



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

A couple weeks ago I was sitting at a youth sports event when from behind me a voice yelled, "You've got this!" I turned to look at the source of the voice, and found a very cute 3-year-old girl, wearing glasses and watching the game very seriously. As the game progressed, her voice rang out again and again, strong, sure, and yes, a with a child's faith, hope, and love, insisting to her older sister's team, "You've got this!" I struck up a conversation with her mom, who laughed as she explained that they watch a lot of sports at their house, so this is a learned behavior. "I'm not even sure she really knows what it means!" she said.

I made a mental note (and a digital note in my phone) to remember the "you've got this voice."

After reflecting on that voice for a couple weeks, I'd like to share some thoughts.

1. "You've got this." The team didn't win that day, but they played well as a team, had fun, and built each other up. They believed in what they were doing, and that made playing the game worth it. In a world that is trying to make winners and losers out of everyone, let's remember that there is more to

life and who we are. It really is about how we play the game.

2. "You've got this." Having someone to cheer you on makes a world of difference, especially in the tough games. When that person is a member of your community - that encouragement keeps you going. We are called to be encouraging to each other.

3. "You've got this." Encouragement and positivity are learned behaviors. Whatever we do, we are sharing our attitudes, faith, and actions with our community. This includes those younger folks around us. If we encourage others, they will, too. If we believe in others, they will too.

Shortly after arriving at college, my roommate declared the following verse to be how she wanted to be known: "Therefore do not let unwholesome talk come out of your

mouth, but instead, lift others up, according to their need." (Ephesians 4:29) She wanted to be an encourager! I would like to encourage all of us to be encouragers as we enter this season of family, friend, work, and school gatherings. Friends, you've got this!

~ Pastor Melodie

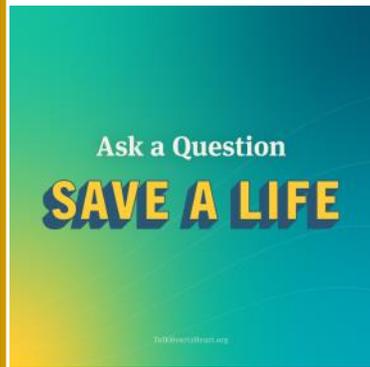
You've Got This!

ADVENT: Advent begins November 27. Look for more information soon about our Advent Mid-Week Meals and Worship on Wednesdays at 6 pm.





Trailblazers: Stop in Huxtable Tuesday morning, November 22 (Thanksgiving week!) just to connect and have a cup of coffee. No agenda, no time limit: just connect with friends. Church staff will provide coffee and treats that morning!



Faith Partners at Eastridge will be sponsoring a QPR training on

Wednesday, November 16! Join us in

the Huxtable Lounge from 6:00-7:00 pm (parents: it's conveniently scheduled during youth!) Not just for parents, this training helps us recognize warning signs in others. QPR is a suicidal thinking, behavior, attempts prevention training for participants to be able to recognize the warning signs and question, persuade, and refer people at risk (for help). RSVP encouraged but not necessary! There will be food!



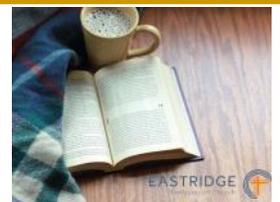
Thank you for your response to our stewardship campaign so far! If you still have not turned in a pledge card, our finance committee welcomes the opportunity to better plan a church budget for 2023. Thank you for your gifts and pledges!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



ChurchLife app info: Beginning November 1, you will no longer be able to download the ChurchLife app. IF YOU ALREADY HAVE IT on your phone, you will still be able to access it. For those who are interested in this app, click below for more information: <https://bit.ly/churchlifeinfo>

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.



The Worship and Music Committee is sponsoring another calendar fundraiser for our choral scholars.

Last year the calendars raised \$ 1,800 for the choral scholar program at Eastridge.

A sign up is available at the Welcome Desk. Please make checks payable to West Door Studios for \$ 30 and leave in office inbox.



The **Annual Meeting** to nominate and elect officers, and to approve Pastor's Terms of Call will be held on Sunday, November 13, directly following ONE service of worship (in person and online) at 10 am. Names listed below.

See you there!

Names for November 13 meeting:

Trustees:

Barry Stelk, Robbie Shortridge, Neil Bateman

Nominating:

Cheryl Byler, Cathy Duling, Robin Hadfield

Elders:

Kris Brenneis (Worship/Music)
Carolyn Olsen (Adult Education)
Carolyn Brandle (Fellowship)
Hope Shortridge (Youth)

Deacons:

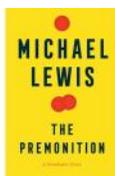
Merle Faubel, Corrine Faubel, Richard Neal, Charlene Neal, Tim Hansen, Berna Stading

LET'S CELEBRATE & GIVE THANKS TOGETHER

Following 10 am worship and
a short congregational
meeting

**A SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR
HOSTED BY THE DEACONS**

IN THE WELCOME CENTER
NOVEMBER 13, 2022



Book club for November 14: Join us to discuss *The Premonition* by Michael Lewis on Monday, November 14 at 7:00 pm in the conference room. Treats and discussion leader is Pat Schwan. For a list of this year's selections, head to the church website, What's New menu, then Calendar.

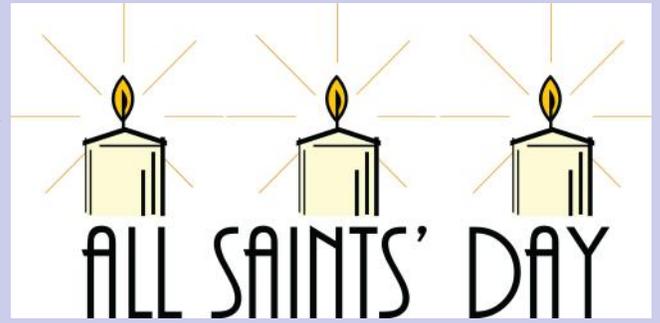
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of September 22, 2022.

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the memorial service of Robert (Bob) McInerny on September 22, 2022. The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Thomas Dummermuth officiated at the memorial service of Larry Schulze on October 27, 2022. The Session adopted a revised investment policy for Memorial and Endowment Funds.



All Saints Sunday: In the church's calendar, a special day is set aside to remember all those who have joined the church triumphant. All Saints Day is recognized on November 1.

All Saints Day will be celebrated in worship on Sunday, November 13, at 10:00 am.



Trailblazers for November: We will gather November 18 to clean church pews. Meet at 7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary and Welcome Center

Committee: Hicks, Stading. A copy of the Trailblazers Trek for 2022-2023 is available on the church website, on the calendar page.



Be Grateful Share the Bounty

November, A Month of Giving

Each week during the month of November, you are invited to gather donations of personal care, household cleaning items, and food for the Eastridge Food Pantry. Gather the items at home through the month or bring them to church every week. These products are not available from the Food Bank of Lincoln; they must be purchased using donated funds. Pack the Pantry shelves to show gratitude for all you have been given.

Collection from November 1-27

Dedication of Giving on November 27

Nov. 1-5: Personal Care Items (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, lotion, bar soap, toothpaste, etc.)

Nov. 6-12: Household Cleaning Items (laundry soap, all-purpose cleaner, dish soap, sanitizing spray, etc.)

Nov. 13-19; Personal Care Items (toilet paper, feminine products, shave cream, razors, adult diapers, etc.)

Nov. 20-27: Cooking Items (5 Lb. potatoes, salt, baking soda, cooking oil, pasta sauce and pasta other than spaghetti, etc.)

- Items can be purchased online and delivered to the church by merchant
- Gift cards from merchants can be donated

Eastridge Food Pantry by the Numbers

10,359 Individuals served in the past year

3,562 households served in the past year

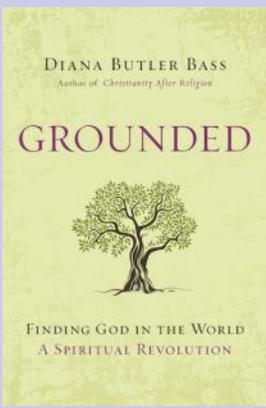
1,000 dollars spent every month to purchase items not available from Food Bank

550 percent growth in number of households served in the past year

60 loaves of bread distributed weekly

53 volunteers serving regularly

2 days the Pantry is open each week



"Grounded": A book conversation around the fire pit

Join us for a lively conversation inspired by Diana Butler Bass's book "Grounded: Finding God in the World". A Spiritual Revolution!

We'll meet outdoors if the weather allows --underneath the canopy of the trees on the north side of the church building.

We will set up a campfire and provide for hot cider.

Bring your own camping chair, and please dress appropriately for fall temperatures.

(In case of inclement weather, we'll meet in the Huxtable Lounge.)

When: November 3, 6-7:30pm

The November meeting focuses on Part Two: Human Geography.

(And yes, you'll benefit from the conversations even if you didn't read the book!)

About the book: Attentiveness to the question, "Where is

God?" takes us on a journey into the spiritual geography of our own lives and finding God in nature and neighbor.

The headlines are clear: religion is on the decline in America as many people leave behind traditional religious practices. But Diana Butler Bass argues that what appears to be a decline actually signals a major transformation in how people understand and experience God: from a distant God of conventional religion to a more intimate sense of the sacred that is with us in the world. This shift is at the heart of a spiritual revolution that surrounds us.

Grounded explores this cultural turn as Bass unpacks how people are finding new spiritual ground by discovering and embracing God everywhere in the world around us--in the soil, the water, the sky, in our homes and neighborhoods, and in the global commons. Faith is no longer a matter of mountaintop experience or institutional practice;

instead, people are connecting with God through the environment in which we live.



Some photos of our October potluck!

Thank you to all who attended!





YOUTH FUNDRAISING

This summer the Youth Group will head out for a summer mission trip. While we have not yet chosen a location, the youth are very excited that we will be able to travel again! Youth mission trips are a wonderful opportunity for our young people to learn about the needs of others. It is a hands-on way for them to live out our Matthew 25 initiative. To help with some of the cost of our trip, we will be hosting a fundraiser November 13th – 15th.



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES – We will be hosting a POP-UP sale for Ten Thousand Villages on November 13th – 15th in the Welcome Center at the church. Church and neighborhood members will be invited to come shop and hopefully start your Christmas shopping. This year Ten Thousand Village will also provide us with a second shopping option by giving us a coupon code. If you are not yet comfortable shopping with a crowd, you can purchase items online and use an EPC specific coupon code. When that is used, we will get credit for the sale. By hosting, the Youth Group will receive 15% of the total sales. The store shared with us that our sale is their biggest POP-UP sale by far.

The reason we choose to do a Sunday – Tuesday sale is because we have several outside groups that meet in our building throughout the day on Monday and Tuesday. The last two times we have done this sale, those

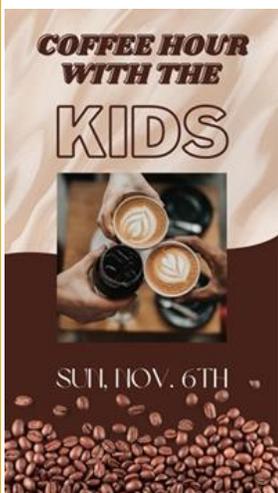
groups have supported our sale. To accommodate the groups, we have the sale open during daytime hours. Our youth are in school during some of this and we could use help from members of the congregation that might have a few hours to help us out. If you are willing to staff the sale for a couple hours on Monday or Tuesday morning/afternoon, please contact Kris Adler-Brammer in the church office or Alinda Stelk at banda7383@gmail.com. We can give you specific details about what this would entail.



“YOU’VE BEEN ELFED” – The second fundraiser the Youth Group is hosting is a grouping of Christmas Elf yard signs. Church members and friends will have the opportunity to “rent” the group of signs to place in neighbor or friends front yard for 48 hours. The rental fee is \$25 for one set of signs for one 48-hour period. The youth group will do the drop off and pick up. We will have two sets of signs, and each will have a place where you can put yourself in the sign to take pictures. This is a perfect thing for families with young children. You could “rent” one for yourself, your grandchildren or that favorite neighbor who has small children. The first day the signs will be available is Friday, December 2nd and the last day they are available is Friday, December 24th. In the next few weeks, youth group members will be available on Sunday morning to take your reservation. You will also be able to contact Kris in in the church office to schedule a reservation.



Eastridge is **STILL** 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 one bench! We can collect for another, so keep collecting and bringing in your clean plastic bags!**



On Tuesday, November 1st, our children's faith formation classes will learn about the story of **Rebekah and Isaac**. This story has many parts but one of the lessons is hospitality. During our class, we will take time to learn what hospitality means and what it looks like. To give us a chance to practice our new skills, the **children will then host the coffee hour on Sunday, November 6th**. We will learn about greeting people, how you introduce yourself to others, and how to have a conversation. We won't be able to practice these skills without **YOU!** Please plan to join us for coffee hour on November 6th and experience some great fellowship time with our children and families.

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Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon.....Senior Pastor
 Rev. Thomas Dummermuth.....Associate Pastor
 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
 Laura Siemsen.....Administrative Assistant
 Office number.....402-488-7844
 Melodie Jones Pointon: mjonespointon@eastridge.org
 Thomas Dummermuth: tdummermuth@eastridge.org

MEET THE STAFF

EPW's THANK OFFERING SERVICE will be held Sunday, November 20 with guest preacher Rev. Tobi White, pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lincoln. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries.



Angel Tree at Eastridge~Holiday Giving 2022: The Angel Tree with angels/ornaments for gift giving will be set up in the Welcome Center by November 20. Most of the angels will have a wish/request for gift cards for Clinton Elementary and Aging Partners. We will have a few angels with wishes for Women at Fresh Start and games for Clinton families. Some will be ornaments for Presbyterian Giving for World Mission. There will be instructions on the ornaments. Add a pair of gloves or mittens on the tree for adults and children! Thank you for bringing joy to others. If questions, contact Susan Taylor at 402-617-8414.

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



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NOVEMBER

