



From the Pastor's Pen:

As we ended our lent book study on Elizabeth Oldfield's book, *"Fully Alive: Tending to the Soul in Turbulent Times,"* I asked two last questions that also served as prayers. First, what new thing do you perceive God is doing in your life? Second, what new thing do you perceive God is doing in our community? And here I'll add a third, what new thing do you perceive God is doing in our world? My overall argument here is that God is up to something in our lives, in our community, and in our world, if we perceive it.

Many of you may recognize that is scriptural - from Isaiah 43:19. The whole verse reads,

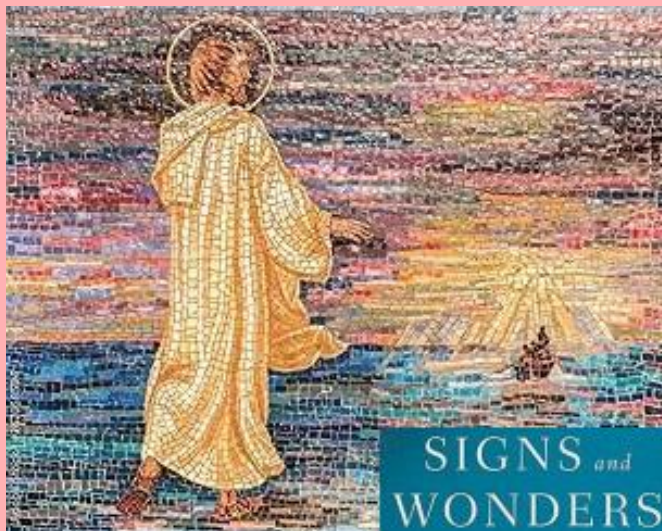
"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?"

"I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition).

That is the resurrection hope, isn't it? That even in the midst of turbulent and chaotic times, God is present doing new things. That's why we sing so loud on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Yes, it's the joy of having the family of faith together, waving palm branches. Yes, it's singing the songs we love at full voice.

As we enter May, I have a couple of requests for our family of faith.

One is to be kind and gracious to each other. This is a time of celebrations and new beginnings! New beginnings also mark the end of what has been. So let's be kind and gracious in recognizing what has gone before



and what is about to spring forth.

The second is to be kind and gracious to ourselves. It really hits home that "Maycember" is at least as busy as December. Spring and summer sports are up and running, there are weddings, baptisms, graduations, recognitions, gatherings to celebrate the end of the school/program year, and concerts. We'll also throw in the Lincoln Marathon, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. Let's not forget our community efforts with the

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, National Day of Prayer, Nehemiah Action, Empty Bowl Festival, and continuous opportunities like the Eastridge Food Pantry.

As I look at my calendar for the upcoming month, I'm exhausted. That, dear friends, gives me hope. As we enter a time of hearing about what John's Gospel calls "Signs and Wonders", may this busyness

remind us that hope is all around us, in the midst of this life. In what may feel and look like a desert wilderness, God is doing a new thing. Do you perceive it?

Blessings, Melodie

"Signs and Wonders" - a series of sermons on the miracles of Jesus. Beginning Sunday, April 27 through Sunday, June 1.

"Signs and Wonders" study: Join Pastors Melodie and Thomas for a Zoom Bible Study Thursdays at 10 am from April 24-June 5. Using Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Signs and Wonders: A Beginners Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*, we'll explore Jesus' miracles as recorded in the gospels. It's not too late to join! Sign up here: [Eastridge: Signs & Wonders Book Study](#)



HIGHLIGHTS



Session Highlights April 2025

Acknowledged that communion was served at 9:30 a.m. on April 6, 2025

Conveners Carol Ripley and Greg Tubach shared ideas for the Summer 2025 Sermon Series (June 25-August 31), *Faith Like a Child's*.

Approved Rev. Dummermuth's sabbatical request for May 15 - June 25, 2025 to participate in a spiritual pil-

grimage to Camino de Santiago in Spain (May 25-June 25).

Active Members reported on March 9, 2025 was 556. No gains, no losses.

Correspondence received from PCUSA stated Eastridge Presbyterian Church's donation of \$200 for the Disaster Relief-U.S. Wildfires.

Approved the notice for a University of Nebraska Research Study to be included in the May newsletter. UNL is looking for volunteers to participate in a research study on "Perspectives on Poverty". Participants will receive a \$25 gift card. Those wishing to donate the gift cards to the church may do so.

Wednesday morning bible study: Our current study is ***Finding God Faithful: A Study on the Life of Joseph*** by **Kelly Minter**.

We meet each Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 am in Huxtable Lounge or M12. For more information, contact the church office.



Fourth Friday Women's Coffee Fellowship:

Join the ladies in Huxtable on May 23 at 8:30 am for our monthly coffee fellowship!

Let the office know if you would like to be included in an email reminder.



Eastridge Presbyterian Women May events:

Circle Meetings Wednesday, May 7.

COORDINATING TEAM MEETING Wednesday, May 21 at 12:15 am – Room M-12.

EPW GATHERING: May 21 at 1:00 pm in Huxtable. Program: Exploring Nature Through Photography Part 5, Donna Gustafson

Also at the May meeting following program: Reading Awards, Birthday Offering Dedication





EASTRIDGE CARING CONNECTIONS:

This coming Mother's Day, May 11, we will re-commission and commission new members of our one-year-old ministry, **Eastridge Care Connections**. If you feel called to serve with Eastridge Care Connections, we would love to celebrate you. (If you're new to this ministry, you may fill out one of the Caring Connections cards shown here and turn in to the office)

Name _____



- Yes! I would love to participate!
- I'm not sure, but would like to hear more!
- This isn't the right season for me, but check back with me next year.



Families



Death, dying,
grieving



For those at home



A researcher at UNL is seeking participants to share their thoughts about poverty and how it should be addressed in the U.S. Participation includes taking a short survey and taking part in a 30–60 minute interview.

Participants will receive a \$25 gift card as compensation. For more information, please see: https://go.unl.edu/pov_info. To participate, go to: <https://go.unl.edu/poverty>.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is offering a Family Support Group program that meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:30 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1200 S 40th Street in the basement activities center (enter the main doors on south side of the church).



NAMI Lincoln Family Support Group
Co-facilitators:
Teresa Harms Coder
Brent Toalson
teresa.namilincoln@gmail.com

About NAMI
NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI Lincoln is an affiliate of NAMI Nebraska. NAMI Lincoln and dedicated volunteer members and leaders work tirelessly to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy and support group programs for people in our community living with mental illness and their loved ones.



Join us for **Ella Young's Senior Voice Recital** on April 29 at 7:30pm (Ella is one of our choral scholars). The recital will be held in the Eastridge Sanctuary with a reception in the Welcome Center afterwards. This recital features Ella Young (Mezzo-Soprano), Micah Leary (Piano), and a variety of works. The program will be about an hour long and features English, German, French, and Spanish art song.



Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

JUST LOVE

FEATURING

Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn Lewis



May 1st 2025

The Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast is Sold Out — But Seats Are Still Available!

The 41st Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast is officially sold out—great news for our city, but don't worry if you haven't reserved your spot yet. Eastridge Presbyterian Church through the Outreach Committee is sponsoring a table, and several seats are still available for those who would like to attend.

If you're interested, please contact the church office as soon as possible to reserve one of the remaining spots.



Spring into Life! Give Blood.

Eastridge is sponsoring an **American Red Cross Blood Drive on May 8** from 12:00 pm—6:00 pm in Huxtable Lounge.

Sign up at: redcrossblood.org (search for Eastridge Presbyterian)



UPCOMING MUSIC in WORSHIP:

May 4: Kylie Meter
 May 11: Joe Fuchs (bagpipes) and Chancel choir

May 18: Sarah and Joel Herrera
 May 27: Kirk Ringers
 June 1: TBA
 June 8: Diane Worrell Eaton
 June 15: UNL Jazz Trio



Gathering Around the Table: Celebrating a Season of Shared Faith and Friendship

Join us for the final Faith Coalition of Lancaster County gathering of the season—a time to celebrate, reflect, and look ahead together. We'll share stories, recognize the contributions of our presenters and partners, and enjoy a delicious free

Mediterranean lunch from Daffodil Mediterranean Cuisine and Catering, provided by the Faith Coalition.

This is our annual meeting—but don't worry, it won't feel like one! It's a chance to connect with new and familiar faces, give thanks for a rich year of conversations, and continue building relationships across our diverse faith traditions.

Date & Time:
Wednesday, May 14 | 12:00–1:00 PM

Location:
 Eastridge Presbyterian Church
 Huxtable Lounge

All are welcome. Come hungry—for food, connection, and hope.



Trailblazers is a group of older adults at Eastridge that provides an opportunity for men and women, singles as well as couples, to participate together in the life of the church—in service and fellowship. We usually meet the third Friday night of the month, September through May.

Trailblazers for May 9: We'll attend Lincoln Community Playhouse's production of Cinderella. Committee: Neals, Jim Budka. Contact the committee for more information!



SHOW UP FOR JUSTICE! 3rd ANNUAL NEHEMIAH ASSEMBLY

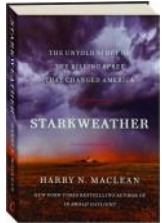
JUSTICE, MERCY & FAITHFULNESS -Micah 6:8

Have you ever wondered how you can make a difference? Justice in Action has an easy way to stand up for justice in our community. Stand with other people of faith to show local officials that we want justice for members of our community.



When: May 1st (Thursday) @ 6:30-8:00 Where: St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Please say yes when a member of the Eastridge Justice in Action network invites you to attend or contact a member of the network to learn more or register to attend. EPC Justice in Action Network Members: Sarah Herrera, Jean Schulze, Bill Wehrbein or Sara Bevans



The **EPC Book Club** meets the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:00 pm. Locations vary...check the Welcome Center for info when you arrive! 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". The selection shown, **Starkweather** by **Harry N. Maclean**, is our May pick. Join us May 12!

KIRK RINGERS ANNIVERSARY!

The **Kirk Ringers** will share their last school year Sunday on May 25 (Memorial Day weekend) and have treats after church celebrating half a century of our handbells!

The set of Eastridge's original 25 handbells was purchased in February 1974 using a gift of \$800. (Worth about 18 thousand today). By December 1975, there was an adult handbell choir and a youth handbell choir. Mary Jane Huxtable was the first director of the adult choir. The names were announced in April 1976- Kirk Bell Ringers for the adult choir and Joy Bell Choir for the youth choir.

An additional bell was given by Evelyn Morris in honor of her husband, Olin, for their 53rd wedding anniversary on June 12, 1991. Joyce Loudon directed the junior high bell choir from 1991-1996, and Nancy Nemeč directed a younger group on chimes.

In 1998, Memorial and Endowment funds were used to purchase robes for the Kirk Bell Ringers, table covers (our current covers were stitched by member LaDonna Grubbs!), and an Orff instrument—all for \$2,000.

As a side note, Sharon Irvin's mother, Donna Stalcup, directed the Kirk Ringers starting in 1986.





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. **Updated sign up:** <https://bit.ly/gatheringplace2025epc>

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EASTRIDGE
FOOD PANTRY

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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>

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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
- 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



The Eastridge Presbyterian library will soon have the online checkout system going again! Look for more news regarding books soon. Like this announcement:

Our own George Kilpatrick has published a book!

It’s called “The Final Few” and will be available for checkout soon. Synopsis: The year is 2080, fifty years after a large asteroid

crashed into the earth, killing 99 percent of its inhabitants and destroying the infrastructure that supported civilization. The few people that survived scratch out a meager existence hunting small animals, fishing, and gathering the few fruits and vegetables that grow wild on the new earth. This is a story that begins in a community of thirty-two living on the shore of a lake.

After fifty years of dim semidarkness caused by the smoke, ash, and debris that has circled the earth since the disaster, the sun has reappeared, and more plants have begun to grow, raising hopes for a brighter future. But those hopes are dashed when the fish in the lake that supported them through the dark days grow scarce.

Conflict wracks the small community as the leadership insists that they can survive where they are, while the younger generation seeks to explore and rediscover the world beyond. A political miscalculation and a clever ploy by one of the young residents results in approval of an expedition consisting of five members with vastly different skills and conflicting goals.

The expedition is wrought with danger, discovery, and surprising plot turns. Meanwhile, death in the community left behind upsets and challenges anything they have ever known. It will take courage, intelligence, strength, cooperation, and faith for any of them to survive.

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



1135 Eastridge Drive
Lincoln NE 68510

