



From the Pastor's Pen...

At long last, the summer is here! After a wonderful spring, it is nice to have the long warm summer days for rest, relaxation, and restoration. For many of us it is a time of transition as our children finish one grade and prepare for the next grade; as graduates complete one course of study and prepare for their next; as new careers are begun; and as those retired years begin.

For us, and our community, we celebrate 70 years of faith community in Lincoln, Nebraska, and wonder: what is next for us?

As the moderator of the session, I would like to thank everyone who recently participated in the Bridgebuilder process with Cindy Halvorson and John Lee from Leaderwise. Through interviews, group discussions, and surveys, Cindy and John reflected back some of the things that were repeatedly mentioned. On Sunday, May 7, we met for an Anniversary Celebration Dinner, and to hear their report. The session will be meeting mid-June to discuss the report and discern a way forward for our community.

One thing, however, that I heard in many different ways is that we are a community that is longing to connect with each other. Toward that end, over these summer months, we will be spending time worshipping together as one community - in person and online at 10 am. We hope there is time before and after worship for conversation in the Welcome Center. You will also find opportunities like the Ladies' Night Out annual trip to Lauritzen Gardens, Dinner for Six, and a study on Belonging.

Which is where community begins - with belonging.

May each and every one of us this season know we belong to a God who loves us beyond all measure, and whose love brings us into this holy and beloved community called the church.

In Christ, Pastor Melodie



SUMMER MUSIC AT EASTRIDGE!

Wow, thanks to everyone who has already volunteered to help lead worship this summer! Do you play an instrument or sing and want to help make our summer worship be a blessing? Reach out to our summer volunteer music coordinator Brent Shaw about sharing in worship till we get back to the fall with our choirs and a new choir director.

Upcoming summer special music:

May 28 (Pentecost) - Jazz music from Brett Meier and Brent and friends

June 4 - Bill Reichert, piano/organ and Heather Wherry, singing

June 11 - Kylie Meter, vocalist and Vilynn Decker and Megan Eisenbart, trumpet

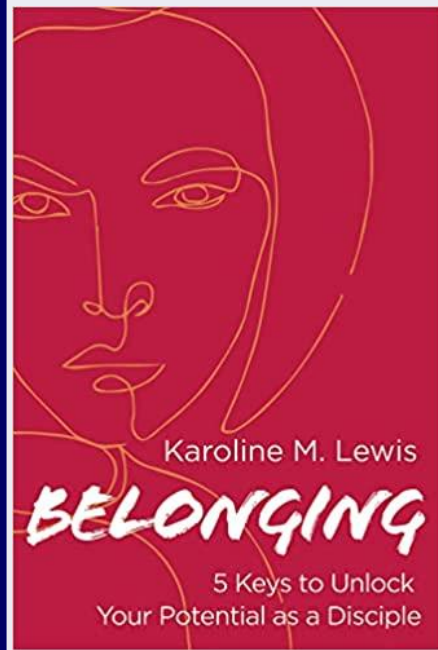
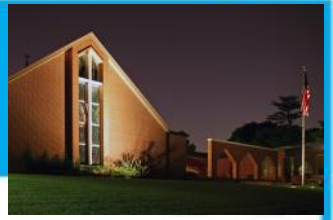
June 18 - Diane Eaton, piano/singing

June 25 - Zachary Jacobsen and Hope Shortridge, violas, and Will McGuire vocals/guitar

July 2 - Sarah and Joel Herrera, singing and guitar

July 9 - Kristin Unterseher, violin

Psalm 100 - Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands. Serve the Lord with singing and come into God's presence with a song!



"Somewhere in the history of our developing belief in and relationship with Jesus, we likely latched on to a story in the Bible in which we could see ourselves. The story helped us make sense of our own experiences of God. We connected with the characters, the scene, the details, the conversation—and with what the story revealed about God. Perhaps without realizing it at the time, the story shaped both our life with Jesus and our knowing of God."
Lewis, Karoline M.. *Belonging* (p. x). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

Join Pastors Melodie and Thomas for a summer Bible story exploration! Using Karoline Lewis' book, *Belonging*, as a guide for our study, we'll identify who in the Bible inspires us. Meets Thursday mornings in June at 10 am on Zoom.

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/belongingbookstudy>



CHANGES TO WORSHIP SCHEDULE: We will be joining as one worshipping community in person and online at 10 am (started May 28). Hope to see you!



**FACES
OF OUR
FAITH**
BOLD & UNTOLD STORIES

"I think we all need a person in the Bible, that character who embodies for us what believing in God looks like and feels like. In them we see aspects of ourselves. It is through them that we are better able to articulate what faith means in our own lives. It is through them that we gain a better sense of who God is calling us to be. In them we also see who God is and key characteristics of God, because God made God's very self known to them. God showed up in their lives, and they responded in ways with which we resonate." (Lewis, Karoline M.. *Belonging* (p. ix). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.)

This summer we're exploring those Biblical characters that inspire us, challenge us, and remind us of us. Who is this person for you? And why? Each week, we'll tell the bold and untold stories of people whose life and faith resonates with ours. E-mail your suggestions and stories to mjonespointon@eastridge.org or tdummermuth@eastridge.org.



Mental Health Café June 21 at 6:30 PM

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



Mental Health Café June 21, 6:30 PM

Approximately 1 in 5 people in the US experience some form of mental illness in a given year. There is a pressing need for identifying ways to help people cope with overwhelming stress. And yet, the stigma attached to discussing mental health is strong. We want to change that.

Join us for our first Mental Health Café: an opportunity for a conversations around mental health and related topics in a free an open atmosphere. Everyone is invited: whether you bring your own personal experience or you are concerned about a loved one or you simply want to listen. Guests: Deb Davidson Knight, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner; McKenzie Jones, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; Otto B. Schultz, M. Div., LADC (Ret.), Faith Partners Nebraska.

Coffee and treats will be provided. RSVP requested but not required. (sponsored by EPC Faith Partners).

Questions? Contact Pastor Thomas, 402-488-1454 or tdummermuth@eastridge.org

FROM THE EASTRIDGE OUTREACH COMMITTEE: The federal Farm Bill is a package of legislation passed roughly once every five years that has a tremendous impact on farming livelihoods, how food is grown, what kinds of foods are grown, and who will consume that food. The estimated cost is expected to exceed \$1,000,000,000,000 (yes, trillion with a T!), and 80% of spending is focused on nutrition programs (e.g., SNAP).

You can find plenty of information about the hunger and nutrition issues addressed by the Farm Bill at the Bread for the World web site, as well as an e-mail that can easily be sent to our representatives in Congress. Just follow www.bread.org



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



EASTRIDGE
FOOD PANTRY

The **Eastridge Food Pantry:** Here are the links for volunteers
(Distributing food: <https://bit.ly/FPDistFood>)

Filling boxes: <https://bit.ly/FPFillingBoxes>



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: MAY 25, 2023

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of April 27, 2023.

The Session acknowledged that communion was served at the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services on May 7, 2023.

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Dummermuth officiated at the graveside service of Karen Paulsen on April 16, 2023, at Lincoln Memorial Funeral Park, and at the memorial service of Doug Fowler on May 19, 2023, at Roper and Sons South Chapel.

The Session acknowledged that the Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the memorial service of the Rev. Dr. Timothy McClain on May 22, 2023, at Eastridge, hosted on behalf of Homestead Presbytery.

The Session approved a motion to allow the Eastridge Neighborhood Association to host a “Sip and Swap” event in the church parking lot in the fall.

The Session will have a special called meeting to discuss the LeaderWise report on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 6 p.m.

The Session approved hosting a large metal letter created by

Blake Allen, a student at Lincoln East and The Career Academy. The letters are intended to spread awareness about mental health issues.

Steve Anderson, Treasurer, reported that an opportunity will be provided for members of the congregation to learn about church finances after the worship service on June 4, 2023.

Bill Wehrbein provided a report on the Homestead Presbytery meeting. Presbytery is entering the implementation of the visioning process with its strategic plan. Teams are replacing committees which will require fewer people to serve. Staff will include the Stated Clerk, an administrative assistant, a volunteer treasurer, and a part-time facilitating presbyter.

Presbytery heard the first reading of an agreement to pass ownership of Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center to the Calvin Crest Board. Presbytery will continue to provide financial support.

Presbytery voted on the proposed amendments to the Book of Order. Most were approved in the consent agenda. Others approved after discussion addressed the use of “honorably retired;” providing 12 weeks of parental leave in pastoral calls; and new church discipline procedures.

Lefler Market 2022-2023

students served	students and staff served	total households (students)	total households (all)
1054	1170	4466	4806

The school year is over and we did our last Market on May 3rd. Since September we served the above students and staff at Lefler Middle School.

I would like to thank the 12 EPC members we have had work this past year volunteering at the Markets, your help is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Hopefully we will be back distributing from the Cafeteria next fall, I will keep the group posted.

~Susan Budler





THE GATHERING PLACE: Eastridge Presbyterian Church arranges to provide 4-5 volunteers at The Gathering Place, a local soup kitchen, on the 4th Monday of each month. For more information on what this entails, contact the church office. Thank you to all Eastridge members who volunteer to serve at The Gathering Place. **A sign up for 2023 is here: <https://bit.ly/TheGatheringPlace2023>**



Why I Love Eastridge: we're looking for people to share just prior to the offering during worship.

Please contact the office or email a pastor if you would be willing to do this!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

On Saturday, June 3rd, a portion of the youth group departs for Tokio, ND for this summer's mission trip. Our trip is in partnership with the youth group at First Presbyterian in Lincoln. We are spending the week at Bdecan (Bah-DAY-chan) Presbyterian Church which is part of the Dakota Presbytery. It is the only Indian Presbyterian Church in the state of North Dakota (<https://www.bdecanchurch.com>). While we are there, we will spend time with the church's children by providing a couple of days of summer faith formation activities. We will share Bible stories, engage in recre-



ation, and do some art projects to help the children engage with the stories. In addition, we will help the church to organize

and prepare for their July offering at their Clothing Closet and Food Pantry. Most importantly, we will spend some time with one of the Church members as they share about their community and the history of the Reservation. Please keep these folks in your prayers as we work in community with the folks at the Bdecan Church – Olive Herrera, Mia Olsen, Hope Shortridge, and Kris Adler-Brammer from Eastridge and Jaide Loehr, Emily Van Meter, Lydia Van Meter, and Kris “Bubba” Brammer from First.



Haylie Chapman is the daughter of Brandi Phillips & Shannon Chestnut and Lori Chapman. She graduated from Lincoln East High School. During High

School, Haylie has met with a group at a nearby dog park and worked at Arby's. Haylie participated in the life of the church through Sunday School, VBS, Youth Group and Mission Trips, and the Choir. This fall Haylie will attend SCC to begin her studies and then transfer to Wayne State College to study criminal psychology.

Bangot Dak is the son of Peter Dak and Nyabuok Thoal. He graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School. During High School, Bangot has been a part of the Boys' Basketball team. Bangot is a confirmed member of EPC where he has participated in Sunday School and Youth Group. This fall Bangot will work toward furthering his dream of playing college basketball.



Isabella Lecher is the daughter of Jeffery and Jennifer Lecher. She graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School. During High School, Isabella was involved in band, speech and debate, theater, the National Honors Society, young democrats, and the Leadership Ca-

dre. Isabella has participated in the life of the church through the Food Pantry and being a part of the Handbell Choir. In the fall, Isabella will attend Stanford University in California where she will major in History.



Amber Lundquist is the daughter of Jeff and Becky Lundquist. She graduated from Lincoln Northeast High School. During High School, Amber was a cheerleader, played volleyball,

sang with Elevation Show Choir, and was a member of the French Club. In the community, she has been a part of Kiwanis K-Kids and Girl Scouts. She has also played club volleyball and been a volleyball coach for River City Juniors. Amber participated in the life of the church through Youth Group. This fall Amber will attend Southeast Community College where she will begin her studies in Psychology.

Also graduating with the Class of 2023 is Taryn Anderson, Alyssa Dahlheim, and Hannah Nyhoff.



Dinner for Six groups: with our move to one worship service, we'd like to encourage you to get to know your worshipping community!

Please sign up below if you'd like to be included in a Dinner/Lunch for Six group (or fill out a form available at the Welcome Desk and leave in the office inbox). We'll connect you (if you sign up by Friday morning prior), and you can decide where to head for a meal or coffee after worship on Sunday. Or bring your own lunch and enjoy a meal and fellowship on the church patio! If you'd like some ice-breaker ideas for conversation, our Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Kris Adler-Brammer, is a great resource.

Check out the sign up here:
<https://bit.ly/DinnerForSixEPC>

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
Brent Shaw.....Organist
Will McGuire.....Worship Leader
Vince Ruhl.....Director of Online Ministries
Brett Meier.....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

LADIES NIGHT OUT:

We will head to Omaha to **Lauritzen Gardens** on Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 am (following second worship service). Meet in the parking lot to carpool, or contact the office if you'd like to meet us there. For more info, check out the LNO Facebook page.



LAURITZEN GARDENS
OMAHA'S BOTANICAL CENTER



Fourth Friday Women's Coffee:

On the fourth Friday of each month, join this (mostly) retired group of ladies that meet in Huxtable Lounge here at Eastridge for coffee at 8:30 am. Join us June 23!



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Lincoln NE 68510

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