



## From the Pastor's Pen...

The May 1956 edition of "News of the Month" for Eastridge Presbyterian Church had this front-page headline, "Congregational Meeting." The article read, "The Session has called a Congregational meeting for Sunday, May 6th following the Morning Service for the purpose of the election of a Board of Deacons." It seemed appropriate at that time to ordain and install the newly elected board on Mother's Day, May 13, 1956, the same day the community celebrated three years of worshipping together.

After a summer of meetings to organize, the September 1956 edition of "News of the Month" summarized the activities of the new board. At the June meeting, the board elected officers and identified the follow-

ing responsibilities: ushering, hospital calling and sending flowers to those who are ill, sending cards to those who are ill and flowers to those families bereaved, keeping in contact with servicemen at home and abroad through letters and bulletins, and caring for after the service greeting and meeting of guests. The past 68 years has seen a lot of change in church and society, but one thing has remained constant: the Board of Deacons has cared for the community of Eastridge Presbyterian Church.

Of course, how that caring has been done has evolved over those 68 years. What began with a 12 member

board grew to 37 members at its largest. In more recent years, that became 25 members. What began with committees of necessity for the formation of a new faith community became a geographical parish-based ministry. In more recent years, the board returned to a caring ministry of celebrating and caring for the community through good and difficult times. I have read the minutes that outline how the board

would care for those who were celebrating the addition of a new child to their family - in those early years our congregation was made up of mostly young families moving into the new housing development by the Strauss Brothers. I have heard the personal account of deacons who were the first asked to provide a luncheon following a funeral; deacons who notoriously showed up for hospital and home visits; deacons delivering flowers,

sending cards, making coffee, providing rides.

This past January, at our Annual Congregational Meeting, the congregation passed changes to our bylaws that dissolved the Board of Deacons. I have been personally touched by the response I've heard from the most recent actively serving deacons. This change to our bylaws made sense, was needed, and in many ways brings forward new ways of caring for each other. One of my favorite reassurances was the deacon who said, "it won't stop us from caring for each other - and that's what a deacon does!"

*(continued on following page)*

May 13, 1956

Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Phillips

Maj. and Mrs. Wilbur Harkey

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kinney

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Boker

Mr. and Mrs. Elmont McKee

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Karr



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This coming Mother's Day, May 12, we will celebrate the past ministry of the Board of Deacons, as well as celebrate a new ministry called "Eastridge Care Connections." Our hope is to honor and celebrate the gifts of caring shared with the community over the past 68 years, as well as to acknowledge the new thing happening among us. If you have ever served in this congregation as an ordained deacon, we would like to recognize and celebrate you. If you feel called to serve with Eastridge Care Connections, we would love to celebrate you.

For me, there's a certain poetic beauty to designating Mother's Day at Eastridge Presbyterian Church as Caring Sunday. When that day was first chosen, I thought it was beautiful because of the celebration of the call of the church to care for each other as a mother hen cares for her chicks (this is a Biblical image of God's care for us repeated throughout scripture). What began on Mother's Day in 1956 with the ordination of 12 deacons will continue in a new way. We can't stop our deacons from caring for us. It's what they do. It's who they are.

The September 1956 article ended its summary of the deacons activities with this, "This ministering to the needs of the members and friends of Eastridge Church is vital and extremely important to the life of the Church. Let us each assist...in whatever way we can." The call to our faith community is the same today as it was then, as we care for each other in the name of our shared faith in the one who heals, restores, and celebrates.

Please join us in giving thanks and praise to God for the caring ministry of Eastridge Presbyterian Church!

~ Pastor Melodie

You are invited  
to a special celebration  
of deacon ministries  
Mother's Day, May 12,  
9:30 am

EASTRIDGE  
Presbyterian Church

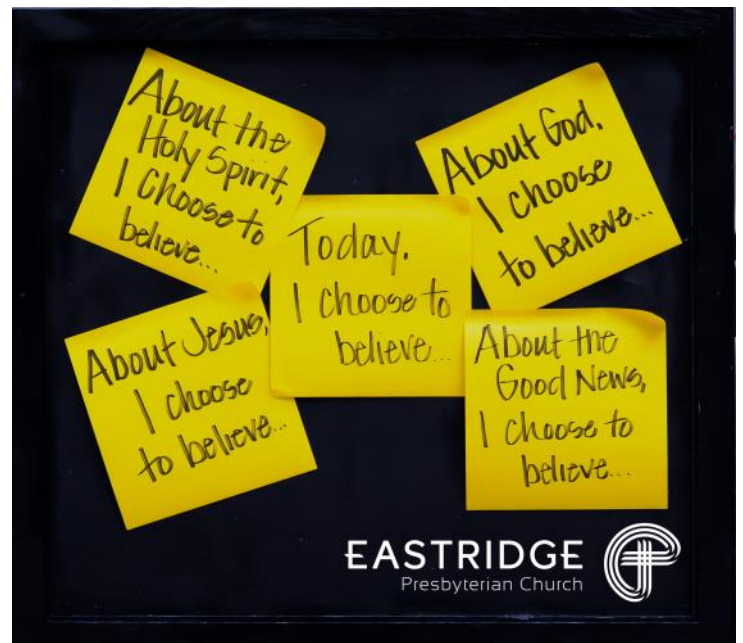


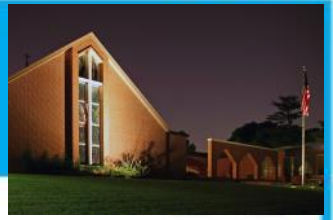
## Sign up for 2024 summer ministries!

Sign up on a clipboard at the Welcome Desk to: lead a small group study, join a small group study, or read the book!

Or, sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/summerepc>





## The Nebraska Corona Bible - A Final Update!

It's been four years!

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 ques-

tions like, "When is the Corona Bible finally done?" (You know who you are.)

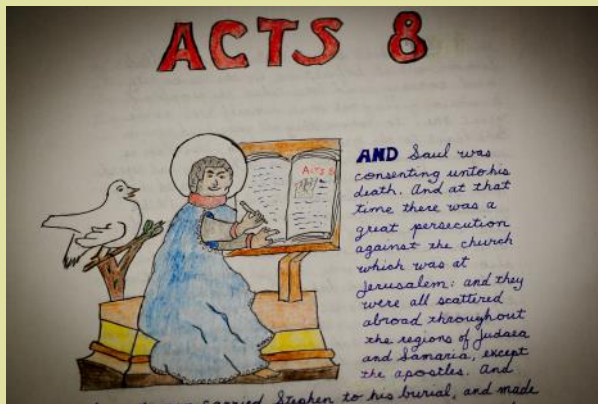
Thank you to my colleague in Switzerland, Rev. Uwe Habenicht, for his permission to adapt his idea to our Nebraska context.

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

### **Kiss the Ground Movie Showing and Discussion:**


Join us on Sunday, June 9 at 11:00 am for a meal, movie showing, and discussion sponsored by the Eastridge Green Team!





WELCOME TO

## CALVIN CREST



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

[WWW.CALVINCREST.CAMP](http://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](mailto:camp@calvincrest.org)

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

The second annual Nehemiah Rally will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>



**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated and helped pack our college care packages. We filled 25 boxes/baskets with so many goodies. Each time we send out care packages we get so many thank yous and notes of appreciation from our students. They are so appreciated and know they are loved and remembered by their church community!

*“Thank you so much for the package!!” – Jimmie*

*“Thank you for the box of goodies!!!! Your love and constant encouragement doesn’t go unnoticed!” – Maya*

*“Received the package! TYSM” (thank you so much) – Isabella*

*“Thank you so much for all the care packages. They’re much appreciated.” – Will*

*And many hugs and thank yous from the in person drop-offs!*



## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION

On Sunday, May 19th, we will celebrate our graduating High School seniors at the 9:30am service. Following the service, we will have a reception in the Welcome Center. We hope you will be able to join us as we recognize this group.

The **Pentecost Offering**, one of four special offerings of the PC(USA), focuses on youth. Sixty percent of the offering is sent to General Assembly with 25% designated for young adult volunteers in Christian service, 25% for ministries such as Youth Triennium, and 10% to advocate for children at risk. The remaining 40% of the total offering collected is retained by the congregation.





## ONE WORLD, ONE SONG

# Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

*Thursday, May 2, 2024, 7:30-9:00 am  
Lincoln Cornhusker Marriott Hotel*

*Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird  
Honorary Chair*

Welcome to the 40th Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast! Join us on Thursday, May 2, 2024 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM at The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska (doors open for breakfast at 7:30 a.m., with the program starting at 8:00 a.m.), for an interactive morning of unity and inspiration.

This year's special presentation will be an interfaith, intercultural inaugural performance and global premiere of an original song. The song has been commissioned and written by Sullivan Dutra, Minister of Music at College View Church.

As always, the Lincoln Mayor, Hon. Leirion Gaylor Baird, will be the honorary chair for this event, which is lovingly initiated and put together every year by community volunteers. This event features wisdom, sacred readings, and music from the wide variety of communities that call Lincoln, Nebraska, home.

Come enjoy a delicious breakfast, listen to and actively participate in uplifting words and music, and connect with fellow attendees. The event is also available to view via free live stream, but this is one you'll want to experience in person! Let's come together to spread love and celebrate our city. Join us on Thursday, May 2. See you there.

Register: <https://bit.ly/2024interfaithLNK> or via QR code





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.



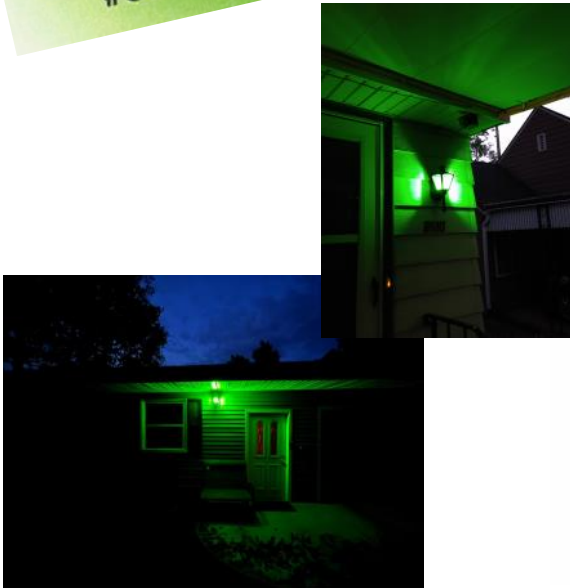


When you light your home or business green, display a yard sign, or share on social media, you help to raise awareness, reduce stigma, & encourage others to seek support for mental health.

We encourage you to share pictures of your lights and signs on social media (avoid addresses, please) & use **#GreenLightProjectNE** to inspire others to join us!

*Please join our effort to be environmentally responsible by saving your sign & light bulb for future May campaigns.*

**Thank you for your incredible support!**



## 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 spring as we move through this letter and discover how our connections give us strength through forgiveness, hope, faith, reconciliation, and generosity. We are LiNKed!





# EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church



Hope and Paul Shorridge would like to invite you to their graduation reception here at Eastridge on **Sunday, May 19 from 4-7 pm** Huxtable Lounge/East Patio.



*Let's Celebrate*

THE SHORTRIDGE TWINS

May 19th, 2024 ~ 4-7pm  
Eastridge Presbyterian Church  
1135 Eastridge Dr.

## Justice in Action:

You're invited to the most important night for justice in Lancaster County! Join us at the Nehemiah Action Assembly on May 2 at 6:30 pm at St. Mark's United Methodist Church (8550 Pioneers Blvd).

## YOU'RE INVITED

to the most important night for justice in Lancaster County!

**WHAT:** 2024 Nehemiah Action Assembly

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024  
6:30pm (doors open at 6:00pm)

**WHERE:** St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
8550 Pioneers Blvd  
Lincoln, NE 68520



## Spring into life. Give Blood at Eastridge!

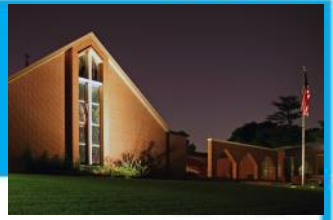
May 21 from 12:00-6:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge. For an appointment, visit here: [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org).

Find Eastridge using our zip code and the date. For more information: Doug McDaniel, [EPCBloodDrive@gmail.com](mailto:EPCBloodDrive@gmail.com)

*Spring into life.*

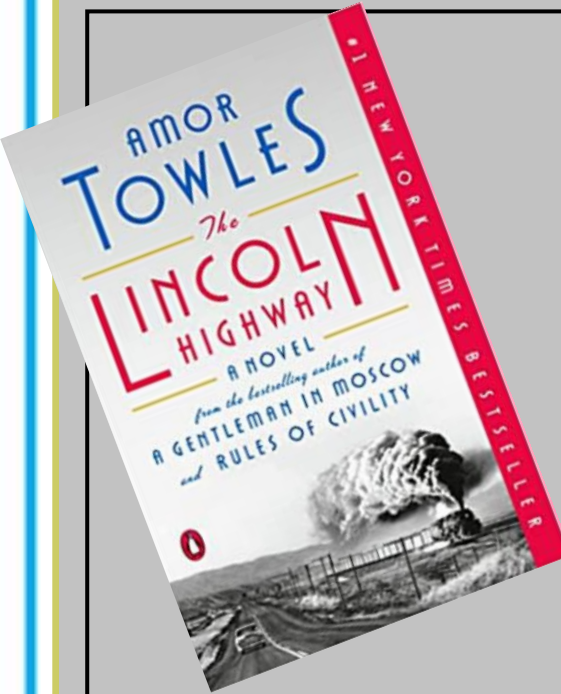
Give blood.





## EPW GATHERING:

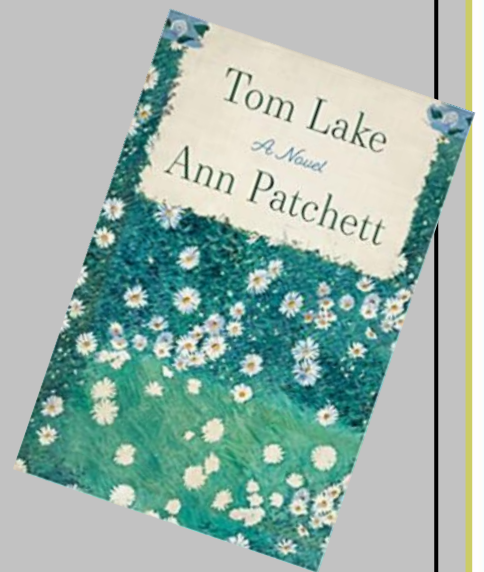
Join us on Wednesday, May 15 at 1:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge for a program and refreshments. Speaker: Donna Gustafson.  
Topic: Nature Photography.



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".

May discussion: **The Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles. Looking ahead to June, join us for a discussion of **Tom Lake** by Ann Patchett.

Book club members, turn in your suggestions for next year!



**Thank you** to those members of our Eastridge community who donated chairs for the church and an updated sound system for the sanctuary! Your generosity is appreciated.

# THANKS

Eastridge welcomes these **new members**: Clinton and Ann Philson, Carol Brehm, and Sarah Herrera. We are glad you are here!



**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>



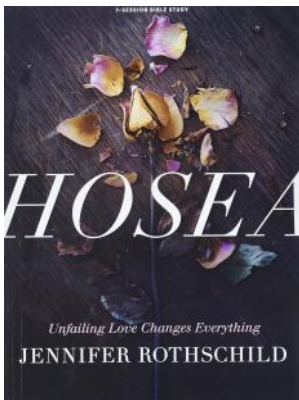
**EASTRIDGE**  
FOOD PANTRY

**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>

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



**Wednesday morning Bible study** will begin *Hosea: Unfailing Love Changes Everything* by Jennifer Rothschild in May, following the completion of our current study.

This group meets Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am.

- 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](mailto:mjonespointon@eastridge.org)
- Thomas Dummermuth: [tdummermuth@eastridge.org](mailto: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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Lincoln NE 68510

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