

From the Pastor's Pen...

The Book of Revelation is full of wonderful (and sometimes terrifying) imagery that is often associated with the end of the world. Revelation is considered apocalyptic literature, which we have often misinterpreted to mean the end of the world. However, one of the many things I learned in seminary is that apocalypse really refers to the revealing of something, or some-

thing about someone. In Biblical texts, it is most often a revelation about God and who God is.

I have to confess that most of my favorite hymns are inspired by the texts of Revelation: Jesus

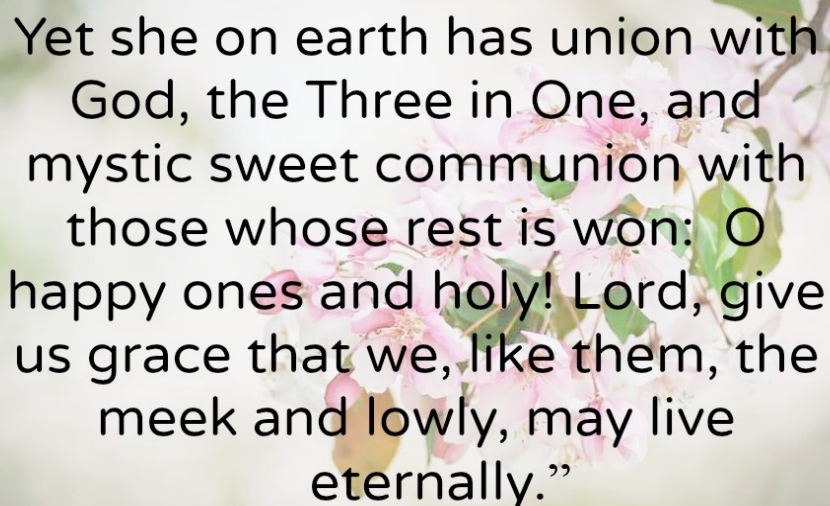
Christ is Risen Today; Crown Him with Many Crowns; Blessed Assurance; Love Divine, All Love's Excelling; Now Thank We All Our God; For All the Saints; Shall We Gather at the River; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; All Creatures of Our God and King; and Holy, Holy, Holy, to name a few.

Over the coming weeks many of these songs will be used in our worship services. I think

that's appropriate, especially as I think about all the things these weeks bring – All Saints' Day, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. It's a good reminder for us, as we put away the things of spring and summer, of new and flourishing life; and consider the changing of the seasons. For me, these months always bring me closer to the hope we have in the resurrection, as the time of full growth and harvest pass

and we must pluck up what has been planted.

Dear friends, I think about you. And I pray for you. As we gather the list of names of those who have passed



Yet she on earth has union with
God, the Three in One, and
mystic sweet communion with
those whose rest is won: O
happy ones and holy! Lord, give
us grace that we, like them, the
meek and lowly, may live
eternally.”

since last All Saints' Day, Thomas and I spend time reflecting on their lives and deaths. We spend time remembering home visits and communion, funny stories, meaningful moments, tears that were shared with us, and the hope that we named in your midst. As Jesus told his disciples, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.”

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We believe that travelling this journey from life to eternal life with you is a sacred part of our calling. It is a sacred space.

We are on the downhill side of fall and rounding the bend of our Heroes of the Faith sermon series. We began with some heroes from the Old Testament and then moved into Revelation and talked about being a faith hero today.

Over the next few weeks, we will have opportunity to talk about the faith of the saints in the church triumphant. I want to share with you the image I have of that church, the church that will be on that great day when every knee will bend and every tongue confess, when the angel choir joins in singing, when the organ and the band play, and the rafters of heaven are

shaking with the joy of the song, and I see my grandparents I did not know long enough in this life, and my spiritual grandmother who walked with my family through tragedy, and the men and women who prayed for me, and yes, all those people we remember at All Saints', and those empty spaces in our pews and at our tables are filled once again, and together we sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!" That is what I think of this time of year. From All Saints' to Thanksgiving, to the promise of that Advent hope.

This is the promise we proclaim, dear friends. In life and in death, we belong to God, and are members of the church triumphant. Thanks be to God.

~Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon

Witness to the Resurrection

In the Reformed (Presbyterian) tradition, the funeral/memorial service is a worship "service of witness to the resurrection," as well as a celebration of life. When the occasion for these services arise, often-times the family and/or loved ones of the deceased are overwhelmed by the many tasks surrounding death.

Whenever I sit with those making these arrangements, I begin with "ordinarily." However, it is important to acknowledge that "ordinarily" very rarely happens, as we try to tailor the service around the wishes of the deceased and their family. This can be once again overwhelming, and it need not be. Here's a few things

Thomas and I would like to offer for your consideration:

- 1) A good place to start is with a list of favorite hymns and scriptures. Some also here include a list of "do not play, sing or read" hymns and scriptures. These may be sung as a congregation, by a soloist, or played before, after, or during the service.
- 2) If there are poems, sayings, prayers, memories, pictures, etc., that you like, gather them together.
- 3) Memorial cards with information regarding the service can generally be provided by the funeral home. These are helpful for reference the day of the service and in the years to come.

- 4) The pastor officiating at the service will meet with the family to go over the details of the service, provide some grief counseling, and communicate with the musician(s), funeral luncheon committee, etc.

We are happy to talk about your wishes in advance and may make some notes. However, we do suggest sharing your wishes with your family verbally and in writing. The church can keep a copy as well, if you would like.

Thank you for asking us to share these sacred spaces and time with you.





Life is full of surprises. You can risk everything for big gains - or you can lose it all in a moment. But how does one win in real life? What does that even mean? Is there such thing? This answer might not be quite so clear.

This year, our GiFT theme invites us in a playful, yet intentional way to engage with all kinds of milestones and reflect on our life stories. We want to name some of our personal and communal turning points, explore, celebrate and bless them. And together, may we discover in each one of them a particular gift that God presents to our community of faith.

In addition to our usual shared meal and fellowship time, we are excited to welcome Brody van Roekel with us. Brody is director of Atlas Lincoln, a mentor based ministry that provides personal development services to individuals who are homeless or hurting for a variety of reasons.

Come join us and learn what we can do to offer community and communion.

Please bring some Men's (adult) white socks to donate!

Who is GiFT for?

Literally for everyone. Meaning: for youth, 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 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 across the congregation. By sharing our faith stories and learning from each other, we **Grow in Faith Together**.

What does a GiFT event look like?

GiFT takes place on the first Wednesday each month. A GiFT event begins at 5:30 pm with a joint dinner and a time of fellowship in the fellowship hall. At the heart of a GiFT evening is a fun interactive experience that centers around milestones of our lives, and engages all ages. GiFT also offers practical tools to nurture the faith of families and individuals in our daily lives.

Future Milestones:

- Nov 6 - Home: Community and Communion
- Dec 4 - Marriage: Kingdom and Kin-ship
- Jan 1 - Moving: a Fresh Start
- Feb 5 - Crisis and Healing
- Mar 4 - Retirement: Re-committing Our Faith
- Apr 1 - In Our End a New Beginning

Previously:

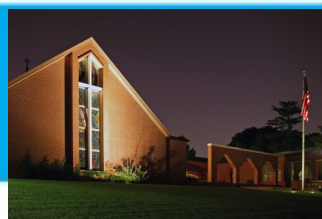
- Sep 4 - Birth: Baptism
- Oct 2 - Career: Vocation

Come join us on November 6, as we talk about Home: Community and Communion



GiFT

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER



During worship on October 13 Eastridge Presbyterian Church confirmed our designation as a **PCUSA Covenanting Hunger Action Congregation**. The Hunger Action Board is pleased to provide background regarding this designation.

About 5 years ago, the Eastridge Outreach Committee was facing some budget cuts, and at the same time receiving countless additional requests for financial support for a huge variety of organizations and programs. How were we to decide how to allocate our funds? A process of examining the mission and outreach commitments of the Eastridge congregation led us to identify what we called three areas of passion for EPC. Those areas are Education and Evangelism, Home and Opportunity, and Food and Hunger. These passions are now central to the decisions made by the Outreach Committee.

About the same time we were doing that, it became apparent that the work and management of the Eastridge Pantry had expanded beyond the work of the pantry distribution director, so a Food Pantry Board was established. Since that time, the discussions of the Outreach Committee and the Food Pantry Board often overlapped and it became challenging to know who was coordinating what. Eastridge is involved in so many hunger ministries! So many in fact, that nearly every member has participated and/or financially supported one or more of them at some point in time: perhaps you delivered Meals on Wheels, donated food or other items to the pantry, filled bags for Kids Against Hunger, donated money to the Pantry, filled snack bags for the homeless, purchased

seeds or gardening tools during the Angel Tree activity, volunteered at the Pantry, picked up food from the Food Bank for the Pantry, served on the Pantry board, picked up and delivered bread for the Gathering Place and the Food Pantry, served or baked for the Gathering Place, planted the garden boxes, worked at the Lefler mobile pantry, filled backpacks, participated in the Super Bowl of Caring, walked in the Crop Walk, etc. The list goes on. You are busy caring people, humbly feeding others!

Knowing this, when the former Food Pantry Board became aware of the possibility of being designated a

PCUSA Hunger Action Congregation, they thought pursuing this designation was fitting with Eastridge's passions. What is a Hunger Action Congregation, you might ask?

The purpose of the Hunger Action Congregation process is to:

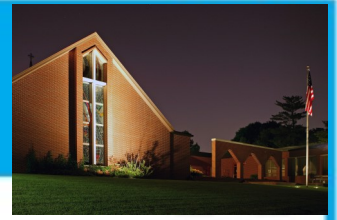
- (1) acknowledge and celebrate the faithful work of Presbyterians happening around the country to alleviate hunger and end its causes, and
- (2) to encourage these ministries to be even more holistic and justice-oriented.

The EPC Food Pantry Board started by seeking approval from the Session to become the Hunger Action Board, which would have oversight of all of our hunger outreach programs and activities, and also to begin the process of applying for this designation, which involves describing your involvement in 6 areas.

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HELP FOR THE HUNGRY





HELP FOR THE HUNGRY



Ending Hunger and Its Causes: Six Areas

Hunger Alleviation: providing and/or sharing food in a dignified way with an eye to long-term structural solutions

Development assistance: addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty through equitable and sustainable development

Hunger Education: learning about systemic causes of hunger, leading towards faithful action that is informed and directed by directly affected people and partners

Lifestyle Integrity: adopting sustainable personal and corporate lifestyles to restore justice and protect all of God's creation

Corporate and Public Policy Witness: advocating and campaigning for changes in policies and practices to end hunger and its causes, promote self-development, and care for creation

Worship: incorporating prayer, education, and preaching about end-

ing hunger and its causes into worship.

If an applying congregation demonstrates involvement in 1-5 of these areas, it can be designated a Covenanting Hunger Action Congregation. If you demonstrate in activity in all 6 areas, it can be designated a Certified Hunger Action Congregation. Each designation in good for three years.

Upon completion, our application demonstrated strong involvement in 4 areas, somewhat less in the the area of development assistance, and very little in the Corporate and Public Policy Witness. We applied to be a Covenanting Congregation, and agreed we would work to attain the Certified designation during the next years, and that work is already happening.

On October 6, during worship, Bill Wehrbein asked us to participate in the offering of Letters to Bread for the World, an example of an advocacy effort. If you have not sent yours, it's not too late. On Oct. 13, Bill walked in the Crop Walk on our behalf. Several EPC members pledged to his walk. Heather Douglas did a TV promotion for the CROP walk, which featured the EPC Pantry. We also invited members to participate in our 30 days of Thanks Food Drive. We look for-

ward to collecting and dedicating your Thankful boxes in November.

But, back to the Hunger Action application. This is not a merit badge, whose requirements have been met and a badge sewn permanently to our sash, but rather a covenant, acknowledging our work and committing to continue in our efforts to address hunger locally and globally. Thank all of you for all that you do! The Hunger Action Board serves as the coordinating group for this work, but it takes all of us to get it done. If there is any part of it you would like to become a part of, please let us know.

*Hunger Action Board Members
Robin Hadfield, Chair*

Jo Bateman

Beth Birnstihl

Susan Budler

Heather Douglas

Tami Rembolt

Hope Shortridge

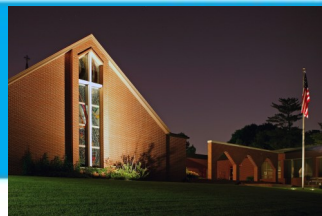
Berna Stading

Steve Taylor

Rev. Thomas Dummermuth, Staff

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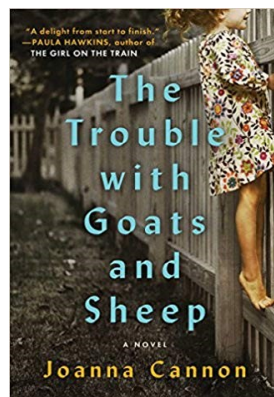


A Sunday morning at Eastridge...

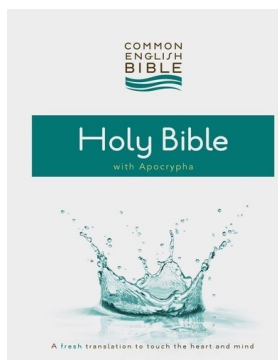


(photos courtesy Brent Shaw)

EPC Book Club: We'll meet Monday, November 11 at 7 pm in the Conference Room to discuss *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep* by Joanna Cannon. The list can also be found on the church website.



What's that I hear? Those of you who like to follow along with the scripture reading have noticed that there are times when we are using a different version of the Bible. Our pastors choose from a variety of translations, depending on their study of the scripture that week. For much of the fall, they have been using the Common English Bible, a translation published in 2011. If you are looking for a new Bible, this does come in a study version, and can be found online in both digital and paper formats. If you prefer, it can be ordered from a local bookseller as well. Other versions we use are: the NRSV; The Jewish Annotated New Testament by Amy-Jill Levine and Mark Z. Brettler; and The New Testament: A Translation by David Bentley Hart.



Time to think about Per Capita! When each Eastridge member pays his/her per capita, it allows our offerings to fund more items in the general budget. This year, per capita is \$45 per member. Per capita is “the tie that binds” — annual giving that unites the church in the ongoing and essential work that guides of Office of the General Assembly, the life of the Presbyterian Church USA, and benefits every congregation and every mid council ministry.





SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2019

The Session acknowledged the baptism of Barrett Blake Meyers, born January 4, 2019, son of Avery and Blake Meyers, on September 8, 2019, at the 9 a.m. worship service.

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Dr. John Duling officiated at the memorial service of Shannon Pike Gocke on September 6, 2019, at Eastridge.

The Session approved plans to proceed with a new congregational pictorial directory.

The Session approved the recommendation of the Worship Commission to schedule one service of worship on November 10, 2019, at 10 a.m., to be followed by the congregational meeting called to elect officers and to approve the terms of call of the pastoral staff. The meeting will be followed by the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

The Board of Deacons reported that 56 people attended the ice cream social. A church family event is planned at Martin Orchard near Ceresco, Nebraska, in October.

The Worship Commission reported that a piano subcommittee has discussed options and will request estimates for repairs.

OCTOBER 2019

The Session received Kate and Justin Gibson into membership by letter of transfer from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Session will recommend to the congregation,

with regret, no increase in the pastors' compensation for 2020.

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of September 19, 2019.

The Session affirmed that communion was served at the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services on October 6, 2019.

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Thomas Dummermuth officiated at the wedding of Sarah Arellano and Brandon Rogers on October 6, 2019.

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the funeral service of Donald Grieser on October 12, 2019.

The Session received notice from Homestead Presbytery that the per capita for 2020 is \$45.10, and the total is \$34,546.60, based on membership of 766 in 2018.

The Learn Commission reported that additional volunteers are needed in order to maintain current programming or to provide more programming for children and youth.

The Session approved a youth fundraiser in cooperation with 10,000 Villages. The store will host a Christmas shopping event at Eastridge on November 17, 18, and 19, 2019, to be staffed by youth and volunteers. Eastridge will receive 15 percent of the proceeds. This fundraiser will replace a previously approved vendor fair.

The Worship and Music Advisory Committee is seeking additional coordinators for communion and additional liturgists. There will be no cantata this year, but music will be emphasized during Advent services.





We Need YOU!

Even though we have started our education year, we could still use some additional folks to help with our children and youth programs.

Preschool teachers (3yr – 5yr olds) – we can use three additional folks that will teach/assist in the preschool class on Sunday mornings. This is a once a month commitment during the 10:30am service. The children remain in worship through the Worship Connection and then go to the class.

Tuesday Afterschool Program teachers (Kindergarten – 5th grade) – we can use three to five additional teachers for the classroom portion of our afternoon program. By adding three to five adults, this could be a bi-monthly commitment. Three Tuesdays a month it would be the time commitment would be 4:00pm to 5:15pm and the four Tuesday it would be 3:15pm – 5:15pm.

Tuesday Afterschool Program snacks – we have a good stash of snack for the next 6 weeks or so but could use some additional items. We could now

use some gift cards so we can provide fresh fruits and veggies each week.

Youth Group dinners – we can use volunteers that would be willing to provide dinner for the youth group. Dinner is at 5:30pm and is served for 25-30 people. This could be done by individuals or could be done by a group. We would also love to have you stay and eat dinner with us so we can get to know you.

Acolyte assistants – each Sunday morning we like

to have an acolyte at each service. In order to help them prepare and get down the aisle at the right time, we could use a volunteer that will help them. It does not

require additional time other than attending worship. We could use at least one or two volunteers at each service.

The above are short descriptions of our current needs. If you have interest in helping in any one of these ways, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer at kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org or call the church office.

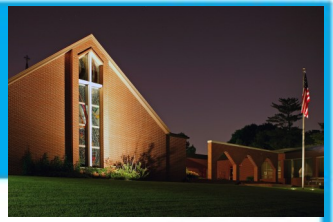
Help

Creating Advent: A Worship and Craft Workshop

This year we would like to invite all ages to join us for a special worship experience on Wednesday, December 11. The evening will integrate Advent crafts into our worship time together. Participants will have the chance to make crafts while learning how they fit into our Advent & Christmas story. Each station will have activities that are ap-

propriate for a variety of age groups. As we get closer to Advent, please watch church publications for additional information. The evening will be hosted by the EPC Youth Group. We hope you will make time to join us.





Holiday Pop-Up Sale: November 17th - 19th

Start making your list and checking it twice – an exciting holiday pop-up shop is coming to Eastridge Presbyterian Church! From November 17th – 19th come to church prepared to shop a wide selection of ornaments, nativities, home décor, jewelry and gifts from Ten Thousand Villages. Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit, fair trade store located in the Haymarket at 8th & P Street. Their continuing mission is to help create opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn fair wages by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term, fair trading

relationships. During this special pop-up shop, 15% of the sales will be donated to our Youth Group to support their activities in the coming year. So put the dates on your calendar and take advantage of this opportunity to support our youth and fairly paid artisans around the world! For your convenience, payment by credit card, check or cash is available.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday November 17; 12:30 – 8:30 Monday & Tuesday, November 18 & 19.



Eastridge Church Directory: Look for more information soon on our upcoming photography sessions for a new church directory!



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee will present the following list of nominees for church officers at the congregational meeting on November 10, 2019. As of this writing, we are still searching for an elder to chair the Fellowship Committee and two Deacons.

Session—Class of 2022

Kris Brenneis (Worship and Music)

Carolyn Olsen (Adult Education)

Carol Ripley (GROW)

Ana Rankin (Class of 2020—Youth)

Greg Tubach (Fellowship)

Trustees—Class of 2022

Mike Laughter

Rex Radcliff

John Rouse

Memorial and Endowment Committee—Class of 2022

Paul Harmon

Robby Shortridge

Nominating Committee—Class of 2021

Sandy Hilsabeck-Hastings

Marge Riemann

Susan Taylor

Deacons—Class of 2022

Carolyn Brandle

Cathy Duling

Jean Dunbar

Sharon Gollehon

Sharon Irvin

Berna Stading

From the Nominating Committee: Robin Hadfield, chair; Mary Amen, Kris Brenneis, Dave Gies, Larry Graham, Gary Kilian, Anne Loudon, Duane Olsen, and Becky Rankin.

Nominating COMMITTEE



First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln and Southern Heights Presbyterian Church are excited to welcome Diana Butler Bass to our community the weekend of Nov. 8-10. We are inviting our local area churches to join us for her time here.

Friday dinner and conversation - 6:30 - 8:30 pm @ Southern Heights Presbyterian

Church in Lincoln (5750 S. 40th St, Lincoln)

Saturday Lectures & Lunch - 9:30 - 3:30 pm @First Presbyterian Church (840 S. 17th St, Lincoln)

Sunday Worship - 11 am @First Presbyterian Church (840 S. 17th St, Lincoln). Reservations are required for Friday dinner



and Saturday lunch. For more information and registration, visit fpclincoln.org/grateful.

Happy Thanksgiving from the Pantry!

The Eastridge Food Pantry is continuing its “30 days of Thanks” drive through November 10th. Feel free to drop off donations on November 10th (the Sunday of our Thanksgiving service and potluck meal) between 9:30am-12pm at the Food Pantry’s garage door – it will be open to drop off any boxes of donations. Our needed items list for the “30 Days of Thanks” can be found in October’s Newsletter and flyers can be found at the Pantry display in the Welcome Center. Any checks can be dropped off in the Church mailbox, located just outside of the main office in the Welcome Center. Ensure “food pantry” is noted in the memo.

We serve almost 500 people each month and have quadrupled our numbers in the last 4 years. We are the only food pantry available for shopping on Sundays in Lincoln. Our Pantry is making a huge impact to the Lincoln community and those that are food insecure. Each week we hear from clients what a difference we are making in their lives. Over

the next several weeks, we are excited to be giving each family a pumpkin pie to enjoy the holidays.

Interested in volunteering in some way – stocking, during distribution, food pickup? Contact Heather Douglas (hrdouglas1@yahoo.com) for information. We always need volunteers to support this awesome mission!

Please note, the Food Pantry will be closed the week and weekend of Thanksgiving.

THANK YOU!

From the Food Pantry Volunteers, clients, and the Hunger Action Board



EASTRIDGE

FOOD PANTRY



Stewardship letters went out in the mail recently! A copy of the letter and pledge cards are available at the Welcome Desk.



A new group for women has started at Eastridge: **YANO, You Are Not Alone (all widows welcome)**. For more information, contact Berna Stading or the church office!



Bistro Theology will take a break in November and December and meet again in 2020!



We need **YOUR** help to make our annual Thanksgiving meal a success! The date is November 10. We will have ONE worship service at 10:00 am that day, have a brief Congregational Meeting following worship, then have the meal in the Fellowship Hall. A sign up genius is available on the church website. Please take a look and see where you can help!



The Eastridge Food Pantry will take any leftover Halloween candy to put in our snack bin for the clients!



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
- Dr. Brian Lew.....Director of Music Ministries
- Brent Shaw.....Organist
- Will McGuire.....Worship Leader
- 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

Thanks to those of you who joined us on October 9 for the **DIY “My Family’s Good Things”** Workshop. For more resources, check out Talk-Heart2Heart.org.




LITURGISTS NEEDED:

Interested in being a liturgist at either the 9am or 10:30 am service? E-mail or call Robin Hadfield for more information, or contact the church office.



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Presbyterian Church



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Lincoln NE 68510

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