



**Devotion Ministry:** We are always looking for new writers for our online devotion ministry. If you are interested in writing, even just occasionally, please contact the office for more information. If you'd like to receive a prompt and the link five days a week via email, let the office know as well.



**We are so thankful for those of you who continue to give!** You can give by going to [www.eastridge.org](http://www.eastridge.org) or by mailing your donation. We are currently approximately **\$ 18,000 under** where we were at this time last year (if you've been following this, we are closing the gap!) To give online: <https://bit.ly/eastridgegiving>.

Eastridge is collecting plastic bags through the **TREX program!** We will be able to furnish our new green space on the north side of the building with a TREX bench. For more information, check out the receptacles in the entry. **ONLY bags, NOT any other plastic recyclables accepted. So far, we have collected 266 lbs toward 500!**



The **Food Pantry** committee would like to thank Eastridge congregation members for their generosity in food donations recently. After the Moment for Mission plea on Sunday, July 24, the Pantry has collected 596 lbs of food through Thursday, July 28 at mid-day. These donations really help as we continue to serve an expanding number of clients who are facing food insecurity during this inflationary period. **We welcome continuing donations.** We distributed boxes to 54 households and served 25 (households) in-person shoppers on Wednesday, July 27 (266 people total!)



Sign ups for August:

**Wednesday and Sunday Distribution:** <https://bit.ly/FPAugustDist>

**Filling boxes:** <https://bit.ly/FPAugustFill>

**Eastridge Church Staff**

Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon.....Senior Pastor  
 Rev. Thomas Dummermuth..... Associate Pastor  
 Kris Adler-Brammer....Youth and Children's Ministries  
 Dr. Brian Lew.....Director of Music Ministries  
 Donna Gustafson.....Office Manager  
 Andy Kalnins.....Night/Weekend Custodian  
 Brent Shaw.....Organist

Will McGuire.....Worship Leader  
 Vince Ruhl.....Director of Online Worship  
 Brett Meier.....A/V Tech  
 Laura Siems.....Administrative Assistant  
**Office number.....402-488-7844**  
**Melodie Jones Pointon's cell – 402-817-9004**  
**email: mjonspointon@eastridge.org**  
**Thomas Dummermuth's cell – 402-817-9642**  
**email: tdummermuth@eastridge.org**

**EASTRIDGE**  
 Presbyterian Church



*The weekly Lamp*

**TODAY AT EASTRIDGE**

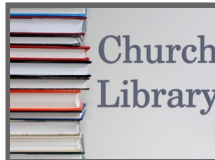
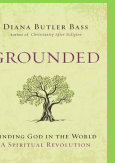
9:00 am	Worship — IN PERSON
10:30 am	Worship — ONLINE & IN PERSON
1:00 pm	Special Musicians Concert—Sanctuary



**Lefler Food Market:** We need volunteers again to help with the Lefler Food Market! In 2017 Lefler Middle School started the Lefler Food Market to serve students and families in need. Eastridge Presbyterian Church provides 3 volunteers each month to help for this once-a-month Food Market from 1:45 pm-3:30 pm. The Market takes place during the school year, September-May.

If you are interested in volunteering for this worthwhile project or would like more information about volunteering, please contact Susan Budler at [sbudler1@unl.edu](mailto:sbudler1@unl.edu). Volunteers who want to help at the Lefler Food Market will need to fill out a volunteer application. Please contact the office or Susan Budler if you can help!

**NEW FALL BOOK STUDY:** This fall, when the sermon series will be focusing on tree stories, Pastor Thomas will be doing a study on Diana Butler Bass's book, ***Grounded: Finding God in the World—A Spiritual Revolution***. This will be on Thursdays, starting September 8, 10-11am, on Zoom.



**Eastridge library:** We are looking for someone interested in doing some computer work in the church library. Please contact the church office if you think you may be able to volunteer in this way.

**EPC Book Club:** Our year of reading begins on Monday, September 12. Join us at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room (or East Patio) to discuss *"The Other Einstein"* by Marie Benedict. For the entire year's list, check out the church website ("What's New" menu, then calendar)





**MATTHEW 25**

**Building congregational vitality...Dismantling structural racism... Eradicating systemic poverty**

The Presbyterian tradition of advocating for public schools, open to all children, dates to the origins of the reformed church in Switzerland and Scotland. That paradigm was carried to the colonies as America was settled. Public schools ensure that education is universally available to children, even those with financial difficulties and in parts of the country where few educational opportunities exist.

RealClear Opinion Research poll showed that American voters

want schools to teach students to be good citizens and think critically aside from reading and writing. Furthermore, a Gallup survey indicated that, for the first time since 2004, Americans are satisfied with the quality of K-12 education. With the accessibility of public schools, it is not surprising that enrollment at these schools has remained high over the years. In 2019 alone, public schools educated 50.8 million (90%) children. Why then are groups across the nation and even in Nebraska conducting attack campaigns against public schools? Is this movement focused on the quality of education provided in public schools or are there other motivating factors?

**“Government Schools’ or Public Schools? Trump, DeVos, and the Language of School Choice”** (EdWeek, By Evie Blad, February 5, 2020) “Government Schools” is a phrase most notably used by former U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and groups that advocate for

alternatives to traditional public schools. To public school organizations and educators, the use of the term seemed intentionally provocative, especially considering conservatives’ distrust of government and desire to reduce its reach.

<https://bit.ly/3Qdxdp3>

**“Deep in the Pockets of Texas”** (CNN Special Report, June 24, 2022) How a handful of influential billionaires steer the politics of school boards, city councils and the state legislature in Texas. In addition to financing candidates, they fund political action committees and the scorecard by which legislators are ranked. Available on CNN.com and CNN apps

**“Education Statistics: Facts About American Schools”** (EdWeek, August 2, 2022) A statistical profile of the schools & students across America.

<https://bit.ly/3C3bH2y>

Contact the office at [office@eastridge.org](mailto:office@eastridge.org) for prayers.

**Flower sign up: Today’s flowers provided by Chris and Olin Boone.** Sign up to provide flowers for the sanctuary for worship here: <https://bit.ly/flowersworship>



**G.R.O.W. Garden Wish List: Here is what we have so far!**

Ivory Silk tree lilac \$250 (2) (1 purchased!)

Taylor juniper \$150 (5) (2 purchased!)

Autumn Brilliance \$130 (1 purchased!)

Miss Kim lilac \$125 (5)

Autumn Jazz viburnum \$35 (purchased!)

Cornelius cherry \$190 (2) (1 purchased!)

Royal Star magnolia \$150 (purchased!)

Strolling path \$50 per section (13 sections purchased!)

Sprinkler system contribution **or general contribution to the garden.**

To give, go to: [Eastridge.org](http://Eastridge.org); Click on “Menu”. Select “Serve/Give to Eastridge”. Enter the amount of your donation. Pull down and select “Garden Fund”. Use optional memo to indicate the specific item you want to contribute.



**CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES:**

Summer is here which means that planning for our school year programming is in full swing! As we beginning to look at our needs for the school year, we are in need of folks that will partner with our programming in the following ways:

**Teach a preschool or elementary age class**

**Be a youth advisor**

**Provide a meal for the youth group**

**Provide and/or prepare snack for our Tuesday Afterschool Faith Formation program**

**Lead opening arts and crafts with our Tuesday programming during the winter months**

**Write notes/cards to our children and youth**

**Make occasional deliveries to our children and youth (porch drop off)**

**Sew costumes**

**Coordinate acolytes for the 9:00am worship service**

**Prepare children’s worship bags**



**Family Fun Day! Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center** is having a Family Fun Day on August 20 from 10:00 AM -4:00 PM. It is a chance for families and campers to have a reunion and to raise money for the Camp. We want to offer the day as a place of fellowship and spending time in God’s creation so we are asking that churches help us out.