



The Nebraska Corona Bible - A Final Update!



It's been four years!

On a late Saturday night in 2020, a few weeks after the world stood still, I was still trying to find a word to preach for Palm Sunday, when a story in my inbox piqued my interest: A colleague from my native Switzerland, Rev. Uwe Habenicht, had launched this project to copy the complete Bible by hand, as a community effort by members of his community.

I was immediately intrigued. The idea seemed crazy — and yet so simple. And therefore exactly what was needed.

See: the COVID-19 pandemic catapulted faith communities into the digital world. As it turned out: our modern technologies proved to be extraordinary tools to stay connected.

Overnight, ordinary faith leaders became “televangelists” — often against their inclination and despite their lack of training. And the adaptive work we saw at play was nothing short of impressive!

And yet, we also knew that digital-only ministry wasn't for everyone. This is why this project so deeply resonated with me: Writing by hand is analog, tactile, simple. An old school technology that requires nothing more than pen and paper. At the same time, it is also an ancient spiritual practice: People have copied holy texts for centuries. In monasteries, scribes spent many cold winter months in the scriptorium, lettering the text, illuminating it with illustrations, and sometimes adding peculiar comments in the margins. And those who had experience copying sacred texts kept point-

ing to a centering effect that transcended time and place.

I loved the idea of doing this in community, as a coordinated effort of individuals each writing a passage. As we used to say in the beginning of the pandemic: “We're all in this together.” Here, people were weaving once again their sacred story together. Beyond anything else, this project seemed hopeful: a way of creating something beautiful in the midst of a chaotic time.

So today, I am pleased to announce the Nebraska Corona Bible Update we've all been waiting for: the Nebraska Corona Bible is complete! Our very own adaptation of this endeavor of hand copying all 1,189 chapters of the Christian

Scriptures was completed by the hands of 483 individuals from all across Nebraska or with some kind of connection to the Cornhusker state. They are believers of all stripes, as well as folks who don't call a particular faith their own. At the time, some were as young as 9 years old, some in their nineties. Some are saints who have since passed on.



Over the next couple weeks we invite you to come have a look at a printed version at the church. (Or, you may want to acquire your own copy - whether a printed or a digital version.) You will find simple handwriting next to calligraphy and true works of art. And yes, if you search for them, you will find typos, duplicates, or skipped lines, too. It is not a work of perfection, but a labor of love. Something beautiful we have done together.

I want to express my deep and sincere gratitude to everyone who made this project a reality with their contribution:

Thank you to each individual writer, to those who helped sort and review, and those who kept nudging me with questions like, “When is the Corona Bible finally done?” (You know who you are.)

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Thank you to my colleague in Switzerland, Rev. Uwe Habenicht, for his permission to adapt his idea to our Nebraska context.

Thank you to my friends, the Rev. Adam White, former campus minister at Lutheran Center (ELCA) at UNL, as well as Mother Amanda Gott, former rector at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church who were the first to jump on this project.

Thank you to Larry Moon and his team at The Printer, Lincoln, for their wonderful work and patience.

Thank you to the session and congregation of Eastridge Presbyterian Church for their support of this

crazy idea.

Recently, I read this challenge by theologian and author Miroslav Volf:

"How might it be possible of us to live beautiful lives, lives of dignity and goodness, lives that have weight and meaning even in circumstances that, like fierce and stubborn enemies, conspire to rob us of joys and envelop us in the sooty grayness of desolation?"

May the Nebraska Corona Bible be just one attempt to answer this challenge.

Thomas Dummermuth

Lent 2024



Justice in Action: Mark your calendar for 6:30pm on MAY 2!

The second annual Nehemiah Rally will take place on May 2nd at St. Mark's United Methodist Church (8550 Pioneers Blvd) at 6:30pm. This rally brings faith communities from across Lancaster County together to ask our officials to make systemic changes to bring justice to those in need.

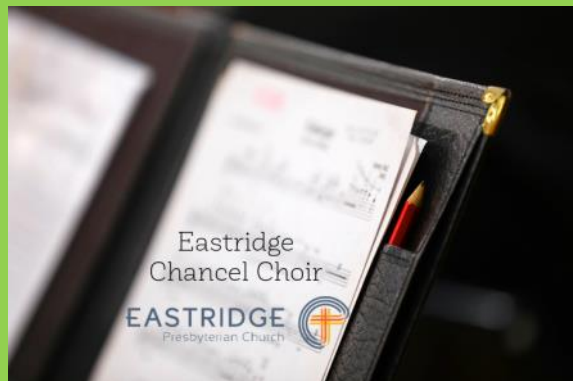
This year's issues are:


- Pre-trial Adult Diversion Programs
- Mental Health Navigation Program
- Affordable Housing



Every person can make a difference by just showing up! For information, please contact Jo Bateman, Sara Bevans, Jean Schulze, or Bill Wehrbein or visit the Justice in Action website at: <https://www.justice-in-action.org/>


We are blessed at points in our church's history to have been able to give some scholarships to students helping with our ministries in our congregation. One example is our choral scholar ministry. We are grateful for our current UNL students Ella, Abigail, Elijah and Michael. "Let everything that hath breath Praise the Lord!" - Ps. 150





WELCOME TO

CALVIN CREST



Join us for a fun-filled week of learning, exploring, and growing your faith!

WWW.CALVINCREST.CAMP

ABOUT US

Let your kiddo spread their wings and soak up some childhood magic! Calvin Crest camp is the ultimate adventure destination, packed with oodles of fun and new thrills to discover.

Parents, fear not! Safety and spiritual development are our top priorities. Your child will make lifelong pals, dive into exciting activities, and explore their faith in the serene beauty of nature.

Don't miss out on the chance to give your child an unforgettable experience at Calvin Crest!



WHY CHOOSE US?

"I'm always amazed how much my grandson has grown both in maturity and spiritually every year at Calvin Crest."

-Beth

With a smorgasbord of options, it's tough to cherry-pick the one that feels just right. But, let's face it, once you've hit upon the perfect fit, it's hard to let go! That's why our campers keep coming back year after year, even becoming all-star counselors themselves. Here, your little (or big) one will feel like they're part of one big Christian community. Get ready for some serious outdoorsy worship in our scenic chapel, or perhaps a small-group Bible study in our cozy Gazebo. Jump into our pool for a refreshing swim and water basketball. Then, get ready to be wowed by our epic games like Goldrush, or let your creativity flow with tile mosaics. And, let's not forget the cherry on top: our scrumptious scones! With all this, there's really no better place to be.

CONTACT US

(402) 628-6455
2870 County Road 13,
Fremont, NE 68025
camp@calvincrest.org

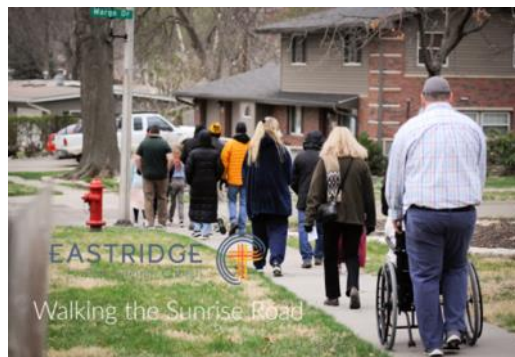
Easter Sunrise, 6:45 am - Walking the Sunrise Road

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark..."

Once again this year, we will begin our Easter celebration by walking into the sunrise (hopefully!) on the Sunrise Road.

We will meet at 6:45 am under the awning in front of Eastridge Presbyterian church, and then begin walking along Sunrise Road all the way to Taylor Park. The walk measures about 1 mile, so please dress appropriately. We will make stops along the way to hear the gospel reading, and walk in a pace that allows to reflect on prompts. At the picnic shelter at Taylor Park we will enjoy some coffee and donuts together.

We hope you will join us, as we long to meet the Rising Son on the Sunrise Road.





Organ Crawl Concert

Sunday, April 14, 2024

3:00 PM First Christian Church—205 N. 7th Street

Organist: Chad Rinne

3:20 PM Centenary United Methodist Church—608 Elk Street

Organist: Brent Shaw

3:40 PM First Presbyterian Church—321 N. 5th Street

Organist: Philip Browning

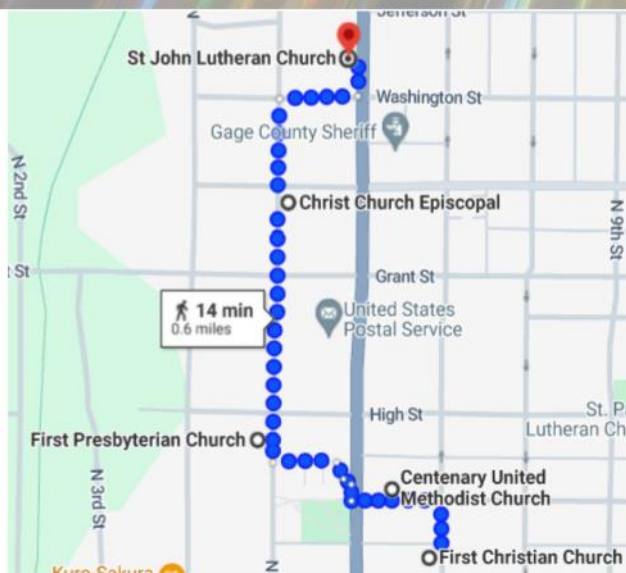
4:00 PM Christ Church Episcopal—524 N. 5th Street

Organist: Jeff Davis

4:20 PM St. John Lutheran Church—701 N. 6th Street

Organist: Erin Blake

In Beatrice,
Nebraska!



Join us for an afternoon of music at a few of our local churches!

At each church, you will hear around ten minutes of music including a solo selection and a hymn. Then we will walk or drive to the next church.

Feel free to park in the Beatrice Administration Building parking lot near 6th and Elk Streets.

Admission is free! A free will offering will be taken to cover travel costs for the out of town organists.



Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir *presents*



Sunday, April 21 at 7 p.m.

O'Donnell Auditorium

in the Vance D. Rogers Center for Fine Arts
50th Street and Huntington Avenue

Free admission.



Donations accepted to benefit
Clinic with a Heart.

Tom Trenney, conductor

Featuring:

NWU's University Choir, Jazz Choir,
Chamber Singers, and Unity Choir
with Omaha Westside Warrior Choir,
Norris High School Titan Singers, and
the Lincoln Choral Artists



Saturday,
May 4th

Time: 8:30 am-1:00 pm

you can help whenever
you can during this time!

The Eastridge Neighborhood Association will be having their annual spring clean-up 9 am-noon

Located in our Parking Lot:

*Two roll-offs if you want to bring items to dispose of from home. No leaves or grass clippings.

*Household Recycling (cardboard, cans, glass and plastic)

*Shredder (Noon-1pm)

*Goodwill Truck

At the church, we will rake leaves and cut back perennials around the church and some other general clean-up.

We will spread mulch around the perennial beds and tree rings.

Please bring your own rakes and gardening tools,
lawn bags will be provided.





Trailblazers for the month of April:

Join us on April 19 at 6:00 pm as we dine out at Firethorn Restaurant (lower card room).

Committee: *Hilsabeck/Hastings



EPW GATHERING: Join us on Wednesday, April 17 at 1:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge for a program and refreshments. (Coordinating Team meeting just prior to gathering in M12). Speaker: Michele Dakan. Topic: People's City Mission



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES: It is time to send care packages to our EPC college students!

If you are looking for ideas, you can use the following link to access our Amazon Wishlist. (<https://a.co/e4dn6le>) Please send it ATTN: Kris Adler-Brammer. And if you aren't up for shopping, cash donations are also helpful to purchase those last additional items or help cover the cost of postage (\$17.10 per box shipped). Check out the recent Constant Contact email for a list of what we need. We will be filling about 30 care packages so items in multiples are appreciated. If you have any questions about donating, please feel free to contact Kris Adler-Brammer at kadlerbrammer@eastridge.org. Please have all items to the church office by Thursday, April 4. **Join us in M12 April 7 to pack the boxes!**



Faith Partners: Look for an upcoming event sponsored by Eastridge Faith Partners this spring. For more information on this group, contact the church office.



Faith Connection for Youth: Youth programming is on Wednesdays from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

For this school year, our time together will include dinner, recreation, fellowship, and study. Sign up to serve a meal to the youth! Sign up is below, or use QR code at right:

<https://bit.ly/youthmeal2324>





Join us for a **special meeting of the congregation** for April 14, immediately following worship for the purpose of nominating and electing elders and trustees.

Those being nominated by the nominating committee are: Elders: Renae Oestmann (3 year term), Carol Ripley (2 year term); Trustees: Bill Bevans (3 year term began in 2024), and Diane Rice (3 year term began in 2024).

FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING WORSHIP: On April 7 join us for a Post-Easter Breakfast and Fellowship in the Welcome Center.

Post-Easter Breakfast
April 7 at 10:30 am



Interested in membership at Eastridge? We will have a **New Member Class** on Sunday, April 21 following worship (10:45 am). We will meet in Huxtable Lounge. Sign up encouraged but not required:

<https://bit.ly/discovereastridge>.

For more information, please contact the church office.

LiNKed Spring Sermon Series!

There is no doubt that the Apostle Paul struggled with and for his faith in Jesus Christ. Even in the midst of his those struggles, he found comfort in the fellowship of believers that he called the Body of Christ. In 2 Corinthians, we get a glimpse of Paul's working through those struggles as he writes to the communities in Corinth. Join us this April and May as we move through this letter and discover how our connections give us strength through forgiveness, hope, faith, reconciliation, and generosity. We are LiNKed!





First Blood Drive a Success! Eastridge teamed up with the Red Cross for its first ever blood drive on January 2. The goal was to collect 20 units of blood and through wonderful donors we collected 25 units! THANK YOU to all those who took the time to give life saving blood and to those who volunteered during the day!

Our next blood drive will be **Tuesday May 21, 2024 from 12:00 -6:00 pm**. Watch for more information!



Blood Drive
Eastridge Presbyterian Church

St. John Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach

- Friday, March 29, 2024 at First Plymouth Church, 2000 D Street

7:00 PM

A complete performance of J.S. Bach's epic St. John Passion will be offered on Good Friday by the sounding light chamber choir and Plymouth Choir with guest soloists and a chamber orchestra.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: MARCH 10

The Session discussed "Everything Good About God is True" by the Rev. Bruce Reyes Chow. Rev. Jones Pointon asked the Session to consider what we believe, without saying "I believe, but. . . ." The hope is to engage in conversation with the congregation about what we believe and to consider creating a "faith montage" as a congregation or as individuals.

The Session approved the minutes of the Session meeting of January 25, 2024, the minutes of the Congregational and Corporation meeting of January 28, 2024, including changes to the bylaws, and the notes from the Session retreat of February 4, 2024.

The Session acknowledged that communion was served at the 9:30 a.m. service on February 4, 2024, and March 3, 2024.

The Session acknowledged the PCUSA Statistical Report for 2023.

The Session removed Lauren Holcombe from the member rolls, deceased February 13, 2024, and

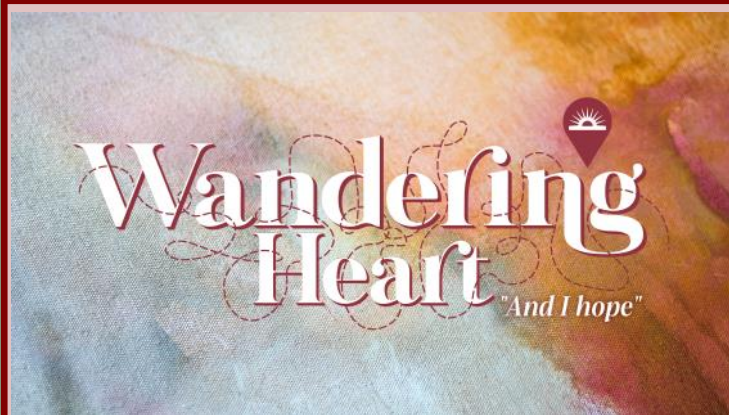
acknowledged that Rev. Dummermuth officiated at the memorial service at Eastridge Presbyterian Church on February 19, 2024.

The Session acknowledged the Necrology Report for 2023.

Chris Boden, Rev. Jones Pointon, and Rev. Dummermuth provided a report on the Homestead Presbytery meeting, which was held by Zoom.



Church Session

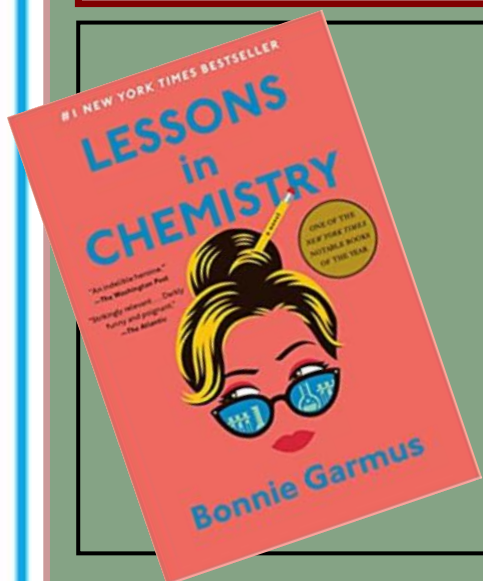


March 31: Easter Sunday

6:45 am: Walking the Sunrise Road (meet under the front entrance). We will conclude at Taylor Park with a light breakfast.

9:30 am: Worship with bells, chancel choir.

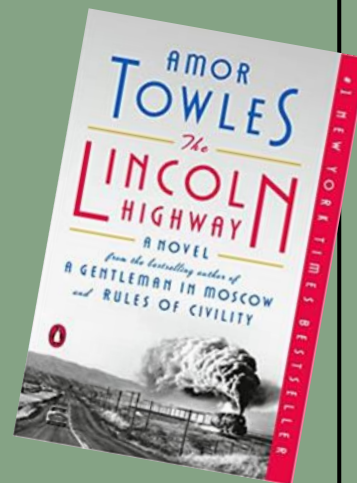
Join us for the Easter sermon in our Wandering Heart series!



The **EPC Book Club** meets the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:00 pm in M12. A copy of the list can also be found on the church website, in the "What's New" pull-down menu, then click on "calendar".

April discussion: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

Looking ahead to May, join us for a discussion of *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.



We need you...to be a part of our summer!

Good God: Choosing Faith!

The session is planning everything that happens - from worship to outreach to study to fellowship - around exploring and creating faith montages for each one of us AND as a community!

Interested?

Join us Sunday, April 14, following the brief Congregational Meeting for donuts and to hear more! Or: contact Lois Wies or Carol Ripley through the church office.



Green Team is working at Eastridge: The Trustees have established a working group from among the congregation to study our energy usage at the church. The group will recommend projects to improve our energy efficiency. The goal is to reduce energy consumption, save money, and do our part to combat climate change. Members interested in joining the Green Team should contact the church office.





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. Sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/thegatheringplacecurrent>



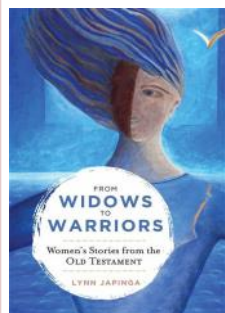
EASTRIDGE
FOOD PANTRY

EASTRIDGE FOOD PANTRY:

Links for volunteers for Sunday drive thru and Wednesday distribution plus box prep below:

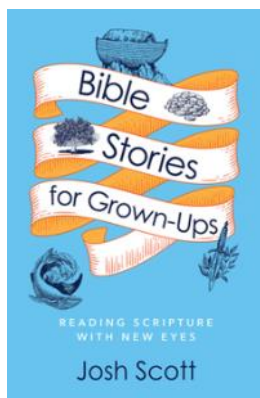
Distribution: <https://bit.ly/FPDistFood>

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



NEW Monday night Bible Study: Beginning Monday, April 1, the group will start *From Widows to Warriors* by Lynn Japinga. This group is led by Doug and Mickey McDaniel and meets on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm in Huxtable Lounge.

Join us for a Zoom Thursday book study: ***Bible Stories for Grown-Ups* by Josh Stott.** Starts in April (watch your email for more information). In *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups* pastor Josh Scott looks at familiar Bible stories and reveals new details and interpretations for an adult audience. Sign up to come, or contact the office.

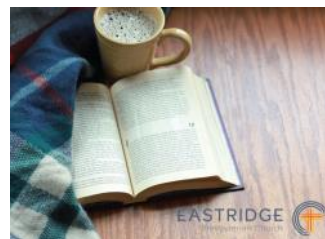


Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Thomas Dummermuth.....Associate Pastor
Kris Adler-Brammer.....Youth and Children's Ministries
Donna Gustafson.....Office Manager
Andy Kalnins.....Night/Weekend Custodian
Brent Shaw.....Organist & Adult Choir Director
Will McGuire.....Worship Leader
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

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.



Are you interested in becoming a liturgist for worship? For more information, contact the office or Robin Hadfield. Current liturgists, please sign up for 2024!

<https://bit.ly/epcliturgist>



EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church

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