



From the Pastor's Pen...

Several years ago now, as I opened a Christmas card from a Nebraska native, a magnet fell on the counter. Shaped like the state of Nebraska, it quipped, "One day the wind stopped blowing in Nebraska and everyone fell over." Having now lived in many different parts of the country, I have firsthand experience that tells me Nebraska is, indeed, a very windy place. I have mixed feelings about the wind. On a hot day when the air is stale and heavy, I appreciate the wind for carrying in a much needed change and some relief. But on a cold day, the wind has a way of cutting through the warmth of many layers and chilling my bones. Either way, the truth about wind is that it is a powerful force.

Of course, we know this, particularly in these months of changing seasons. Maybe it's the force of the wind blowing leaves out of trees, knocking over our garbage cans, or howling at us in the middle of the night. Or maybe it's the images on television of reporters, houses, and trees being ravaged by the winds of a hurricane. Just this past month, we witnessed the devastation of Hurricane Michael in the panhandle of Florida, where towns were decimated "in the blink of an eye." As one eyewitness

told the Washington Post, "It's like the end of the world." Wind is powerful, causing both destruction and ushering in something new.

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, wind is used as a simile for the power of God, and God's divine revelation. We are told that God leads God's people with pillars of wind and fire. On the day of Pentecost, a wind rushes into the room where the disciples are gathered, and tongues of



fire appear over their heads. To quote Willie James Jennings, "The similitude of the wind to the Spirit's coming suggests not only its absolute power but its absolute uncontrollability. No structure is stronger than the wind, and there is nothing beyond its touch."¹

This month, as we reach the conclusion of our fall sermon series on the Apostles' Creed, we will explore the

power of the Holy Spirit, the power of God's presence in our lives. This is how our statements of belief contained in the other two paragraphs make a difference in our daily lives. Shirley Guthrie summarizes the impact of the Holy Spirit in our lives, saying, "the Holy Spirit is the presence and work of the living God here and now in our individual lives, in the church, and in the world."²

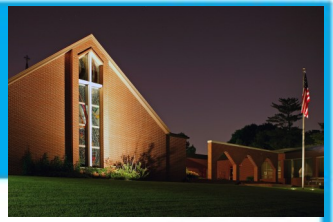
We have a lot planned for this month: the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Sunday, November 4); a remembrance of those who have joined the church triumphant over the past year, GiFT Sunday, and our annual Thanksgiving Dinner (November 11); EPW Sunday, with the thank offering, and special guest preacher Rev. Stacy L. Martin, President and CEO of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska (November 18).

Please join us each week as we celebrate the mighty power of God given to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit!

~ Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon

¹Jennings, Willie James. Acts: A Theological Commentary on the Bible (Belief: a Theological Commentary on the Bible) (p. 28). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

²Guthrie, Shirley, Jr. Christian Doctrine (pg. 292). Westminster John Knox Press. 1994.



GiFT

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER



Come Join Us for

GiFT Sunday on **November 11**

United Church service **10:00 am**

Brief GiFT Activity **11:00 am**

Thanksgiving meal in Fellowship Hall **11:30 am**

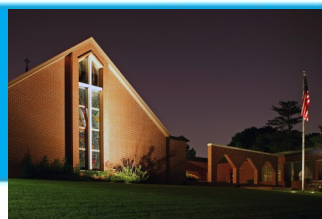
**Turkey, rolls, mashed potatoes & gravy along with tableware
will be provided**

**Please add to our meal-
Last Names beginning with:**

A-K - A Dessert

L-Z - A Side Dish

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34



SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

My friends,

People wonder what spiritual practices they could do to enhance their relationship with God. One practice is the Lectio Divina or Divine Reading. It is a practice that can be done individually or in groups with a suggested scripture. It allows each person to prayerfully listen to God's Word. It is through that reflection that God's Spirit is richly encountered. Below is a brief outline of how one can practice the Lectio Divina. Times listed are just a suggested guide which may go more slowly for others while some may prefer a briefer time, which is ok.

The first step is lectio or reading: Choose a passage you may wish to read and reflect upon. It could be a passage from a devotional or the passage that you heard read on Sunday. Read the passage slowly and pay close attention to a word or phrase. Take time to really let the passage be read – in fact consider how the passage – God's Word is reading you. (allow 3-5 minutes)

Meditatio – meditative. Read the passage again, but this time consider the word or phrase of the scripture that has been nudging you. Take time to let God's Spirit bathe you in that word or phrase. Keep focus and stay on that word or phrase and what God's Spirit is opening your mind and heart to consider. It is important to keep that focus for it can go astray. I would suggest that if one feels their mind wandering to say a simple word of faith to refocus. I use the word "Abba," which means daddy – an intimate connection for me and God. God is speaking through the Word to you. Listen and open your heart to what God is saying. (allow 5 minutes)

Oratio – prayer. One reads the passage again. This time, you are in dialogue with God's word – sharing your thoughts or questions that emerge from the word or phrase of scripture. Speak to God of your questions and wonders. (allow 10 minutes)

Contemplatio – Read the scripture one last time. Then be silent and now let the scripture – God's Word read you. That word or phrase has power since it comes from the Word of God. It is not a magic incantation at all, but when kept in focus it is God speaking through His Word to you. It could conclude in one of two ways. In either way, conclude with a prayer of thanksgiving of what you have experienced. (Allow 5 minutes)

You may have come to a point where the word has said something you need to remember, so journal the thoughts and experience you have had.

You may also find a way to practice what that word or phrase is nudging you to do. Again, note it in a journal and then prayerfully ask God to direct you toward whatever action is needed.

I have found this particular practice to be helpful in discerning God's guidance, but also when preparing a sermon. At such times, the Lectio Divina opens me to some thoughts and needs that I feel compelled by God's Spirit to proclaim. Additionally, I believe that this practice conveys a presence of God with me through Emmanuel – Jesus Christ -- "God with us." May God richly bless any who would use this practice to bring them closer to God.

Yours in faith, *Pastor John Duling, Parish Associate and Spiritual Director*

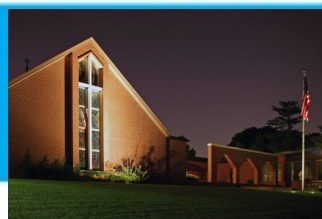


Plan now to join in on the joy of **Christmas Caroling** on Sunday, December 2. We'll meet in the Welcome Center at 1:15 pm and go out as teams to different areas of the city to spread Christmas cheer. We'll carol from 1:30 - 3:30 pm and meet back at the church for holiday treats. This is an intergenerational and church wide activity that many have enjoyed a great deal over the years. If you have questions or know of someone you'd like to have us visit and sing to, please be in contact with Patty Niemann at 402-432-8353 or pnie-mann54@gmail.com.



EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church

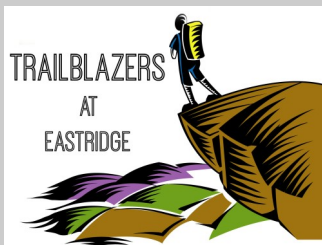


Time to think about Per Capita! This year it is \$40 per member. When each Eastridge member pays his/her per capita, it allows our offerings to fund more items in the general budget.



Trailblazers for November:

on Friday, November 16 at 7:00 pm we will clean the sanctuary pews! For more info, contact the host in your roster booklet.



More Fun Than Black Friday!

Advent and Christmas are right around the corner! Get into the spirit of the season and help to decorate the church for the holidays. Come when you can and stay as long as you like.

Monday, November 26 at 1:30 pm: We'll be decorating the sanctuary and narthex areas.

Wednesday, November 28 after the soup supper and Advent service: We'll hang the greens and decorate the tree in the Welcome Center.



Blown By God Toward Newness

by Walter Brueggemann

The news is that God's wind is blowing.

It may be a breeze that cools and comforts.

It may be a gust that summons you to notice.

It may be a storm that blows you where you have never been before.

Whatever the wind is in your life, pay attention to it...

and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Spirit, will abide with you always.



SAVE THE DATE for "SAY IT WITH MUSIC"

WHAT: Fundraising concert to benefit the Choral Scholars Fund

WHEN: Sunday, Feb 10, 2019 at 4:00 pm

WHERE: EPC Sanctuary

WHO: Presented by Diane Worrell Eaton and Patty Niemann, piano duet partners, along with past and present choral scholars

Plan now to attend!

MUSIC



The children's music program is now meeting on Tuesday afternoons from 5:15pm to 5:45pm in the choir room. Jessie Poskochil is leading

our children's music. If you have a child that would like to participate or you have questions, please contact Jessie at poskochil.jes@districtor1.net.

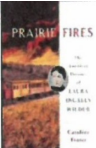

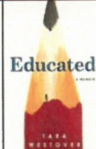
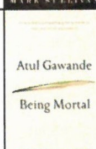
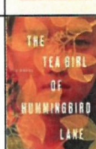





Do you knit, crochet or quilt? The **EPC prayer shawl group** welcomes those with these skills to join them in helping to make prayer shawls and baby blankets to be given to our members and church friends during times of difficulty and times of joy. For questions about this group or making shawls and blankets, contact Patty Niemann at 402-432-8353 or the church office.



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.

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

The good news: our giving this year has been comparable to last year's giving (through the end of September). We want to thank you for the gifts you have made and continue to make to fund the ministries and missions of EPC.

The challenge: in order to meet our anticipated income for the year, we are extending a giving challenge of \$250,000 during this final quarter of the year.

The history: thankfully, we know we can meet that challenge, because we did last year! Last year, we received that same amount, which is roughly 40% of our annual budget. We rely on your generous gifts year round to fund fantastic projects, like the renovation of the Huxtable Lounge, food packs for Chapter 25, and paying our excellent staff. We rely on your gifts for the not-so-cool but necessary items like lights and heat, as well.

Please, consider helping us meet our budgeted expenses through the rest of the year. Every gift, large or small, matters!

Giving through September 30:

2017	\$344,274
2018	\$341,006
2018 anticipated giving	\$587,000





THANK OFFERING SUNDAY

Join Eastridge Presbyterian Women in welcoming Rev. Stacy Martin, this year's preacher for EPW Sunday, November 18 at 9 am and 11am. Martin is the President and CEO of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, one of our local mission partners.

Susan Lewis, chair of the Lutheran Family Services board of directors, stated, "Stacy is a thoughtful leader with a passion for serving. She brings the expertise, strategic vision and relationship skills necessary to lead LFS into the future. I am excited to welcome to our community a proven leader who will build on the LFS momentum and commitment 'to express God's

love for all people.'"

Martin joined Lutheran Family Services in April, following the retirement of Ruth Henrichs. She served most recently at Lutheran Services Florida (LSF), one of the largest social service organizations in Florida, with more than 1,500 employees and a budget of \$220 million. At Lutheran Services Florida, Martin oversees a team of 600 and a budget of \$50 million delivering programs that include child welfare, guardianship, immigration and refugee services, housing, youth shelters, sexual abuse treatment and behavioral health services. Prior to this position, she served as their chief communications and development officer. Before joining the executive team at Lutheran Services Florida, Martin

was a vice president at Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service and the director of Policy and Advocacy for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in Washington D.C.

Martin graduated summa cum laude from Sterling College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Secondary Education. She holds an MBA degree from Eastern University and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary where she was a Presidential Fellow. Martin was born in Omaha and raised in Kansas.



Stewardship Drive Update

Thank you for the immediate response to our 2019 Stewardship Pledge Drive. Pledging is an important way for us to be able to predict what our income might be, and to make plans to budget appropriately. It is important for us to be able to live within the gifts we receive, enabling us to be good stewards of those gifts.

Our finance committee is hard at work to make the budget balance for next year. We are currently working with the requests from the different ministries of the church, and are currently evaluating what our giving will be able to fund. We have asked the congregation to increase giving by 3% for 2019, making our giving goal for 2019 \$605,000. Please help us reach this goal! Thank you, for all of your gifts and contributions.





Scenes from our recent Chapter 25 Mission Event! Thank you to those who volunteered to pack bags, and those Outreach Committee members who set it all up!



Angel- Mitten Tree 2018:

The tree will be up in the Welcome Center before Thanksgiving! There will be angels and ornaments with wishes from the following Lincoln entities: Cedars, Aging Partners, Fresh Start, Clinton Elementary, Lefler Middle School, Presbyterian Mission, and several fami-

lies. There will be instructions on the angel or ornament as to the child or individual's gift wishes and the return date. Presbyterian Mission ornaments show the amount to purchase certain agricultural items. Thank you in advance for considering a contribution to this worthwhile ministry!





Faith Connection for Elementary Children:

We have had three more children join us for our Faith Connection classes on Tuesday afternoon. This year the program has grown by 40%! We are excited!! With the arrival of November, this means that we will begin to work on the program for the 5:00pm Christmas Eve service. If you have a child that would like to be a part of the Christmas Eve program but do not attend on Tuesday afternoon, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer in the church office.

As we begin November, we still have a couple of program needs. 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 kadler-brammer@eastridge.org or call the church office.



Cornucopia of Caring!



"Your abundance is not measured by what you have, it is created by

what you share." – Heidi Catherine Colbertson

As you give thanks for all of your blessings, remember the greatest blessing is sharing with others.

Help fill the Cornucopia of Caring

by donating items to the Eastridge Food Pantry. The Cornucopia will be located in the Welcome Center at Eastridge Church soon!

We accept any donation: big or small, one can or twenty, food or cash.

Here's our list of our most-needed and requested items:

Food items: Canned Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Pork-N-Beans, Chef Boyardee meals, Chili, Boxed

Cereals, Oatmeal Mix, 2 Qt Juices, Hamburger Helper, Pasta Sides, Salad dressings, Mayo, Cooking Oil, Sugar, Flour, Salt. Household items: Laundry Detergent, Dish soap, Feminine Hygiene, Body Lotion, Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste/brush. Any financial donation can be made to the "Pantry". Keep in mind, the Pantry is funded entirely through direct donation, not the General Fund – this is why your support is so essential.



Faith Connection for Youth:



This past month we tried a new programming idea for the Middle and High School youth – Class Dinners. On Wednesday, October 17th, the youth split up by grade and went to dinner in the homes of some of EPC’s church members. The youth spent an hour and a half with the hosts getting to know them and having a meal together. They closed their evening by having a short devotion that was led by the evening’s hosts. It was a great evening and the youth had a great time. Not only did they have wonderful hospitality, but they were able to spend time with church members they might not otherwise know. THANK YOU to Merle and Corrine Faubel who hosted the 6th & 8th graders, Roger and Patty Niemann who hosted the 7th graders, Bryce Hastings & Sandy Hilsabeck-Hastings who hosted the 9th graders, and Doug and Mickey McDaniel who hosted the 10th – 12th graders.

Middle School

Nov 7 5:30pm – Youth Group
 Nov 14 5:30pm – Evening of Thankfulness
 Nov 21 5:30pm – No Youth Group
 Nov 28 5:30pm – Advent Service

High School

5:30pm. – Youth Group
 5:30pm – Evening of Thankfulness
 5:30pm – No Youth Group
 5:30pm – Advent Service

Youth Ministry Handbooks have been developed for the Middle School and High School groups. In the handbook you will find some of our policies/guidelines, a weekly schedule for the year as well as information about trips and scholarships. The handbooks were mailed/handed out to each family at the beginning of the year. If you need a copy, please feel free to contact the office and one can be mailed to you.

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.

Photos taken at our recent Class Dinners.



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