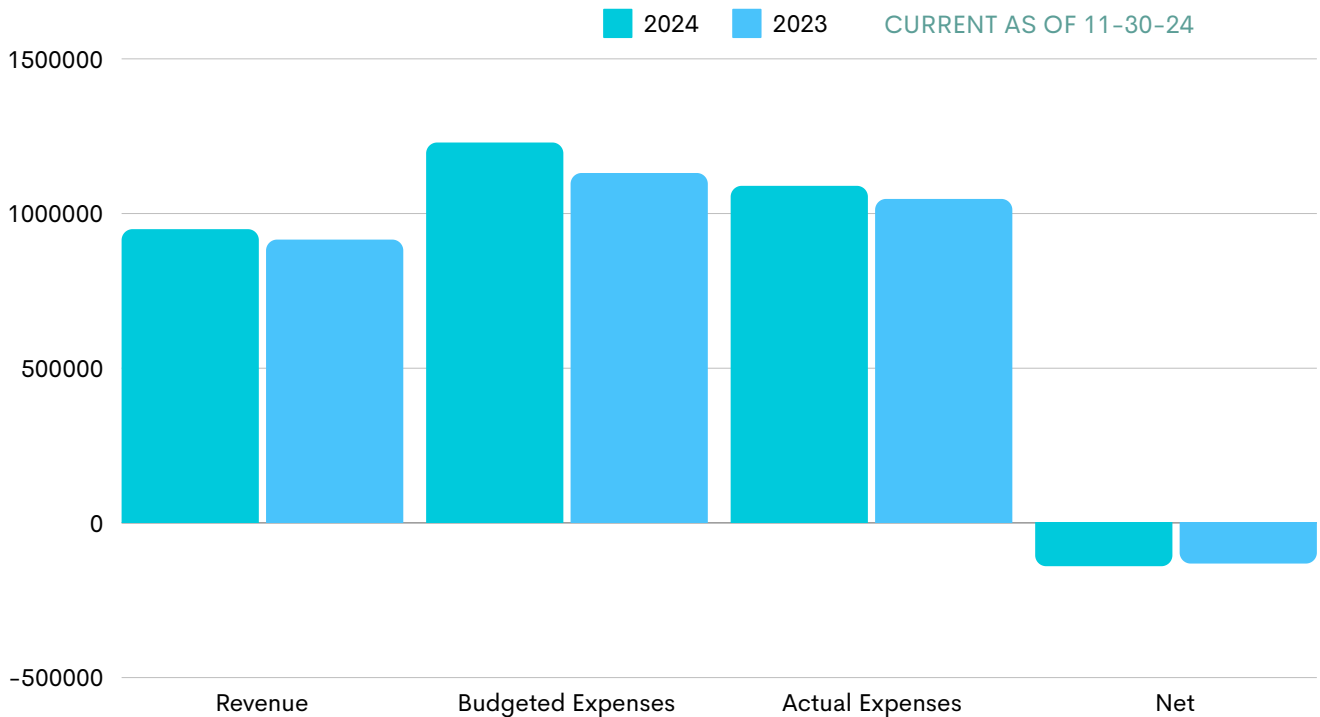
"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6



Financial Brief

BEN STONE



The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of November 30, 2024, is \$3,055,957.

At the time of this writing, we still face a significant budget deficit as the calendar ticks down to the end of our fiscal year, but we have faith. God gives us everything we need, as He is a good Father, and we get to continue seeking and serving Him. Whatever the year-end financial statement shows, we are blessed as His children and as a church family, and we have much to be hopeful for.

Aldersgate has been served well this past year by a competent and committed Finance Committee. This committee consists of a few people who are "automatically" included in the Finance Committee by virtue of serving in other leadership roles, plus a few at-large members. Our at-large members this year were Lee Clark and Dick Williams; both used the wisdom gained from their extensive professional experience to ask good questions and offer valuable ideas and guidance, and both are willing to do extra when needed. Robert Turner continued the string of Property Oversight (formerly "Trustees") chairpersons to be very engaged in their Finance Committee roles, in addition to having non-stop duties and concerns in the care of our campus. Especially deserving of thanks at this time is Jeff McCurry, who will leave the Finance Committee because he has completed a multi-year term as chairperson of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. The SPR Chair position is demanding, challenging, and critical; we have been blessed to have amazing, dedicated people in this role. Throughout his term on the Finance Committee, in addition to his SPR responsibilities, Jeff was willing to take the minutes of our meetings, for which we are very grateful. Pastor Dennis' combination of business perspective and spiritual leadership keeps us focused. Marvin Miller, former committee chair, came on board mid-year as church bookkeeper; we are fortunate to have someone of his knowledge and experience in this important role.

Finally, there's not enough room here to adequately thank Brenda Clark for the work she does to prepare herself and our committee for monthly meetings, follow up on things after meetings, and keep the business of our church moving every day. To each of these committee participants and all the others who keep the business of the church running well, thank you for your service!



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

The staff would like to say a special thank you to the congregation for their gifts of money, food, encouragement. It really means so much to us and makes us feel so appreciated.



The Board of Directors of Generations Village wishes to thank the people of Aldersgate Church for their generous donation. This will enable us to move forward with our services to improve the lives of foster children and seniors when we open in 2025. Traumatized foster children are so vulnerable and need so many services to aid in their healing. You have been a huge part of making that happen for them.

Many blessings to all of you in 2025 for answering God's call to care for the widows and orphans in His name. (Jas. 1:27)

A sunset over water with a glowing cross in the sky. The text "PEACE in the Storm" is written in a mix of bold, black, sans-serif and white, cursive fonts. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water, with a glowing cross in the sky.

PEACE
in the Storm

A service with recovery in mind, come as you are. Services every Saturday evening at 6:00 PM in the Youth Building.

What You Gain From Church Attendance

I was reading an article recently and this section stuck out to me. As we begin this new year please prioritize attending church.

If you are currently experiencing church apathy, you may have lost perspective on how much church attendance truly helps your Christian life. It is good to reflect on these truths every once in a while, especially if we are struggling.

Spiritual Education – One of the most important aspects of your church attendance is the fact that when you attend church services, go to Bible classes and listen to sermons you are receiving a spiritual education. Your ministers and teachers at church are there to help educate you on the things of the Bible and how to apply those principles to your life. When you miss out on these services or classes you are missing out on an opportunity to learn more about your Lord and Savior.

Time to Worship – Another important part of your church attendance is having an opportunity to worship the Lord. Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." When Christians are gathered together in the right attitude and spirit, the presence of the Lord is there. This is a prime chance to worship the Lord. Worshiping together with other Christians is very different from worshipping alone. However, I cannot exactly explain in words how this is different, if you have ever experienced it then you know. When we worship our souls are renewed. Our connection to God is strengthened. When we worship as a group our connection to one another is strengthened as well.

Godly Fellowship – In addition to these two important things, there is also the aspect of Godly fellowship. Christians need to fellowship with other Christians. When we miss out on this important part of our Christian life it can begin to affect our attitude and our spirit. Isolation can even begin to lead to depression in some people. It can be an ugly cycle. You don't feel like being around people, but being alone makes you sad. Do you see how that can turn into an unhealthy cycle?

First Things First

If you have found yourself feeling apathetic about church, then the first thing you should attempt is to get your regular church attendance on a good schedule. It helps if you simply don't give yourself an option. Don't think in terms of, "Do I want to go to church today?" But rather think in terms of, "I'm going to church today." Don't give yourself options. You know you should go, so just go.

What Next?

After you have gotten yourself to church regularly, now is the time to start getting involved. Your perspective on church will truly change once you start getting involved. There are always ways you can get involved. All you need to do is listen and pay attention.

Pretty soon you will discover that people are asking for volunteers for stuff all the time, but you have been tuning this out because you did not want to be involved. Selective hearing is a truly amazing thing.

You no longer have selective hearing, though. Now you are listening because you want to get involved. Make this year matter and grow in your spiritual walk.

Excerpt from The Power of Getting Involved At Church

By: Author [Joy Burgess](#)





Christmas Eve



A Night in Bethlehem



Christmas Family Event



Ark Kids Singing



5th & 6th grade Christmas party



Women's Christmas Brunch



Night of Thanks