

Christ-Centered. Community Strong.

EASTRIDGE

Presbyterian Church

2020 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

Rev. Dr. John J. Duling.....Parish Associate

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

Donna Gustafson.....Office Manager

Chase Crispin.....Children's Music

Andy Kalnins.....Night/Weekend Custodian

Dr. Brian Lew.....Director of Music Ministries

Will McGuire.....Worship Leader

Brent Shaw.....Organist

Vince Ruhl.....Director of Online Worship

Jennifer Russell.....Nursery

Eastridge Presbyterian Church

1135 Eastridge Drive

Lincoln, Nebraska 68510-5014

Phone: (402) 488-7844

www.eastridge.org

2020 Annual Congregational Meeting
Agenda
January 31, 2021
3:00 pm

Declaration of Quorum

Opening Prayer – The Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon

Approval of the Docket

Meeting of the Congregation – The Rev. Melodie Jones Pointon, Moderator

- Minutes of the 2020 Congregational Meetings
- Annual Report
- Necrology Report – The Rev. Thomas Dummermuth
- Motion to suspend the Congregational Meeting

Meeting of the Corporation - Susan Budler, President of the Corporation

- Opening Prayer
- Questions, Answers, Suggestions, and Recommendations for the Trustees
- Closing Prayer

Reconvening of the Congregational Meeting

- Sunrise Road Property Committee – George Kilpatrick, Chair
- Report and Review of 2020 Financial Records—George Kilpatrick, Finance Chair
- Presentation of the 2021 Budget – George Kilpatrick, Finance Chair
- Pastors' Compensation Packages – Doug McDaniel, Stewardship Chair
- Nomination and Election of Elder – Robin Hadfield, Nominating Chair
- Expression of Thanks to those serving
- Questions, Answers, Suggestions and Recommendations for the Session

Motion to Adjourn

Postlude

Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon



Associate Pastor Rev. Thomas Dummermuth



For the past few years, we have collaborated on our pastor's reports, including our shared and individual highlights. We do the same this year, also adding some of our lowlights (sadness, disappointments, frustrations) as well. As you will see, they fall into pre-pandemic and post-pandemic time frames.

Here are some highlights and lowlights of the last year:

WORSHIP Highlights

- Two worship services, led by amazing musicians and liturgists, in our sanctuary (through March 8)
- Youth Sunday (February 2)
- Participation of children and youth in worship as ushers, musicians, liturgists, and congregation
- The opportunity to officiate at baptisms, funerals, and weddings in person
- Lenten Mid-week Services, first in person, then via Zoom
- Holy Week services, the highlight being a Zoom Maundy Thursday service with communion
- Sermon series: Unraveled, Cultivating Compassion (Lent), Psalms, and the Narrative Lectionary (B - Mark's Gospel)
- Guest Preachers Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty and Rev. CeCe Armstrong
- Ability to move services from in-person to livestream literally overnight! (Great appreciation for the staff who made this happen, including Vince Ruhl, our Director of Online Worship)
- Creation and establishment of an online worship service that allows the community to build and grow
- POP-up worship services in area parks
- Delivery of the Peace Light to 261 homes in the Lincoln city limits
- Coronavirus Family Album portraits
- Creative and exciting Worship Connections on Sunday mornings (Great appreciation for Kris Adler-Brammer, our Director of Children and Youth Ministries)
- The participation of soloists, Kirk Ringers, and (virtual) Chancel Choir leading worship online (Great appreciation for Brian Lew, our Director of Music Ministries)
- Parking lot worship services from September to December (including 3pm on Christmas Eve), held on the 56th street side of the church (Great appreciation for Will McGuire for providing music, as well as the ushers and greeters who were there rain, shine, wind, and snow!)
- Two online Christmas Eve services at 5 pm and 9 pm, maintaining familiar traditions and establishing new ones

WORSHIP Lowlights

- Not being able to gather safely in person in our sanctuary beginning March 15
- The postponement or altering of funeral/memorial services
- So few baptisms
- Deferment of Pictorial Directory from Lifetouch Photography (pictures taken onsite in January 2020, directory anticipated to be delivered this spring 2021)

LEARN Highlights

- Spiritual workshops/retreats with local Spiritual Director and friend, Patty Forsberg (Enneagram in January and Cultivating Compassion in February)
- Confirmation Sunday, where we welcomed 8 confirmands; a highlight to witness families involved in the sacrament of baptism, and the affirmation of faith
- Zoom Studies - Thomas: Matthew's Gospel and Light Dawns on a Weary World by Kathy Escobar (Advent); Melodie: Celtic Psalms (with music by Kiran Young Wimberly and the McGraths), Modern Psalms (hymns), and Defiant by Kelly Nikondeha
- Online interactive chats after worship ("After Chat") with each other and a number of guests from our congregation, community, and even around the world!
- Worship at Home kits delivered to houses of Children and Youth
- The conclusion of the fourth iteration of our intergenerational ministry GiFT in March.
- The planning of and participation in "Holy Friends," a series of interfaith encounters in the Lincoln community, inspired by Barbara Brown Taylor's book "Holy Envy"
- The creativity and collaborative energy around the Nebraska Corona Bible project: with people all across Nebraska (and beyond!) copying the whole Bible in their own handwriting

LEARN Lowlights

- Missing in person Tuesday After School Program and Youth Group
- Missing in person intergenerational learn and fellowship events (GiFT)

SERVE Highlights

- Participating in the Lefler Food Market and our Food Pantry
- Formation of an Anti-Racism Team
- Hosting the Sudan/South Sudan Mission Network Conference (online)
- Serving as a host site for Al-Anon, Area Agency on Aging (tai chi and yoga), and Girl Scouts (through March), AA (all year)
- Reception of a grant from the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation and Community CARES to expand our onsite Food Pantry and make health sanitation improvements (a much needed sink)
- Participation in a Mental Health Awareness initiative with our partners at Talk Heart 2 Heart / Region V (through our Faith Partners ministry)

SERVE Lowlights

- Suspension of Food Pantry Distribution due to COVID-19 concerns and construction
- Postponement of Trauma Healing in South Sudan mission

*In addition, a highlight that a new and upgraded phone system and increased internet service that allows us to work from home. We also replaced our server with cloud storage, available through our computer services. Not only were these cost-effective measures, they also increased our ability to work safely from home.



The year 2020 will go down in history as a year of pandemic, politics, and change. Not just for those of us living in our city, state, and country, but for everyone around the world. Our annual report for this year must acknowledge the COVID-19 pandemic, protests, and a tense election. These are nationwide factors that have affected us here in Lincoln, and at Eastridge, a shared experience of being American. There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our everyday lives. Like most life-changing events, many of us can remember where we were when we first learned that our lives were soon to change due to health and safety concerns. Within the course of a few hours on Monday, March 16, the CDC limited group gatherings from 50, to 35, to 10. Schools closed, and frantically tried to move all learning online, restaurants and businesses closed, toilet paper, disinfectant, and soap became rare commodities, and people stayed in their homes. As of this writing on January 18, 2021, there are reports that 24 million Americans have been infected by the virus, and more than 398,000 have died. Worldwide numbers are striking, as well, with 95 million infections and more than 2 million deaths. Words like unprecedented, adaptable, and flexible became common to our vocabulary. In the midst of the pandemic, the killing of a black man in Minnesota sparked Black Lives Matter protests across the country and our city. It was difficult to watch the news on tv and realize the images were of our own city. A tense and divided election cycle led to political divisions that threatened relationships between families, friends, and neighbors.

In the midst of these outside pressures, the faith community of Eastridge Presbyterian Church found ways to stay connected to God and to each other. From March 15 through April 12 (Easter Sunday), we split our staff into two teams and streamed worship live to Facebook and Youtube from the sanctuary. It was weird to worship with no one in the pews, and a camera so far away! After Easter, we began remote livestreaming from our homes, with portions of the services pre-recorded. In early July, we realized that the pandemic measures would be with us for quite some time, so we worked on a regular schedule for our musicians to lead and record worship in our sanctuary. We also brought in a cantor, or vocalist, to lead us in singing. Our Worship Connection for children continued to be recorded, and featured many different places around town. Very importantly, by livestreaming remotely, our pastors have been able to interact with the congregation through chat functions.

The early pandemic time period put an emphasis on staying connected safely. Faith formation for our families was delivered in worship boxes or bags to households, and Bible studies for adults moved to the Zoom platform. When scientists discovered the virus was spread mostly in close proximity to others via tiny droplets and aerosols from an infected person, we learned that we could safely gather: a) outside, b) at a distance, and c) with a facemask. Many of our groups decided to meet in person with these precautions, our pastors began gathering for Pop-Up Worship in different parks around town.

September and the fall months brought more changes to our schedules. Our young people went back to school - online, in person, on a rotation, wearing masks. We, too, began a modified programming year. We added a Sunday morning in person worship at 9 am in addition to our 10 am livestreamed service. Communion services for small groups happened the second Wednesday of the month in the sanctuary. Monthly faith formation gatherings for our children began, and our youth received lunch visits in their driveways. Our choir learned how to participate in virtual choir, and our bell choir divided in two groups in order to be able to physically space themselves out.

These things were not to last long, however, as the return of school, college students, sports, colder weather, and pandemic fatigue settled in. As our numbers rose locally, both in cases and in deaths, our clergy attended a meeting with the mayor and the health director, letting clergy know that churches were indeed aiding in the spread of the virus and asking us to refrain from meeting in person. Once again, we went online, with the exception of parking lot services and the bell choir. In this manner, we made our way through Advent and Christmas, still having not met in our sanctuary since March 8, 2020.

Without a doubt, the pandemic greatly changed the way we "do" church. But I strongly believe it only strengthened who we are as a church. Eastridge has long been a neighborhood family church that values relationships with God and each other. We learned that the church belongs outside these walls as much as within these walls. With the amazing leadership of our talented and experienced staff, we were able to meet these challenges by living into our ordination vows: serving with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. The community has stayed connected to each other through phone calls, letters, e-mails, deliveries of worship kits and peace lights. As the Senior Pastor, I am incredibly proud and humbled by the service of our staff: Donna Gustafson, Thomas Dummermuth, Kris Adler Brammer, Brian Lew, Vince Ruhl, Brent Shaw, Will McGuire, Andy Kalnins, Jenny Russel, and Laura Siensen. When I think of my colleagues, I am amazed at how God brought each one to Eastridge. Our community is blessed beyond measure by the gifts they share.

I am also humbled and honored by the leadership and congregation of Eastridge. I believe very strongly that our community is growing now as the fruit of those who have labored over the past 68 years. I have often quoted founding pastor Tom Huxtable, who, in his notes for his successors, noted one of the important philosophies of Eastridge is, "There's been an openness for change, and we've been able to turn to other ways and things.... Not being wedded to certain events, but having a willingness to change has been a hallmark of the Church from the beginning." The leadership and support of the session, deacons, trustees, memorial and endowments committee, and the congregation has made this as true in 2020 as it was in 1987 when Tom wrote it.

There have been disappointments as well, at the forefront of them the necessity of temporarily closing our food pantry until we can make health and safety provisions necessary. It has also been incredibly difficult to say goodbye to those who have died during this time while not being able to have full memorial services followed by luncheons for family and friends. Children and teenagers are growing up without the community being able to witness their growth and struggling to find new ways to bear witness to their faith. Even with our best attempts, this has been a time of loneliness and isolation for many.

I am not ordinarily in the habit of writing in so much detail the history of the church for the annual report! A year like 2020, though, needs to be noted and recorded for history's sake. The many contributors to this long form of our annual report will share in more detail about the work of their commissions, committees, and task forces. If you are reading this long version, I ask that you do so prayerfully, praying for each member, mission, and ministry of this congregation.

At the time of this writing, we are still not meeting in our sanctuary for worship and have suspended our parking lot services due to the cold weather. We are making plans for in-person outdoor services to resume on Palm Sunday. It is my hope to be in the sanctuary in September, but realize we will likely be wearing facemasks, and that it will likely still be unsafe to sing, drink coffee, and hug one another. When it is safe for us to gather, even with these measures likely still in place, we will know the joy of the truth of the hymn, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." Friends, we are bound together by the love of God in Jesus Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit. It is the knowledge of this shared bond that has kept this pastor's sometimes struggling faith alive during these difficult times. It is through this faith community that I have seen the presence of God active, alive, and among us.

May God continue to be with us during these unusual, unordinary, unprecedented time!

Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon

WORSHIP

WORSHIP COMMISSION

The Worship Commission is comprised of the senior pastor and elders who are responsible for three general areas of focus—worship and music, growth and hospitality, and fellowship. Several task forces function within these areas of focus. Participation in task forces is welcomed and encouraged! **(Note for 2020: most groups were virtual, if they met at all)**

Worship and Music Task Forces	GROW Task Forces	Fellowship Task Forces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult choirs (Chancel, Handbell) Large musical works Contemporary worship teams Ushers and usher partners Sanctuary Technology Choir fellowship Children's music Acolytes Children's worship resources and connections Communion Hospice Singers Liturgists Worship and Music Advisory Committee Visual displays Wedding coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday morning hospitality/greeters Visitor follow-up New member orientation Neighborhood outreach (e.g. prayer walks, turquoise tables) Online devotions Prayer chain Photo directory planning & volunteer help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday worship meals Holiday meals (e.g. Thanksgiving dinner, Easter breakfast) Ice cream social Ladies' Night Out Fourth Friday Women's Coffee Men's Tuesday morning coffee Trailblazers Book club Parents of Youth Dinners for Six YANO (You Are Not Alone, a group for widows)



LEARN

The Learn Commission is comprised of the Associate Pastor, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, and 3 elders: 1 each for Children, Youth, and Adult. This Commission is focused on the Christian Education and Faith Formation of all age groups. We also partner with the Worship Commission on GiFT Wednesdays and the Serve Commission on service opportunities. We welcome participation in our various task force areas.

Children (K-5th grade) task forces:

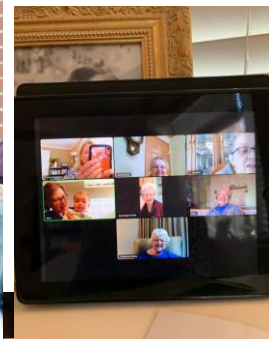
- *Faith Formation: Tuesday afternoons
- *Camp Calvin Crest- Summer Camp
- *Children's Christmas Program

Youth (6-12th grade) Task Forces:

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








Adult Task Forces:

- *Bible Studies
- *Table Talks
- *Bistro Theology
- *Lent and Advent Studies
- *Book Club(s)
- *Men's Breakfast
- *Women's Friday Coffee
- *Retreats
- *Circles
- *GiFT

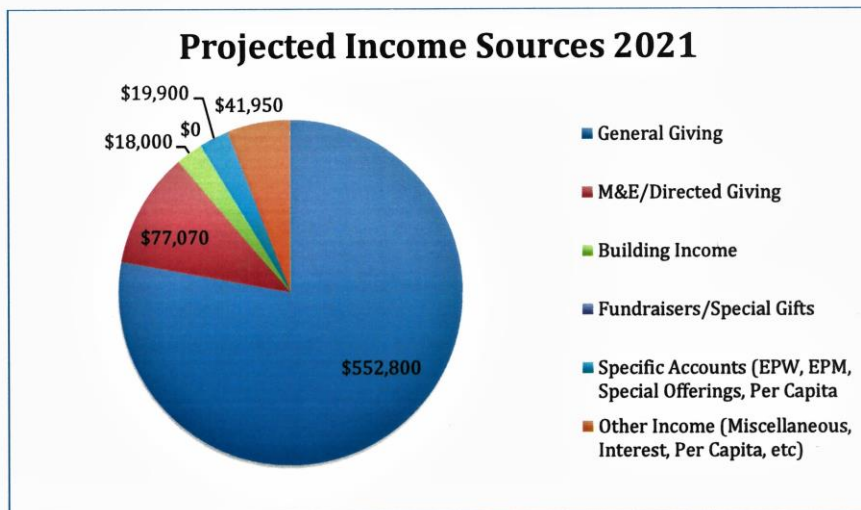
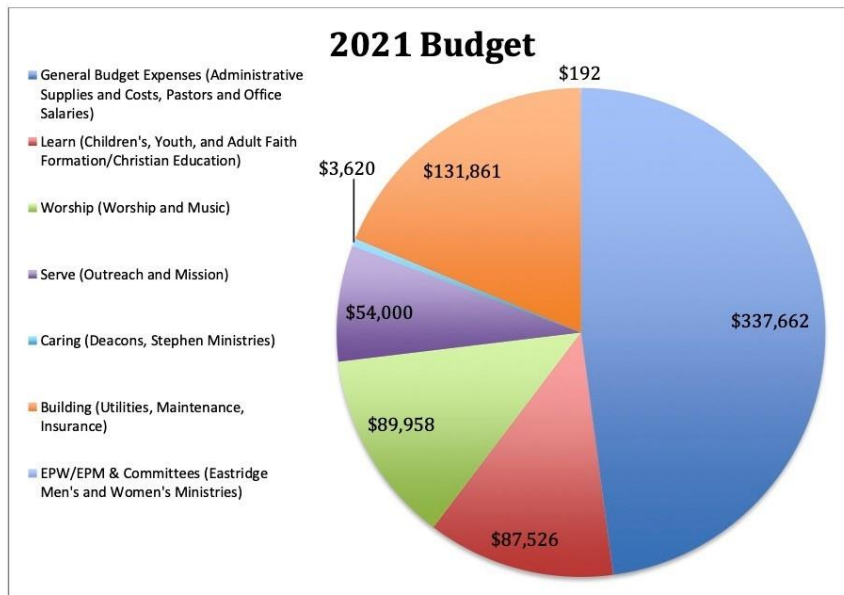


SERVE

The Serve Commission is comprised of the ruling elders responsible for stewardship, outreach, and nominating, along with the moderator(s) of the Board of Deacons. The task of this commission is to provide leadership for areas of service to the church, our local community and the greater community. Our intent is to live as Christ would have us live, serving as the hands and feet of God. Several task forces function in each area of focus. Each task force is responsible for the work of their group and are accountable to the Serve Commission to report about their work and to request funds, if needed.

NOMINATING	OUTREACH	DEACONS
<p>Nominating Committee Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robin Hadfield, Chair Mary Amen David Gies Larry Graham Sandra Hilsabeck Gary Kilian Becky Rankin Marge Riemann Susan Taylor <p>Incoming Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Boden Kurt Beck Doug McDaniel William Wehrbein Elizabeth Kohel Deacons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wahadi Allen Mary Amen Donna Gies Jim Gies Judith Keller Becky Shupe Cathy Schapmann Bill Short Hope Shortridge Trustees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shirley Flynn Ray Schapmann Lisa Woito-Petty Rinehart Kruse Memorial and Endowments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beth Birnstihl Leo Schumacher Deryl Merritt Nominating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Byler Shirlette Hershisier Gary Kilian 	<p>OUTREACH COMMITTEE TASKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a budget for use of the funds budgeted for Outreach Approve quarterly dispersals to PCUSA and local missions (direct services) Approve Emerging Needs requests as necessary Publicize and receive 4 PCUSA special offerings and Christmas Eve offering. Communicate with PCUSA missions we support <p>OUTREACH TASK FORCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little Free Library Angel Tree Eastridge Food Pantry Hunger Action Board: Gathering Place, Lefler Food Pantry Partnership, Bread Ministry, CROP Walk, Bread for the World Antiracism <p><u>Potential Outreach Task forces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCUSA World Mission Partnership Interfaith Peacemaking Conference Neighborhood Partnership and Development Support for Maker Village Veda's School in Pakistan Other Local Agencies 	<p>DEACON MINISTRIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Visitation & Communion Communication with Members Tending the needs of the sick, the Eastridge Neighborhood, those grieving, new parents and young families Welcoming members, and visitors Mentoring new members Transportation <p>DEACON TASK FORCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Holiday Flowers Advent & Lent postcards Meals at home Funeral meals—preparation and serving Coffee service—prepare, serve and clean-up coffee and food, when provided Eastridge Caring emails Prayer Shawls      

2021 Budget and Stewardship Information



*Fundraiser and Special Gifts projection unknown at this time, as plans for special events are discerned and discussed.

2021 Budget	
Budget Approved 1/21/21	\$709,720
Anticipated Income & Transfers	\$709,720
Over/(Under)	\$ 0

Eastridge Presbyterian Church
Summary - Budget vs Actual
As of 1/26/21

Actual results date:

12/31/2020

	Preliminary Actual 12/31/2020	Annual Budget 12/31/2020	Approved Budget 12/31/2021	Change from PY
Inflows				
Contributions				
4000 - Contribution/Pledged Offerings	\$ 569,805.16	\$ 560,000.00	\$ 552,800.00	\$ (7,200.00)
4010 - One Great Hour Of Sharing	235.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	-
4020 - Pentecost Offering	230.00	800.00	800.00	-
4030 - Peacemaking Offering	100.00	600.00	600.00	-
4040 - Christmas Joy Offering	370.00	500.00	500.00	-
4050 - Care & Share Offering	25.00	3,000.00	1,200.00	(1,800.00)
4450 - Per Capita Contributions	4,450.50	3,000.00	3,000.00	-
4470 - M&E Transfers, etc.	26,415.50	77,880.00	77,469.67	(410.33)
4480 - M&E Transfers, etc.	72,000.00	0.00	0.00	-
Total Contributions	673,631.16	647,080.00	637,669.67	(9,410.33)
Inflows - Supports				
4060 - Epw Thank Offering	1,605.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	-
4210 - Group Fees	19,200.00	22,450.00	18,000.00	(4,450.00)
4215 - Wedding Fees	350.00	4,500.00	500.00	(4,000.00)
4275 - Food Pantry Income	7,798.21	10,400.00	10,400.00	-
4400 - Flower Contrib/Easter/Christmas	254.00	750.00	750.00	-
4420 - General Flower Contributions	0.00	200.00	200.00	-
4515 - Miscellaneous Income	87,063.55	600.00	41,000.00	40,400.00
4910 - Special Events Income	380.00	11,000.00	0.00	(11,000.00)
Total Inflows - Supports	116,650.76	51,500.00	72,450.00	20,950.00
Total Inflows	790,281.92	698,580.00	710,119.67	11,539.67
Outflows				
Personnel				
6000 - Salaries	309,881.30	183,936.00	184,303.79	367.79
6005 - Hourly Wages	5,216.01	122,505.00	130,387.25	7,882.25
6015 - Benefits	84,336.52	78,769.00	81,131.32	2,362.32
6020 - Continuing Education	6,195.52	4,485.00	4,485.00	-
6030 - Professional Reimbursement	4,062.75	4,485.00	4,485.00	-
6010 - Payroll Taxes - FICA	13,355.86	12,750.00	13,454.50	704.50
Total Personnel	423,047.96	406,930.00	418,246.86	11,316.86
Professional Fees				
6080 - Computer Services	12,220.83	14,900.00	8,233.00	(6,667.00)
6070 - Professional Fees	26,203.21	23,760.00	26,200.72	2,440.72
Total Professional Fees	38,424.04	38,660.00	34,433.72	(4,226.28)
Building Expenses				
Insurance				
6040 - Insurance-general liability	14,775.91	0.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
6100 - Insurance - Building	0.00	16,000.00	0.00	(16,000.00)
Total Insurance	14,775.91	16,000.00	16,000.00	-
Repairs and Maintenance				
6085 - Equipment Maintenance	17,073.10	7,600.00	0.00	(7,600.00)
6090 - Equipment Purchases	11,518.54	3,000.00	11,126.73	8,126.73
6105 - Construction related expenses	6,571.00	0.00	7,168.36	7,168.36
6110 - Inside Maintenance	4,323.26	7,500.00	21,864.06	14,364.06
6115 - Outside Maintenance	995.03	1,000.00	1,085.49	85.49
6120 - Grounds Maintenance	15,412.00	14,000.00	15,700.36	1,700.36
6125 - Janitorial	22,568.59	28,000.00	22,393.44	(5,606.56)
Total Repairs and Maintenance	78,461.52	61,100.00	79,338.44	18,238.44

Eastridge Presbyterian Church
Summary - Budget vs Actual
As of 1/26/21

Actual results date:

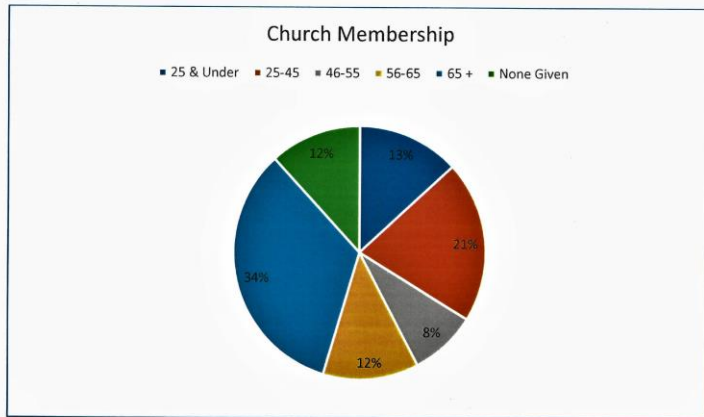
12/31/2020

	Preliminary Actual 12/31/2020	Annual Budget 12/31/2020	Approved Budget 12/31/2021	Change from PY
Utilities				
6130 - Utilities	25,645.21	30,000.00	25,719.92	(4,280.08)
6140 - Telephone, Internet & Cable	9,710.55	7,000.00	4,223.29	(2,776.71)
6150 - Garbage	1,079.00	700.00	1,080.00	380.00
Total Utilities	36,434.76	37,700.00	31,023.21	(6,676.79)
Total Building Expenses	129,672.19	114,800.00	126,361.65	11,561.65
General and Administrative Expenses				
6075 - Advertising	28.08	1,000.00	30.63	(969.37)
6050 - Professional Licenses	300.00	950.00	327.27	(622.73)
6060 - Membership Dues & Subscriptions	4,204.49	2,000.00	3,942.45	1,942.45
6700 - Miscellaneous Expense	480.99	1,300.00	524.72	(775.28)
6705 - Bank Fees	4,029.45	1,500.00	3,369.12	1,869.12
6300 - Office Supplies	5,212.81	4,000.00	5,146.32	1,146.32
6310 - Kitchen Supplies	950.89	1,000.00	797.42	(202.58)
6320 - Postage & Shipping	3,040.59	2,000.00	2,625.72	625.72
Total General and Administrative Expenses	18,247.30	13,750.00	16,763.65	3,013.65
Ministry Program Expenses				
6200 - Program Expenses	8,454.20	18,440.00	7,371.79	(11,068.21)
6205 - Curriculum	2,821.25	2,870.00	2,586.46	(283.54)
6210 - Special Events	5,692.70	21,750.00	4,258.07	(17,491.93)
6215 - Meal Expenses	700.88	2,300.00	738.48	(1,561.52)
6220 - Per Capita Expenses	20,000.00	20,000.00	33,103.00	13,103.00
6240 - PCUSA Mission Expenses	17,943.89	45,600.00	44,880.00	(720.00)
6245 - Food and Hunger Expenses	6,500.00	0.00	0.00	-
6250 - Evangelism Expenses	9,276.50	0.00	0.00	-
6255 - Home & Opportunity Expenses	1,900.00	0.00	0.00	-
6260 - Charitable Donations	2,928.00	0.00	0.00	-
6270 - Emerging needs expenses	5,543.39	0.00	0.00	-
6275 - Pantry Food expenses	6,729.52	10,400.00	10,400.00	-
6280 - Group Fees Expenses	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	-
6350 - Supplies	6,571.11	7,950.00	6,475.99	(1,474.01)
Total Ministry Program Expenses	95,061.44	133,810.00	114,313.79	(19,496.21)
Total Outflows	704,452.93	707,950.00	710,119.67	2,169.67
Net Increase (Decrease) before Other Inf (Out)	85,828.99	(9,370.00)	(0.00)	9,370.00
Other Inflows				
4800 - Interest Income	31,958.56	32,000.00	0.00	(32,000.00)
4805 - Real/Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	139,828.85	0.00	0.00	-
Total Other Inflows	171,787.41	32,000.00	0.00	(32,000.00)
Other Outflows				
6710 - Investment Fees	(9,785.02)	0.00	0.00	-
6750 - Depreciation Expense	(124,891.43)	0.00	0.00	-
Total Other Outflows	(134,676.45)	0.00	0.00	-
Net inflow (outflow)	\$ 122,939.95	\$ 22,630.00	\$ (0.00)	\$ (22,630.00)
addback 6750 - Depreciation Expense	124,891.43			
subtract 4800 - Interest income	(31,958.56)			
addback 6710 - investment fees	9,785.02			
addback 4805 - Real/Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	(139,828.85)			
	\$ 85,828.99			

Church Membership

Age Distribution of Active Members

25 and Under	80	Ages 56-65	75
Ages 26-45	126	Over 65	205
Ages 46-55	52	None Given	72
(Presbytery members 4)			



GET INVOLVED

- Acolyte (for 2nd-5th grades)
- Adult Studies
- Bistro Theology
- Chancel Choir
- Children's Music
- Confirmation Class
- Devotion Ministry
- Eastridge Hospice Singers
- EPC Book Club
- Eastridge Presbyterian Women Gatherings
- Eastridge Presbyterian Women's Circle Groups
- Faith Connection for Children in Preschool
- Faith Connection for Elementary-Age Children
- Faith Partners at Eastridge
- Food Pantry
- GiFT (Growing in Faith Together)
- Kirk Ringers
- Ladies Night Out
- Meals on Wheels
- Men's Tuesday Morning Fellowship/Coffee
- "Pray" ground area in worship
- Prayer Shawl Group
- Stephen Ministry
- Summer Intergenerational Activities
- Trailblazers
- Wednesday Worship in Advent and Lent
- Women's Choir
- YANO (You Are Not Alone, a group for widows)
- Youth – Faith Connection and Mission Activities

Eastridge Session 2021

Kurt Beck

(Personnel Committee)

Chris Boden

(Personnel Committee)

William Wehrbein

(Serve Commission)

Doug McDaniel

(Stewardship Committee)

Robin Hadfield

(Clerk, Nominating Committee)

Jen Olsen

(Learn Commission/Children's Ministries)

George Kilpatrick

(Finance Committee)

Lois Wies

(Youth/Learn Commission)

Kris Brenneis

(Worship Commission/Worship and Music)

Carolyn Olsen

(Serve Commission/Adult Education)

Carol Ripley

(Worship Commission/GROW)

Elizabeth Kohel

(Youth)

Greg Tubach

(Worship Commission/Fellowship)

Shirley Flynn-Bell

(Treasurer, ex officio)

***Melodie Jones Pointon**

(Moderator, Senior Pastor)

Thomas Dummermuth

(Associate Pastor)

Memorial and Endowment 2021

Steve Anderson

Beth Birnstihl

Paul Harmon

Deryl Merritt

Leo Schumacher

***Robby Shortridge**

Eastridge Deacons 2021

Wahadi Allen

Mary Amen

Charles Bachinski

Neil Bateman

Carolyn Brandle

Nyabuoy Chan

Peter Dak

Cathy Duling

Jean Dunbar

Donna Gies

Jim Gies

Sharon Gollehon

Carla Green

LaDonna Grubbs

***Donna Gustafson**

Sharon Irvin

Andy Kalnins

Judith Keller

Emma Newcomb

Garin Newcomb

Brandi Phillips

***Cathy Schapmann**

William (Bill) Short

Hope Shortridge (youth deacon)

Becky Shupe

Berna Stading

Diane Worrell-Eaton

Eastridge Trustees 2021

***Susan Budler**

Shirley Flynn-Bell

Rinehart Kruse

Mike Laughter

Rex Radcliff

John Rouse

Ray Schapmann

Randy Smejdir

Lisa Woito-Petty

***Denotes Moderator and/or
Co-Moderators**

EASTRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (EPW)

EPW is an organization available to all women of our congregation who have indicated their willingness to be involved in the program. Together, we nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, support the mission of the Church worldwide and build an inclusive caring community of women thereby strengthening the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

The organization is composed of four circles which meet on the first Wednesday of the month, September through May. Nearly 50 women participate in these circles, coming together to read and study the Bible using a Horizon lesson plan. This year, we are studying *Into The Light*. Women are also invited to read from the reading list for Presbyterian Women of Homestead Presbytery.

In addition, the organization brings all members together four times a year for a luncheon and gathering. These months are September, October, April and May. A luncheon speaker guides our thoughts to needs and missions in the community of Lincoln. EPW circle meetings were held at the Church in Sept and Oct. In November and December the circle meetings were held by Zoom. Eastridge Presbyterian Women gatherings in September and October were held at the church. In September Donna Gustafson presented "*Exploring Nature with Photography*". In October, Kris Adler-Brammer presented "*Youth and Children's Ministries*".

Berna Stading, Moderator & Susan Taylor, Co-Moderator, EPW

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The mission of the Finance Committee is to affirm the vision of Eastridge Presbyterian Church by providing oversight over monetary resources that enable the church to create a community for individuals to worship, learn and serve.

The committee works to find a way to finance the budget requests of the various church committees and presents a unified annual church budget to the Session for approval. The process includes review of previous years' giving and expenditures compared to budgeted amounts and anticipating funding needs for the upcoming year. For 2021, the Committee, like the rest of the church faced unpredictability brought on by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

The committee chose to look at the 2020 actual expenditures to determine the 2021 budget, as opposed to the usual practice of adjusting the prior year budget as needed. Of course, many expenses are fixed and remained the same in 2020 even though the church building was unused for much of the year.

Our financial situation was helped greatly by Eastridge's receipt of a Paycheck Protection Plan loan that we expect to be fully forgiven in 2021. In addition, the membership of the church has been grateful for what our staff has been able to provide and generous in their giving. As a result, by the end of 2020, contributions were nearly the same as they were in the non-COVID-year 2019. As a result of the hard work of our staff and the generosity of our congregation, the Finance Committee was able to forward a budget to the Session for approval that maintained our programming and even restored some funding that was dropped in earlier years.

With the Session's consideration, discussion, amendment, and approval, this budget, was approved by the Session January 21st, with a 3% increase in pay for our staff.

The Chair of the Finance Committee is a member of the Session and a liaison to the Board of Trustees and Memorial and Endowments Committee. Members in 2018 were: Steve Anderson, Lynne Smejdir, Shirley Flynn, Cameron Meter, Bill Whiston, and George Kilpatrick, chair.

George Kilpatrick, Finance Committee Chair

FOOD PANTRY

In 2020, the Eastridge Food Pantry served:

- 677 Children under 18
- 755 Adults 18-64
- 88 Adults over 65

The pantry served a total of 1,520 individuals during the period of January, February, and March of 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided that for the safety of volunteers and clients, the pantry operations should cease and distribution was stopped in March. In June, the pantry was awarded a grant that would provide an addition to the physical building as well as a wheelchair ramp. The pantry would remain closed until these projects would be complete. The timeline for the construction has been delayed due to issues with permits, but we are hopeful to begin construction this spring.

With the knowledge the pantry would not be open for the remainder of 2020, the decision was made to find ways to distribute the food left in the pantry's stock. Careful consideration was made to stay true to the pantry mission of helping individuals and individual families in distributing the remaining stock. Eastridge collaborated with Catholic Social Services to provide pre-packed boxes for their distribution. Pantry volunteers filled 20 boxes of food per week to assist Catholic Social Services for their weekly food orders to individual families. These boxes were picked up from the pantry by Catholic Social Services weekly. Catholic Social Services was extremely grateful for the help and has pledged a food donation to assist the pantry in restocking once we reopen. The Indian Center was in need of food donations, as they are supporting several reservations around the state that are in desperate need of food and supplies. We donated the remaining backstock to the Indian Center to assist them in filling this need. They were thankful for the food, as they are struggling to fulfill their identified needs. All remaining miscellaneous items on the pantry shelves were donated to "Little Free Pantries" throughout Lincoln.

This past year we have had a few changes in our organization. The Pantry Board was expanded in 2019 to the Hunger Action Board and encompassed all hunger missions the Eastridge Presbyterian Church supports – the Gathering Place, the Lefler Food Market, Crop Walk, etc. With this construction and the focus needed solely on the pantry and its mission, a new Pantry Committee was formed to report to the Hunger Action Board, but would function as an autonomous team to focus just on pantry needs. Currently, Heather Douglas is serving as chair for the Pantry Committee and we are developing our organization and positions needed, mission, goals, and assessing overall pantry needs. The committee consists of Tami Rembolt, Steve Taylor, Hope Shortridge, and Cheryl Feree.

If you want to be involved in the Food Pantry, watch for our announcement when we are ready to reconvene our pantry volunteer activities.

If you have food or hygiene donations, we are still supporting the Little Free Pantry community in Lincoln. Contact anyone on the Pantry Committee and we will be happy to collect the donations and distribute them. And of course, we are accepting all monetary donations, as we will have great cost associated with restocking our Pantry to serve our clients when we reopen. Remember to indicate on your check or envelope that it's for the "Eastridge Food Pantry". Although COVID-19 has put a damper on everything in the last year, we are so excited for the expansion of our building and finally having a fully handicapped accessible entrance to the Pantry! Keep a watch out for our Grand Reopening when it's ready!

Tami Rembolt and Heather Douglas- Food Pantry Committee Members

HUNGER ACTION BOARD

After consultation with the Outreach Committee, it was decided to establish a Pantry Task Force as a separate entity from the Hunger Action Board (HAB). This recommendation is intended to allow the HAB to serve as a policy-oriented board overseeing all hunger-related ministries of the church. A dedicated Pantry Task Force allows for the efficient response to decisions about food distribution and the Pantry ministry.

The HAB has retained responsibility for hunger-related missions, including Meals on Wheels, the Bread Ministry, the Crop Walk, the Gathering Place, the Lefler Market, and Bread for the World. It also is designed to address hunger-related issues that relate to systemic poverty and the Matthew 25 initiative.

In October, we noted the one-year anniversary of the church's commitment as a Covenanting Hunger Action Congregation within the Presbyterian Church (USA). This commitment ensures that Eastridge will acknowledge and celebrate the faithful work of Presbyterians around the country to alleviate hunger and end its causes, and encourage these ministries to be even more holistic and justice-oriented. The covenant asks that the Eastridge congregation address six areas: 1) Hunger Alleviation; 2) Development Assistance; 3) Hunger Education; 4) Lifestyle Integrity; 5) Corporate and Public Policy Witness; and 6) Worship. This year we increased our work in public policy by informing the congregation about the need to support an increase in Food Stamp funding during the pandemic.

We thank Eastridge members for their strong support of hunger-related issues. Anyone who would like to be more active in these issues is welcome to join the HAB.

Hunger Action Board Members

Robin Hadfield, Chair; Jo Bateman; Susan Budler; Berna Stading; Rev. Thomas Dummermuth, Staff

SUNRISE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Sunrise Property Committee finalized plans to expand the pantry and provide a handicapped-accessible ramp to the pantry early in 2020. The plan includes closing the alley to the north of the church and moving the trash enclosure into the west end of the current alley. The plan was approved by the session. The project was let out for bid and the lowest responsible bidder was awarded the contract. Eastridge received grants totaling \$84,000 to construct this addition and handicapped access from the Presbyterian foundation and the CARES Act grants.

There have been issues and delays since then. Because the current pantry (and expansion) are located on a different lot, the city would not grant the building permit until the church property was replatted to include that area as part of the church lot. In addition, the city wanted restoration of six trees in the right-of-way along 56th street and Margo. These changes were approved by the session and an additional cost of approximately \$6,000 incurred. The amount required to finish phase one of this project in addition to the two grants is expected to be less than \$20,000.

However, all of that is behind us now. As of this writing, the project has begun with the demolition of some of the concrete surface on the pantry lot. Expected completion and reopening of the pantry is in about two months. The handicapped-accessible ramp will be finished when the weather turns warmer.

George Kilpatrick, Sunrise Property Committee Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As with many other activities, the work of the Nominating Committee took on a different tone this year. First, we met by Zoom rather than in person. And second, we recognized that, at the time we were meeting, there were many unknowns about the future and the work of the church. The committee therefore decided that it would be important to provide continuity where possible. To that end, we asked many of the church officers whose terms were scheduled to end in 2020 to serve an additional term. We were grateful when many of them agreed to continue to serve. We were also grateful when new faces indicated their willingness to serve on one of the church boards or committees, including the Session, Board of Trustees, Board of Deacons, Memorial and Endowment Committee, and Nominating Committee. We were able to provide a full slate of proposed officers and committee members for election at the November congregational meeting.

The Nominating Committee appreciates those who stepped forward and agreed to serve. We ask that all members prayerfully consider how they can serve the church in 2021.

Thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee: Mary Amen, Dave Gies, Larry Graham, Sandra Hilsabeck Hastings, Gary Kilian, Becky Rankin, Marge Riemann, Susan Taylor, and Robin Hadfield, chair.

Robin Hadfield, Nominating Chair

OUTREACH

At the suggestion of the Outreach Committee the Session accepted the Matthew 25 Invitation, a movement that calls Presbyterian congregations to actively engage in the world around us, so that our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Accepting the invitation by the PCUSA to become a Matthew 25 congregation challenged us to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. There are three goals: building congregational vitality; dismantling structural racism; and eradicating systemic poverty. We chose to focus on the second. An Antiracism Task force was created, and EPC members were invited to read articles and watch films and videos addressing the issue of racism as part of the "21 Day Racial Justice Challenge". Group discussions were held over Zoom, and updates of resources continue in The Lamp.

While we were still worshipping in the sanctuary, various missions supported by our congregation were interpreted on the "Building Hope" bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

The Committee has initiated the purchase a number of yard signs to be displayed around the church encouraging faith, love, support, and hope. Duplicates are available for members of the congregation.

Over the year the Outreach Committee distributed \$42,000 to Presbyterian missions (including Camp Calvin Crest, missionaries in South Sudan, theological education, Behane Yesus School in Ethiopia, and Youth Mission Co.), local agencies (Lincoln Food Bank, The Gathering Place, Tabitha Meals on Wheels, Lefler Middle School Mobile Pantry, The Lighthouse, Fresh Start, Habitat for Humanity, and Released and Restored) meeting the needs of our neighbors in Lincoln, and three agencies addressing needs of victims of COVID-19 here and abroad.

William Wehrbein, Outreach Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Activities throughout this past year have been focused on supporting our staff as they have diligently served this congregation through very difficult times. This group of individuals have displayed amazing creativity and flexibility in adjusting to new expectations in their work! While I would like to list all the amazing things each person has done, there simply is not the space in this report to recognize the dedication and perseverance of these individuals. There have been some adjustments in duties for some individuals, but all have understood the need for these adjustments and have continued with meeting and exceeding expectations. The Personnel Committee has adjusted policies in some instances to reflect that this past year was unusual to say the least. Policies that we adjusted were vacation and continuing education carry over into this next year.

I do hope that every member of Eastridge will reach out to staff and sincerely thank them for their service to this congregation and to Eastridge Presbyterian Church

Doug McDaniel, Personnel Chair

STEPHEN MINISTRY – COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Thanks and gratitude go to Eastridge Presbyterian Church for the continued support and mentoring of Stephen Ministry.

During 2020, the dedicated Stephen group began the year eager to continue our ministry of caring visits to care receivers, attending monthly continuing education classes and peer supervision meetings. We were also looking forward to study retreats, and other training opportunities which give the Stephen Ministers additional tools to use in their caring visits, and to use in the administration of this wonderful outreach program.

As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic was soon upon us, and The Stephen Ministry had to find other ways to continue caring visits. The Stephen group resorted to phone calls, texting, letters and cards, and other means to stay in touch with our care receivers. As we had to abandon our onsite meetings, we have adapted to the Zoom approach. We are now in process of using Zoom to conduct training. The Stephen team will use Zoom to conduct education classes for renewal and refresher knowledge to provide skill for our Stephen Ministers.

Below is the list of current Stephen Ministers:

Berna Stading
Bob Mitchell
Carol Ripley
Cathy Duling
Jane DeKalb
John Duling
Phyllis Hyde
Susan Taylor
Shirley Flynn-Bell

During these difficult times, we want to thank the Pastoral staff, Eastridge Presbyterian Church, and the congregation for continuing to support confidential ministry by referring those who are hurting due to death, illness, job loss or other life situations which are difficult to manage by self. Referrals can be made to either one of the Pastors or Susan Taylor. You, Eastridge members, continue to be our ears and eyes in being able to deliver this caring ministry.

It is with very blessed hearts, we look forward to the year 2021, and the blessings, guidance, and grace from our Lord. This ministry is funded from the interest income of the generous endowment given by Olivia Lincoln and/or other monies designated by Session.

This report is dedicated to the Eastridge Presbyterian Church Stephen Ministry, and Stephen Ministers.

Shirley Flynn-Bell, Stephen Minister

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Even with COVID and the church not being open for services for most of 2020 it was a busy year for the trustees at Eastridge Presbyterian Church.

I would like to thank all of the trustees for all their efforts to accomplish what we did for the church either in person or via Zoom.

- We dealt with the usual daily repairs and maintenance needed at the church.
- Major projects included concrete repair of the west Welcome Center entrance, the east Patio and the sidewalk and stairs on the southeast side of the church.
- We replaced the egress window covers around the church and repaired drywall on the south Narthex ceiling from some water damage.
- Because of COVID, we had to cancel the annual clean up this past spring. We did have a small group of volunteers that did some leaf clean up around the church this fall.
- We had to replace one of the church exhaust fans in May.
- We are working with the company that installed the pews to repair some cracking that we are seeing on some of the pews.
- Since mid-summer we have been dealing with some water issues in the church basement.
- This fall we had some larger trees on the church grounds trimmed and we had to have a large oak tree that was decaying removed.
- We are discussing less expensive option for updating the church sign on 56th Street.
- We are continuing to evaluate options for the replacement/repair of the brick arches south of the church and on the west patio.

It takes quite a bit to operate this facility and the trustees appreciate the congregational help and support. A special THANK YOU to Donna Gustafson for all the time spent with being the go between for all the projects that come up that need trustee attention.

Susan Budler, Trustee Chair

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Two Sunday worship services were held in 2020, a traditional service at 9:00 and a contemporary service at 10:30. The last of these services were held on March 8, however, as the growing concern over the pandemic forced our staff and volunteers to navigate the new world of online worship services. This is still our current reality, at 10 am Sunday mornings. Beginning in the summer, Pastor Melodie also began doing parking lot worship, with Will McGuire providing guitar music, from 9 – 9:30, and congregants listened in cars to a dedicated radio station. This continued every Sunday, rain, snow, (freezing wind) or shine, until Christmas Eve.

Communion was served on the first Sunday of each month until in-person worship ended in March. We recruited several new volunteers for our communion coordination team of Judith Keller, Debbie Merritt, Jean Dunbar. Debbie Merritt stepped down as communion liaison to the Worship and Music Advisory Committee, but will do the scheduling and train the new volunteers--Debbie Kilian, Gail Keown, Lois Wies, and Pat Grieser. We hope to be able to utilize these new volunteers at some point in 2021.

A number of special services were held. Mid-week services were held throughout the Lenten season until the pandemic forced cancellation after March 11. After March 11, nearly every service was special in some way! We held short “pop up” services on Wednesday evenings in the park in July, August, September and October. Until Lincoln moved into the red zone for pandemic purposes, Melodie held communion in the sanctuary for limited numbers of members who signed up ahead of time.

In November during virtual church, we gave special thanks for saints who went home to be with the Lord in the last year, and we shared Thanksgiving pie via zoom on the Sunday afternoon before Thanksgiving.

Melodie and Thomas held advent services online on Wednesday evenings during advent. Also during advent, a family taped the lighting of advent candles for broadcast during Sunday services, and the advent wreath featured beautiful wood post candle holders crafted by Roger Niemann.

December 13, we held an afternoon parking lot event with hymn singing, a reading of the Polar Express, and donuts from the Hurts Donut truck. December 27, Brian, Brent and Kylie Meter performed a parking lot organ/vocal concert and raised more than \$1000 in donations designated for the food pantry re-stock.

Members of session and Deacons took or offered to take, the Bethlehem Peace Light to every member of the congregation shortly before Christmas. Virtual Christmas Eve services were at 5 and 9. The 5:00 service featured the children’s program filmed at several different locations throughout Lincoln and incorporated as many of the children and youth as possible. The 9:00 service featured the German singing of Silent Night, as well as videos of members raising their candles during the ending chorus of Silent Night. Still, Still, Still was performed by the virtual choir and a few guest singers.

The Chancel Choir continues to provide music for worship. After a brief hiatus during Spring 2020 (and the normal summer break), choir created more than half a dozen anthems. We have been able to maintain the majority of our singers as well as the addition of three extra singers that we would not normally have. Choral Scholars continue to hymn lead once a month as well as provide special music twice a semester. Diane Eaton, Kylie Meter, Hope Shortridge, and Kris Brenneis regularly help lead worship.

Kirk Ringers resumed rehearsals during Fall 2020. The ensemble recorded nearly a dozen pieces throughout the fall and into the advent season. We have moved to two smaller groups in order to maintain social distancing.

Though we hired Chase Crispin to lead Children’s Music, it is temporarily suspended until in-person meetings can resume.

The choral scholar program, which provides stipends for a small group of university musicians singing in worship, is supported through donations by individuals committed to continuing this important aspect of our music ministry.

The Eastridge Hospice Singers continued their ministry led by Patty Niemann, even during the pandemic. This ministry includes Eastridge members, as well as others from several Lincoln-area churches. Members provide small-group a cappella singing for individuals receiving hospice services. To date they have 30 hospice trained singers representing 8 different faith traditions/church denominations. In their second year of ministry, pre-pandemic (January 1 2020 - March 12, 2020) they visited 15 - 18 individuals per month, provided 49 in person visits, sang in a worship service and provided a program for a community group. In person visits took place in private homes and residential facilities.

During the pandemic (April 8, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020), 3 singers, Karen Shelton, Dori Bush and Patty Niemann, provided one-on-one weekly virtual visits — 201 in all— via FaceTime, Skype, and Duo. They provided visits/phone calls for 5-9 people per week, and one virtual program for a community group.

We are greatly blessed by the contributions of talented volunteers in multiple capacities. Lay liturgists continued to serve in worship. Robin Hadfield acted as scheduling coordinator, and her faithful organization is very much appreciated. As with everything else, this ministry ceased in mid-March. Several different lay leaders and guest speakers helped fill the virtual pulpit and participated in the popular chat session after worship.

Eastridge has continued to be blessed in 2020 with an exceptional group of staff members and volunteers supporting the music ministry. Brian Lew is music director for the church. He directs the Chancel Choir, Kirk Ringers, and special instrumental groups, in addition to creative and administrative coordination of a wide range of music-related tasks. This year, Brian rose to the pandemic occasion and learned an entirely new set of skills in order to set up, convince members to participate, and then edit video for hours on end to produce virtual “zoom” choir, a beloved musical enterprise that allows the congregation to watch the collective choir sing, and which not many churches are attempting. Brian, organist Brent Shaw and sound technician Vince Ruhl spent more hours than they are compensated for recording music and musicians for use in worship, especially at Christmas time. We are tremendously grateful that they went the extra mile (or ten) to make all worship services, but especially Christmas, so inspiring and special, even without corporate worship in the building.

Brian also teamed with Kris Adler-Brammer for children’s music in the Christmas program, which included the kids’ version of online choir and was a huge hit with the congregation. We appreciated the leadership of Brent Shaw at the organ bench where he has amazed and inspired us with beautiful, worshipful music. Brent and Brian have collaborated on many duets and special musical offerings, and their vision for worship has been incredibly meaningful. We are thankful that Will McGuire continues to share his gifts as contemporary worship leader. Will accompanied Melodie outside for parking lot church until the end of December, when it should have been too cold for his fingers to play the guitar. Guest instrumentalists, pianists, and choral scholars have enriched worship in many ways over the course of the year, and we appreciate their willingness to tape recordings and participate in zoom/virtual choir. Vince gets special mention in this year’s report. Without Vince’s knowledge, his own personal a/v equipment, and his willingness to be available, literally, all the time, our online services would not have started so quickly, evolved so seamlessly, or become so admired and well-attended.

Our director of ministries for children and youth, Kris Adler-Brammer, facilitates opportunities and experiences for young people in worship, including youth liturgists, acolytes, worship connection, worship kits, and worship learning as part of faith formation experiences for children and youth. Kris and her volunteers put many miles on their vehicles delivering worship kits and advent boxes. Office manager Donna Gustafson plays an indispensable role in handling countless details of the worship and music programs through her work.

The entire staff at Eastridge provides outstanding worship experiences that lead the congregation in spiritual growth and build the community of faith, especially during this year of pandemic. Pastors Melodie Jones Pointon and Thomas Dummermuth are imaginative and innovative leaders and preachers, and that became abundantly evident when they

learned, on the fly, how to do a completely different pastoral job in the middle of Lent. Eastridge was a leader in producing online church, not only in our community but in the greater region. As with the rest of staff, the pastors worked many more hours and with less time off than in a normal year, all to keep the EPC ship afloat. We are eternally grateful.

Thanks for the service of our 2020 advisory committee members: Sharon Irvin, Robin Hadfield, Diane Eaton, Kylie Meter, LaDonna Grubbs, Alinda Stelk, and the music and pastoral staff. Thanks especially for the patience extended to a new moderator, attempting to fill the shoes of the GOAT, Alinda Stelk.

Kris Brenneis, Moderator

YOUTH

I know I speak for everyone when I say, "WHAT A YEAR!" Things did not go as planned, but our wonderful staff and volunteers made sure that we stayed connected to our youth, and that even in the midst of so much change, they had a place to look for fellowship, guidance, and caring.

Early 2020 feels like a world away – but we began the year with Youth Sunday on February 2. Our kids did a wonderful job providing new insight and, as always, humor and joy. We followed the service with a time of fellowship, selling French dip sandwiches as a fundraiser for the youth's mission trips. A big thank-you to Mickey McDaniel and Shirlette Hersher for their wonderful organization (and cooking skills!), and to our youth who brought food, served our congregation, and helped clean up afterwards.

We had planned to send our kids on missions over the summer. Once the pandemic hit Lincoln full-force, these plans changed dramatically. Unfortunately, our youth were unable to attend the programs we had planned due to safety issues. While the paid deposits were non-returnable, we know that this funding was put to good use by our partnering organizations, who are fighting poverty and food insecurity in a pandemic year. We pray that our contribution was a blessing to them.

Meanwhile, Kris Adler-Brammer, Director of Christian Education, ensured that we stayed connected with our children and youth. Making several quick pivots, Kris worked to reimagine our children and youth's church experience by:

- Developing at-home lessons for our Preschool and Elementary kids;
- Creating and mailing out children's bulletins for the service each week;
- Creating an opportunity for the children to preach during one of the online services;
- Organizing birthday yard signs that suddenly appear on a birthday morning;
- Creating resources for middle-school students at home;
- Holding zoom youth group sessions during the spring;
- Holding driveway luncheons one-on-one with our high schoolers;
- Holding a Back-to-School Blessing event in our parking lot;
- Sharing the Polar Express during Advent in a parking lot event; and
- Creating Advent & Lenten boxes for our families;

As I think back on the year, I am so thankful for the continued dedication of our staff and volunteers. What an amazing group of dedicated individuals.

As we enter 2021, I sign off as I did last year – by asking the congregation to prayerfully consider sharing their unique gifts with our youth. We need help from all corners. Behind the scenes or before the group, a few times a year or on a consistent schedule – your involvement makes a positive difference for our youth today and our community tomorrow, and it can be an awful lot of fun. Come join us!

Lois Wies, Youth Committee Chair

Session Statistical Report

1. Active Members 01/01/2020 734

GAINS

2. Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation,
Restoration

- a. 17 and under 8
 - b. 18 and over 7
 - c. Certificate 2
 - d. All other Gains
 - e. Total Gains 17
3. Subtotal 751

LOSSES

- 4.
- a. Certificate 1
 - b. Death 17
 - c. All Other Losses 110
 - d. Total Losses 128
5. Total Active Members 12/31/2020 623

6. Female Members 326
7. Baptized Members 90

8. Age Distribution of Active Members
- | | | | |
|--------------|-----|------------|-----|
| 25 and Under | 80 | Ages 56-65 | 75 |
| Ages 26-45 | 126 | Over 65 | 205 |
| Ages 46-55 | 52 | None Given | 72 |

11. Average Attendance at Sunday Worship 180 (virtual worship)

In Memoriam 2020

Name	Date of Death	Ordained Elders
		Date of Ordination
Berlowitz, Ruth	07-19-20	
Birnstihl, Michael	04-04-20	
Brazee, James	12-05-20	not known
Draney, Geraldine	07-31-20	
Holman, Jay	10-08-20	06-26-1960
Huxtable-Koch, Mary Jane	04-13-20	
Jensen, Doris	01-19-20	
Kubert, Mary	01-13-20	
McLaughlin, Patricia	11-17-20	
Meier, Anna	01-04-20	
Poppe, Lois	12-21-20	
Rettke, Genevieve	01-26-20	
Taylor, Jean	11-17-20	
Watson, Roberta	03-10-20	02-03-1985
Woito, Barbara	12-26-20	circa 1972
Wood, Marie	11-11-20	

Robin Hadfield, Clerk