



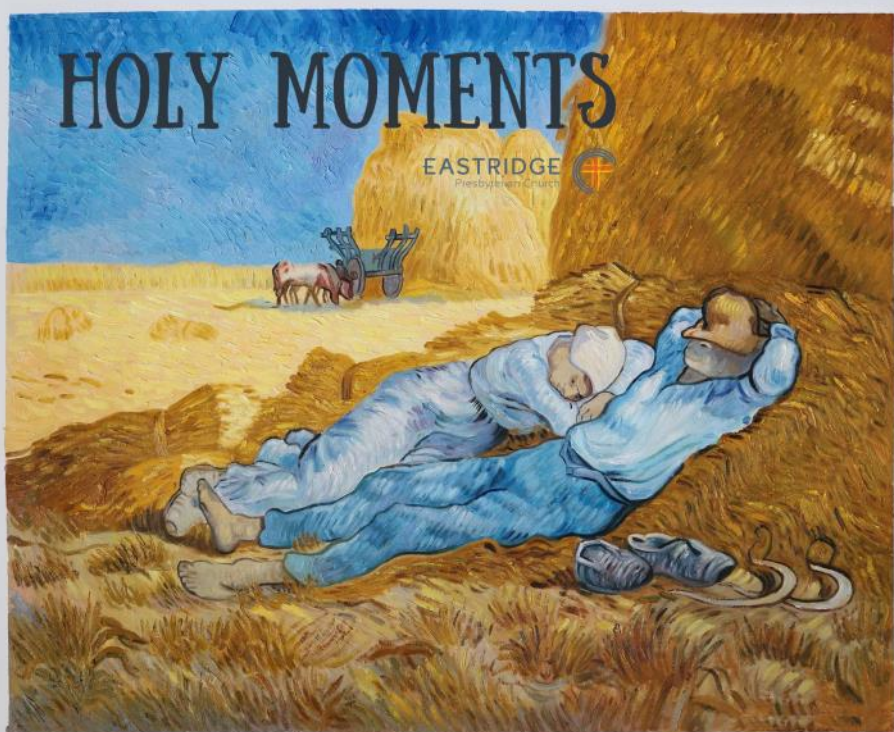
FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

It's always struck me as a little odd that the American holiday that unofficially marks the end of summer is called "Labor Day." Odd to me as a child because it was the day before my work as a student started, and was our last day "off." I loved that my parents were both at home, neither one having to work, that there were barbecues for gathering neighbors together, and sometimes even swimming parties. Labor Day is a day we don't work. We connect, we rest, we make community connections.

I became more interested in the Labor Movement in America while I was reading "Madam Secretary" by Stephanie Dray. It's a novel written from the perspective of Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, the first female to serve in a president's cabinet. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called upon her during the Great Depression and into World War II to balance between companies that employed Americans and the workers themselves. We have so much to thank Frances Perkins for - a 54 hour work week, the end of child labor, the use of powerful words instead of powerful weapons (on all sides) in negotiating differences.

She did not, however, champion Labor Day. It was

put into law by President Grover Cleveland as a holiday for federal workers in 1894, and the states and territories followed suit for state workers. In the materials provided by the Department of Labor, it is referred to as a "celebration for the contributions of working Americans." It was originally thought there would be parades and picnics for the entire community to come together. Cynically, I think it's a lot of work to organize those events, which led to more informal gatherings because no one wanted to work on their day off!



As we enter the fall season, we're going to return to themes of labor and vocation, but in a different way than either me or Thomas have thought of them before. We find the message we learned in our formative years of "The Purpose Driven Life" and "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" is often reinforced in the

songs we sing and the scriptures we read. Our American society and the American church have leaned into the mandate to "Come, labor on! Who dares stand idle, on the harvest plain While all around him waves the golden grain? And to each servant does the Master say, Go work today." As my college mentor said, this makes us human doings instead of human beings.

(continued on following page)



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN... (continued from previous page)

Together we'll ask the question, what is the work that I have been given to do and where is God in that work? Let's be honest, not all of the work given to us is as grand as ending child labor. Sometimes it's mundane and not very glamorous: like changing the diaper of a child, spouse, or parent; driving a teenager or spouse to appointments and activities because they cannot drive themselves; washing the dishes; mowing the lawn. Maybe those are all household activities, but there are paid jobs that are mundane and not very glamorous as well: like working in a meat packing plant; cleaning schools, offices, and public restrooms; picking produce in the fields. Is this work part of our labor and vocation as well?

We think yes, of course. Our tendency is to glamorize the church-speak of calling and vocation, positive that God has called us to do something large and magnificent to change the world. What about the work that is just work, and the vocation that is being instead of doing. I want to admit to some nervousness in even writing this out - I can hear that protestant work ethic rising in us, "do not stand idle on the harvest plain!" But I write it anyway, confident that the God of the Sabbath is our God. This is the God who (I believe) with intentionality created evening before morning. Dare we explore the many scriptures and attempt to sing songs that recognize the holy moments of our everyday lives, in all their splendor as well as the commonplace?

We hope that along the way we are able to give thanks and blessings for the many people in our community whose work often goes unseen. While this may not

change the work, we pray it will make us thoughtful builders of relationships with others.

Then, maybe we will sing a new song, "You gave your children, long-oppressed, Your freeing gift of Sabbath rest. You give us Sabbath freedom, too: Our lives are more than work we do!"

We give thanks for all the work we are given to do every day, and acknowledge all those who will work on Labor Day, who work more than a 54 hour week, and whose lives are more than the work they do.

Blessings, Pastor Melodie

*Further Notes:

For more information on the history of Labor Day in America, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJ88EogDKIQ>

For more information on the Sabbath, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjmjZWHXKFY>

For Kate Bowler's take on the Purpose Driven Life and Purpose Monsters, watch these three reels:

<https://www.facebook.com/katecbowler/videos/1975688396565988>

<https://www.facebook.com/katecbowler/videos/732913642955569>

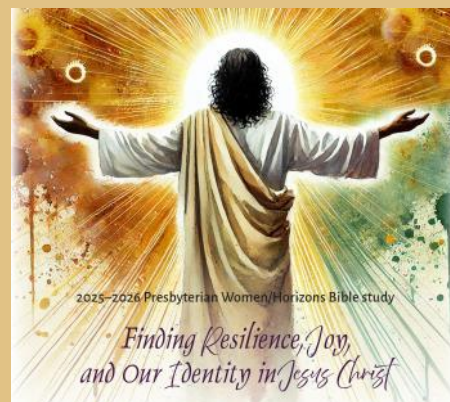
<https://www.facebook.com/katecbowler/videos/3953264028224271>

Also, read *Madam Secretary* by Stephanie Dray, and say thanks to Frances Perkins for her legacy. Then, join the Book Club for this September's discussion!



Eastridge Presbyterian Women: EPW starts a new year in September. Bible studies (in three Circle groups) meet the first Wednesday of each month and we gather as a group on the third Wednesday four times a year. If you are interested in joining one of the Circles, please contact Pat Grieser at 402-488-8678, or email office@eastridge.org. Look for yearbooks and study books in the Welcome Center today!

Our book this year is *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rosalind Banbury.





do with love

What's a small act that helped you feel God's presence in your everyday life?

This fall, we are asking for stories about small acts that helped you feel God's presence in your everyday life. Some of these stories may be shared in newsletters, sermons, in worship. We're calling it our #dowithlove moments, and it will relate directly to our fall series, "Holy Moments: Finding God in the Midst of the Everyday."

To share your story, please email them to the office at office@eastridge.org, or send a video recording to 402-817-9004.

Remember that nothing
is small in the eyes of God.

Do all that you

do with love.

St. Therese of Lesieux



Save the Date: Fall Retreat

September 12-13 | Camp Calvin Crest

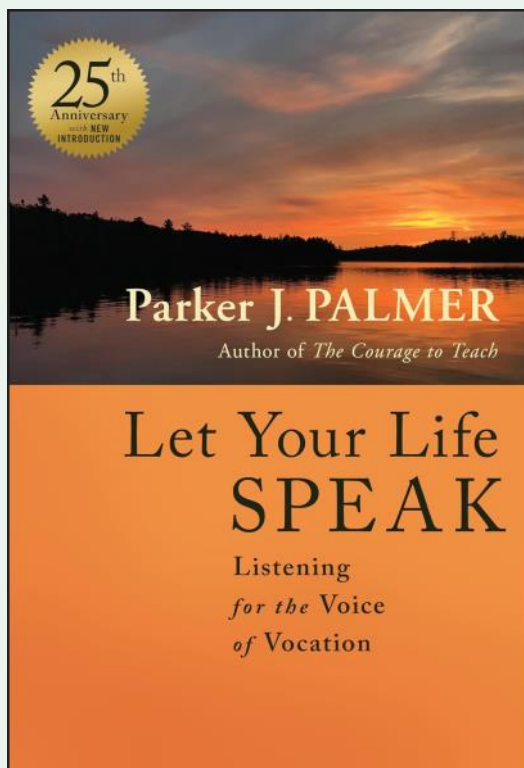
In a world that rewards achievement and constant motion, what happens when we begin to listen more deeply—to the quiet voice within, to the seasons of our soul, to the wisdom found in falling and rising again?

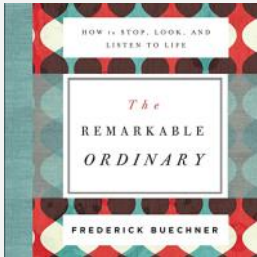
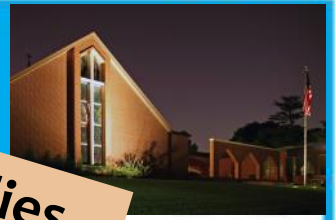
Join us this fall for a weekend of reflection, rest, and renewal inspired by Parker Palmer's *Let Your Life Speak*.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS
AUGUST 29!**

Click on the link below to find out more and to sign up:

<https://bit.ly/fallretreatepc>





***The Remarkable Ordinary: How to Stop, Look, and Listen to Life* by Frederick Buechner**

Learn to see God's remarkable works in the everyday ordinary of your life.

Your remarkable life is happening right here, right now. You may not be able to see it—your life may seem predictable and your work insignificant until you look at your life as Frederick Buechner does.

Named "the father of today's spiritual memoir movement" by Christianity Today, Frederick Buechner reveals how to stop, look, and listen to your life. He reflects on how both art and faith teach us how to pay attention to the remarkableness right in front of us, to watch for the greatness in the ordinary, and to use our imaginations

Or- to see the greatness in others and love them well.

Pay attention, says Buechner. Listen to the call of a bird or the rush of the wind, to the people who flow in and out of your life. The ordinary points you to the extraordinary God who created and loves all of creation, including you. Pay attention to these things as if your life depends upon it. Because, of course, it does.

As you learn to pay attention to your life and what God is doing in it, you will uncover the plot of your life's story and the sacred opportunity to connect with the Divine in each moment.

This study will meet Thursdays from 10am - 11am on Zoom, September 4 through November 20. However, there will be some field trips - either on your own or with the group. We will visit an art museum, the International Quilt Museum, a campus, and the Sunken Gardens.

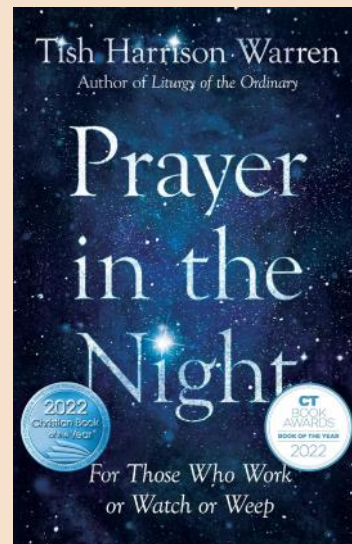
Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/epcremarkablestudy>

***Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep* by Tish Harrison Warren**

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work,
or watch,
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, Lord Christ;
give rest to the weary,
bless the dying,
soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake. Amen.

This book offers a prayerful and frank approach to the difficulties in our ordinary lives at work, at home, and in a world filled with uncertainty.

This study meets Wednesday evenings in September from 6 pm - 7 pm. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/epcremarkablestudy>





MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

Faith Connection for Preschool Children: Our preschool class will begin Sunday, October 5th. This class is for 3-year-olds through Pre-K. This class will meet on Sunday morning during worship. The children will join the congregation for worship through the Worship Connection. Following the Worship Connection, the preschool children will meet in the back of the sanctuary and then go to class. The class will conclude at the end of worship.

Faith Connection for Elementary Children: Our elementary aged faith formation program will resume on Tuesday, September 9th. This is an after-school program that allows two hours with our children to build relationships and develop faith. On Tuesday afternoons, we begin with some free play time, have a snack, engage in Bible study with age appropriate activities, and provide worship education. The Tuesday afternoon daily schedule begins with the completion of the school day (including early out days) and concludes at 5:30pm.

MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

Faith Connection for Youth: Youth programming will resume on Wednesday, September 3rd from 6:00pm to 7:45pm. For this school year, our time together will include dinner, recreation, fellowship, and study.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We have some wonderful opportunities in place for our children and youth coming this fall. In order for these opportunities to happen, we need volunteers! Our volunteer opportunities vary in commitment and preparation – they can be a weekly, twice a month, or even monthly commitment. We will need:

Teachers – prepare and teach a lesson. At this time, we do not have enough people to cover our class needs.

Youth Group advisors – lead recreation, prepare and teach a lesson/activity

Meal Providers – provide dinner for the youth group

If you think you might be interested in assisting the children and youth programming and would like additional information about these opportunities, please talk with Kris Adler-Brammer.





Your Green Team is charged by the Trustees "to do energy efficient things" and has been working steadily on this mission. Last summer it completed the replacement of all the 2' and 4' fluorescent tubes throughout the church. In this process, the energy burning ballasts were no longer needed and were removed. This summer we focused on the "can lights" in the Welcome Center, narthex, and downstairs reading room. Again, removing ballasts in the process. We are seeing 20% lower peak electricity demand in our building despite many warm and very humid days this summer. HOORAY!

The heating and cooling of the north classrooms, now known as the "baby" rooms, have been a problem for many years. The daycare has routinely used window air conditioners in those rooms during the summer to control the room temperatures. This is an obvious energy wasting practice especially when the designed system existed and should work! Working with Rick Shortridge from Harley's, we added direct air return ducts (which were never installed), added insulation above the drop ceilings in order to reduce the heat load from the flat tar and steel

roof above, and upgraded the thermostat.

All this made things better but the rooms were still somewhat warm and humid during our hot and humid days. Ultimately the decision was made to replace the 30+ year old AC unit with a new Heat Pump! We have been able to keep those rooms comfortable for the babies and staff since. We want to thank the Trustees for choosing the more energy efficient heat pump over another AC and gas furnace option. THANK YOU! These improvements are part of a process of upgrades that need to be made and will pay dividends in the form of lower utility bills for years to come.

Some of our wish list items that we have shared have been set aside as grants have not been forthcoming and government credits have disappeared. But there are still projects to be done that are energy efficient. Our biggest need is to upgrade the windows in the offices and Huxtable Lounge. We are told that we could expect 50% reductions in heating and cooling costs with this project as the existing windows are often single pane glass and use none of the newer materials now used in modern windows.

Our hope is to continue to work on building upgrades, systems and materials, to prevent our building from deteriorating as it will without continuing maintenance. We view these costs as investments in our building assets. While it feels like an expense that could be delayed now, it will ultimately prevent the need for complete replacements beyond our ability to pay for. We used to say "a stitch in time saves nine".

To that end, the church has established the "Sustainability Fund" which will be used for energy efficiency and good maintenance projects. Please contribute what you can beyond that needed for the general funds to operate the church.

On an additional note, check out our Facebook group, *Eastridge Presbyterian Green Team*.



YANA:

You Are Not Alone, a group for those who have lost a spouse, meets the first Tuesday of each month for a meal and fellowship.

We often choose a restaurant to meet for lunch or early dinner.

Contact the office or Berna Stading for more information.





WELCOMING WEEK

Join us in September for Lincoln Welcoming Week! Events throughout the city feature music, food, stories, and traditions from the many vibrant cultures across Lincoln.

Community Challenge

Be a super-welcomer!

HOW?

Attend as many Welcoming Week events as you can. Take a selfie at each event and post it to Instagram, Facebook, or Bluesky with the hashtag #alltogetherInk.

At the end of Lincoln Welcoming Week four winners will be drawn for prizes!

Prizes will include merch and gift cards to local immigrant-owned businesses.

#alltogetherInk

scan for events



welcomingInk.org



GLOBAL JOURNEYS New Nebraskan Stories

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Welcoming Plan is partnering with University of Nebraska Press and the Cultural Centers of Lincoln to publish a book of first-person essays from newcomers in our community.

Join us at the Lincoln City Libraries Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors to hear from a few of this book's contributors.

Sunday, September 21 | 2pm - 4pm
Bennett Martin Library - Heritage Room
136 S 14th St.

From war and conflict to community building and service, the tenacity, heart, and resilience of these authors shine.



LINCOLN
City Libraries



WELCOMING
WEEK

No One Should Grieve Alone: A Conversation with Carly Woythaler-Runestad

Wednesday, September 10 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Join us for the first Faith Coalition of Lancaster County gathering of the new program year, featuring Carly Woythaler-Runestad, MHA, Executive Director of the Mourning Hope Grief Center. With over 16 years of leadership, Carly will share insights into Mourning Hope's mission of walking alongside children, adults, and families navigating the loss of a loved one.

Discover how Mourning Hope companions individuals before and after a death loss through support groups, counseling, education, and resources. Carly's compas-

sion and commitment shine through her message of hope and healing—and the belief that no one should have to grieve alone.

In-Person or Online Participation: Bring your own brown bag lunch if attending in person. Zoom access is available. Please message us to receive the link.

All are welcome. Let's learn together how grief support strengthens our communities and how faith communities can be part of this essential work.





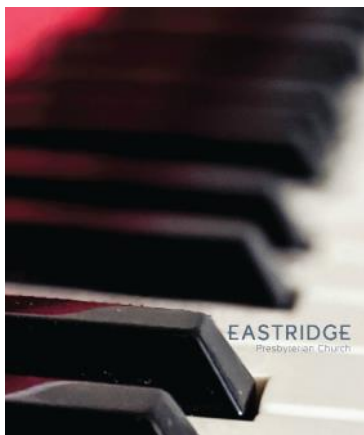
We need Volunteers to help with the Lefler Food Market!

In 2017 Lefler Middle School started the Lefler Food Market to serve students and families in need. Eastridge Presbyterian Church provides 3 volunteers each month to help for this once a month Food Market, on the first Wednesday of the month. The Market takes place during the school year, September-May. We have a Sign-up Genius link if you are interested in volunteering:

<https://bit.ly/epclefler2526>

If you would like more information about volunteering, please contact Susan Budler at sbudler1@nebraska.edu

Volunteers who want to help at the Lefler Food Market will need to fill out a Level II volunteer application. Go to <https://wapp.lps.org/gold/volunteer/volunteer.cfm>, the application only takes a few minutes to fill out.



"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!" - Psalm 150

Chancel choir will resume rehearsals Wednesday September 3 at 7:00pm. **Kirk Ringers** will resume rehearsals Tuesday September 9 at 6:30pm. Contact Brent Shaw if interested in ringing, singing, or offering other musical gifts. We're looking forward to having our wonderful choirs back helping lead worship with Chancel choir with cello on Sunday, September 7 and Kirk Ringers with trumpet on September 14.

Would you like a child's chair?

We have more small wooden children's chairs than we know what to do with! If you would like to take a couple home with you, we would love for them to find homes where they can be used! They have been well loved but are still in sturdy condition. People are welcome to take them for **FREE**. We have had some folks say, "can I at least make a donation." It is not

necessary however we would gladly accept it. Because we have children use all of our spaces in the church, we often have to move small chairs. We would love to replace our small chairs with lighter, stackable ones. We have one new set of them in the Welcome Center and they are already getting used all throughout the week. If you would like a chair or two, there is a stash of them behind the Welcome Desk. Please feel to grab them at any time!



The Alzheimer's Music Project is a program available to support any person who is diagnosed with a cognitive disorder. The program provides individuals with a set of preprogrammed wireless headphones for free to the participant to keep indefinitely. The headphones are prepped with a downloaded playlist of approximately 100 songs curated with bands/music genres associated with the person's stated preferences. The only information required on the application is the person's name, address, birth year, and music preferences. Visit

<https://www.alzheimersmusicproject.org/> for details.



Preparing for Food Shortages: A Call to Action

The Lincoln Food Bank has issued a warning to all partner agencies to begin preparing for upcoming food shortages. With an anticipated \$200 billion cut from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Bank expects a significant increase in the number of individuals and families relying on charitable food support.

In response, the Food Bank is proactively working with donors to build up its inventory and develop strategies to address the expected shortfall. These challenges are already visible at the Eastridge Pantry. When placing orders with the Food Bank, we are finding fewer available options, and there is a notable lack of USDA products—items that are typically provided to us at no cost.

The same thing is true for the Hygiene Project. They provide personal care items to us. Because their costs have risen 30%-80% they are compensating by reducing the size of products given to us to travel size.

Hunger and food insecurity are rising. This is clearly reflected in the growing number of people we serve. In June alone, our Pantry supported over 2,400 individuals from 650 families—an increase of more than 400 individuals since earlier this year.

To compound the problem, the cost for partner agencies to purchase food from the Food Bank has surged. Prices for essential items have risen by 30–50%, forcing us to spend significantly more for less food. The Eastridge Pantry Board

has already begun planning for these shortages. We are exploring ways to either expand our food supply or, if necessary, reduce the amount of food distributed per household.

How You Can Help:

- Check our list of needed items and donate what you can
- Make a financial contribution designated specifically for the Pantry
- Volunteer your time to help distribute food or assist shoppers
- Share your excess garden produce with us
- Pray for pantry and our clients

While many of us have never personally experienced food insecurity, we are called to respond to those in need. As a Matthew 25 congregation, we are committed to addressing systemic poverty. One way we can live out this mission is by supporting our Pantry during this critical time

Items we can use:

- Personal care items i.e. shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper
- Cleaning items i.e. laundry soap, dish soap
- Feminine hygiene products
- Canned fruits, vegetables, tomato products
- Canned meats
- Spaghetti pasta





HIGHLIGHTS



Session Highlights:

Acknowledge that communion was served on August 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Acknowledge that Rev. Thomas Dummermuth officiated at the memorial service for Ruth Ann Lyness on August 1 at Eastridge.

Celebrate 50th birthdays for Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon and Rev. Thomas Dummermuth following the service on Sunday, September 7.

Opportunity to participate in a Fall Retreat scheduled September 12-13 at Camp Calvin Crest for a weekend of reflection, rest, and renewal inspired by Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward* and Parker Palmer's *Let Your Life Speak*.

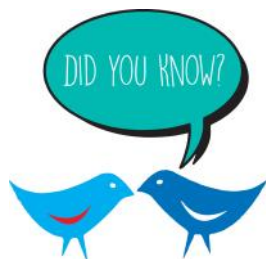
Correspondence received from Ministry of Engagement and Support letter recognizing Eastridge Presbyterian Church's donation of \$750 for shared mission support.

The 3rd Stated Homestead Presbytery Meeting is scheduled on August 16 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at Camp Calvin Crest.

A motion by the Board of Trustees to approve the purchase of a heat pump carried and the heat pump has been installed for cooling the daycare rooms.

Acknowledge that Rev. Dummermuth officiated at the wedding ceremony of Eliza Felix and Benjamin Amen on August 15 at Eastridge.

Finance Committee reported overall, the investment portfolio is looking good and expenses are trending to what was projected (50-60% of annual budget).



Did you know?

The bulletin board in the hallway outside the women's restroom has volunteer opportunities and other community information.

Check it out!

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.

Fourth Friday Women's Coffee Fellowship:

Join the ladies in Huxtable on September 26 at 8:30 am for our monthly coffee fellowship!

Let the office know if you would like to be included in an email reminder.
(For more information on other coffee groups, check out page 11)





A Birthday Celebration!

Both of our pastors are turning 50 this summer/fall! Pastor Melodie's birthday was August 11, Pastor Thomas's is September 26.

Join us following worship on September 7 for refreshments and wish them a happy birthday!

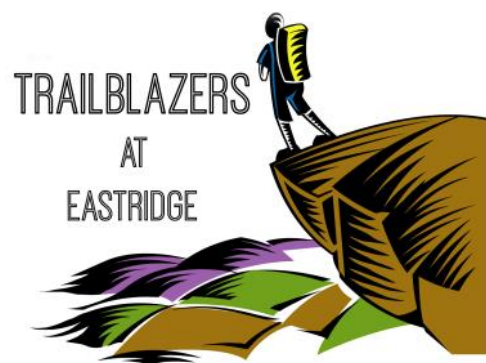
Baskets for cards for Melodie and Thomas will be available.



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.

If you are interested, please contact Sandra Hilsabeck at 402-770-4289.

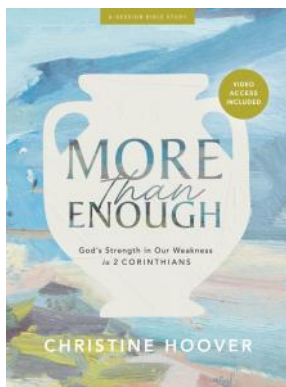
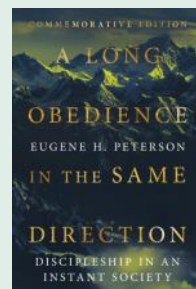
For September 19: TBA! Watch the weekly bulletin for details.



MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY:

Our study will begin on Monday, September 8th at 6:30 in Huxtable. We will be using the book *"A Long Obedience in the Same Direction"* by Eugene H. Peterson (second edition, 2000). We meet from 6:30-7:30 pm each Monday during the school year.

For more information, contact the church office!



The **Wednesday Morning Bible study** will be starting the book ***More Than Enough*** by **Christine Hoover** August 27. This group is led by Donna Gustafson and meets each Wednesday at 10:30 am in Huxtable Lounge. Contact the office for more information.

A paraphrase from the publisher: "A study on 2nd Corinthians, Christine Hoover guides us through one of Paul's most personal letters to discover how God is the ultimate source of the strength and sufficiency we need. ""



Community volunteers needed!

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Lancaster County trains and supports volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children and be a voice for them. When everything else in a child's life is in chaos, a CASA is a stable adult presence giving the child a fighting chance to gain a voice, achieve safety and stability, and develop a sense of self-worth. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for a child's best interests until the case is closed and the child is in a safe, permanent home. CASA volunteers make sure children's needs are met while they are in the system and assist in moving cases forward so that children do not linger needlessly in foster care. For more information about becoming a CASA volunteer, ask Kris Brenneis, current CASA volunteer, and/or visit www.casa4lanaster.org.



The Food Pantry is again in need of your clean plastic bags from grocery/retail use.

You may leave them in the grocery cart in the Welcome Center.

Thank you!



Eastridge Care Connections: This group, which is similar to our former Deacon Ministry but not exactly the same, meets for quarterly gatherings.

Our current Care Connections team is organized into three areas: Families; Death, Dying, Grieving; For Those at Home.

Contact the church office if you are interested in this ministry!



Ladies Night Out:

This group meets for fun outings, mostly "off campus". This past year we visited the Glacial Till Tasting Room and had brunch at Carmela's Bistro.

Various events are planned throughout the year. For more information contact the office. A Facebook page actively shares information as well.



This fall, the **Eastridge Hospice Singers** will begin their 8th year of “bringing the peace and comfort of music to those journeying through hospice care”. With God’s blessing and the dedication of our 20 hospice trained singers, it has been our honor to provide 90 singing visits during the first eight months of 2025. Since our first singing visit in December 2018, over 800 “in person” and virtual visits have been shared with those who request our presence during their end-of-life journeys and while receiving hospice care.

Our own personal hospice singing journeys have been blessed with developing relationships with the individuals for whom we sing. Whether we sing just once for a person or multiple times, music has a special way of helping ease, and of making more beautiful, the transition from this world to the next. We often find, especially at end-of-life, “When words fail, Music speaks “

Our unique singing ministry is appreciative of EPC and the support given to us by staff and members of our congregation. Brochures and business cards for the Eastridge Hospice Singers can be found on the Welcome Desk. For more information or the scheduling of a singing visit for a family member or friend receiving hospice

care, contact Patty Niemann at epc.hospice.singers@gmail.com or 402-432-8353. We also are available to provide educational programs for community groups as a way for others to learn more about our ministry.

A special picture of a well-loved vocal music teacher whose daughter moved him to Minneapolis to be closer to her family is shown below. The group wanted to sing for him before he left; all of the hospice singers in the photo have had a special relationship with him over the years. Sitting on the couch: Jon Peterson and Patty Niemann. Left to Right: Kathy Leeper, Bev Jester, Jeff Sayre, Ann Moore, Deb Reichert and Sheryl Parde



What is a Land Acknowledgment?

We can trace the beginnings of Land Acknowledgment from Australia through Canada to the United States. Its original intention was to “give honor to the Aboriginal peoples and as a way to increase the rights of these Indigenous peoples.” It is most often a statement recognizing that a building or event is on land originally inhabited by Native Americans.

Why would EPC consider a Land Acknowledgment?

The 223rd General Assembly (held in 2018), urged many church bodies to consider this as a step in dismantling racism and addressing the denomination’s historic harms against Indigenous people. Following her sabbatical last year where she researched her genealogy and her family’s journey west along to Mormon Trail, Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon (Senior Pastor and Moderator of the Session) asked the Session to consider establishing a committee to explore the desire for a Land Acknowledgment at EPC.

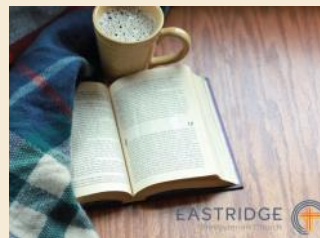
Who will be on the committee? We are currently asking members if they would like to serve in this way. The committee will include diversity of voices, including Native American heritage. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact the office or email mjonespointon@eastridge.org.





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.



Coffee Groups:

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 September 27!

Men's Tuesday Morning Group: Join us at The Mill on Prescott/48th street (near Union College) every Tuesday at 8:30 am for discussion and coffee.

Faith Partners: Eastridge Faith Partners' mission statement: The Eastridge Presbyterian Church Faith Partners offers alcohol, drug, and other addictions awareness, prevention, education, referral assistance and recovery support to the people served by this congregation in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Contact the office if you'd like to be a part of this committee!



JUSTICE IN ACTION: do justice, love mercy & walk humbly with your God—Micah 6:8

Justice in Action is an interfaith, grassroots coalition of faith communities in Lancaster County, Nebraska. We harness the power of organized people to address big community problems.

We have the power to make change when we work together. We listen to the concerns of our community, democratically select an issue to work on, and then delve into research about that issue. Research teams find solutions which are shared with elected officials at our annual Nehemiah Assembly.

The first step is LISTENING. We invite you to join one of our "LISTENING SESSIONS" this fall (see below) to help us determine what issues we want to address this year.

For additional information or to get involved go to: www.justice-in-action.org or contact Sara Bevans at sarabevans62@gmail.com



Sept. 25
7:00pm
Jean Schulze's
Home

Sept. 28
10:45am
Huxtable
Lounge

Oct. 12
10:45am
Huxtable
Lounge

DATE TBD
1:30pm
Eastmont



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:

<https://bit.ly/gatheringplace2025epc>



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>

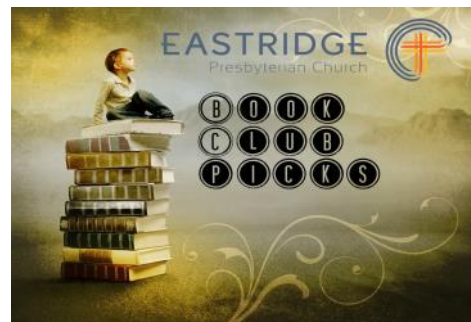
Filling boxes: <https://bit.ly/FPFillingBoxes>

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Do you knit, crochet or quilt? The EPC prayer shawl group welcomes those with these skills to join them in helping to make prayer shawls and baby blankets to be given to our members and church friends during times of difficulty and times of joy. For questions about this group or making shawls and blankets, contact Patty Niemann at 402-432- 8353 or the church office.



The Eastridge Presbyterian Book Club starts again in September. Our first meeting of the year is Monday, September 8 at 7:00 pm.

Join us in M12 to discuss ***Becoming Madame Secretary*** by **Stephanie Dray**. Check out the church website on the calendar page for a list of this year's picks.



Programming Schedule for 2025/2026



KEY

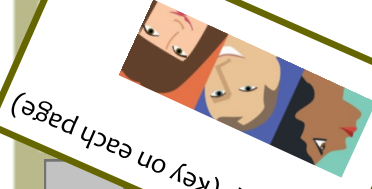
A = MINISTRY FOR ADULTS
Y = MINISTRY FOR YOUTH
C = MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN
E = MINISTRY FOR EVERYONE
W = MINISTRY FOR WOMEN
M = MINISTRY FOR MEN



Worship, Learn, Serve
W, L, S
WORSHIP
Learn
SERVE



Date and time



Age group (key on each page)

Adult Studies and Committees (see newsletter for specific studies... many are available!)	W, L, S	various	A
(Eastridge) Care Connections	S	various	A, Y
Chancel Choir	W	Wednesdays at 7:00pm	A, Y
Devotion Ministry	S	Write as often as you'd like!	A, Y
Eastridge serves at The Gathering Place	S	Last Monday of every month	E
Eastridge Hospice Singers	W, S	TBD	A
EPC Book Club	L	Second Monday of the month during school year	A
EPW Gatherings	L, S	Third Wednesday of the month 4 times a year	W
Faith Connection for Children in Preschool	W, L, S	Sunday morning	C
Faith Connection for Elementary-Age Children	W, L, S	Tuesdays during school year	C
Faith Partners at Eastridge	S	Meetings the 2nd Thursday most months; special events	A, Y
Food Pantry	S	Volunteer to help distribute food or fill boxes	A, Y
Fourth Friday Women's Coffee	L	Fourth Friday of each month	A
Interfaith Justice Organization in Lincoln/Lancaster County	L, S	various	A
Kirk Ringers	W	Tuesdays at 6:30 pm	A, Y

Programming Schedule for 2025/2026



KEY

A =MINISTRY FOR ADULTS

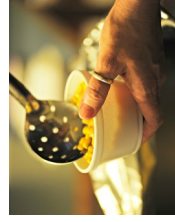
Y=MINISTRY FOR YOUTH

C=MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN

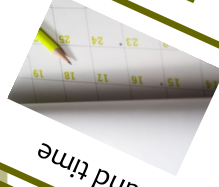
E=MINISTRY FOR EVERYONE

W=MINISTRY FOR WOMEN

M=MINISTRY FOR MEN



Worship, Learn, Serve
W, L, S
WORSHIP
Learn SERVE



Date and time

Age group (key on each page)

Ladies Night Out	L		Quarterly throughout the year	W
Lefler Middle School Food Market	S		Volunteer to help distribute food	A, Y
Meals on Wheels	S		Call the office to volunteer!	A
Men's Tuesday Morning Fellowship Group	L, S		Every Tuesday at 7:30 am at The Mill @ Telegraph	M
Monday Night Bible Study	L		Mondays at 7 pm during the school year	A
Prayer Shawl Group	W, S		On your own!	A
Stephen Ministry	S		Contact the church office for more information	A
Trailblazers: a group for retired individuals and couples	L, S		3rd Friday of the month except summer months	A
Wednesday Morning Bible Study	L		Every Wednesday at 10:30 am	W
Women's Circle Groups	L		First Wednesday of the month; times vary; except summer	W
YANA Group (You Are Not Alone) for those who have lost a spouse	L		Evening meal the first Tuesday of each month	A
Youth—Faith Connection	W, L		Wednesdays during the school year	Y
Zoom studies for Adults	L		Typically Thursdays at 10:00 am throughout the year	A



1135 Eastridge Drive
Lincoln NE 68510

