EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



From the Pastor's Pen...

Part of the PC(USA) Matthew 25 Initiative is to focus on Congregational Vitality.

A community's vitality is primarily its spiritual strength and its capacity for purposeful mission. Congregational vitality is evident in a worshiping community when its structural systems, finances, and discipleship practices are aligned in such a way that the community is actively engaged in the mission of God in their local community and the world, and they are powerfully focused on growing as disciples in the way of Jesus Christ.

As a Matthew 25 Congregation, this means our congregation measures our strength not in the nefarious ways the world measures success but in the way we put our faith into action (become practitioners of our faith in Jesus Christ.)

This fall, we have spent time considering What We Hold in Common through worship, study, and practice. Part of our vitality is what we do as a community of faith in this building we steward. Part of our vitality is how we invite the community around us to utilize our building. Part of our vitality is how we show up outside of our building and participate in our larger community.

By now, you may have heard some exciting news from a joint meeting of the Session and Trustees. After hearing the reports of the Elevator Committee and the Earth Care Team, the boards voted to move forward with projects to address accessibility and sustainability in our building. These projects are primarily: the modernization of the elevator; replacing aged and non-functioning windows; addressing persistent issues and upgrading our HV/AC systems (we have 17!) to work efficiently together; and some smaller projects to move toward a barrier free building (this includes an emergency pull for the unisex/accessible bathroom; adult changing tables; and new WAVE mechanisms for our front door and possibly the accessible bathroom). Over the past couple years, these projects have been growing more urgent. The Elevator Committee and Earth Care Team were tasked with considering the needs and proposing solutions. Bids for the projects have been considered by the Elevator Committee, the Trustees, and the Session. It is very exciting to know that the time is now for us to move forward in addressing these projects for current and future use by our community.

We have already reached out to several groups who use our building on a consistent basis, and the Elevator Committee has been publishing updates since their first meeting this past summer. A fund code has been established so we are ready to receive gifts. It is exciting to be able to share that we have already received some gifts, which reinforces the way these projects resonate with our community.

As we move forward careful consideration will be given as to how we are going to fund these projects. A Capital Campaign Committee is in the beginning stages of forming and will begin meeting to lead the fundraising effort. A budget of $475,000 has been approved, with funding to be anticipated from the campaign fund drive, grants, and the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP).



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EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



From the Pastor's Pen...

(*continued from previous page*)

A grant writer is currently submitting Letters of Intent so we can determine what grants we can apply for. We will also be asking questions of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program about potential funding from the PC(USA). Homestead Presbytery has been notified of our intentions, as have the National Presbyterian Foundation, and have both indicated their support for our projects.

What comes next? A meeting of the congregation will be called for early January so that the projects, financing, and campaign details can be shared. If it is determined that funds from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program are advisable, the congregation and Homestead Presbytery will need to vote on the recommendation.

What happens now? We signed a contract with Schumacher Elevator on October 20. Trustee representatives met with Dave Holtzclaw, President of Transduction Technologies for an initial walk through of the building for an energy audit. This audit will provide a comprehensive road map for addressing current and future issues with our HVAC system. A Capital Campaign Committee is being formed. A fund code has been established so we can receive funds given to the project.

Thank you for your prayers and patience as we embark on this important project for our church and the community we serve.

We are excited to share more details in January!

~ Pastor Melodie





Does the newsletter look a little different this month? Microsoft Publisher is no longer supported (effective October 2026), with Microsoft 365 versions ceasing to function entirely and standalone versions continuing without updates or support.

Please be patient as we (Donna!) learns the new platform!



November Congregational Meeting:

This meeting will be on November 22, immediately following worship. According to our by-laws, the purpose of the meeting is to approve the pastors' terms of call for 2027 and to nominate and elect officers.



Eastridge financial update: As in other years, our giving tapers off this time of year. We need an average of $ 20,000 per week (Nov—Dec) to make our 2026 budget goal. (For comparison, we took in $ 9,647.00 in general fund offerings the week of October 25...does not include gift match). **Thank you for your gifts to the church! See page 10 of this newsletter for more info on our gift/fund match! Please turn in a pledge card so that our finance committee can plan a budget for 2027.**



EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



Handspoken Pop-Up Sale

Handspoken? What is that? Don't we usually have a pop-up sale with Ten Thousand Villages? THAT is a great question! Just over a year ago, Ten Thousand Villages rebranded and became Handspoken. The corporation that was Ten Thousand Villages did some restructuring and closed many of their corporate owned stores so they could focus on ecommerce. Our Lincoln store was one of those effected in this restructuring as it is an individually owned store. Through this restructuring, the store and its Board, still believed in the mission of the store and wanted to continue supporting under-resourced communities and artisans from around the world by helping to provide a living wage for their hand-crafted work. So, while the name of the store has changed, the mission and their products have not! They continue to offer unique gifts and products that are hand-made by some of the same wonderful artisans around the world and they have developed partnerships with some new artists.

Our Eastridge/First Youth Group is going to continue supporting the store and raising some funds for the group by hosting our annual pop-up sale in the Welcome Center. The dates of the sale are Sunday, November 15 following worship, Monday, November 16 from 10:00am – 7:00pm and Tuesday, November 17 from 2:00pm – 6:30pm. The Youth Group receives 15% of the total sales. These funds will be used to support our summer mission trip. We hope you will "stop by our sale" and check out all the goodies. As with all of our fundraising efforts, we appreciate all the support that you provide for the youth of EPC!

HANDSPOKEN
FAIR TRADE



YOUTH DINNER: We LOVE having visitors at Youth Group on Wednesday evenings. It's a chance for us to get to know others in the congregation outside of the normal Sunday morning setting. One of the ways to get to know our youth, and be in fellowship with them, is to provide dinner on a Wednesday evening. Since we have joined with First Presbyterian Youth Group, the number of Wednesdays that we will need dinner volunteers has been cut in half. This year, we will only need dinner volunteers for 14 Wednesdays. This covers the entire year!

If you are interested in serving, you can do this in several ways. It can be a group of people providing dinner, a couple of families getting together, or individuals. We feed around 12-14 people each week. If you provide dinner, it is most helpful for us if the volunteers can set up, serve dinner, and clean up, and most importantly JOIN US for dinner. It's a great time to hear about what the youth are doing in their life. Often times, you only need to ask one question and they will take it and run! If you would be willing to volunteer, you can sign up with the following link or QR code. https://bit.ly/26-27YGdinner
Thank you in advance for your support of our youth!



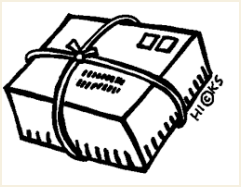
TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

We are off to a great start! We have 15 children who join us each week for play, fellowship, snack, and study. They have a GREAT time at church! They look forward to A LOT of things while they are here and one of those things is snack. After a long day at school, they are ready for something fuel their energy. Our families bring snack, but we would welcome the congregation's help in filling our cupboard with some goodies. We would love some donations of cookies, crackers, granola bars, FRUIT SNACKS, goldfish, etc. If you are willing to donate a box/bag or two, please drop it off in the church office or give it to Kris on a Sunday morning.

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



College Care Packages: Thank you to everyone who gave to fill the boxes and buckets for our college students! They appreciate the goodies more than you know. It is a reminder for them that their church family loves and remembers them!



Trunk or Treat: Our youth and families had a great time at Trunk or Treat! Thank you to our youth for hosting and sharing this event with the neighborhood around first Presbyterian and the families of Eastridge. We had around 300 in attendance on a beautiful Sunday evening.













EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



The children who gather on Tuesday afternoons were hard at work again this month bagging up Rice Krispie treats for the Food Pantry. We bagged up 1,876! Way to go!



Snap, Crackle, & Pop!









Poinsettia Order Form

If you wish to provide a Poinsettia for the church sanctuary for Advent, please complete this form and mail or bring payment to the church office by December 11. Make all checks payable to Eastridge Church noting on the check that it is for a Poinsettia. **(Please return check with this form.)**
Please state exactly how you want your contribution printed in the bulletin.

Donated by _____
In memory of _____
In honor of _____
No. of flowers _____ Poinsettia cost $18.00 each Total _____
I wish my Poinsettia to be taken to a church member. _____
I will pick up my Poinsettia after the Worship services on Christmas Eve_____

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



Session Highlights: October Meeting

A joint meeting of the Trustees and Session was held October 11. Members from the Elevator Committee and Earth Care Team were also in attendance.
Approved Session Meeting Minutes for September 13.
Acknowledged that communion was served on Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m.
Acknowledged that Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the wedding of Sydney Mitchell and Tyler Mason on 9-26-26.
Acknowledged that Rev. Thomas Dummermuth officiated at the wedding of Mikayla Hinrichs & Alexander Emerson on 9-26-26.
Acknowledged that Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon officiated at the wedding of Brett Meier and Adalyn Applegate on 9-30-26.
Approved New Member Orientation Special Session Meeting Minutes for October 4.

Motions:
A motion was carried to receive Lisa Tollefsen, Betty Filbrandt, Janette Shaver-Malick, Monika Gross, and Bill Thompson from the New Member Orientation Special Session Meeting, October 4.

Motion was carried from the Earth Care Team for Session to approve the 2026 audit, complete with enough points to apply and be recognized as an Earth Care Congregation.

Motion was carried to establish an ongoing Earth Care Team with a minimum of five members with at least one current Session member and one current Trustee.

Motion was carried to adopt the Earth Care Congregation Statement of Faith and Commitment.
The motion from the Trustees was carried to approve the 2027 Capital Campaign of $475,000 to modernize the elevator, replace windows as necessary, and coordination of HVAC system for efficiency, and smaller accessibility items (emergency pull for bathrooms, WAVE automatic door openers, motion sensors for lights, and adult changing table).

Motion from Trustees was carried to approve the proposal and bid of Schumacher Elevator Company to modernize the elevator.

The motion was carried to approve hiring a grant writer.

The motion was carried to approve taking steps for a Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) Loan to cover construction costs if the way be clear. Approval by the Congregation and Homestead Presbytery is required.



The motion was carried to allow the Trustees to oversee and coordinate the project with regular updates.

The motion was carried to hold the Congregation meeting following worship on November 22, 2026. Purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and vote on the pastor's proposed terms of call for 2027.

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



Report of the Earth Care Team

The Earth Care Team has completed the audit necessary to apply to become a recognized Earth Care Congregation of the PC(USA). This audit was presented to the Session and Trustees at their joint meeting on October 11. The initial application requires 100 points from four categories: Worship, Education, Outreach, and Facilities. We received points for:

1. Worship (25 Points)
The church dedicated significant time in its liturgical calendar to environmental mindfulness.
2. Education (44 Points)
The congregation emphasized learning, spiritual formation, and ongoing awareness.
3. Outreach Beyond Your Own Church (51 Points)
We demonstrated community impact and environmental advocacy.
4. Facilities (31 Points)
We have made improvements aimed at energy efficiency including efficient light fixtures and HVAC maintenance.

With the audit complete, our application will be submitted this January.

Recommendations from the team for next year include:
1) Encouraging the use of local plants and flowers in our sanctuary.
2) Encouraging walking, carpooling, and riding bikes (includes installing bike racks on our property).
3) Including Earth Care in our stewardship emphasis in the confirmation process.
4) Replacing aged and broken windows in our building (excluding the Welcome Center and Sanctuary), and updating our HV/AC for efficiency.

These are just a few of the recommendations by the Earth Care Team for the Session and Trustees to consider.



Thank you to the Earth Care Team! Gary Killian and Craig Schumacher (co-chairs); Robin Hadfield (Communication and Record Keeping); Susan Budler (Outreach), Randy Franks (Facilities), Sandie Franks (Education), and Melodie Jones Pointon (Worship).

If you would like to join the Earth Care Team, please let the office know! We anticipate quarterly meetings in 2027, with a balance of education opportunities, worship planning and involvement, outreach opportunities, and recommendations to the Trustees.

ADVENT STUDY:



Join the Wednesday morning Bible Study group as we begin The Advent Tree by Kara Eidson as our study during Advent.

This group meets Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am and is led by Donna Gustafson.

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



Welcome New Members!

As promised in a recent bulletin, here is a little more information that each new member shared:

Betty Filbrandt: I grew up on a farm near Colon, Nebraska. I went on to attend Wahoo High School, graduating in a class of 60. During my sophomore year, I met my husband. Our marriage was blessed with two wonderful children, Jeffrey and Jodee Ann. Life has also brought deep sorrow. My grandson Jarad (Jodee's son) passed away from osteosarcoma just days before his 21st birthday, and my son Jeff tragically passed away at age 58. My husband had dementia and was in a nursing home in Lincoln, where he passed away so I moved here to be closer.

Monika Gross: I am a native Nebraskan and a life-long Presbyterian. I am a lawyer currently serving as the Director of the Foster Care Review Office. I live in Lincoln and have four adult children and four grandchildren.

Janette Shaver-Malick: I grew up on a farm between Albion and Spalding, Nebraska. We were a family of seven. I have lived in Lincoln, married here, and raised my two children, Amanda and Lucas. My husband passed away about 10 years ago, and I keep learning how to do the tasks I depended on him for! I'm looking forward to meeting more of the members of Eastridge and finding ways to become a part of your church. I felt very included to add my fingerprint to your "church tree" after being accepted as a member.

William (Bill)Thompson: I came from a family of three sisters and no brothers. I lived in Lincoln my first ten years then moved to Davey, Nebraska (attending high school in Ceresco.) After graduation, I enrolled in the US Navy in 1967. When I came home, I married and have two wonderful daughters and three precious grandchildren. I was divorced and remarried; my second wife passed away and I am single. My career consisted of 42 years in computer science; I retired in 2013.

Lisa Tollefsen: I'm very excited to be a new member of Eastridge and look forward to making acquaintances here. I have been very familiar with Eastridge, having been married here by Tom Huxtable, and have attended off and on for many years. I've always felt at home here and very much welcomed. I am a retired legal assistant and have a son and daughter-in-law here in Lincoln and a son in Jacksonville, Florida. I have two grandchildren and two bonus grandchildren. I'm a rabid Husker fan! Go Big Red!



FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE: "In the Blink of an Eye: Open someone's eyes"



No matter how you say it, the ability to see clearly can change someone's life. EPC is collecting gently used prescription eyeglasses and UV resistant sunglasses for a mission trip to Kenya.

Place your donations in the designated boxes in the welcome center before Dec. 31st.

EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church



Christmas Tree Decorating: It's time to start thinking about decorating for Advent and Christmas! This year we would like to invite our families to join us in decorating EPC for Advent. We will gather on Sunday, November 22 following the congregational meeting. We will conclude our decorating time with pizza. We hope you will join us for this family event!



Pop-up orchestra: Any musical instrument of any level welcome! Rehearse Sunday, November 15 after the church service (about 10:45am) then play the prelude on Sunday, November 22 which is the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Talk to Brent at organman77@gmail.com or 919-609-5362 to get sheet music.



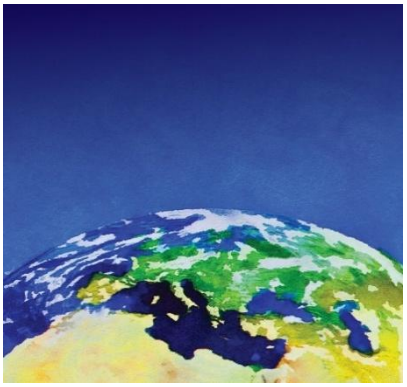
Eastridge Presbyterian Church:
Earth Care Congregation
Statement of Faith and Commitment (10/2026)

Faith in God the Creator of all that is, seen and unseen, leads the congregation of Eastridge Presbyterian Church to affirm the following:

1. We believe the creation stories in Genesis 1 and 2 tell us that humanity is part of creation.
2. Genesis 2:15 calls for humanity to the human vocation of tilling and keeping the earth, which leads us to nurture the flourishing of all creation.
3. Likewise, in Genesis 1:28, the Creator charges humanity to exercise mastery over creation. We interpret the Hebrew word [radah] to be the same as mastering a subject or becoming a master gardener.
4. In this relationship with creation, we believe we are called to continually learn from creation so that all might flourish together.

Because we believe these things, we commit our congregation to the following:

1. Becoming an Earth Care Congregation of the PC (USA).
2. Accepting the Earth Care Pledge. (see Earth Care Pledge)
3. Stewarding the needs of our building, neighborhood, and community in ways we believe care for the earth.
4. With humility, joining with all creation in ways that allow us to see the handiwork of God in nature, others, and ourselves.



The Nebraska Corona Bible News:

Pastor Thomas Dummermuth is shown here with Tom Mooney of the Collections Committee of the Nebraska State Historical Society.
The Nebraska State Historical Society has accepted the Corona Bible Project materials for their collection! Check out the brochures at the Welcome Desk if you would like to order a digital or print copy of the Bible for yourself or as a gift.



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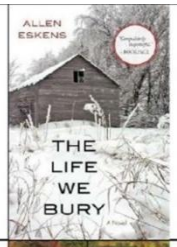
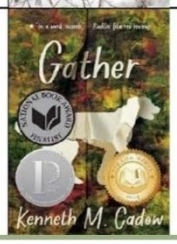
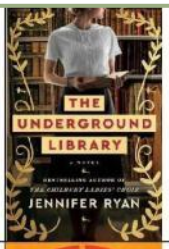
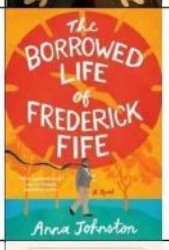
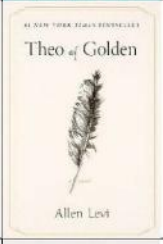
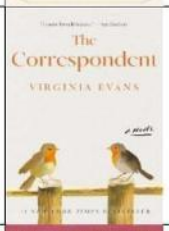
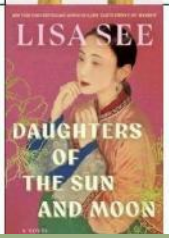
EPC Book Club:

Shown here is the list for EPC Book Club 2026-2027. Due to Christmas and its inherent busy-ness, we do not meet in December.

For more information, contact the office.

For November, ***The Life We Bury*** by Allen Eskens. Join us on Monday, November 9 at 7:00 pm in M12 for discussion and refreshments!

The EPC Book Club is open to women and men of all ages. We typically choose the year's picks in advance and books are chosen by vote from the group. Let the office know if you'd like to join or find out more!

November 9	
January 11	
February 8	
March 8	
April 12	
May 10	
June 14	

Per Capita/Denominational Giving:

For 2025 the assessed Per Capita is $ 38.54 per member of Eastridge.

However, if you are so called, a gift of $100 will help us cover our denominational funding obligations and assist those who may not be able to contribute towards this obligation.



EASTRIDGE
Presbyterian Church





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/epcgatheringplace26

EASTRIDGE FOOD PANTRY

Eastridge Food Pantry volunteer sign ups:

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

Fourth Friday Women's Coffee: On the fourth Friday of each month, join this (mostly) retired group of ladies that meet in Huxtable Lounge at Eastridge for coffee at 8:30 am. **We take November and December off, due to holidays.**



Men's Tuesday Morning Group: Join us at Le Quartier at Edgewood every Tuesday at 8:00 am for discussion and coffee.

FUND MATCH:

For the SEVENTH year in a row we have been given a matching gift for our general fund through a generous anonymous donor.

This year the gift is $12,000!

We are thankful for this generous gift as we enter the season of gratitude, as it encourages giving to the mission and ministry of Eastridge. Please note "fund match" in the memo line (or in the comment section if giving online). You may also email the office to let us know if an online donation is coming from you toward the fund match.



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1135 Eastridge Drive
Lincoln NE 68510



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