

From the Pastor's Pen...

"Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully." (John 13:1, Contemporary English Bible)

And so we begin the last month before Easter Sunday.

A lot has been made of the particular way the secular calendar has coincided with the sacred calendar this year. Valentine's Day shared Ash Wednesday observances. Easter falls on April Fools' Day. Which has made our Lenten theme – LOVE THAT – memorable.

And, unfortunately, very timely and appropriate to what's happening in the country and our world. The striking news images from this year's Ash Wednesday is of parents, marked with the reminder of our frailty, anxiously waiting for news that their children were safe. What has resulted is finally a conversation about

guns, safety, rights, and laws that will hopefully lead to openness to address and change whatever it is that is not working. It's a conversation that is powerfully being led by the youth of the country.

The following quote is attributed to author Elizabeth Stone: "Making the decision to have a child - it is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart

Did it feel a little bit like having your heart go walking around outside your body?

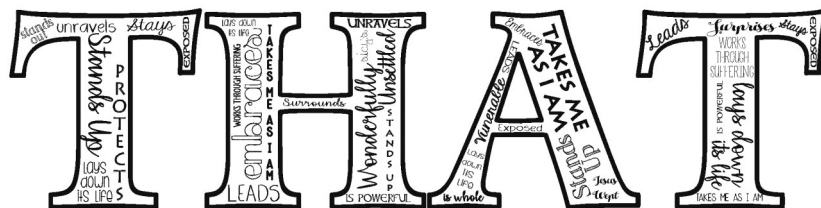
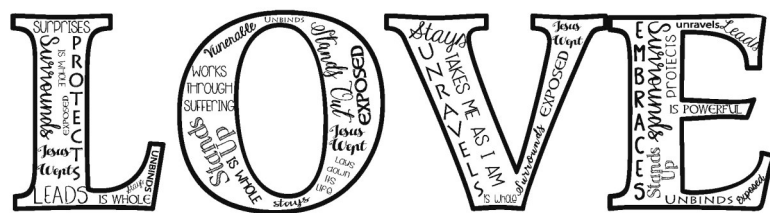
John 13 marks the turning point in the Gospel of John. We are now entering what scholars refer to as the Book of Glory. These very powerful chapters are going to show us what it means that Jesus "loved them fully." What does LOVE THAT loves fully look like?

As Jesus prepares his disciples for the hour that has now come, we find LOVE THAT loves fully looks like pain, denial, betrayal, separation, mocking, and suffering. We will also find LOVE THAT conquers death, is risen to new life, and saves.

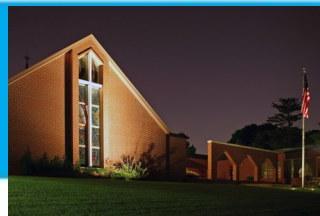
Please join us each week, on Sundays, Wednesdays, and

in our Lenten small group studies as we search for how that love has been fully expressed in our lives. And of course, we invite everyone (and your friends) to join us for the celebration of the resurrection, and a LOVE THAT... (you have to come to find out!)

Blessings on your Lenten journeys, *Melodie*



go walking around outside your body." As I read these next chapters of John's Gospel, I wonder if that's how Jesus felt about the disciples. He spends a lot of time preparing them for what is to come, praying for them, teaching them, sharing life with them, all while being betrayed, denied, mocked, and enduring suffering.



Eastridge welcomes these new members!

Shawn and Eden Houska, Chris and Stephanie Hansen and children Caden and Cloe, Jennifer Smith and Mike Hanson and children Natalie and Declan, Cameron and Kylie Meter, and Kirstine and Nate Rios and children Lillian and Charlotte.

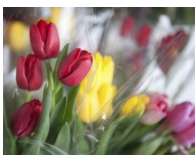


MANY THANKS to everyone who contributed financially in January!

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| General Fund Income | \$57,800 |
| Designated General Fund Income | \$3,000 |
| General Fund Expenses | \$52,000 |

Please remember to keep Eastridge in mind for your charitable gifts!

EPC Book Club: Our selection for the month of March is *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney. We'll discuss both February and March selections at our March meeting on the 12th, since we cancelled our February meeting. If you'd like a list of our 2017-2018 picks, they are available on the church website, or ask in the office.



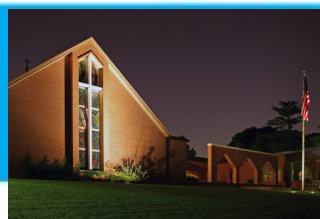
Look for forms at the Welcome Desk SOON for providing flowers for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday (and before)!



Eastridge Ladies Night Out Paints Themselves Silly!

On Friday, March 23 from 7pm to 9pm: Let's head to the new

Paint Yourself Silly Location 1501 Pine Lake Road. Costs are the item you choose to paint (\$2-\$100) plus painting fees (\$6 hour – bring a friend on Friday for half price painting fees). After we finish we can walk to Zesto for an ice cream cone! Check Shirlette's Facebook invitation or call Christi at 402-805-4031 with any questions.



The Huxtable project:

Construction on the Huxtable Project is nearing completion! So far, our project has come in ahead of schedule, and within budget! Our original timeline was May 1, but we are optimistic that we will be able to use the space a full month ahead of schedule! Just in time for Easter!

As the project comes to an end, we find there are still several items

on our "wish list" available. They include: appliances (under-counter refrigerator and dishwasher), tile backsplash, trash receptacles, stacking chairs, and the handicap accessible door entry for the north door. If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Alinda Stelk, Bill Whiston, or Pastor Melodie.

We are thankful for the donations already received for other items on our list!



Easter Breakfast: At 6:30 am we will meet for worship, with breakfast to follow. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Worship will be either on the East Patio or the Narthex, depending on the weather. If you'd like to help with breakfast, please contact the office.



Music Schedule for the 9:00 Service

March 4 – Children's Music and Women's Choir

March 11 – GiFT - Chancel Choir and Kirk Ringers

March 18 – Special Music and Chancel Choir

March 25 - Palm Sunday – Children's Music, Tuesday Faith Formation Classes and Chancel Choir

March 29 - Maundy Thursday – Will McGuire

March 30 - Good Friday – Chancel Choir

April 1 - Easter – Chancel

Choir, Kirk Ringers and Eastridge Brass

April 8 – GiFT - Chancel Choir

April 15 – Special Music

April 22 – Chancel Choir and Kirk Ringers

April 29 – Chancel Choir

May 6 – Chancel Choir

May 13 – Mother's Day/ GiFT/65th Anniversary - Chancel Choir and Kirk Ringers

May 20 – Chancel Choir

May 27 – Special Music



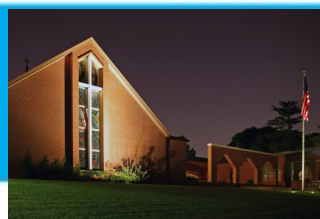
Church Memories

A "story" in the life of Eastridge: Each month we'll share some of the responses we received on the cards from our November GiFT:

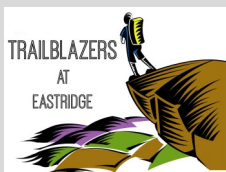
- "In 1996, Eastridge raised more than \$ 10,000 in donations and countless volunteer hours to build the Presbyterian Habitat for Humanity House in Lincoln."
- "In 1978-1980, the youth and high school choir had many members who were on honor choir recognition and Eastridge traveled to Omaha and sang for other church services during this time."

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Trailblazers for March: We'll be attending the Lincoln Community Playhouse's version of Lion King Jr. Details TBA.



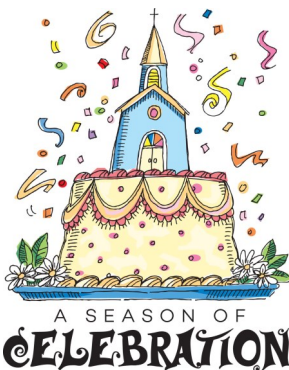
Save the Date!

for Eastridge's 65th Anniversary!

Join us Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 2-4 for a neighborhood birthday party!

And Sunday, May 13, 2018 at 9 & 11 for worship!

The dedication of the completed Huxtable project will be at 10:30.



SPECIAL SERVICES DURING LENT:

In addition to the Wednesday night services, here are the events during Lent and Holy Week:

March 11: GiFT Sunday *DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS*

March 25: Palm Sunday

March 29: Maundy Thursday

Meal at 6:00 PM and Worship at 7:00 PM

March 30: Good Friday

Worship Service at 7:00 PM

April 1: Easter Worship Services: Sunrise: 6:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM; Easter Breakfast following Sunrise service

Make plans now to join us for our Intergenerational Mission Trip 2018!

Join us with your family and friends as we travel to provide Hurricane Relief in Florida!

Who: Family and friends of EPC who are 10 years (must be accompanied by parent/guardian) and older. Youth (6th grade-12 grade) who are interested are invited.

Where: We will be based out of First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, Florida. We will be using some of our connections at FPC Lakeland (yes, that's Pastor Mike Loudon's church!) to connect with parts of Florida that need help.

When: We are looking at dates around July 8-15, 2018. We will fly down and back.

What: We hope to be doing mostly reconstruction work, but will be doing whatever is most needed!

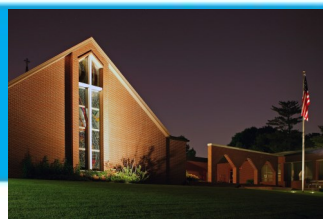
How much: Current trip projections are \$600/person. Every participant will be asked to contribute at least \$300, participation in fundraisers will make up the difference. Want to know more? Contact the office or Pastor Melodie. How do I secure my spot? **A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due March 23, 2018.**

MISSION

TRIP

Sign up to provide a crockpot of soup for our **Lent Suppers!** Each week during Lent, we will have a meal prior to our Lenten worship. Sign up by calling the office, or contact the office for a link to Sign Up Genius. Worship begins at 6:30 pm each Wednesday. Holy Week: no worship Wednesday, but meal at 6:00 on Maundy Thursday, worship at 7:00 pm.





Announcement Regarding Music Staff:

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent to the congregation February 22:

"After much prayer and contemplation over the past year, I have decided to retire as organist, pianist and music coordinator in August. My retirement from teaching eight years ago has provided a time of "renaissance" for me. Many opportunities and blessings have come my way allowing me to enjoy experiences not possible while teaching. With Roger's retirement 2 ½ years ago, we've been able to spend more time with our family and travel as much as my Sunday morning playing schedule and church administrative

duties would allow. Now it is our desire to be fulltime retirees together, 7 days a week, allowing more opportunities for us to travel on the spur of the moment instead of needing to plan our days and weeks according to my Sunday morning schedule. It is also my desire to once again be able to worship with Roger on as many Sundays as possible and not just on the Sundays I have off.

My decision is based on our desire to be available for our family at any time and to spend as much quality time as possible with Ryan, Steph, Joel, Whitney and our precious grandson, John." ~ Patty Niemann

The Personnel Committee and the Session have received this news with feelings of joy and grati-

tude. We are thankful for Patty's six years of service in many different capacities on our music staff. We also share her joy in being able to spend time with her family. A celebration in her honor is being planned for August. Please congratulate Patty on her upcoming retirement, and let her know how thankful we are for her ministry!

We are also pleased to announce that Brian Lew, our Adult Choir Director, has committed to Eastridge for another year. This is a very important year for him, as he completes his Doctor of Music Arts degree at UNL. Please let Brian know how happy we are for his continued ministry with us!



The **Lincoln Quilts of Valor** group met Saturday, February 3 at Eastridge Presbyterian Church as part of the QOV National Sew Day. Thirty-four local quilters joined others across the nation to

create Quilts of Valor® for veterans and active service personnel touched by war. In 2017, Nebraska Quilts of Valor members awarded 360 quilts for a total of over 23,000 awarded nationwide. Veterans Neil Bateman from Lincoln and Craig Worrell from Cozad were awarded quilts along with Carl Oestmann from Lincoln who is actively serving our country in the Nebraska Air National Guard. Neil and Carl are members of EPC. Craig is the father of EPC member, Diane Worrell Eaton. For more information visit www.QOVF.org.



Director of Children and Youth Ministry

Eastridge is seeking an enthusiastic and passionate individual to direct our ministry towards children and youth. This is a full time non-ordained position reporting directly to the Head of Staff.

Successful candidates will possess a Bachelor's degree in education or equivalent, and five (5) or more years' experience in children and youth ministries. Valid Nebraska Driver's license and ability to meet insurability requirements. Certification in Christian Education preferred. Salary and benefits are market based and commensurate with experience and qualifications. If this opportunity sounds like a match for you, please send a cover letter and resume' to: office@eastridge.org

For more information, check out the posting on our church website: www.eastridge.org



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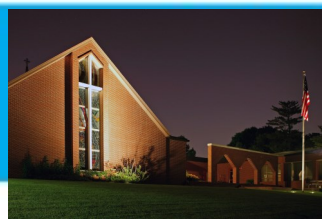
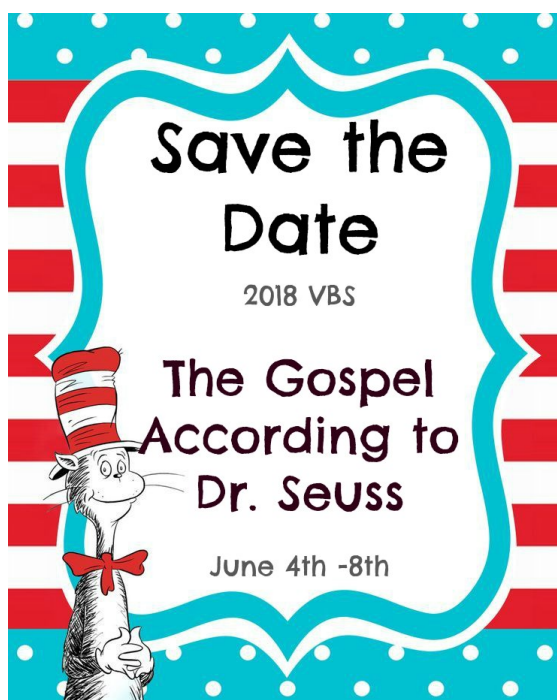


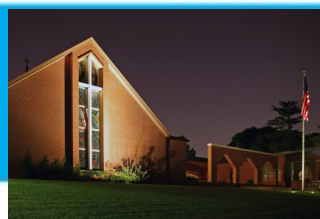
Photo from the Youth Trivia Night! Thanks to those who attended. The winning team is shown in center photo.



VBS will be here soon!

We are hoping to offer a great week to our children. In order to do this, we need LOTS of help. If you would be interested in helping, we will need folks to teach the Bible Storytelling, Music, Snack and Recreation. We will also need folks who would be willing to shepherd the children from class to class. For those wishing to volunteer or have additional questions, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer at (dcym@eastridge.org).





Summer Camp Registration Now Open

The Summer Camp Post Cards are in the mail, but no need to wait for them. Register Today to reserve your spot. Head to www.calvincrest.org. Still More Questions: Send me an email at camp@calvincrest.org. We look forward to seeing you this summer. ~Craig Huffman, Executive Director



We are looking to update our list of college students. If you have a young adult in college, would you please

email Kris Adler-Brammer (dcym@eastridge.org) with their name, college and year in school. This will help us to know where our young adults are and help us to continue supporting them.

This year, we need YOUR help with our visual Lenten wall, similar to what we did during Advent. All you need to do is take pictures and post them to Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram using this hashtag: #EPClovethat. Use the following visual prompts. Here are the weekly scripture/prompts:

John 13:1-17/ LOVE THAT is Vulnerable

LOVE THAT HOLDS ON - John 18:12-27

John 18:28-40/ LOVE THAT Stands Out

John 19:1-16a/ LOVE THAT Stands Up

John 19:16b-22 (12:12-27)/ LOVE THAT Suffers

John 19:23-30/ LOVE THAT Cares

John 19:31-42/ LOVE THAT Stays

John 20:1-18/ LOVE THAT Surprises!

LOVE
THAT

FOOD PANTRY NEWS:

The food pantry has been busy this winter. Along with new volunteers we are also welcoming new clients – both are exciting. Your support has been vital to helping the community. Our clients constantly tell us how grateful they are and how much it helps them and their families. Our current needs are:

- Cooking oil
- Sugar, Flour, Salt
- Canned Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges
- Oatmeal, Pancake syrup
- Mayo, mustard, pickles

-Laundry Detergent, dish soap

The above list is not all inclusive, we take all types of food and items for our shelves. During your spring cleaning, remember our pantry when cleaning out your own kitchen pantries. We also can receive your financial donation to really make your dollars stretch at the Lincoln Food Bank, so please consider a monetary donation to the pantry. Thanks again for all your support!

Heather Douglas, Eastridge Food Pantry



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