

From the Pastor's Pen...

The Jeremiah 29 Principle. It's what I've been calling it – the philosophy I'm trying to live by. Especially now that the novel is worn off. At only four months old, the coronavirus and the changes it's imposed on our lives no longer feels "new." Instead, what is new is the news that restrictions are lifting, restaurants are open for dining in, haircuts are allowed, and houses of worship can open.

What isn't new is the daily tally of new infections and deaths in the news, wearing masks, limited contact with our family and friends, and our continued worship online. I'm finding "the more things change, the more they stay the same." The message is simple and clear: wash your hands, wear a mask, you're safest for yourselves and others when you're at home.

So, I'm embracing the Jeremiah 29 principle. It's a passage we've preached several times in the sanctuary for series on home, unraveled, and favorite

passages. It's the chapter that has that great verse written in graduation cards, "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." When we have looked at this passage in the past, we are always quick to point out that these words are often taken out of context.

They are words spoken to God's

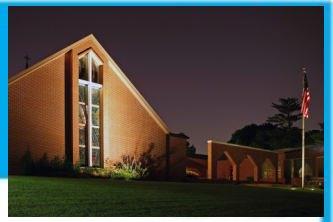
**"For
I KNOW
the plans
I have for you,"
declares the LORD,
"... plans to give you
HOPE and a
FUTURE."
Jeremiah 29:11, NIV**

people in Babylonian exile, when they are longing for their "old" lives, not fully living in their "new" lives. The words used here are actually even a little harsh, "Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their produce."

It's the same message that crashes over us everyday now, "What you think of as normal life is gone, so settle down and get use to life as it is right now." Of course, I have mixed feelings about this. There's some of this "new life" that I'm actually enjoying; like being home with my family. There's some of the "old life" that I miss; like knowing when I'll see our extended family again, meeting friends and colleagues in person, and, of course, worshipping in our sanctuary. There's a yearning inside me that negotiates, "I can live like this, if only I can [insert activity]."

The message of Jeremiah 29 is essentially, "get used to it." So I'm trying that. I'm trying to find the normal pattern to my days, and to share them with my family. As it turns out, we are indeed, falling into a daily pattern that is comforting. It is when we are planning for the future - for school in the fall, for worship in the church, for visits to and from our family that our uncertainty becomes anxiousness.

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We don't know what will happen, or when it will happen. There are structures and boards and committees that are creating guidelines for us to follow, and others will tell us when, what, and how the unknowns will be addressed. This is true at many levels, including in regard to our church building and property. At last week's session meeting, the session voted to form a Church Building and Property Re-Opening Committee. This committee will be tasked with working out the when, what, and how of reopening our building for activities. Forming this committee allows the session to lead the congregation in deciding what is right for our community.

"Not yet" continues to be the answer to the question for us. As many have noted, however, our church has never been closed. Our church is alive and active in our community and the world. We are the church in our homes when we worship together on Sundays at 10 am, when seniors receive blankets

and blessings, when prayers are lifted, meals are delivered, and insights are shared. We are settling down in our "not yet," finding new ways to share in old traditions and creating new traditions. In this way, we are building spiritual shelter and feeding our souls during this time – spiritual houses and gardens.

Even as we do this, however, we are also preparing for the "and now," the moment when we tentatively step into the future. I yearn and long for that moment, even as we can't say with certainty what it will look like.

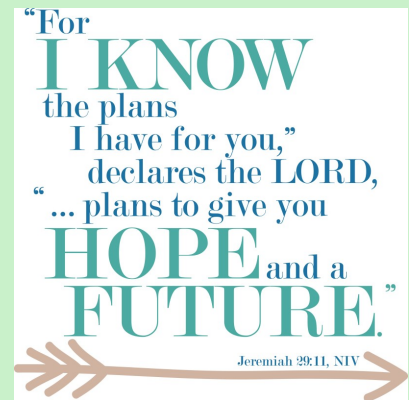
In this we are united with every faith community around the world, searching for that answer to how and when this will all end. But as I've said before, I don't think this pandemic will come to a definitive "end." Rather, I believe that God will reveal to us when the time is right and give us the courage to make those first steps.

Please do continue to keep the church, community, and world in your prayers, even as we make our homes and plant our gardens in the "not yet" we find

ourselves living in. "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, plans for a future with hope."

Blessings to all, near and far!

Melodie

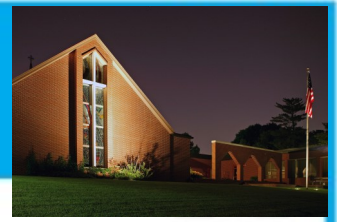


Join us for worship Sundays at 10 am! You'll find us at www.eastridge.org and our Facebook page!

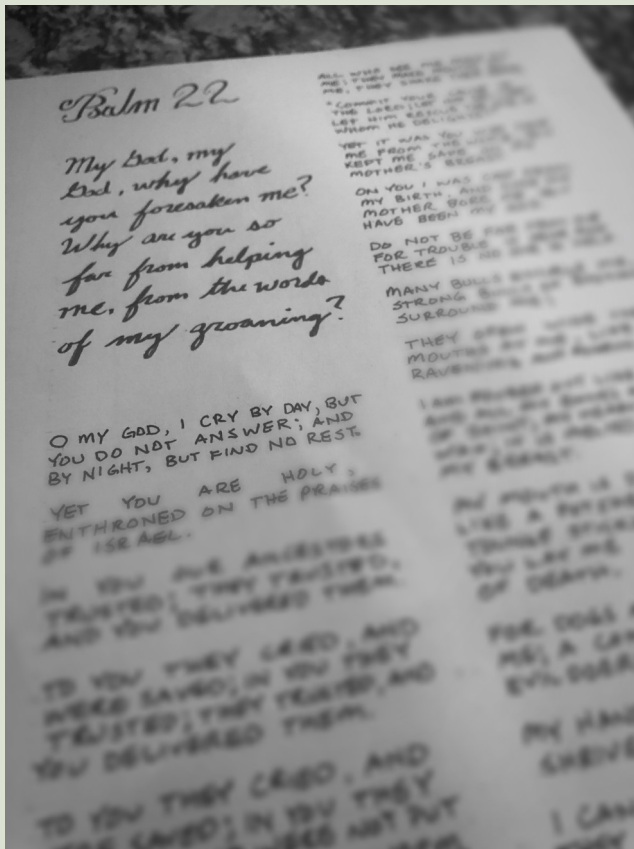
Communion Sunday is the first Sunday of the month!

Bring the bread and juice that you have as you prepare for worship.





Creativity Amid Chaos: The Nebraska Corona Bible



One day, when you look back upon this season - what will you remember? Will you see the harrowing time it was for the world?

Or will you also see beautiful things: all the creative work that was being done, both large and small, by all kinds of people?

Will you remember being part of something extraordinary, something that spoke of beauty and hope in the midst of chaos?

Will you tell of a time when you together with the whole church and people of faith across Nebraska

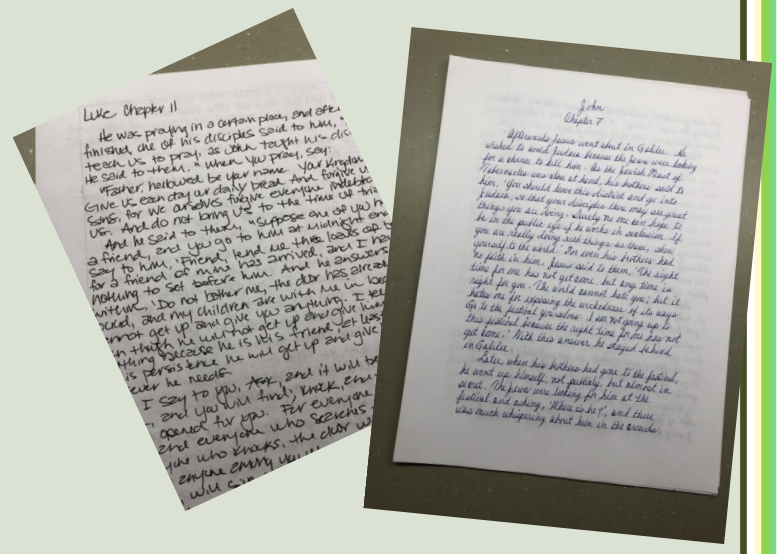
copied the whole Bible?

The idea is both daunting and intriguingly simply: people from all over our state each copy a chapter from the Bible in their own handwriting: as a means to stay connected, thus creating the "Nebraska Corona Bible," a powerful testimony to hope and connection in this time of crisis.

People have copied holy texts for centuries as a spiritual discipline. In monasteries, monks spent large parts of their days copying sacred scripture, lettering the text, illuminating it with illustrations, and commenting on its meaning. Writers share that writing has had a healing, liberating, centering effect. It connects us across time, and allows us to become part of a community.

In this COVID crisis, new technologies have been extraordinary tools to stay connected. At the same time, they have also heightened a very real "digital divide," as people in some demographics felt excluded from community which suddenly almost exclusively takes place in an online world.

(more photos and article on following page)





This is where the ancient tradition of copying the Bible comes in.

Our goal is to copy the whole Christian Bible, using individuals' handwriting or calligraphy. For each of the 1,189 chapters of the biblical books of the Old and New Testament, we are looking for women and men, youth or children who commit to each copy a chapter. Contributors are also welcome to add a personal commentary and illustrations or artistic interpretations to their passage. Thus, the Bible is re-created in light of our questions and fears, but also our hope and trust as a testimony to this time of crisis.

Please check out the website

www.nebraskacoronabile.com and sign up today

for your favorite text - and tell your friends all about it!

For questions, contact Pastor Thomas tdummermuth@eastridge.org

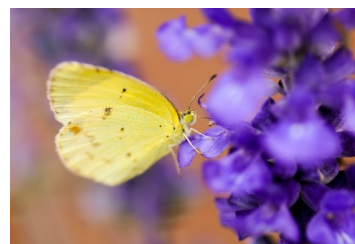
This project is inspired by the St. Gallen Coronabibel, a similar project in northeastern Switzerland. We are grateful to the initiator, Uwe Habenicht, for permission to adapt this idea to our Nebraska context.



Eastridge Church family: thank you for the prayers, cards, and telephone calls while I was recovering from lung surgery. I am now cancer-free.

In Christ's Love, Susan Taylor

Thank you to Doug and Rosalie Claussen, Trailblazer members, for planting the flower beds on the East Patio.



Front Porch photos



Coronavirus Family Album fundraiser

Working with Donna Gustafson from West Door Studios, families and individuals have an opportunity for a professional porch photo shoot for a \$25 (includes tax) sitting fee. \$20 will be divided equally to the youth fund and the choral scholar fund. Families and individuals will receive digital copies of the pictures from West Door Studios. The end result will be a sort of family album to remember these days! **Email the church office to schedule! It's not too late to join in and support these two Eastridge ministries.**



EPC Book Club: Join us on Monday, June 8 via Zoom to discuss our June selection, *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann.

Also, here are our selections to vote on for the 2020-2021 year.

"The Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd

"The Life She Was Given" by Ellen Wiseman

"Becoming" by Michelle Obama

"The Giver of Stars" by JoJo Moyes

"The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown

"Afterlife" by Julia Alvarez

"Miracle Creek" by Angie Kim

"Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead" by Olga Tokarczuk

"I Capture the Castle" by Dodie Smith

"The Long Petal of the Sea" by Isabel Allende

"Say Nothing " by Patrick Radden Keefe

"Braised Pork" by An Yu

"Hidden Valley Road" by Robert Kolker

"The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See

"One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

"A Year of Biblical Womanhood" by Rachel Held Evans

"The Night Tiger" by Yangze Choo

Eastridge Hospice Singers Update: Just like all other groups related to our community of faith, our "in person" hospice singing visits have been placed "on hold" for the time being. We are missing the opportunity to sing for our hospice clients in the place where they are receiving hospice care but are finding ways to virtually connect with each of them via FaceTime, Skype, Google Hangouts and Zoom. Naturally, visiting them this way isn't "ideal" but our musical impact is still being experienced with blessings being felt on "both sides of the computer screen" and for that we are extremely thankful.

Once we are allowed to again visit hospice clients personally, feel free to contact Patty Niemann at epc.hospic.singers@gmail.com or 402-432-8353 or the church office at 402-488-7844 to request and schedule a singing visit for a family member or a friend who are in hospice care.



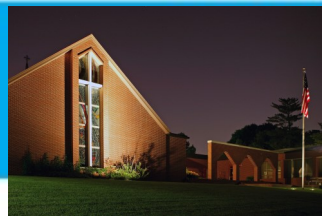
STILL COMING! Since a snowstorm cut into our original Lifetouch photography sessions, Lifetouch will allow those of you who couldn't make it to your session another chance to be included in the Eastridge directory. We will have access to the sign up at Indian Hills Community Church makeup sessions. **Due to the COVID-10 restrictions, this will happen at a later date.** More info to come!

Lifetouch.

Talk Heart 2 Heart: Eastridge Faith Partners recommends this site for parents!

www.talkheart2heart.org. There is a Facebook page as well.





SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 21, 2020

The Session affirmed that the Rev. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the graveside service for Mary Jane Huxtable Koch on April 29, 2020.

The Session approved the motion to acknowledge receipt of a grant from the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation which will be used for expansion of the pantry and addition of an accessible ramp to the pantry building. The Session acknowledged the e-mail vote to open a separate checking account for the grant. The motion passed.

The Session approved motions from the Sunrise Road Property Committee to authorize the committee to investigate the location of utilities and water line for the Sunrise Road property and to allow the committee to solicit bids for the provisionally approved plans for phase one of the project.

The Session approved a motion to establish a reopening committee to consider the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and to make recommendations regarding the resumption of activities in the building. Doug McDaniel agreed to chair the committee.

Rev. Jones Pointon shared a statement that has been prepared by the Lincoln faith coalition concerning reopening of churches for activities. The Session approved a motion to allow Rev. Jones Pointon and Rev. Dummermuth to sign the statement on behalf of Eastridge and to indicate that the Session agrees with the statement if that is appropriate.

Rev. Dummermuth reported that the Nebraska Corona Bible project is going well.

Kris Adler-Brammer provided a video report outlining activities she has com-

pleted to keep in touch with youth. She also reported on the activities planned to recognize high school graduates.

Brian Lew reported that he has learned new computer technology to assist in adding music to online services. He has attended weekly Zoom meetings with other choral directors to keep up-to-date on changes in use of music for online services.

Robin Hadfield reported on the presbytery meeting which was held today via Zoom. There will be no per capita increase from General Assembly for two years. The talks with Missouri River Valley Presbytery concerning possible collaborative efforts have been put on hold for the time being. A Strategic Task Force has been named to consider the future needs of the presbytery. General Assembly will be held by livestream this year.

Bistro Theology
FAITH. DRINKS. DISCUSSION. QUESTIONS.

When: Thursday,
June 25 @ 7 pm

Where: via Zoom!

Come join us for great conversations about stuff that matters. Follow us on Facebook for more info: www.facebook.com/bistrotheology

Income to date: \$ 205,309.00 (36%)

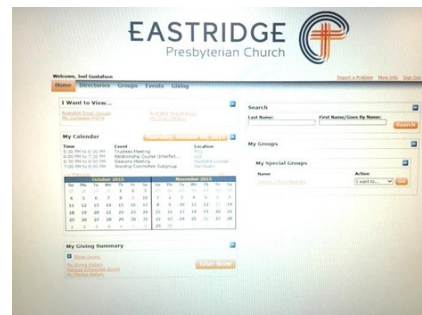
Should be at: \$ 233,415.00 (40%)

Needed for the year: \$ 372,691



Logging in to Access ACS:

- Go to www.eastridge.org
- Click on "Member Weblinks" at the bottom left corner of the page. Then click on orange box that says "Member Login".
- Click on "Need a login? Click here". This will ask you to add your email and name. You'll create a login with a password, and can then log in anytime to this screen (below). It shows groups, your giving, a church directory, calendar, and available registrations: The ChurchLife app is for iPhones, and is basically the same information.





New Bible Study!

Modern Psalms (hymns of the ages)...



Handed down for generations, some of these hymns have reached almost canonized, scriptural status. For many of us, they are the soundtrack of our life and faith, with words and tunes we know by heart. Like the

Psalms, there are hymns of praise and lamentation, intercession and confession. Join Melodie on Thursday mornings at 10 am beginning June 4 for a five-week zoom study of "modern psalms" – those hymns we sing as a congregation on Sunday mornings. As with the Psalms and Song study, there will be coloring pages and links to accompanying music. Please sign up either at office@eastridge.org or mjonespointon@eastridge.org.

Bless Be the Tie that Binds

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

God's Eye is On the Sparrow

Amazing Grace

We Are Marching in the Light of God

EASTRIDGE PANTRY RECEIVES GRANT

The Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation (NPF) has awarded a grant to the Eastridge Food Pantry. The funds totaling \$72,000 will be used to expand the pantry building and to build a ramp to improve accessibility to the pantry building and the green space on the north side of the church.

The NPF was founded in 1958 to provide compassionate care for the elderly in Nebraska. The vision became reality in 1963 with the construction of Clark Jeary Memorial Manor in Lincoln, Nebraska.

When Clark Jeary needed extensive renovation after more than 40 years, the board chose instead to sell the property and construct a new and larger Clark Jeary Retirement Community in southwest Lincoln, which opened in 2006. In 2017, the NPF sold Clark Jeary to Immanuel Communities of Omaha, which has renamed the facility to Yankee Hill Village. The NPF Board has committed the proceeds from the sale to provide annual grants to Nebraska Presbyterian ministries and non-profit human services organizations in Lancaster and Platte Counties in Nebraska.



EASTRIDGE

FOOD PANTRY



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES
The Adventure Begins

Marshall Caddy is the son of Maureen Freeman-Caddy & Terry Caddy. He graduated Waverly High School where he was part of the Golf and Baseball teams and in the Marching and Concert bands. He is a member of



the National

Honors Society. He was also part of Skills USA, FBLA, the Math Club, & Quiz Bowl. Marshall is an Eagle Scout, part of the Order of the Arrow (Brotherhood), and is a member of the 4-H Western Feeders Club. Marshall works as a Lifeguard and Assistant Manager at the Eagle Pool. He also works at Woodland Hills Golf Course as a cart boy. Marshall is a confirmed member of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. Marshall will attend the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in the fall. He will major in Business.

Thomas is the son of Andy Kalnins. He graduated from Lincoln East High School where he was part of the Marching Band. He served as the band leader for the percussion section. Thomas also served as the President of TRI-M which is a Music Honor Society. He is an Honor Roll student and part of the National Honors Society. Thomas was baptized at Eastridge Presbyterian Church. Thomas received a Regents Scholarship and will be attending the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.



Josh is the son of Gina Kohel & Brian Kohel. He graduated from Lincoln East High School where he was part of the Marching and Concert Bands. Josh was also part of the East High Trap team and participated with DECA. Josh is an Eagle Scout. His Eagle project was to build a freestanding shelving unit at City Impact. Josh works at Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhburgers. Josh is a confirmed member of Eastridge Presbyterian Church where he is part of the Youth Group and attended the yearly summer trips. Josh is a faithful EPC volunteer. He works in the Food Pantry, helped with VBS, serves at GiFT, and says "YES" to anything that is asked of him. This fall Josh will enlist in the military where he will serve in the Air Force.

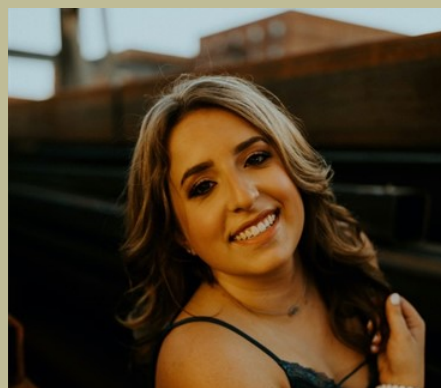
EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



John is the son of Anne & Andrew Loudon. He graduated from Lincoln East High School where he was part of the Football and Track teams. He was also a member of the Marching Band. John is an Eagle Scout. He completed his Eagle project in 2018 which was refurbishing the two large flower beds on the southeast corner of the Eastridge Church parking lot. John is a confirmed member of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. John will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He will major in Finance.

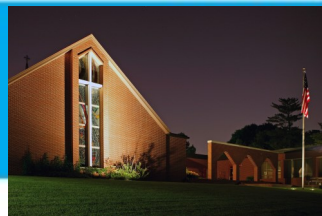
Maddie is the daughter of Jill & Caleb McCaffery. She graduated from Lincoln Southwest High School where she was part of the Track team and was an Athletic Trainer. She was an Honor Roll student each year. Maddie participated as a competitive cheer team member at Nebraska Cheer Center. She also works at Nebraska Cheer Center. Maddie has been an active member of the Youth Group at Eastridge Presbyterian. She also volunteered with the children's Tuesday After-school Program. Maddie will attend Southeast Community College. She will obtain her Nursing Degree.



Sydney is the daughter of Kelly & Scott Mitchell. She graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School where she was part of the Choir and the Cheer team. She was also a part of the Southeast Leadership Cadre and NHRI Leadership Mentoring. Sydney is a confirmed member of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. This fall Sydney will attend Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO.

Jerry is the son of Cindy & Jerry Nash, Sr. He graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School where he was part of the Soccer, Football, and Intramural Basketball teams. Jerry is a confirmed member of Eastridge Presbyterian Church. He has participated in the Youth Group at EPC as well as attend the summer trips. Jerry works at Raising Canes. Jerry has enlisted in the Nebraska National Guard. Following his time in the service, he will attend college.





Spiritually Grounded for Launch

Rev. Dr. John J. Duling, Parish Associate

I write this as one waits with anticipation, hope, and excitement the launch of the SpaceX capsule Dragon 2. It reminds me of the many launches I saw of the original Mercury 7 astronauts. Sometimes, the launch would be postponed due to weather or other factors, but they would reschedule and the launch would take place. Who would ever forget John Glenn's flight, the first walk in space by an American, or more so, the landing of the Eagle at Tranquility Base. It was the one small step that was a giant leap for humankind. Added to that were the historic flights that brought Astronaut Sally Ride as the first American female into space, the shuttle, and the international space station.

I mention these experiences and the anticipated launch for a simple, but profound reason: What are we spiritually launching into as the Covid19 virus pandemic hopefully flattens out. Yes, there are the risks as a launch is a risk. I pray that a possible second wave would not hit and would be ecstatic if it doesn't. But, we still remain vigilant and grounded where we are. However, we can still anticipate and dream from the base of being spiritually grounded and checked into reality.



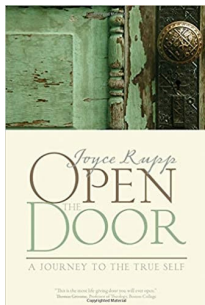
I think of Paul Tillich, the German theologian who called God, "The ground of all being." One can find how God is the ground of being in Exodus 4 when God says, "I Am Who I Am."

But, what does all that have to do with our being grounded spiritually? I would suggest that it is as simple as a breath. It can be the breath of the Holy Spirit – who breathes life into all beings. It is a deep breath or sigh we take when stressed.

One exercise is as follows – called 4-7-8 breath. Take a deep breath 1.2.3.4 and hold 1,2,3,4,5,6,7; then breathe out slowly 1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8. Do that breath routine twice or even three times, depending on how you feel afterwards. (Don't hyperventilate!) That breath helps me to get grounded and focused on what is in front of me that moment and for the day. It is empowering to realize that God – The Ground of all

Being – breathes that breath of the Holy Spirit into me. Then I feel energized to "launch" into whatever needs to be done.

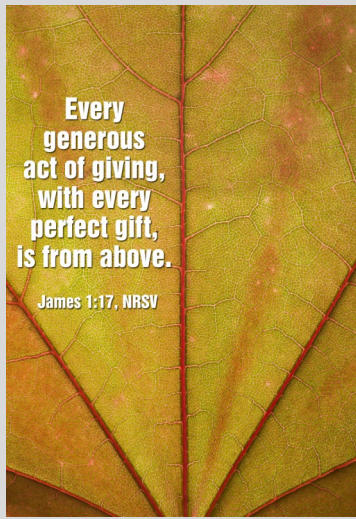
In this time of opening up to a new normal, we will face a whole new situation. Things are already different and the new normal is being redefined daily. Still, we can get grounded in God who is the Great I Am. God's Spirit is breathing with us as we then grow in Him Who is God with us – Emmanuel, Jesus Christ. So, let the count down begin!



Adult Studies at Eastridge: Two studies continue to meet via Zoom: *Matthew* on Mondays, led by Pastor Thomas, and the Wednesday morning Bible study. The Wednesday study is wrapping up their look at the book of John, and will be continuing in mid-June with *Open the Door* by Joyce Rupp.



Thank you to those of you who have either mailed your offering/pledge support to the office, or given electronically during this time of virtual worship! You can give by going to www.eastridge.org and clicking on the SERVE menu, then GIVE TO EASTRIDGE.



There is also a Member Weblinks link at the bottom of the page. Or you can mail it to the office!

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
 Chase Crispin.....Children’s Music
 Vince Ruhl.....Audio/Visual Technician
 Jennifer Russell.....Nursery
 Office number.....402-488-7844
 Melodie Jones Pointon: mjonespointon@eastridge.org
 Thomas Dummermuth: tdummermuth@eastridge.org



EASTRIDGE
FOOD PANTRY

The Eastridge Food Pantry is currently closed. We hope to be back to our regular schedule of distribution soon!

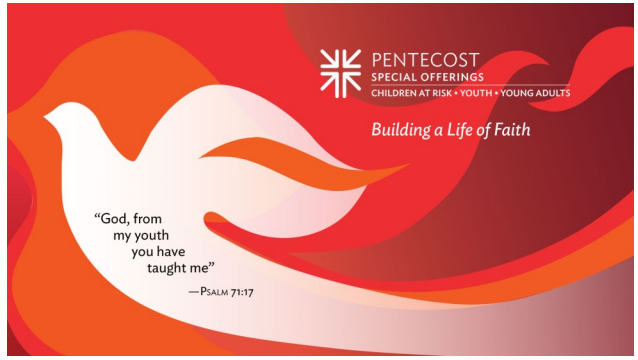
MEET THE STAFF




Most of our Bible studies and other groups are meeting via Zoom during this time! Check out the church website and/or Facebook page for more info, or email the office. Look for more Zoom fellowship opportunities in the future. Hymn Bingo was a success, and we plan to have a Zoom Ice Cream Social this summer.

Pentecost Special Offering to be Received Pentecost Sunday, May 31

Receiving this Offering allows Presbyterians to invest in the church's greatest resource--our youth--and join in ministries that address the needs of at-risk children and encourage, grow, and support our young people. 40 percent of what is received will be retained by our congregation for investment in local programs focused on children at risk and development of youth. The Outreach Committee voted that this year's contribution will go to the Lighthouse.



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