



EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



Christ-Centered. Community Strong.
2023 Annual Report

Our mission statement:

*The God of Scripture
Calling Individuals
Into Community through Christ
Empowered by the Spirit
To Worship, Learn and Serve.*

Eastridge Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon.....Senior Pastor
mjonespointon@eastridge.org

The Rev. Thomas Dummermuth.....Associate Pastor
tdummermuth@eastridge.org

Kris Adler-Brammer.....Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Donna Gustafson.....Office Manager

Andy Kalnins.....Weekend Custodian

Will McGuire.....Worship Leader

Brent Shaw.....Choir Director/ Organist

Vince Ruhl.....Director of Online Worship

Laura Siensen.....Administrative Assistant

Brett Meier.....Audio Visual Tech

Sydney Mitchell.....Nursery

Eastridge Presbyterian Church

1135 Eastridge Drive

Lincoln, Nebraska 68510-5014

Phone: (402) 488-7844

www.eastridge.org

2023 Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda
January 28, 2024
10:45 am

Opening Prayer – The Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon

Approval of the Docket

Meeting of the Congregation – The Rev. Melodie Jones Pointon, Moderator

- Minutes of the 2023 Congregational Meetings
- Annual Report
- Necrology Report – The Rev. Thomas Dummermuth
- Motion to suspend the Congregational Meeting

Meeting of the Corporation – President of the Corporation

- Opening Prayer
- Update on Projects Completed in 2023
- Update on Projects Anticipated in 2024
- Questions, Answers, Suggestions, and Recommendations for the Trustees
- Closing Prayer

Reconvening of the Congregational Meeting

- Report and Review of 2023 Financial Records—Steve Anderson, Treasurer
- Presentation of the 2024 Budget – George Kilpatrick
- Motion to amend the bylaws of the congregation & corporation
- Expression of Thanks
- Questions, Answers, Suggestions and Recommendations for the Session

Motion to Adjourn

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon

Associate Pastor
Rev. Thomas Dummermuth



Return. In many regards, 2023 was a year of returning. As the early months of January and February marched along, a lot of the uncertainty and anxiety of the past years slipped away. Many of us had imagined how and when this might happen. We, like many, had visions of taking the opportunity to address systems and traditions that no longer work for us - personally, as a community, and yes, worldwide. World news included the continued war in the Ukraine and continued political tension. The stock market continued to bump around, waiting for a rebound from the efforts of the Federal Reserve. For the Eastridge faith community, there were still many questions to answer about who we are and who we are called to be. Even as the world set about returning, the session invited the community to reflect on who we are.

Reflect. Eastridge Presbyterian Church was chartered in 1953 on what was the edge of town. Seventy years later, to celebrate and observe the community's significance, we entered into a time of reflection on our past, present, and future. Engaging the services of Leaderwise, we worked with Cindy Halvorson and John Lee. They interviewed community members representative of the congregation, as well as members of the staff. Then they came to visit us, where we spent two days exploring our history, unpacking our present, and looking to our future. Perhaps one of the most interesting ways of exploring our history was the creation of a timeline at the Saturday evening history event. Members were given sticky-notes and asked to contribute important events. It was really touching to see the many ways the community has journeyed together, and fascinating to connect those events with the happenings of the wider world. The next day, we gathered after our Sunday morning service to unpack our present. It is well worth noting in this narrative history report, that church attendance did not return to pre-pandemic levels. There are many national surveys that tell the story. There are also articles written for major newspapers that continue to ask the question about the importance of faith in America. Together we made some difficult acknowledgements, noting trends that have been happening for quite some time. We made space to listen to each other as we shared some of the things and people we miss and some things we don't miss. After our time together, Cindy and John formed a final report and made plans to share it with us.

Reduce and Renew. We've included the full Leaderwise Report here, and encourage you to read it. It shares some hard truths - like our staff may need some revisions of job descriptions; we are in need of more participants in some of our core ministries - like children, youth, and food pantry; well over half of our Sunday morning attendance is needed to serve on boards designed for a church twice our current size; and there's still a lingering question about belonging and membership - what does it mean to be a member of this community, and who belongs. While the report outlined many more things, the session formed three task forces to consider these questions and explore ways to think about them. Leaderwise emphasized that these questions are not problems to solve. Rather, they are guides for questions and conversations.

Some things became clear and did actually have answers. In the summer, we moved from two services to one service that is in person and livestreamed. Both communities continue to be strong, and we believe we have created ways to be involved in both. We continue to have online and in person offerings for studies and meetings and gatherings for all ages. Our sermon series in August intentionally left space during worship for people to spend time in conversation with each other, which we followed up with a meal after every service hosted by the deacons. After this important time of building sacred community, we spent the fall months working our way through Ecclesiastes 3, "To everything there is a

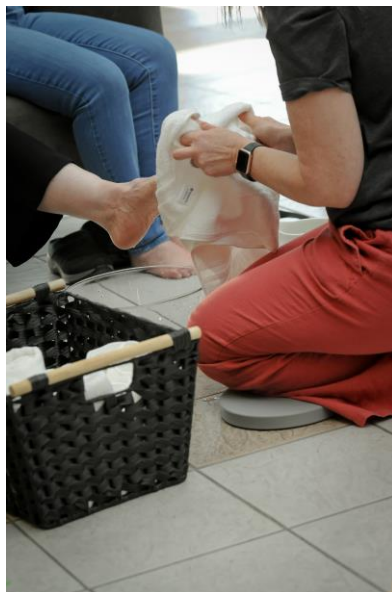
season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." In this sacred space of community, we acknowledged the changing of the seasons for the church universal as well as for our faith community.

There are many things we will remember about this ministry year - baptisms and funerals and weddings and studies and conversations. As pastors, we have been involved on the boards of the Sudan/South Sudan Mission Network (Melodie), Lutheran Center (Thomas), Justice in Action (Melodie), and Presbytery (Thomas). Our Faith Partners have had two Mental Health Cafe's, which have provided meaningful and safe spaces for conversations about the challenges of mental health. The Nebraska Corona Bible is completed, and ready to be distributed. Our connection with the Sudan/South Sudan Mission Network remains strong, including traveling to the annual network meeting and hosting mission co-workers Bob and Kristi Rice. Through our work with Justice in Action, our relationships with other faith communities continue to grow.

Overall, the year has been one of moving from staff-driven ministries to staff-supported ministries. We are thankful for the encouragement and support from the congregation to follow our passions as we engage in the wider community. We are humbled by the invitation to enter personal sacred spaces of joy and sorrow. As we enter our eleventh year of ministry with this faith community, we continue to feel blessed by this congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon and Rev. Thomas Dummermuth



Eastridge Session 2023

Kurt Beck
(Personnel Committee)

William Wehrbein
(Serve Commission)

Lois Wies
(Personnel Committee)

Doug McDaniel
(Stewardship)

Gary Kilian
(Nominating Committee)

Robin Hadfield
(Clerk) *non-voting member

Chris Boden
(Learn Commission/Children's Faith Formation)

George Kilpatrick
(Finance Committee)

Alinda Stelk
(Learn Commission/Youth Faith Formation)

Kris Brenneis
(Worship Commission/Worship)

Carolyn Brandle
(Worship Commission/GROW)

Hope Shortridge
(Youth)

*Melodie Jones Pointon
(Moderator, Senior Pastor)

Thomas Dummermuth
(Associate Pastor)

Eastridge Trustees 2023

Susan Budler
Bill Bevens
Shirley Flynn
Nancy Hall
Diane Rice
Ray Schapmann
Robbie Shortridge
Barry Stelk
Lisa Woito-Petty

Leader Wise Task Force(s):

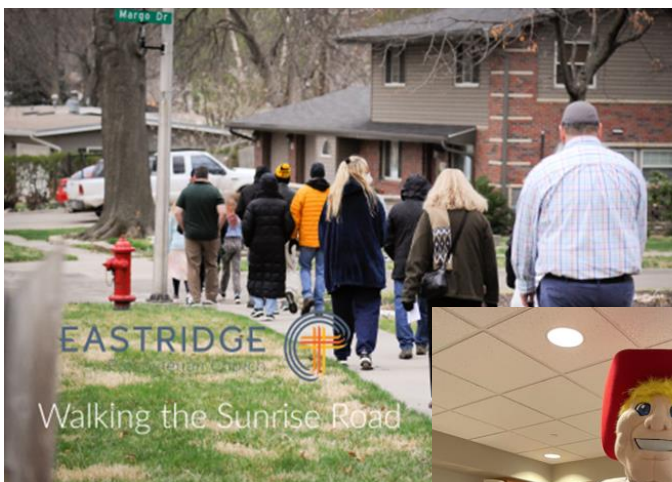
Jo Bateman
Sara Bevens
Chris Boden
Carolyn Brandle
Susan Budler
Robin Hadfield
Gail Keown
George Kilpatrick
Doug McDaniel
Debbie Merritt
Darrell Nelson
Hope Shortridge
Robby Shortridge
Alinda Stelk
Tena Whiston

WORSHIP

WORSHIP COMMISSION

The Worship Commission is comprised of the senior pastor and elders who are responsible for three general areas of focus—worship and music, growth and hospitality, and fellowship. Several task forces function within these areas of focus. Participation in task forces is welcomed and encouraged!

Worship and Music Task Forces	GROW Task Forces	Fellowship Task Forces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult choirs (Chancel, Handbell) • Large musical works • Worship teams • Ushers • Sanctuary Technology • Choir fellowship • Children's music • Children's worship resources and connections • Communion • Hospice Singers • Worship and Music Advisory Committee • Visual displays • Wedding coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday morning hospitality/greeters • Visitor follow-up • New member orientation • Neighborhood outreach • Online devotions • Prayer chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday worship • Holiday Gatherings • Ice cream Social • Ladies' Night Out • Fourth Friday Women's Coffee • Men's Tuesday Morning Coffee • Trailblazers • Book club • Parents of Youth • YANA (You Are Not Alone, a group for those who have lost a spouse) • Eastridge Faith Partners



LEARN

The Learn Commission is comprised of the Associate Pastor, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, and 3 elders: 1 each for Children, Youth, and Adult. This Commission is focused on the Christian Education and Faith Formation of all age groups. We welcome participation in our various task force areas.

Children (K-5th grade) task forces:

- *Faith Formation
Tuesday afternoons
- *Camp Calvin Crest- Summer Camp
- *Children's Christmas Program

Youth (6-12th grade) Task Forces:

- *Faith Formation
- *Youth Group
- *Confirmation
- *Retreats
- *Mission trips
- *Fundraising
- *Youth Sunday
- *Graduate Recognition








Adult Task Forces:

- *Bible Studies (in person and Zoom)
- *Lent and Advent Studies
- *Book Club(s)
- *Men's Breakfast
- *Retreats
- *Circles

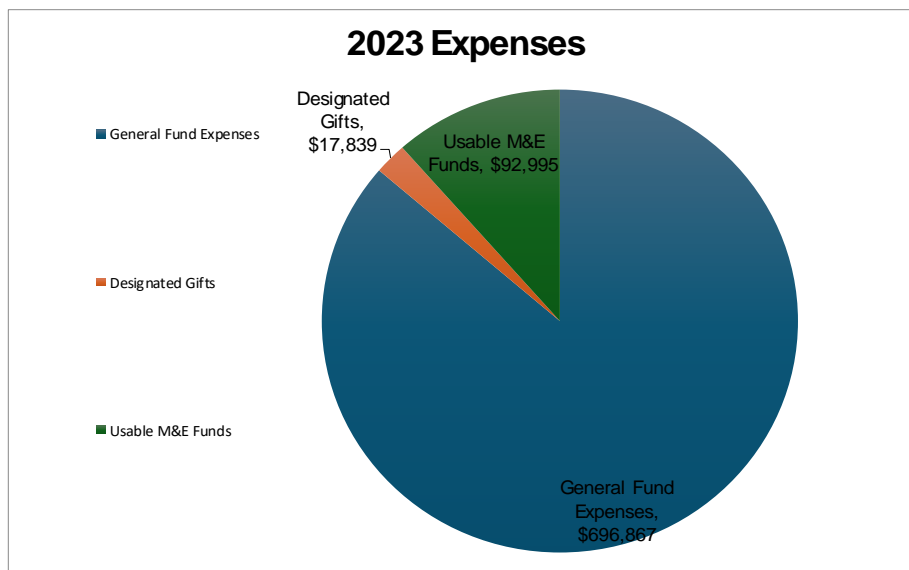
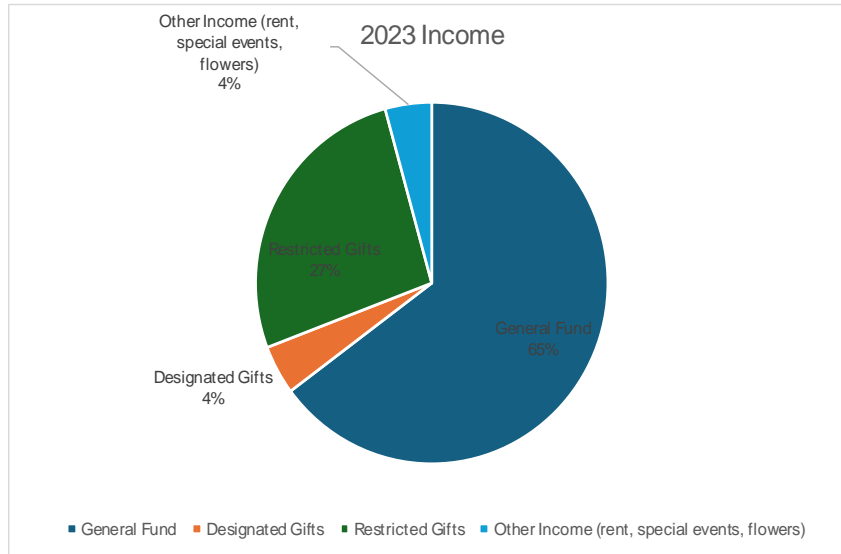


SERVE

The Serve Commission is comprised of the ruling elders responsible for stewardship, outreach, and nominating, along with the moderator(s) of the Board of Deacons. The task of this commission is to provide leadership for areas of service to the church, our local community and the greater community. Our intent is to live as Christ would have us live, serving as the hands and feet of God. Several task forces function in each area of focus. Each task force is responsible for the work of their group and are accountable to the Serve Commission to report about their work and to request funds, if needed. Many groups are open to anyone interested in that ministry of the church.

OUTREACH	DEACONS
<p>OUTREACH COMMITTEE TASKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a budget for use of the funds budgeted for Outreach • Approve quarterly dispersals to PCUSA and local missions (direct services) • Approve Emerging Needs requests as necessary • Publicize and receive 4 PCUSA special offerings and Christmas Eve offering. • Communicate with PCUSA missions we support • Monitoring EPC Hunger Ministries <p>OUTREACH TASK FORCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angel Tree • Justice in Action • Eastridge Food Pantry • Eastridge Faith Partners • Sudan/South Sudan Mission Network <p><u>Potential Outreach Task forces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCUSA World Mission Partnership • Neighborhood Partnership and Development • Support for Maker Village • Other Local Agencies 	<p>DEACON MINISTRIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Visitation & Communion • Communication with Members • Tending the needs of the sick, the Eastridge Neighborhood, those grieving, new parents and young families • Welcoming members, and visitors • Mentoring new members • Transportation <p>DEACON TASK FORCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Holiday Flowers • Advent & Lent postcards • Meals at home • Funeral meals—preparation and serving • Coffee service—prepare, serve and clean-up coffee and food, when provided • Prayer Shawls • EPC Prayer Chain Facebook group <div>   </div> <div>   </div> <div>   </div>

2023 Financial Information



2023 Financial Summary

General Fund Income	\$551,159
Transfers from Investments	\$118,111
Designated Gifts	\$17,839
Miscellaneous	\$9,758
Total General Expenses	\$696,868

2024 Budget as Approved by Session

January 25, 2024

2024 Budgeted Expenses

General Budget Expenses (Administrative
Supplies and Costs)

Faith Formation (Children, Youth, Adult, and
Intergenerational)

Worship (Worship and Music)

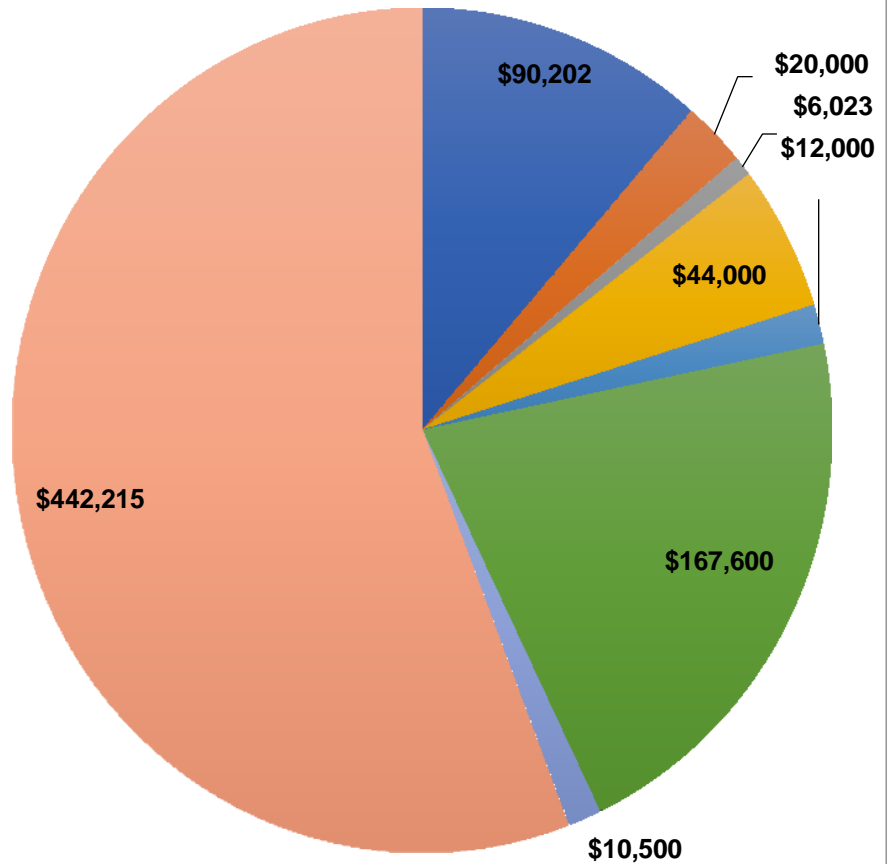
Serve (Outreach and Mission)

Congregational Care

Building (Utilities, Maintenance,
Insurance)

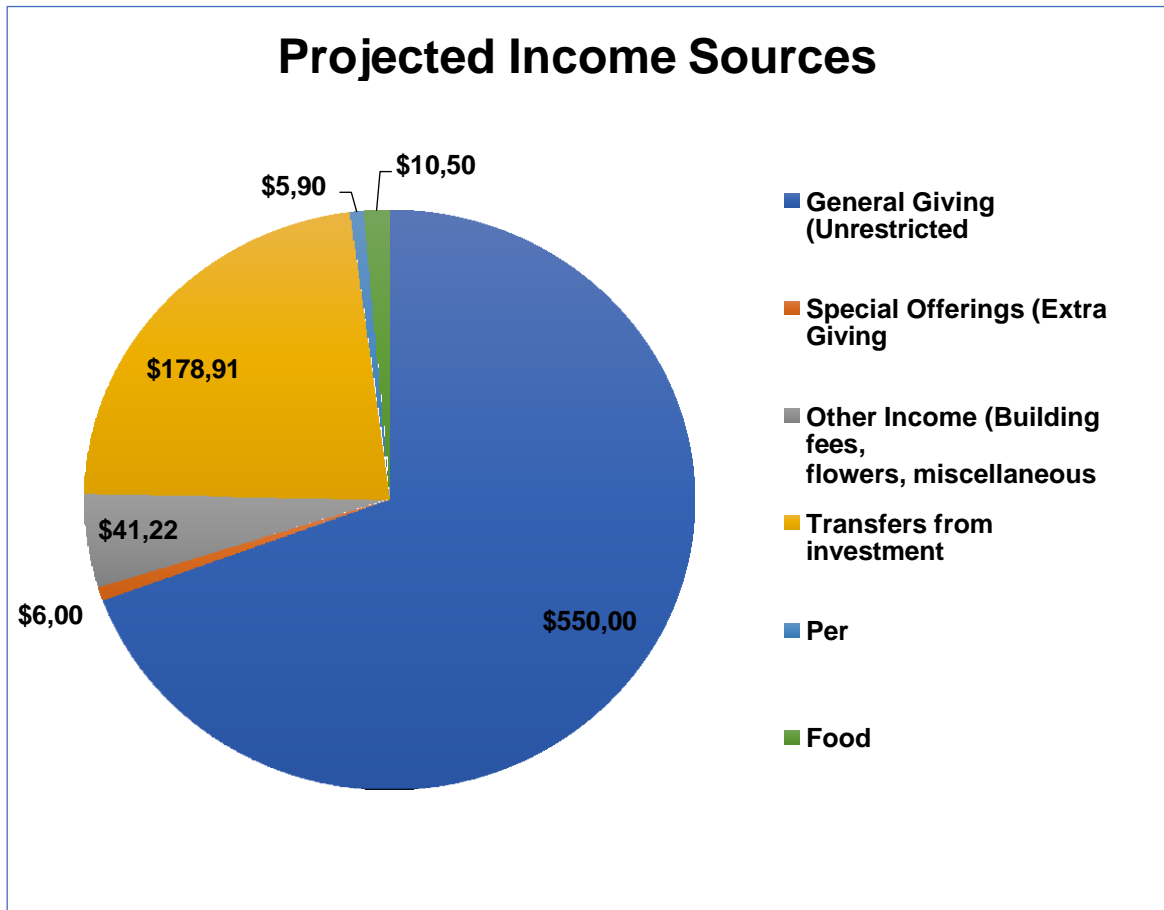
Food Pantry

Personnel



2024 Budget as Approved by Session

January 25, 2024 (continued)



2024 Budget	
Budget Approved 1/25/24	\$792,540
Anticipated Income & Transfers	\$792,540
Over/(Under)	\$ 0

Church Statistics

