

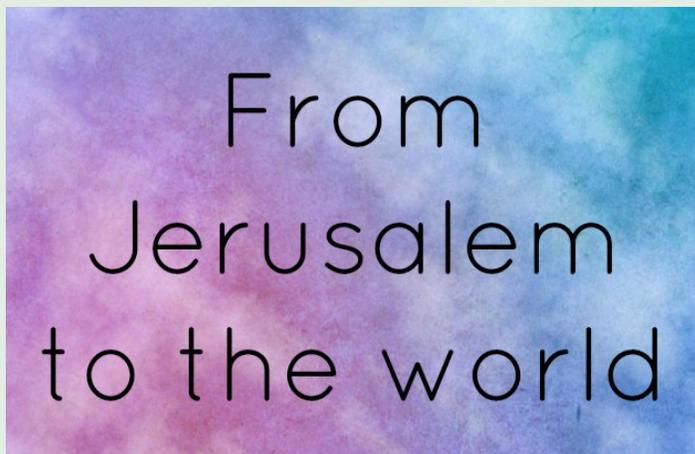


From the Pastor's Pen...

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Our Lenten journey has come to a close with these words shouted triumphantly this past Sunday morning. After travelling through Luke's gospel on his journey to Jerusalem, it was a great feeling to finally "arrive." Which we did, along with the crowds in Luke, we waved our palms and welcomed twelve confirmands by affirmation of faith or profession of faith. What a joy to witness as their families surrounded them as they joined our family! Our journey continued on Maundy Thursday to the table. In Luke's gospel we receive the words of institution, "this is my body broken for you," and "my blood shed for you." This year, after sharing in this meal together, we heard from others what they see and experience as we break bread together. We ended the meal on the Mount of Olives, where the service then picked up on Friday evening. The crucifixion in Luke is the main turning point of the story, from Lord and teacher to the transformative power of God. By the time we gathered at the tomb on Easter morning, we were ready to

proclaim together that Christ is risen, indeed!

I want to take just a moment here and thank you all. It was a great Lent, a great Holy Week, and a great Easter Sunday. It's always an honor to journey with you, no less so this year. Thank you for engaging in these gospel stories, sharing your own stories, and listening to others' stories. I left worship on Sunday excited after seeing everyone together, worshipping together and shar-



ing life together. What a spiritual rush to sing those fabulous songs led by our magnificent music ministry! Of course, we don't want to gauge the strength of our worship by the numbers of our people (this is a dangerous, slippery, slope), but I will say that it was a joy to see the sanctuary packed with familiar faces.

But then... this is how Luke describes what happens after the women share this unbelievable story with the eleven and all the others. It seemed to them "utter nonsense."

"But then" the Greek says (a common phrase in the New Testament). The point I want to make here is this: the story doesn't end with the resurrection. Every gospel includes a "but then" reaction of the disciples and all the others who hear it. Luke, however, continues the story into a whole other book of the New Testament.

Justo Gonzalez says this, "... unlike the other Evangelists, Luke is not content with ending the story there.

His Gospel goes on to tell us of the Ascension, and in his second volume he picks up the story at that juncture. This is probably the most salient point about the uniqueness of Luke's witness: he is not just telling his readers about something that took place in Judea years ago; he is also telling

Theophilus and all his readers throughout the centuries that the story goes on."

Friends, please continue to join us as we now journey from Jerusalem to the world.

Christ is risen! Alleluia, Amen!

Melodie

Gonzalez, Justo L.. *The Story Luke Tells: Luke's Unique Witness to the Gospel* (p. 128). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.. Kindle Edition.



Faith Partners Two-Day Team Training

Friday May 3, 2-8 p.m. & May 4 8:30-5:00

Training Key Congregation Members as a Successful Team

WHO: This event is for everyone in a congregation who wants to serve in a dynamic alcohol/drug team ministry. Even if you are the only one, you'll find much to help you in starting this ministry in your congregation.

WHAT: Faith Partners Team Training

WHERE: Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln on 56th St., the first turn North of "A" St. (The GPS address is 1135 Eastridge Dr.)

WHEN: Friday May 3, 2-8 p.m. & May 4 8:30-5:00 – Meals provided

WHY: (OR SOME STUFF YOU WILL LEARN)

What your team can do in prevention, intervention, referral, recovery support, and advocacy;

How to choose programs that best



serve your congregation and community;

How to network with other Teams and build bridges to prevention and recovery resources;

How to help your congregation be-

come a safe, hospitable, and healing place for many issues.

Why the proven Faith Partners Model works for many faith traditions

Why addressing alcohol/drug problems is a spiritual matter as well as a social and health issue

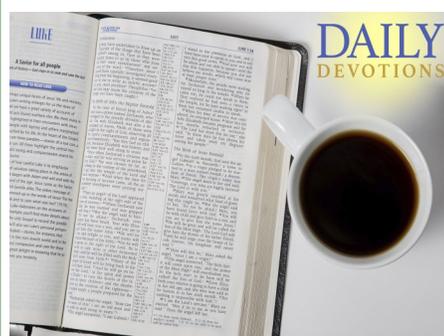
How your team can lead your congregation in taking practical, evidence-based actions

How to sustain your Team for the long term (without a lifetime commitment from you)

Even if you are the only one from your congregation, you can learn the process and see how teams develop

COST: IT'S FREE – EVEN THE FOOD!

Please contact Pastor Thomas if you'd like to attend: tdummermuth@eastridge.org



We are always looking for more writers for our online **devotion ministry!** Please contact the

office if you are interested in writing. To read the devotions, sign up in the office, or go to: www.eastridgedailydevo.blogspot.com

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: this group meets each Wednesday morning at 10:30 am. We are just finishing *Questions God Asks Us* by Trevor Hudson, and will move on to one of his other studies on May 22. Contact the office for more information! Led by Donna Gustafson.





Happy Spring from the Eastridge Food Pantry!

First, let us thank everyone for their GENEROUS donations for our Household Item and Personal Hygiene Drive. It was an enormous success! In fact, this was the MOST SUCCESSFUL drive we have had in recent memory.

We had such a great response to the drive, we couldn't even keep up with exact tallies, but we received:

Over 150 bottles of Detergent

Over 100 bottles of Dish Soap

Over 200 bottles of Shampoo and Conditioner

Over 100 bottles of Body Lotion and Body Wash

Over 400 Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

Over 50 packages of Feminine Hygiene items

And deodorants are still coming in! THANK YOU from the Food Pantry Team and Clients!

This May we will begin our Monetary Fundraiser to expand serving the community. With our client participation continuing to grow, we are extending our availability, so in May we will begin to have client distribution TWICE a week on Wednesdays and Sundays. We are excited to grow and expand our service within the community.

Our goal is to raise \$2500 during the month of May so that we can support our expansion to twice-a-week distributions. Stay tuned for a display in the Welcome Center to track our progress towards this goal.

The Eastridge Food Pantry is entirely funded by monetary donations to the Pantry from the congregation, partner churches, grants, and community individuals. Truly, we couldn't do it without you! Please ensure your envelope or check indicates "Food Pantry".

ALSO: we are always looking for more people to join our team for this exciting mission. Please contact Heather Douglas if you are interested.

THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL THE SUPPORT! -From the Eastridge Food Board, all the Pantry volunteers, and – most importantly, the clients.

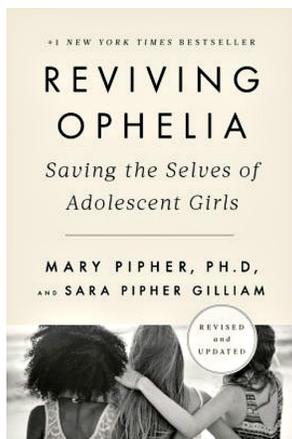
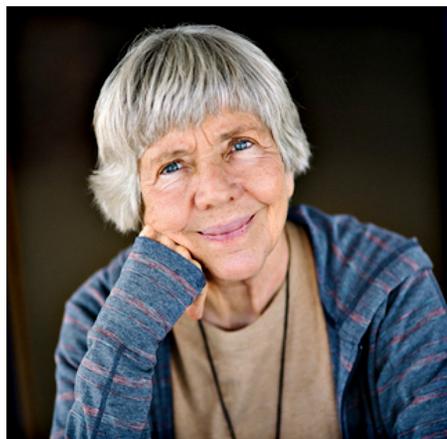


Our **Eastridge prayer shawl group** meets on the third Wednesday of the month for a time of knitting and crocheting prayer shawls and baby

blankets. We gather at 9:30am in the Welcome Center and conclude by 10:30am. Those who knit and crochet are encouraged to join us for this wonderful time of fellowship and creativity. For more information, contact Elda Powley, Patty Niemann or the church office.

THANKS

From The Gathering Place:
Your many smiling faces, energy to support your community, your passion for the mission of feeding those who are food insecure are gifts we do not dismiss. Our hearts are filled each evening as volunteers shuffle through the Gathering Place door eager to serve. A sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU for your group for all that you do.



Mary is returning to Eastridge! Author Mary Pipher and her daughter, Sara Gilliam will come to Eastridge Presbyterian on Saturday, June 8 at 2:00 pm to discuss their collaboration on the revised *Reviving Ophelia*. They will be signing copies of the book, available from Fran-cie and Finch bookstore. Free event, but please call the church to register.

Eastridge Presbyterian Women GATHERING: Wednesday, May 15

12:00 Noon, Huxtable Lounge for Luncheon

Program: "Warrior of the People"

Speaker – Katie Murtha a librarian from Bennett Martin Library; she will lead a discussion of the book.

Reading Awards

Birthday Offering Dedication

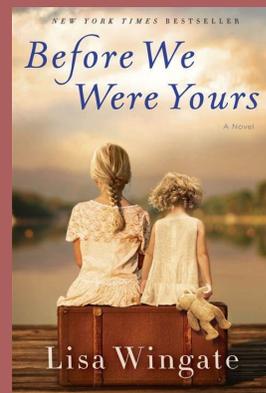
Installation of new Circle Chairs

Installation of new Board Members

Hostesses: Miriam Circle & Co-ordinating Team



Eastridge Presbyterian Church Book Club: Our next book club meeting is Monday, May 13 at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room. Join us for discussion and refreshments. May's selection: *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See. Our June pick is *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate.





This summer, during the month of July, we will be offering faith education for the entire church family. For four consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning July 10th, we will gather around the table for a meal, fellowship, and learning. During this time together, we will look at a piece of scripture and discover what that means for all ages. Each Wednesday evening will be an independent lesson to allow for folks to come as their schedule allows. We will need some help in order to provide this summer programming. We can use volunteers to help with meals, decorating and leading the lessons. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer in the church.

MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

On Sunday, May 19th we will celebrate our graduating High School seniors at the 9:00am service. Following the service, we will have a reception in the Welcome Center. We hope you will be able to join us as we recognize this group. If you have a High School senior in your home and have not received information about the recognition, please contact the church office.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS MARCH-APRIL 2019

The Session approved the minutes of the special Session meeting of December 16, 2018, Session meetings of January 17, 2019, and March 19, 2019, and the congregational meeting of January 20, 2019.

The Session acknowledged its email votes 1) to approve a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance offering on March 17, 2019, 2) to approve a youth fundraiser for April, and 3) to approve a presentation by Mary Pipher on June 8, 2019, at 2 p.m. The event will kick off Pipher's public presentations based on the 25th anniversary of her book, "Reviving Ophelia."

The Session affirmed the recommendation of the Outreach Committee to budget \$16,700 for PCUSA missions, to be divided as follows: \$3,000 for General Assembly, \$3,000 for Synod of the Lakes and Prairies, and \$10,700 for Homestead

Presbytery.

The Session approved a motion to cancel plans to sponsor a program featuring Debby Irving, author of "Waking Up White."

The Session approved a motion to request that the Nominating Committee suggest names for a committee to consider long-range plans for the north property, which includes the Pantry and two lots.

The Session discussed the future of Presbyterian churches in Lincoln. A subcommittee will contact the other Lincoln churches to consider cooperative efforts in programming.

The Session was informed that the Choral Scholars concert raised \$3,100 and was attended by about 80 people.

The Session approved a motion to schedule worship services during the summer at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The schedule will be in effect from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.



As we are about to begin a new confirmation year, we will have some big changes ahead! Therefore, we would like to invite you to an informational meeting for both parents/guardians and students. Please make plans to join

us on May 5th, 10-11AM in Huxtable Lounge (if you didn't already attend the April 28 meeting).

What are some of these big changes?

For one, we will be combining the outgoing 7th and 8th graders into one big confirmation class.

This way we expect to have a good sized group, which will be beneficial for a positive group experience.

Second, and more importantly, we will shift from a weekly confirmation program to a seasonal retreat model. What this means is that the bulk of the confirmation program will take place during four overnight retreats.

Feedback from previous confirmation classes and their parents have consistently highlighted retreats as the single most valuable and memorable element of confirmation - both in terms of learning, faith formation, and community building. Plus, we have found that it can be quite a challenge to fit weekly meetings in the increasingly demanding

schedules of both youth and their parents. We are therefore convinced that a concentrated time together four times a year will not only provide enough time to cover the curriculum, but lead to an even more profound confirmation experience altogether.

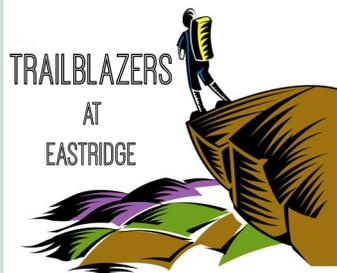
The Retreat Date for 2019-2020 are: June 18-20, 2019; August 6-8, 2019; October 17-18, 2019; February 22-23, 2020. Participation in all four retreats is required.

Confirmation Sunday is on April 5th, 2020 (Palm Sunday).

Between the confirmation retreats, confirmands will be meeting regularly with a mentor, attend worship services, and engage in different service projects in and outside the church. We look forward to embark on this meaningful journey together.



CONFIRMED in April: (class, mentors, parents, pastors above) Emily Boden, Natalie Brady, Jimmie Cover, Heidi Felix, William Hershiser, Elizabeth Kohel, Nyamuoch Kuon, Masheala Maynez, Victoria McGee, Trevon Nash, Maylena Olsen, Barrett Rodell.



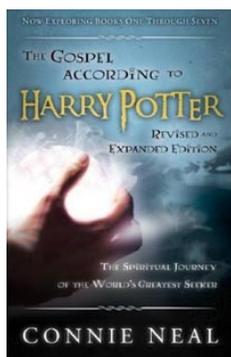
Trailblazers for May: Join us on May 17 for our annual planting of the east patio planters.

6:30 pm—East Patio and Huxtable Lounge



REFUGEE MINISTRY: Many of you will remember the extended Karen refugee family from Myanmar that Eastridge

sponsored. In 2008, we served as the coordinators for the arrival of the last part of the family including Paw Bra (mother), Ba Thin (father), and sons Thin Oo and Di Di. They became like family to us, and we have shared many life events with them, including weddings and the death of Di Di last May. We celebrated their citizenship this past month during an ice cream reception in Huxtable Lounge.



Coming soon...*The Gospel According to Harry Potter*. This Thursday evening study will be continuing to meet in Huxtable Lounge, beginning May 9. Contact Kylie Meter if you are interested in joining!

Bistrò Theology

FAITH. DRINKS. DISCUSSION. QUESTIONS

Join us - again or for the first time - at Bistro Theology!

When: Thursday, May 30, 7-9pm

Where: The Piedmont Bistro by Venue

What Bistro Theology is:

a monthly conversation in Lincoln NE about stuff that matters.

a gathering space for people of all faith and non-faith backgrounds to come together and re-

spectfully dialogue and question over life, spirituality, culture and society.

a celebration of our community and how we can challenge and learn from each other.

“In the Church of Jesus Christ there can and should be no non-theologians.” — Karl Barth

What Bistro Theology is not:

a slick new evangelism program.

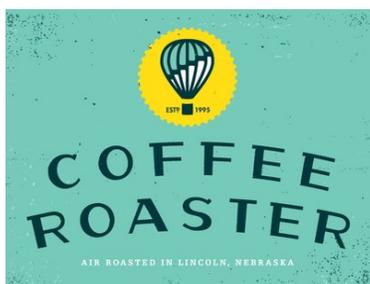
a Bible study at the bar.

a church service.

a debate club.

“Theology begins with wonder and with unanswered questions.” — Avery Cardinal Dulles

Come join us at the Piedmont Bistro for Faith, Drinks, Discussions



Did you miss purchasing coffee from our youth this past month?

The youth sold 12 oz bags for \$ 15 to raise funds for their summer trips. The youth will

retain 40% from the total sales. Payment is due at the time of order. Payment forms include cash, check, or you can pay through the church website pay online option. We are partnering with The Coffee Roaster which is owned and operated by Vince Ruhl who is also on EPC staff. If you have had coffee on Sunday morning, you know how good it is! **Contact Kris Adler-Brammer to order!**

We want to express our gratitude and appreciation of our interim organist,



Travis Worsham. The interim organist contract ends May 15. Please share your appreciation of Travis' worship leadership! We wish Travis and his wife, Arica, best wishes as they plan to move to Texas at the end of the month.



Summer Sermon Series:

factchecker@eastridge

Ever hear someone claim that something is in the Bible and think, "Is that true?" Wouldn't it be nice to just put it in a search engine and come up with a reliable answer? Join us this summer, for factchecker - Eastridge style! Once again this summer, we're asking for your input! Send your ideas to office@eastridge.org.

(Disclaimer: we will offer the facts as much as possible, along with some interpretation of them. Another disclaimer: submissions will be included to the extent possible, given the number of Sundays.)

Mother's Day, May 12, we will be recognizing our **dedicated prayer shawl knitters** in worship. If you would like to write a personal note to those who knit, please send it to the office, or bring it that Sunday! We are very thankful for this group as their ministry has surrounded us with the loving reassurance of God's presence.





Thank you to the church members (especially our Trustee Committee!) and UNL students who cleaned the church

grounds, prepared for spring planting, and cleaned storage areas here at Eastridge on April 6. Your work is appreciated! (shown above: UNL students who participated in the Big Event)

Eastridge Church Staff

- Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon..... Senior Pastor
- Rev. Thomas Dummermuth.....Associate Pastor
- Rev. Dr. John Duling.....Parish Associate
- Kris Adler-Brammer..... Youth and Children’s Ministries
- Donna Gustafson..... Office Manager
- Andy Kalnins.....Night/Weekend Custodian
- Brian Lew.....Adult Choir Director
- Will McGuire.....Worship Leader
- Travis Worsham.....Organist
- Vince Ruhl.....Audio/Visual Technician
- Jennifer Russell.....Nursery
- Office number.....402-488-7844
- Melodie Jones Pointon: mjonespointon@eastridge.org
- Thomas Dummermuth: tdummermuth@eastridge.org

MEET THE STAFF



Coffee for Six or Lunch for Six: Not able to make a commitment to meeting a group over dinner? Why not coffee? Pick up a form at the Welcome Desk!



Our Eastridge Hospice Singers are available to provide singing visits for loved ones and friends journeying through hospice care. To schedule a singing visit, contact Patty Niemann at 402-432-8353 or epc.hospice.singers@gmail.com



The Lyman Family was honored at this year’s Tabitha Into the Blue luncheon on Wednesday, April 10. From Tabitha: *Marv and June Lyman’s relationship with Tabitha began back in the 1980’s. As a Tabitha Meals on Wheels volunteer, June provided countless hours to this vital community service. Marv served as a Board Member for Tabitha for almost 10 years. He was instrumental in helping Tabitha improve their operations and implement insurance best practices, to support and protect Tabitha and our employees. The Lyman’s connection at Eastridge Presbyterian Church helped establish the congregation’s involvement and association with Tabitha.*

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church
1135 Eastridge Drive
Lincoln NE 68510



Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
Paid
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 109

