



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

Looking out my office window, I'm aware of the visual cues of the changing seasons. Bright red, orange, and yellow leaves cling to the trees. Pumpkins, cornstalks and hay bales decorate houses. Children continue to play outside, even though there's crispness in the air. These are all signs and reminders that Halloween is around the corner, and Thanksgiving is not far behind it.

Similarly, church seasons are about to change. We are nearing the end of the season of Pentecost, as we observe All Saint's Day (November 5), celebrate around tables at our community Thanksgiving feast (November 12), give thanks with Eastridge Presbyterian Women and the thank offering (November 19), and sing praises to Christ the King (November 26).

And the stores would have us rush to the Christmas season!

This year, I'd like to challenge us all to resist that temptation. Yes, my house is usually one of the first to decorate for Christmas, and one of the last to take those decorations down. But as we spend our time exploring the liturgical year, it's important for us to take the cues of the church and reflect on the past while celebrating the future.

That's where our worship will take us in this November, as we hear

messages from the prophets, reflect on our history, and look forward to the eternal home. For me, it's a connection between faith, hope, and love.

I've actually borrowed this idea from the 13 century theologian, Thomas Aquinas. He connects love and hope as feelings of longing and desire. But he draws the following distinction between them, "Love and hope differ in this, that love denotes union between lover and beloved, while hope denotes a movement or stretching forth of



the appetite towards an arduous good."¹ If we expound on that thought a little more, we find that sharing hope is different than sharing love. "[F]or love is shared between us, whereas hope shared is each of us striving together toward what yet lies ahead."²

As we share our connections by remembering those we love, we also celebrate the hope we have in Christ. It is our love for others that binds us together. It is our hope in

an eternal home that binds us together. The end of the Christian year tells us to do both. We remember the saints (our loved ones who have shared their faith), and we give voice to our hope for the future, through the faith we have in Jesus Christ.

I believe it is this connection between faith, hope, and love that makes November a month of giving thanks. For many of us, finding these connections between the generations is part of the joy of the holidays. We do hope and pray that you'll join us for some of the opportunities this month as we worship, learn, and serve together.

In her book, *Another Country*, author Mary Pipher says, "We want the generations mixed together so that the young can give the old joy and the old can give the young wisdom. As we get older, we sense more the importance of connecting old to young, family members to family member, neighbor to neighbor, and even the living to the dead. In connection is truth, beauty, and ultimately salvation." Come and join us this November as we connect with each other in faith, hope, and love.³

Happy Thanksgiving,

Melodie

¹Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, II-II.17.4.

²Stanley Hauerwas, et al, ed. *Growing Old in Christ*, pg 223.

³Mary Pipher, *Another Country*, pg 322.



Deacon Spotlight:

Anna Meier and Jean Dunbar, Parish 14 Deacons. Anna and Jean were recently installed as deacons to fill a vacancy and have hit the ground running.



Anna is married to Randy and they have four adult children all living in Lincoln, as well as five grandchildren. Anna grew up in the church and her maiden name was Wells. Randy and Anna have been members

at Eastridge for 38 years. Anna's mom is Maria Wells, who also attends at Eastridge. When they are not babysitting grandchildren, Randy and Anna enjoy riding on Randy's Harley motorcycle and spending time with friends. Anna has served as a deacon, been active in Vacation Bible School, served on the nominating a few times and enjoys crafting.

Jean is married to Hank and they have lived in the Eastridge neighborhood for 43 years. Jean grew up in Loup County and came to Lincoln after graduating from high school. Jean became a member of Eastridge church in 1992. They have two sons: Jeff lives in Denver and Zach lives in Annandale, Va. Jean has been a deacon in the past and served on the communion committee. Jean enjoys traveling, reading, a bit of gardening, Husker sports, and keeping up with family.



Per Capita

PER CAPITA: It has been said that per capita apportionment is like a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water, and telephone in order to remain connected to the utility systems and benefit from the services provided, we also pay per capita so that the Presbyterian system can function on behalf of all of us throughout our country and the world. It is the necessary linkage in our connectal system. Each presbytery is responsible for the timely payment of per capita for the year (Book of Order, G-9.0404d).

The amounts that are apportioned and due as of January 1, 2018 are: \$39.25 per member

Walmart SAM's Club manager Chris Dunning presenting our Pantry Board member Dave Wassung with a grant check of \$400. The SAM'S Club on North 27th selected **Eastridge Food Pantry** to receive the grant for our work in community providing Hunger Relief.

If given the opportunity, please thank store manager Jeremiah Jorgensen and the staff members at SAM'S Club.

- Food Pantry Board -



The **fall cleanup day** went well. The 13 of us took advantage of a beautiful day and got a lot done. Thank you for your help!

~ Gary Kilian, on behalf of Trustees



Thank you for all those who have given and/or pledged to the **Huxtable project**... the session and trustees have given their approval to begin work. We are currently working with a contractor and will keep the congregation updated to a construction timeline as soon as possible.



Meet our Choral Scholars



Madeline Noonan (soprano)

Madeline Noonan was born and raised in Lincoln and has always had a passion for children and music. I recently graduated with a Music Education degree at Doane University and currently teach General Music Teacher at Riley Elementary. I am currently pursuing my master's degree at Doane. This is my second year as a choral scholar as well as my second year serving as the Children's Music Director here at Eastridge!



Sarah Dyer (alto)

Hello friends! My name is Sarah Dyer and I am a Junior vocal performance and communications double major at Nebraska Wesleyan University where I am currently the Vice President of Alpha Gamma Delta. Patty Niemann and I are sisters! After college, I plan to continue my musical outreach in the community and hope to be a volunteer in the Peace Corps.



Jon Hinkle (tenor)

My name is Jon Hinkle and I graduated from Omaha Central in 2016. I am a Sophomore at Nebraska Wesleyan University and sing in the University Choir and Chamber Singers. I am pursuing a degree in vocal performance and hope to graduate in 2020. Outside of music, I love baseball (Go Cubs!) and gaming. In the future I would really love to be able to make my own music or sing on a big stage somewhere.



Joel Brown (bass)

My name is Joel Brown and I'm a Senior vocal performance major at Nebraska Wesleyan. I was born and raised here in Lincoln and went to Lincoln North Star High School. I love to spend time with my friends and family, and I love animals. After I graduate in the spring I'm hoping to participate in Wesleyan's Capitol Hill Internship Program with an internship in D.C. From there I'll be searching for work as I take some time to prepare for graduate school.



Photos from recent Youth events:





Highlights of October 19, 2017 Session Meeting

Consent Agenda:

Session Minutes for September 21, 2017

Affirm that communion was served at 9:00 and 11:00 AM services on October 1, 2017

Acknowledge e-mail vote: Joel and Megan Brehm baptism of son, Braden Douglas Brehm at the 9:00 AM service on Sunday October 29, 2017

Acknowledge email vote: to have a third party vendor (hot chocolate truck) at The Trunk or Treat Halloween Party this year.

He will give 20% of his proceeds back to the event.

Approve baptism of Baylor Irene Johnson, daughter of Lance and Brandie on November 12, 2017 at 9:00AM

Remove Jan VerMaas from member rolls deceased 10-16-17

Acknowledge email vote: to approve the presence of a film crew for a Swiss docu-series in worship on October 29, 2017. They will be featuring Rev. Dummermuth and his family.

Motions:

It was moved, seconded and approved to allow EPW to sell cook-

ies on Sunday December 17, 2017

It was moved, seconded and approved to invite members of the Bosnian Mosque to participate in worship and the Thanksgiving Meal on November 12, 2017 a GIFT Sunday.

It was moved, seconded and approved as brought forth by the Huxtable Design Committee to proceed with modifications to the Huxtable Lounge up to a cost of \$141,000.

It was moved, seconded and approved to elect Merle Faubel and Dave Gies as a commissioners to the Presbytery Meeting on November 16, 2017 in Nebraska City.

Pantry Shopping List

Cereal

Pancake Mix or Oatmeal Mix

Chef Boyardee Meals (Ravioli, Beefaroni, etc)

Dinty Moore Stews with Meat or Hormel Com-pleats

Canned Tomato Products

Diced Tomatoes, Stewed Tomatoes, Tomato Paste

Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helpers

Feminine Products (Tampons, etc.)

Shampoo

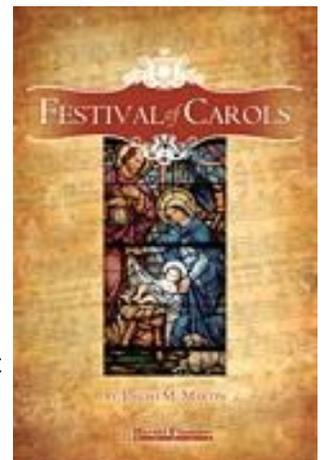
Deodorant

Help meet our year-end goal of 10,000 lbs of donated items! Thank you for your donations!



The Music Ministry wants YOU! Eastridge's

annual Christmas Cantata: We are looking for members who would like to join the choir and sing in the 2017 cantata, *A Festival of Carols* by Joseph Martin. Choir will be rehearsing cantata music from 7-7:30 on Wednesdays starting October 18. Additionally, we are looking to hold a rehearsal on Sunday mornings between worship services from 10:15-10:45 (except GiFT Sundays) if people are unable to attend Wednesday evenings. The cantata is Saturday, December 16 at 4:00 pm and Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 am.





MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

Faith Connection for Elementary Children: Our Tuesday afternoons continue to go well! We have consistent attendance every week and the children are full of lots of questions about God and their faith and how it all fits together. While we have a great time with those in attendance, we have more that are interested in joining us. To make sure we accommodate our children in the best way, we could use some more volunteers. The ways in which you can volunteer vary in task and time. If you would be interested in working with our children, please contact Jen Olsen or Kris Adler-Brammer.

CHILDREN

MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

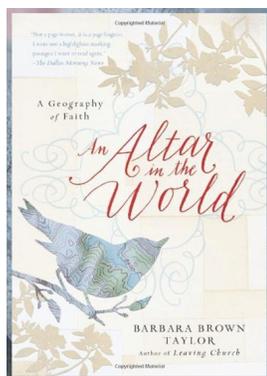
Faith Connection for Youth: We continue to meet and have a great time on Wednesday evenings! We spend our time together having dinner, fellowship and study/program. During this wonderful fall evenings, you can often find an energized game of Capture the Flag happening on the front yard.

Toward the end of September, we had three new advisors join us and are specifically working with the Middle School youth – Mackenzie Griffith, who is a junior at UNL and Andy & Jenna Hunt who have been members here at EPC for the last year or so. They have been a great addition to the team and we appreciate their willingness to join us each week.

Thank you to all who have signed up to provide dinner for the youth group. Our sign up is full through the end of the calendar year however, if you are interested in providing meal and haven't yet signed up, we have several dates open in 2018. If you have questions about providing dinner, please contact Shirlette Hershiser or Kris Adler-Brammer.

Mission Opportunities for Youth: On Tuesday, November 28th, the middle school and high school youth will gather at the church following school dismissal to participate in a mission/service opportunity. Watch your email and announcements for further information about the project.

YOUTH



Wednesday Book/Bible Study: "An Altar in the World" by Barbara Brown Taylor. Beginning Wednesday, October 25. Those of you who joined us for "Sabbath on Sundays", we'd love to have you continue on with this study. Newcomers welcome! We meet from 6:30-7:30

pm in M12. Led by Pastor Melodie and Donna Gustafson.

A recent note to Eastridge: *On behalf of John and his family, we thank you for encouraging us with your kindness and support as we celebrate Jan's life. We are encouraged by your selfless love.*

Thank you!

The Jan VerMaas family



Thank You

Angel Tree: Look for the Angel tree in November with wishes for children and adults from many agencies in Lincoln. The wishes are from Cedars, Clinton Elementary, Aging Partners, and Presbyterian Missions. Contact Susan Taylor with questions.





GiFT - Growing in Faith Together

November 12: November GiFT we'll explore All Saints Day. All Saints is an invitation to celebrate and remember the community of Saints, both those gone before us and those living in our midst today.

In preparation for November GiFT: Please think of something you remember about the life in the congregation. This can be any kind of special memory or experience. Maybe there was a big milestone in the life of the congregation that you were involved in. Maybe there was a particular stepping stone in your own life. Maybe it is a funny story. Maybe there was a baptism during the winter months when the heat went out, so it was held at home...

We will collect those stories in the weeks leading up to our November GiFT.

Join us for November GiFT on November 12th. Please note: this will also be our traditional Thanksgiving meal.

GiFT (short for "Growing in Faith Together") is a core ministry of Eastridge Presbyterian Church, wildly creative, and daringly intergenerational.

Who is GiFT for?

For everyone: For Singles, couples, moms and dads, college students, teenagers, kids, grandmas and grandpas, empty nesters, newcomers, working people, retired people, people with pets, and for those without. In short: for everyone (did we say that already?).

What are the goals of GiFT?

GiFT reclaims God's intent for faith to be shared in community and across generations. Through a shared experience — often missing from everyday life — of families learning together, sharing faith, praying together, serving and celebrating rituals and traditions, GiFT helps connect families and individuals who want to spend more quality time together. GiFT builds relationships between the generations and fosters teamwork across the congregation. By sharing our faith stories and learning from each other, we Grow in Faith Together.

What does a GiFT Sunday look like?

On the second Sunday of each month, GiFT invites people of all ages to worship, learn, and serve together.

Creative Worship

GiFT starts at 9 AM with a joint worship service for the whole congregation.



Event-Centered Learning

At the heart of GiFT is a shared learning experience that centers around the events of our community and engages all ages.

Gathered around the Table

A GiFT morning culminates in a time of fellowship and a meal together.

Faith at Home

GiFT offers practical ways to nurture the faith of families and individuals in our daily lives.

Join us to give
"Thanksgiving" for our
saints: Past and Present

**Celebrate GiFT Sunday with us on
November 12**

Church service 9:00-10:00 am

GiFT learning experience in

Sanctuary from 10:20-10:50 am

Thanksgiving Meal in Fellowship Hall at
11:00 am

Please join in the Turkey feast!

Turkey, rolls, mashed potatoes & gravy, along with tableware will be provided

Please add to our meal-

Last names beginning with:

A-K – A Side dish

L-Z – A Dessert



EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



Bistro Theology

FAITH. DRINKS. DISCUSSION. QUESTIONS.

Bistro Theology: Join us the last Monday of the month at The Piedmont Bistro for food, drinks, discussion. Bistro Theology is a gathering space for people of all faith and non-faith backgrounds to come together and respectfully dialogue and question over life, spirituality, culture and society. No agenda, no catch, no debates or shouting matches; a celebration of our community and how we can challenge and learn from each other.



EPC Book Club: Join us for discussion and refreshments the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room. Our selection for November is *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. We do not meet in December, but will start again at the first of the year! Stop in the office for a list of picks in 2018.

Check out the **Food Pantry Challenge Tracker** in the Welcome Center! The congregation has been challenged to donate 3,000 pounds of food by the end of the year! Stop by and find out how you can help meet this challenge!



From the Nominating Committee:

These church members have agreed to serve on the following committees in 2018:

Kris Brenneis— Nominating	Shirley Flynn— Trustee
Gary Kilian— Nominating	Lisa Woito— Trustee
Jim and Donna Gies—Deacons	Larry Graham— Trustee
Doug McDaniel — Personnel (Elder)	Darrell Nelson— Trustee
Andrew Loudon — Stewardship (Elder)	Don Goeden— Memorials & Endowments
Kurt Beck — Personnel (Elder)	Leo Schumacher— Memorials & Endowments
Alinda Stelk— Worship (Elder)	Brian Moock— Memorials & Endowments
Madison Kohel— Worship (Elder)	
Bill Wehrbein— Outreach(Elder)	

Thank you for your response to our challenge to help us reach a goal of \$ 200,000 in giving through the rest of the year! **Offering since October**



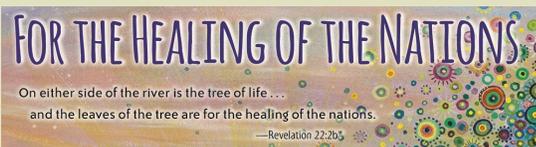
1: \$ 47,600.00. Let's keep going! We need roughly \$ 15,000 weekly to meet our challenge. With your participation in our annual pledge drive, great and wonderful things can happen at Eastridge. Our goal is for everyone to pledge. If you missed getting a pledge card, they are available at the usher table and the Welcome Desk.

LET'S GO CAROLING! On December 3, you are invited to join in for a time of Christmas caroling to some of our homebound members and those not able to worship with us very often. We'll meet in the Welcome Center at 2:45 pm and go out as teams to different areas of the city. We'll carol from 3:00 - 5:00 pm and meet back to church for holiday treats. This is an intergenerational activity and was enjoyed by everyone who participated last year. Those we caroled to were so appreciative of our visits. If you have questions or know of someone you'd like to have us visit and sing to, please see Patty Niemann, music coordinator.



Thank you for all the cards, goodies, and gifts during Pastor Appreciation month! We greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness. We appreciate you, too!

Thank Offering Sunday is November 19. The Thank Offering service is sponsored by the Eastridge Presbyterian Women. The theme this year is "For the Healing of the Nations".



We're looking for individuals willing to write for our **devotion ministry!** Contact the office if you are interested.

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



1135 Eastridge Drive
Lincoln NE 68510

Non-Profit Org

U.S. Postage

Paid

Lincoln, NE

Permit No. 109



NOVEMBER



Instagram



twitter



Like us on
Facebook