

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

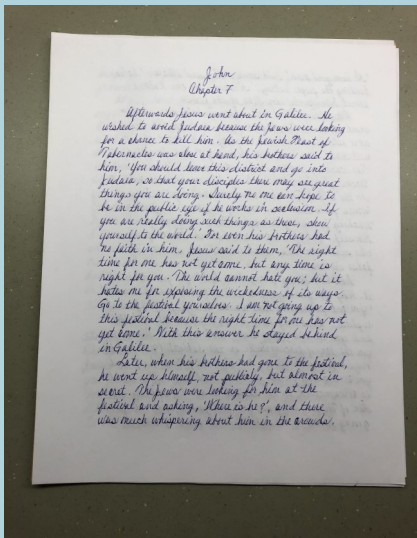
copied the whole Bible?

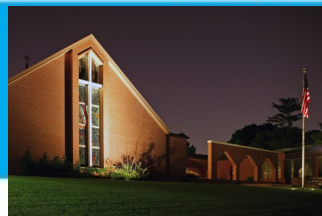
The idea is both daunting and intriguingly simply: people from all over our state each copy a chapter from the Bible in their own handwriting: as a means to stay connected, thus creating the "Nebraska Corona Bible," a powerful testimony to hope and connection in this time of crisis.

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

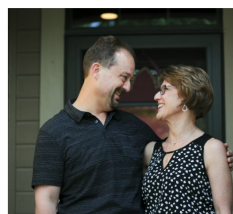
This project is inspired by the St. Gallen Coronabibel, a similar project in northeastern Switzerland. We are grateful to the initiator, Uwe Habenicht, for permission to adapt this idea to our Nebraska context.



21 Day Challenge: Check out our website and/or the email sent out for more information on the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge put forth by the Eastridge Outreach **MATTHEW 25** Committee.

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.**





Our 2020 Confirmands:

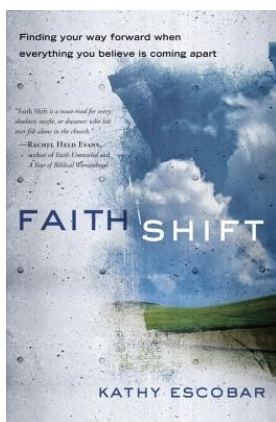
Katelyn Boden, daughter of Scott and Michelle
Bangot Dak, son of Peter and Nyabuok
Nyaluak Dak, daughter of Peter and Nyabuok
Thomas Davis, son of Sharleen
Nyakuar Kuon, daughter of Nyabuoy Chan
Hope Shortridge, daughter of Robby Shortridge and Kris Brenneis
Paul Shortridge, son of Robby Shortridge and Kris Brenneis
Anne Wies, daughter of Jim and Lois

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.



ADULT STUDY: Pastor Melodie's next Thursday morning study will be **"Faith Shift: Finding Your Way Forward When Everything You Believe is Coming Apart,"** based on the book by Kathy Escobar. (No book purchase necessary.) 10 am Thursdays via Zoom. July 16 through August 27. **Please RSVP for link.**



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.

Worship with us! Join us for LIVE worship every Sunday at 10 am on Youtube and Facebook, or call (402) 372-5480.

Miss us on Sunday? Worship services are available on Youtube and Facebook, or (402) 372-5480 all week.





SESSION HIGHLIGHTS JUNE

The Session examined the following members of the confirmation class and received them into membership: Katelyn Boden, Bangot Dak, Nualuak Dak, Thomas Davis, Nyakuar Kuon, Hope Shortridge, Paul Shortridge, and Anne Wles. The worship service at which they will be baptized, if needed, and formally received is to be determined.

The Session received the financial report which shows that pledges received this year are less than those received during the same period last year. The offerings normally received during worship services total about \$1,300 per month, and those offerings have not been received since February.

The Session received a report from the Outreach Committee that Eastridge is hosting the Sudanese Mission Network Conference on June 28-29 using Zoom. The Outreach Committee is also making plans for the church to address the

Matthew 25 focus of dismantling systemic racism by offering a 21-Day Racial Justice Challenge.

The Session received a report from Brian Lew, Director of Music Ministries, which included his efforts to develop plans for music after in-person worship services resume.

The Session received a report from Kris Adler-Brammer, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, which included information about "worship in a box" kits which have been delivered to families. She is also delivering birthday yard signs to children and youth.

The Session received a report from the Board of Deacons. Deacons are signing up to host the coffee hours following worship on Sunday mornings.

The Session approved the following recommendations from the Reopening Committee: 1) masks will be recommended but not required; 2) physical

distancing of six feet will be practiced; 3) as groups return, they will be expected to set up for their meeting and to disinfect before and after each meeting with supplies provided by Eastridge; 4) no more than two AA groups may meet in the building each week, and the size of the group will be limited according to the guidelines of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); 5) other small groups may begin using the building, with the size of the group limited to LLCHD and DHHS guidelines, and the Office Manager and Senior Pastor will approve the number of groups using the building; 6) scheduling for fall usage of the building may begin, with the understanding that use of the building is tentative and Eastridge reserves the right to cancel events based on LLCHD and DHHS guidelines.

Bistro Theology

FAITH. DRINKS. DISCUSSION. QUESTIONS.

When: Thursday, July 30 @ 7 pm

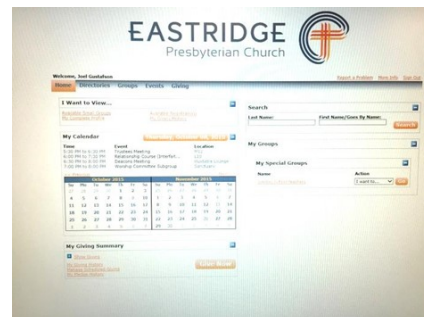
Where: via Zoom!

Come join us for great conversations about stuff that matters. Follow us on Facebook for more info:

www.facebook.com/bistrotheology

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.





Important Summer Camp Update

Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to let you know that the Calvin Crest Board of Directors and I have made the difficult decision to not hold camp this summer.

Our hearts are heavy because we know the power of camp in the lives of campers, our summer staff and ourselves. The power of camp that gives us a glimpse of what true Christian Community can be. The power of camp that allows us to meet others from diverse backgrounds and become lifelong friends. And the power of camp that brings people together to experience God in special and significant ways.

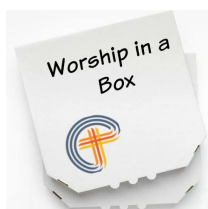
Our hearts are heavy too, because we know that your families may depend on the camp experience

to provide a great week of Christian programming and an escape from “normal” life.

Because of the need to plan programming, hire and train staff and allow families to make appropriate plans, we decided that we had to make this tough call. I am going to miss seeing so many friends this summer. I will miss greeting each camper and family and seeing kids face challenges and overcome them. I will miss hearing kids lift their voices in praise at Morning Worship. I will miss leading hikes, taking photos and sharing the joy of the camp experience.

Because of the complexities of the summer camp experience, we had to cancel that aspect of programming. However, we are hosting small groups from churches, businesses and families throughout the summer and have limited space still available if you are interested.

Until Next Time,
Craig Huffman



The second round of **Worship in a Box** has been delivered to our families with children. Each box provides you with reflection questions and activities that follow the scripture from Sunday morning. If you would like to receive a box, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer at kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org.

The past three months of the COVID-19 pandemic have been hard on many, including churches. Eastridge loses approximately \$ 1300 monthly in offering plate contributions alone (loose offering). We are so thankful for those of you who continue to give! 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. You can also mail your donation to: 1135 Eastridge Drive, 68510.

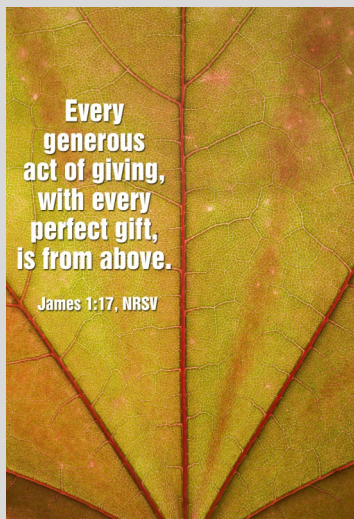
Income to date (June 21): \$ 226,756

Needed for the year: \$ 351,244

Last year (2019) at this time: \$ 263,326* *\$ 36,000 less than where we were at this time a year ago.



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!

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.



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

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.

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.



EASTRIDGE

FOOD PANTRY

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



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