

## From the Pastor's Pen...

This is going to sound either ridiculous, or obvious: this month at Eastridge, we're talking about Jesus Christ. I hope you can see the ridiculous nature of a Christian church making this statement. I also hope you're thinking, "Obviously! Our church's official tag-line is 'Eastridge Presbyterian Church: Christ-Centered. Community Strong.'" Hopefully, there is an element of the Good News of Jesus Christ in all that we say and do as a church. It is one of the primary guiding questions we ask.

But that's not really what I mean when I say "this month at Eastridge, we're talking about Jesus Christ." What I really mean is, "this month at Eastridge, we're exploring what we believe about Jesus Christ, using the Apostles' Creed as our guide."

What we've learned so far in our fall series is that creed comes from the Latin "credo." This not only means I believe in a mind, cerebral, thinking sense, but also in an I give my heart and pledge my devotion to.... What we mean when we say what we believe is, "I pledge my heart and devotion to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

We began with what we believe about God the Father.

Now, we explore what we believe

about God's only son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Once again, this is an invitation to jump into this series, in worship, in studies (we have two beginning October 3), in Faith Connection, in personal conversations. But I also want to extend a challenge to all of us.

You see, we've had some feedback from you all. Some of you have expressed that you've never really studied the creed, or thought about these individual words and phrases. Some of you have said that you've studied the creed, and wholeheartedly affirm every part of the creed. Some of you have expressed appreciation in some of the history of the creed and what it has meant at other times. Some of you have admitted that there are words you stumble or mumble, because you're not really sure you believe them. I have found that in every church, these responses are representative of how we think and feel about the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed is our guide to exploring the unexplainable mystery of God. We begin the creed by acknowledging the unthinkable – that our God, who is so mighty to create the heavens and the earth, is in a relationship with us. What we explore this month is how Jesus Christ is God's only son, our Lord.

But I'd like to offer a challenge here, for you individually, and for our congregation. As we use this guide for examining our faith, let us do so with a sense of mystery and awe. Peter W. Marty, publisher of The Christian Century magazine makes the case

that "Curiosity is holy." His point is that relationship brings questions, coming from a desire to get to know the other, to enter their world. "To be absent of curiosity is to display a lack of interest in others, even if unintentionally so. It's difficult to build a close friendship with someone who places a low priority on getting to know your world." He then goes on to say, "In the case of our own spiritual lives, questions of God and of other people are essential to the character of faith. To be without questions of God is less an indication of confident faith and more a lack of spiritual depth."

The challenge for us here is to explore our faith in the unexplainable mystery that is our God – the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – knowing that we will never find adequate words to fully express our faith.

Just this past Sunday, as I drove home from church with my daughter, she asked why I didn't have all the answers to her endless questions. Wanting to capitalize on the moment, I responded that I am finite, meaning that I don't know everything. Only God is infinite, and knows everything. After silence in the backseat, she said, "Yeah. I heard you say that in church today. Instead of asking you, maybe I should ask God?"

Yes! Yes! That's it! That's the holy curiosity that will deepen our faith! May we never lose the sense of the mystery that no words can ever fully explain: the mystery of our faith.

Peter W. Marty, Christian Century, September 12, 2018, pg. 3.

# EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



Dear Eastridge family:

Can you feel it? There is a renewed sense of optimism and Christian love at Eastridge as of late. From our vibrant worship and music on Sunday mornings, to our reinvigorated youth programs, to the hustling and bustling during the week of the many community organizations who choose to meet at Eastridge due to our beautiful facility and central location in Lincoln. Worship attendance is up, we have taken in more new members this year than in the recent past, and most of the new faces are Millennials. Our Food Pantry continues to help feed Lincoln, and our focus on missions at home and abroad remains strong. Eastridge is on the move.

We have two excellent pastors in Melodie and Thomas who are well below the average age in the PC(USA) and have visionary ideas for the future of Eastridge. Our choir director Brian, contemporary worship leader Will, and new organist Travis are all superbly talented, and our director of children and youth ministry, Kris, is very organized and provides the servant leadership so needed by our youth. Donna keeps everything running smoothly in the office, and John now helps with visitation and pastoral care. It's a dream team for any church.

All of this is possible because of your financial support. Thank you for your past and future gifts. Like many businesses, our church budget's largest expense is our people. Our Session specifically appeals this year for members to consider increasing their pledges in 2019 by 3%, recognizing that inflation is real and we need to pay our excellent staff well so that our church continues moving forward in a positive direc-

tion. Later this month, you will receive a pledge card for next year. Please return it to the church office or bring it with you to church on Sunday, October 28th for stewardship Sunday. My friend The Rev. Mr. Adam White, the very successful pastor of the Lutheran Center on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will be delivering our message at both services. You will not want to miss it!

As good and faithful servants, we at Eastridge are carrying out Jesus Christ's call to meet the Great Ends of the Church: the proclamation of the gospel, the shelter and nurture of believers, the maintenance of divine worship, the preservation of the truth, the promotion of social righteousness and the exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the world. Please help us continue to do so in 2019 by supporting God's work and the mission of Eastridge by increasing your pledge. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew M. Loudon

Ruling Elder

2018-2019 Stewardship Chairman





## GiFT goes into its third year!

GiFT is a core ministry of Eastridge Presbyterian Church, wildly creative, and daringly intergenerational. On the second Sunday of each month, we invite people of all ages to Grow in Faith Together.

### **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 an experience 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?**

Whether you usually attend the first or the second service, we invite you to join us during the fellowship hour from 10-11 am in the welcome center. Tasty treats and healthy refreshments are provided!



At the heart of a GiFT Sunday is a fun interactive experience that centers around central events of our faith story and engages all ages. GiFT also offers practical ways to nurture the faith of families and individuals in our daily lives.

### **GiFT Theme 2018-2019:**

**CREED: What We Mean When We Say What We Believe**

The Theme for our GiFT year 2018-19 will center on the Creed.

It is an invitation to discover what we believe, and don't believe, and to figure out who we are and how to live, both personally as well as a community.

Our main focus throughout the year will be on the Apostles' Creed. It is widely used in both Protestant and Catholic communities around the world, and states the most basic things Christians believe.

After that, we will take a closer look at the Nicene Creed, which dates back to the 4th century. It is the creed that is affirmed by most churches in the world.

In the new year, we will turn to more contemporary expressions of our shared faith.

October 14      Apostles' Creed II – Jesus: Crucified and Risen

November 11    Apostles' Creed III — The Spirit and the Saints; Followed by the Thanksgiving meal

December 9th    Nicene Creed: The Other Ancient Creed

**The Peace & Global Witness Offering (formerly known as the Peacemaking Offering)** will be received on October 7. One of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church USA, this offering encourages the church to embrace God's reconciliation with those around the corner and around the world. One-quarter of the local offering is retained for our congregation's own peacemaking work. For several years we have used these funds to support the Interfaith Peacemaking Coalition Workshop at First United Methodist Church.



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## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOHN DULING:

I have been having a delightful ministry among this family of faith as your parish associate and supporting the Deacons and pastoral staff. Additionally, I would like to let the church family know that I would be

available for any who would desire to have Spiritual Direction. So, as an informational encouragement, I would refer all to the welcome center in the foyer which has a flier that a friend and I have put together defining what Spiritual Direction is and what it is not. In short, all can avail themselves of this ministry. If you would like me to be a presenter to your group or Bible Study, I would be available.

Just what does it take to have a spiritual director? It is an appointment for one hour per month with the summer months off.

One question I have received is if there is a fee for Spiritual Direction. For church members, there is no fee! One thing I would ask a directee to prayerfully consider is how they might expand their faith and ministry in one practical expression of ministry for one hour a month. That could be any form of service or prayer – which connects faith and practice together in a most intimate manner.

Your Parish  
Associate in Christ,  
Pastor John Duling



## Intergenerational Mission Event:

**Sunday October 28**

Chapter 25 (formerly known as Kids Against Hunger) will bring supplies and equipment to Eastridge Presbyterian Church for us to assemble packets of nutritionally-complete meals to feed hungry people here in Lincoln as well as around the world. The process will begin at 10 am and end at 1 pm, so stay for a while after the early service, come before, or linger after,

the second service. Children as young as 5 can help! At any one time we need at least twenty volunteers, so please respond to the Constant Contact invitation to sign up on Sign Up Genius or else contact the church office to indicate what time you are willing to volunteer. Photo above left: Kids Against Hunger event at Eastridge in 2014

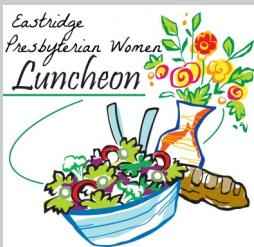
# EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



## Per Capita

**Time to think about Per Capita!** This year it is \$40 per member. When each Eastridge member pays his/her per capita, it allows our offerings to fund more items in the general budget.



**The Eastridge Presbyterian Women Gathering** for October will be Wednesday, October 17 at 12:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge. We'll hear from Pastor Melodie as she shares about her thesis.

### Join Pastor Melodie for a Biblically based study of the Apostles' Creed this fall!

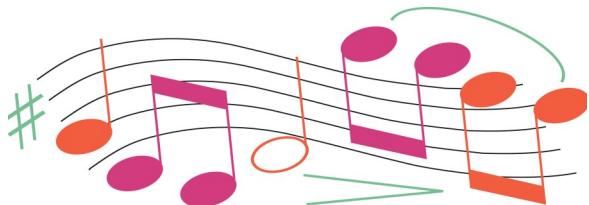
"When We Say What We Believe" is a six week study drawing from several resources. No book or other supplies necessary; you may prefer to bring your own Bible.

Wednesday, October 3 - Wednesday, November 14 (not October 31), from 6 pm - 7 pm in the Huxtable Lounge.



### NEW MUSIC MINISTRY GROUP TO BEGIN THIS FALL

Beginning this fall, our EPC music ministry will be adding a new singing opportunity to the list of our volunteer music offerings. The "Eastridge Hospice Singers" will be available to visit those in hospice care and bring love, care and concern through the gift of music. For more information or to express interest in this group, contact Patty Niemann at 402-432-8353 or [pniemann54@gmail.com](mailto:pniemann54@gmail.com).



## Eastridge Presbyterian Church Library News:

**WHERE?** The location is in the hall as you are going to Huxtable Lounge. The current location was remodeled as a memorial to Thomas McCalla Jr. and Sr.

**WHAT'S NEW?** Two-three years ago we launched into putting all the materials in the library on a computer. The start up fund for this project came from a memorial for Phyllis Schmidt. She was passionate about the library.

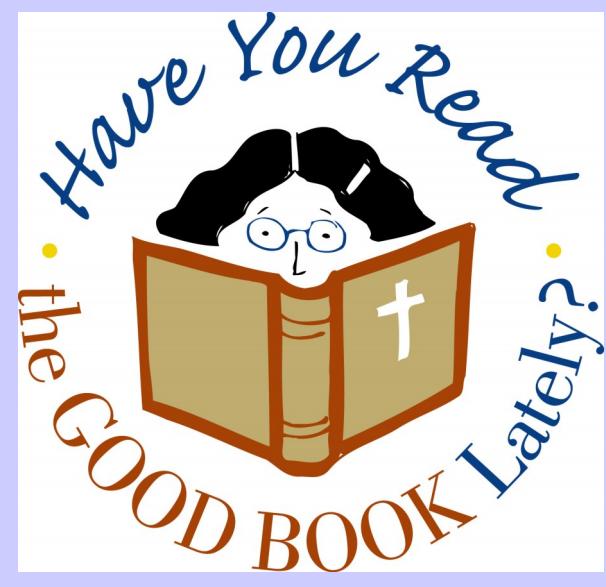
We, Donna Wineman and myself—purged materials, learned the software—that was a steep learning curve—and have put over 3,000 titles and items into the software.

There is nonfictional and fiction for children, adult nonfiction covering Bible information and study, prayer, devotion, inspiration and many other categories and biography, and lots of fiction.

Check out process is no longer signing a card, but is done on the computer. But do not worry, directions are on the table by the computer. When you return your materials put them on the cart.

Come explore what our library has to offer!

EPW Books for 2018-2019 are now in the library on a shelf on the west side of the Library. ~ Susan Taylor





On Oct 7, Domesti-PUPS campers, their service dogs, staff, family members and volunteers will be attending our 11:00 worship service. Following worship, we will be providing a soup and salad luncheon for them in Huxtable Lounge. If you would be willing to provide a soup or salad for this meal, please contact Patty Niemann at 402-432-8353 or [pniemann54@gmail.com](mailto:pniemann54@gmail.com). We anticipate we'll need to provide food for 20 people. This is always one of their favorite outings in the Lincoln community while attending camp.

**Eastridge Presbyterian Church Book Club** has released the list of picks for 2018-2019! See below for the selections. We'll meet in the Conference Room each month, with discussion and refreshments. List is also available on the church website.

October 8		<b>The Underground Railroad</b> , by Colson Whitehead
November 12		<b>Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder</b> , by Caroline Fraser
January 14		<b>The Rosie Project</b> , by Graeme Simsion
February 11		<b>Educated: A Memoir</b> , by Tara Westover
March 11		<b>Beneath a Scarlet Sky</b> , by Mark Sullivan
April 8		<b>Being Mortal</b> , by Atul Gawande
May 13		<b>The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane</b> , by Lisa See
June 10		<b>Before We Were Yours</b> , by Lisa Wingate



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### Consent Agenda:

- Corrected Session Minutes for August 16, 2018
- Remove Carole Eddins from member rolls deceased 8-26-18.
- Remove Lucy Weitzel from member rolls deceased 9-4-18.
- Acknowledge that Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the funeral of Lucy Weitzel on 9-8-18.
- Acknowledge that Rev. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the baptism of Kylan Kenneth Mattson at the 11:00 AM service on Sunday, August 26, 2018.
- Approve the baptism of Elena Diane Meter and Allison Joan Meter, daughters of Cameron and Kylie Meter at the 9:00 AM service on Sunday, October 14, 2018.
- Approve the baptism of Skylar Quinn Cooksley, daughter of Jessica and Aaron Cooksley at the 11:00 AM service on Sunday, October 28, 2018.

### Motions:

- It was moved, seconded and approved to have a congregational meeting to approve the pastors' terms of call and election of officers on Sunday, October 21, 2018.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to have an annual meeting on Sunday, January 20, 2019.
- It was moved and approved to have a fundraising concert in January or February 2019 with Patty Niemann and Dianne Eaton (free will donation) to raise money for choral scholars.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to allow A+ Academy to hold a scholastic book fair on Sunday, October 21 through 26, 2018 per (not on Sunday Morning).
- It was moved, approved and seconded for stewardship/pledge Sunday to be Sunday, October 28, 2018.



## Faith Connection for Elementary Children:

We have had a great start with our elementary aged children. Three new faces have joined us on Tuesday afternoons this year. During the hour and a half that we are together, we have time for recreation, an after-school snack, and class time which includes a Bible story and activity to help the children remember the lesson. We have had some great comments from our attenders (shared via their parents):

One of our families missed the first Tuesday of the year. Once her 2nd grader found out, she heard "Mom, I want to go to church."

"Ya know, I think I need to start coming to church on Sunday too! I don't think Tuesdays are enough. I need to come both days."

"Mom, I'm so excited that I get to go to Tuesday After-School Club this year!"

Even though we have started our programming, we still have a couple of needs on Tuesday afternoon. The first is volunteers. We could use a couple more folks to assist with the class time portion of the afternoon. It would be to either assist or teach the Bible story and activity. It could be a weekly commitment or bi-monthly commitment. The second need is snacks. Each week, we serve the children a snack that consists of crackers/fruit snack/popcorn and fresh fruit or veggies. If you would be willing to purchase items or donate a HyVee gift card that can be used for fresh fruit/veggies, it would be a great help.

If you would be willing to volunteer, donate snacks, or know of a child that would like to join us, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer at [kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org](mailto:kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org) or call the church

office.

## Children's Music:

Our children's music program has a new face! Jessie Poskochil, who has been playing the EPC bell choir for the past year, has been hired to lead our children's music. We are very excited to have her with us!

The children's music program is now meeting on Tuesday afternoons from 5:15pm to 5:45pm in the choir room. If you have a child that would like to participate or you have questions, please contact Jessie at [poskochil.jes@districtor1.net](mailto:poskochil.jes@districtor1.net).



## Eastridge Ladies Night Out is On the Case!

Friday, November 2, 2018 7pm

Meet at Lincoln Community Playhouse 2500 S 56<sup>th</sup> Street

Admission is \$25 per person – we will call to ask to have tickets held for our group – please RSVP on

Shirlette's Facebook invite or by calling 402-805-4031 to assure we can all sit together!

Lincoln Community Playhouse is celebrating a year of WOMEN! All productions this year offer strong female leads or are written by women. Join us to see Agatha Christie's Black Coffee advertised

as a superbly crafted whodunit with endless red herrings by the world's greatest mystery writer.





## Faith Connection for Youth:

Youth Group is well underway! We have had a great start to the year with about 25-30 youth in attendance so far. Our youth enjoy coming on Wednesday evenings and often bring their friends. Our schedule for October is as follows:



### Middle School

Oct. 3rd	5:30pm – Youth Group
Oct. 10th	5:30pm – Youth Group
Oct. 17th	5:30pm – Class Dinners
Oct. 24th	5:30pm – Halloween Party
Oct. 31st	No Youth Group

### High School

5:30pm. – Popcorn Theology
5:30pm – Youth Group
5:30pm – Class Dinners
5:30pm – Corn Maze
No Youth Group

\*\*Saturday, October 27th – High School Youth to the Food Bank

You MUST RSVP in order to make sure we have enough transportation

We still have openings to provide dinner for the Youth Group. If you are interested in providing a meal, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054bafac2ca3fc1-youth3> or contact the church office.

### College Care Packages:

THANK YOU to all who donated to the college care packages! With all the donations received, 25 care packages were assembled – 7 were mailed and 18 were delivered to our students living in Lincoln. The students who received them were VERY appreciative and there were many thank yous:

“Thank you so much! You made my week.” – Jakobi Rankin (University of Iowa)

“Only been back to school for a day and already got a care package. Thanks Eastridge!” – Jasmyn Nash (Minnesota State University)

“Thank you so much for the care package. I absolutely love it.” – Ashlynn Devall (UNL)

“We wanted to let you know that both Abbi and Lexi received their care packages and were thrilled with them! They are sharing the contents with their roommates. The girls both texted how cool they are.” – Jeni Rouse (Abbi – South Dakota State University; Lexi – UNO)

“Hello Eastridge! I wanted to write a short thank you note for the AMAZING care package you all sent! This made my week and now I have all of these yummy snacks! A little about myself... this summer I went to a two-

month long discipleship/leadership program and learned how to share and be bold in my faith. I am one of the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) leaders here at University of Missouri Kansas City. I want to say that when I went to Montreat two summers in a row with Eastridge, that is where my faith discovery began! I am so thankful for you all and grateful for the people that God has placed strategically in my life. Thanks again for the sweet package! My heart is so full!” – Caroline Janike (UMKC)

And for those packages that were delivered in town, there were MANY surprised looks, smiles, hugs and thank yous for all at Eastridge.

# EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



Adult Bible Study: Our **Wednesday morning Bible study group** will begin one of the Apostles' Creeds studies October 3. Our Bible study group meets year-round in the Conference Room on Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Contact the church office for more information!



**Trailblazers** will meet on Friday, October 19 at 7:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge, where we will hear from the Pointons on the Florida Mission Trip from this past summer.



In late July our congregation participated in **"Angel to Angel"**, a program organized by Church World Service and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to send notes of care and prayer to immigrant mothers and children detained at the southern border. Eastridge Presbyterian Church generated 61 notes. Federally contracted shelters for migrant children currently house 12,800 youngsters.



## ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE:

Text Giving! Now an option at Eastridge. Text EASTRIDGE to 73256



New Members Are Joining  
Upcoming **New Member** Orientation is scheduled for September 30. Please let the office know if you are interested!

The personnel committee approved the following parental leave request:

Pastor Thomas will be on parental leave for four weeks from the date of birth, at which point he will return for a four day work week until mid-November (he will take Mondays and Fridays off). The personnel committee is pleased to be able to honor the policy set in place by Homestead Presbytery, totaling 6 weeks of parental leave following the birth of a child.

Since August 1, Rev. Dr. John Duling has been providing counseling, pastoral care and visitation, support for our Stephen Ministers. Rev. Dr. Duling was approved by the session in the spring of 2016 as our Parish Associate Pastor, and has been serving as the Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Beatrice. His one year contract will cover Rev. Dummermuth's parental leave, as well as Rev. Dr. Jones Pointon's sabbatical (tentatively scheduled for early 2019).



## Upcoming Author Events at Eastridge:

### Debby Irving's Waking



*Up White* will be the basis of a workshop that Eastridge is hosting on racism and identity. More info to come!

In January, we'll host **Mary Pipher** as she speaks about her book, *Women Rowing North*. Plan to join us at 2:00 pm on Saturday, January 19...the week Mary's book comes out! Francie and Finch bookstore will be selling copies in the Welcome Center that afternoon.





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