

August
Sermon
Series

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



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Presbyterian Church



Christ-Centered. Community Strong.
2025 Annual Report

Our mission statement:

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

Eastridge Church Staff

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

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

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

Donna Gustafson Office Manager

Andy Kalnins... Weekend Custodian

Will McGuire Worship Leader

Brent Shaw... Choir Director/ Organist

Vince Ruhl... Director of Online Worship

Laura Siemsen... Administrative Assistant

Brett Meier..... Audio Visual Tech

Sydney Mitchell... Nursery

Eastridge Presbyterian Church
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Lincoln, Nebraska 68510-5014
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**Eastridge Celebrates 2025:
The Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting
February 22, 2026
10:45 am, Huxtable Lounge**

Agenda

Declaration of Quorum	
Opening Prayer	
Minutes of Congregation and Corporation Meetings from 2025	
Celebrations!	
Session Report Reflections	Members of the Session
Finance Reports Reflections	Members of the Finance Committee
Trustees Report Reflections	Members of the Trustees
Report back in groups	Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon
Prayer for the Congregation, Corporation, and Those Who Died in 2025 Necrology Report	Rev. Thomas Dummermuth
Expression of thanks to those serving as officers	Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon
Move to adjourn the Meeting with Prayer	Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon

Associate Pastor
Rev. Thomas Dummermuth



As part of our Holy Moments theme this past fall, we shared little things that made a big difference in our lives. It was a joy to hear about all of the little things people shared: someone you didn't know at school helping gather your dropped books between classes; an invitation to live in a neighbor's empty house after your spouse was moved to a care facility; a professor casually suggesting you might explore a career path you never considered; a stranger paying your bill in a restaurant; or your child's caregiver teaching your child to dance. In a world where everything feels really big and overwhelming, what are those little things we can share with others?

As we searched for a theme that would weave through the ministry of 2025, we realized that there were lots of these holy moments - little things - that made a big difference in our lives.

- Both of us continue to be actively nurturing the social web that connects faith leaders and communities: Thomas finished his terms on the UNL Lutheran Center Board, as Vice-President for Justice in Action, and continues as the Vice President of the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County; Melodie finished the inaugural year of Missio Lincoln, serves on the recruitment committee for Justice in Action, and participates in Faith Coalition of Lancaster County. The relationships we are forming with colleagues in our community are meaningful to us professionally and personally! We are committed to continuing this work in and for our community. (And are humbled and proud of what we are accomplishing with JIA - pre-eviction mediation; a mental health navigation system; continuing to ask for the expansion of our county attorney's successful pre-trial diversion program; and addressing the causes of food insecurity). Thomas also attended continuing education events in Florida and Lincoln that furthered these relationships. And, a highlight for both of us was the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Thomas continues to serve on the planning committee for this event. What a joy it was to not only fill a table as a faith community, and as a Missio ecumenical community, but also to have Nyabuoy Chan lead us in prayer. Later that same day, Melodie attended the National Day of Prayer Service at the Capitol. The day ended with the Nehemiah Action Assembly for Justice in Action. That was a great day that stretched and expanded our hearts and souls. Finally, Thomas preached at the Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service.
- We celebrate those moments when our ministries have been honored by our community! The Eastridge Food Pantry was honored at the Empty Bowls fundraiser for the Food Bank. As a community, we made over 26 gallons of beef barley soup to share with the participants of the fundraiser. As President and CEO of the Bank, Michaella Kumke, shared these words, Melodie's heart was full. Especially as we are known for being welcoming and offering hospitality to our clients. This is a theme that continues through all who come into our space at 1135 Eastridge Drive. We continue to delight in the number of people and organizations who use our space: AA, NA, PEO, A+ Academy Daycare, Marble Music, Area Agency on Aging, Justice in Action, Homestead Presbytery, Special Musicians, Eastridge Hospice Singers, Eastridge Neighborhood Board, and Girl Scouts to name a few. We also love seeing our neighbors on the playground and in our building along with many delivery, sales, and utility personnel.
- Our work within our community continues to be meaningful as well. The people who come together within the Eastridge faith community are amazing, and we are constantly in awe of you! As we visit in homes, care facilities and in the pews, we are inspired and challenged by the faith stories we hear. It's always an honor to enter the sacred spaces of hospitals and funerals, of which we had quite a few in the summer months. The ministry of EPC Care Connections continues to grow and it is wonderful to partner with members of the team in visiting and providing pastoral care. Thomas led a retreat at Calvin Crest on the theme of Vocation

in September.

- Thomas officiated at a wedding offsite for members of our community, and at the first wedding in our sanctuary since 2019 for a neighborhood couple. We also celebrated the baptism of a fourth generation Eastridge family. We led book studies on Wednesday evenings in person and Thursday mornings on Zoom. Melodie's fall study incorporated some field trips to the Sheldon Museum, International Quilt Museum, and Nebraska Wesleyan Campus (tour guide was Steve Pointon!). We welcomed new faces in our pews that have become familiar friends, and Thomas welcomed some as members in our New Member Class. Working with our continued boards, seasonal conveners, committees, and teams we planned seasonal themes that included worship services, sermons, studies, fellowship gatherings, outreach opportunities, and fun exploration of scripture during and after worship services.
- Thomas spent a six week sabbatical season "being where your feet are." He joined a cohort of pastors who walked the Camino in Spain, and also spent some time hiking and exploring in the Midwest. He then shared his experience with the Trailblazers, EPW, and the Wednesday morning Bible Study.

Finally, on a personal note, we turned 100 this year! As both of us passed that 50-year-old mile marker, we celebrated following a worship service in September.

These little things are only a snapshot of what this past year has been for our community. The rest of this Annual Report will make a fuller picture of life at Eastridge Presbyterian Church. We are thankful to continue to serve as your pastors!

¹ The complete volume of these videos can be found here.

¹ More on the Missio Cohort can be found at <https://www.missiocohorts.org/>.

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

Eastridge Session 2025

Chris Boden
Chris Boone
Carolyn Brandle
Kris Brenneis
Susan Budler
Jean Dunbar
Randy Franks
Rena Oestmann
Carol Ripley
Greg Tubach

Debbie Merritt
(Clerk) *non-voting member

Melodie Jones Pointon (Moderator,
Senior Pastor)

Thomas Dummermuth
(Associate Pastor)

Eastridge Trustees 2025

William Bevans
Kip Ilian
Mike Laughter
Rob Shortridge
Barry Stelk
Steve Anderson, Treasurer

FAITH FORMATION

Children's Ministries (K-5th grade):

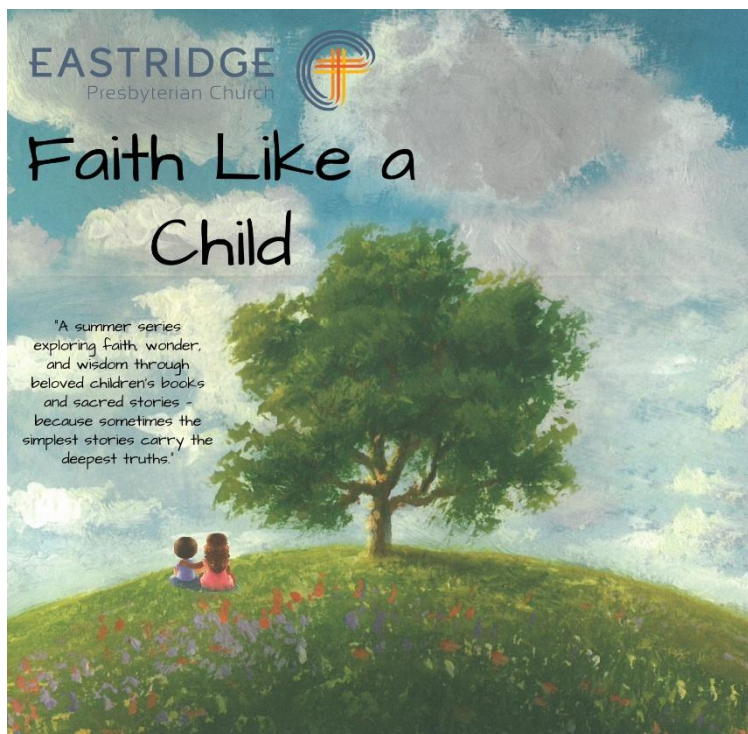
- *Faith Formation
Tuesday Afternoon Program
- *Camp Calvin Crest- Summer Camp
- *Children's Christmas Program

Youth Ministries (6-12th grade):

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

Adult Ministries:

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



2025 Financial Information

Our donors (General Fund giving):

Number of donors: 175

Average per donor: \$ 3,142

Number of gifts: 1,288

Average per donation: \$ 423

Other gifts

(Where donors designated their gifts other than general fund giving):

Food Pantry:

\$ 37,541 (\$ 27,674 not memorial gifts)



Extra giving opportunities (Presbytery offerings, PCUSA Disaster Relief, Care & Share Offering, Thank Offering):

\$ 4,371



Per Capita:

\$ 5,385



Faith Formation (Children & Youth):

\$ 5,169



Group Fees/Daycare:

\$33,048



Legacy Gifts

(in honor of or in memory of):

\$ 3,125



\$ 9,867 (specifically for Food Pantry)

Eastridge Presbyterian

Women: \$ 1,971



Sustainability Fund:

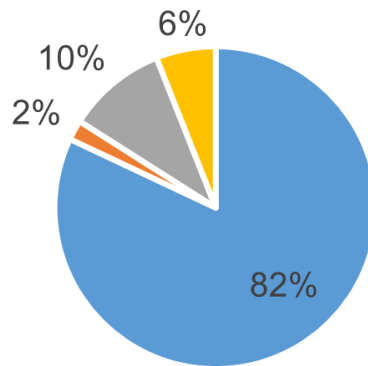
\$ 4,800



Music: \$ 2,100

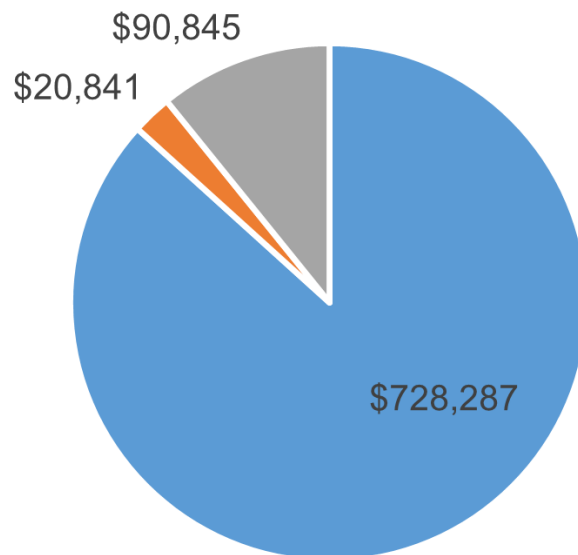


2025 Income



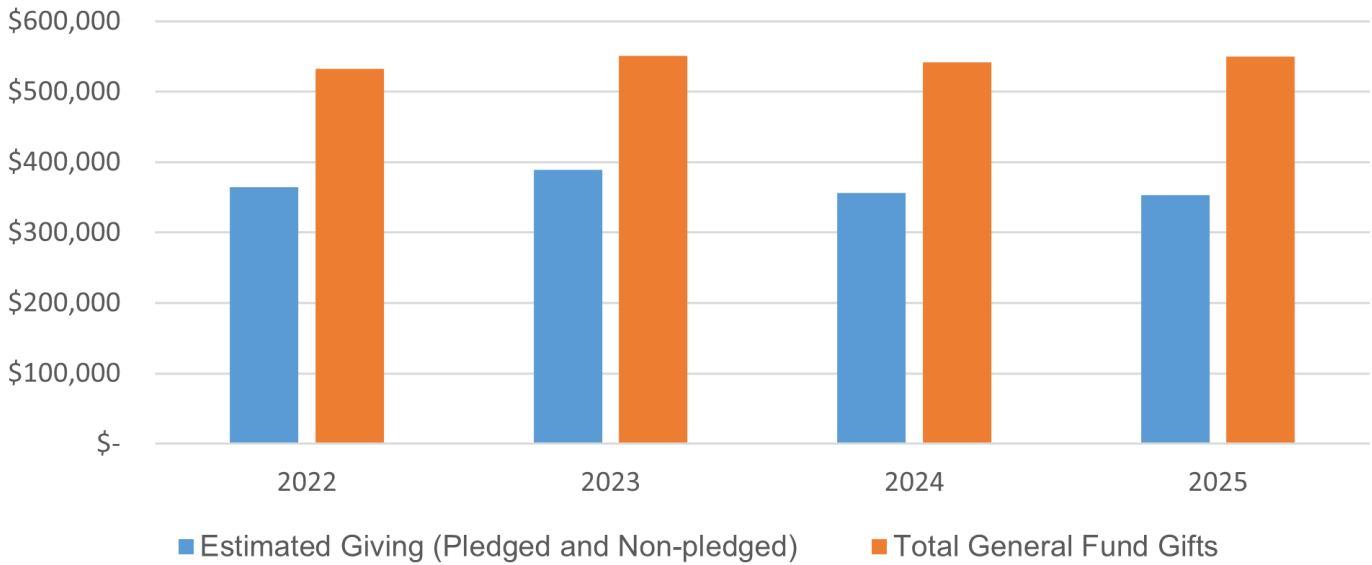
- General Fund
- Designated Gifts
- Restricted Gifts
- Other Income (rent, special events, flowers)

2025 Expenses

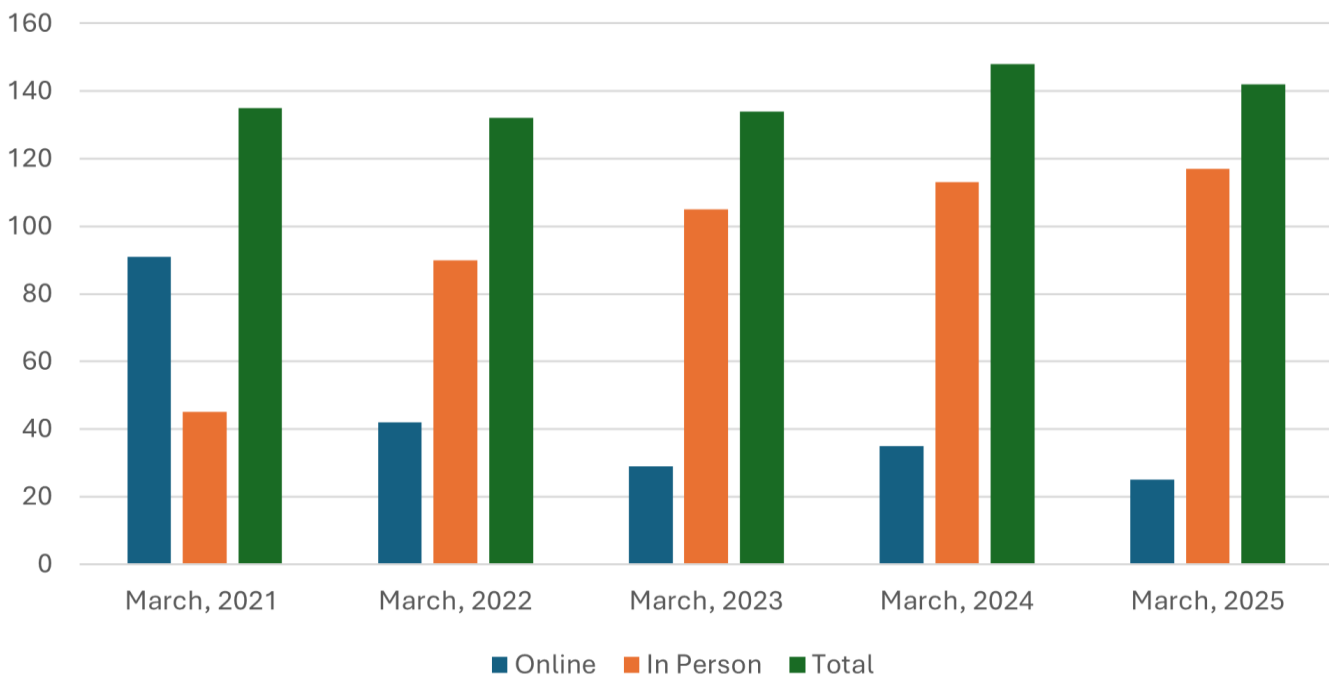


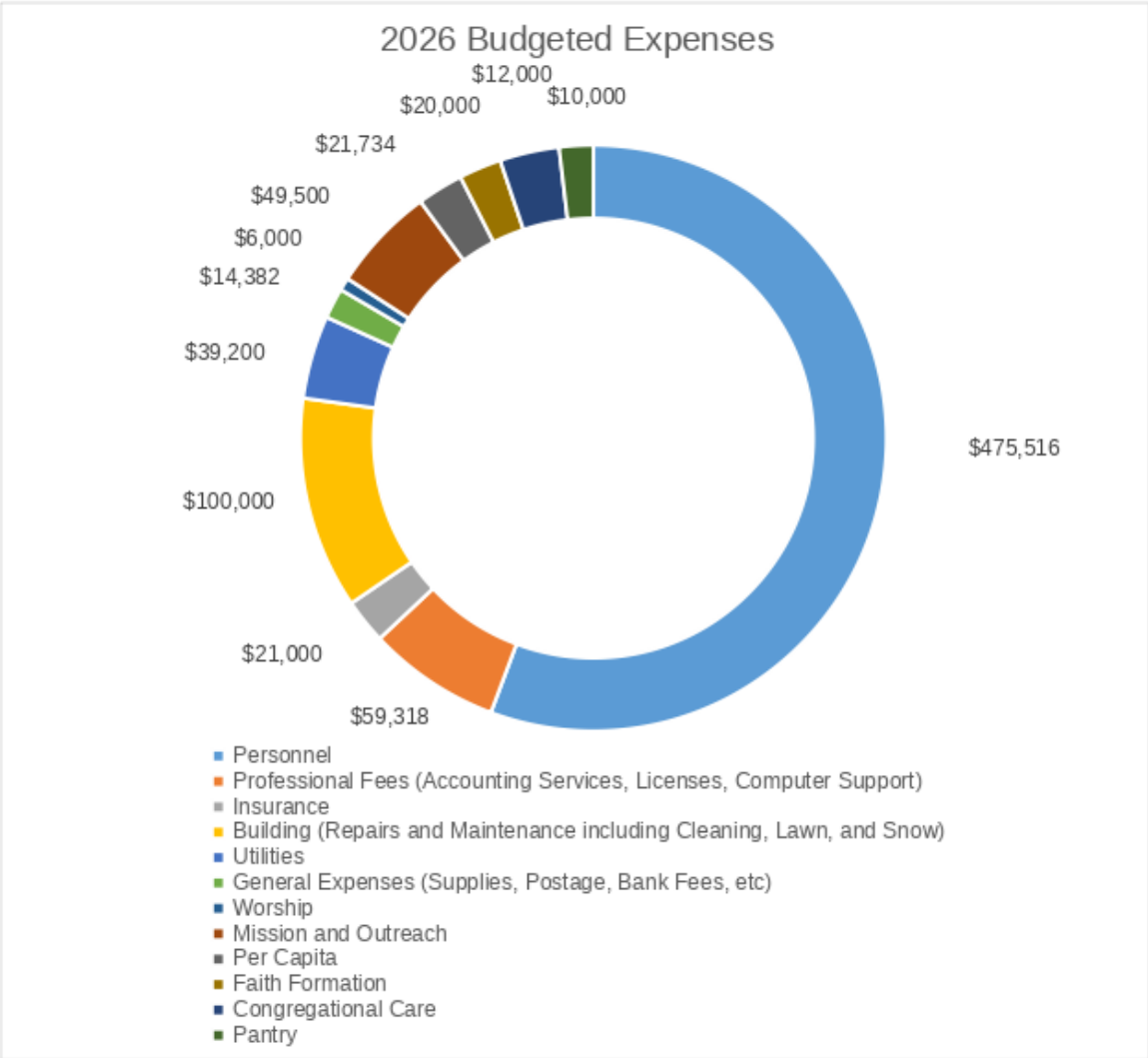
- General Fund Expenses
- Designated Gifts
- Usable M&E Funds

Total Income and Estimated Giving Four Year Comparison



Worship Attendance





2026 Budget	
Budget Approved 1/23/2025	\$828,650
Anticipated General Giving	\$550,000
Anticipated Fees and Designated Giving	\$62,900
Anticipated Transfers	\$215,750
Over/(Under)	\$0