

OCTOBER 2014

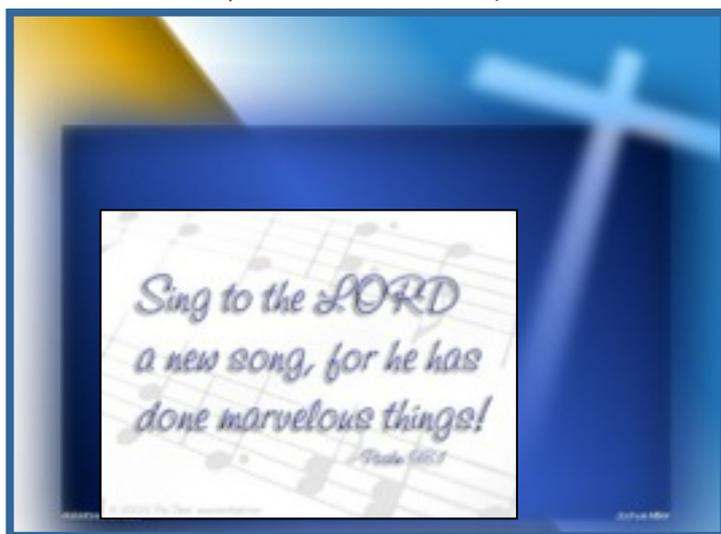
Eastern Heights Lutheran Church

H*ighlights*

616 Ruth St., St. Paul, MN

651-735-4202 • www.ehlc.org • staff@ehlc.org
Open Arms Preschool and Childcare 651-735-4202

“Sing to the Lord a New Song” (An Update and a Request)



A Challenge Undertaken by the Members and
Friends of Eastern Heights and Open Arms

PURPOSE: To complete the process of becoming a
financially healthy mission-outpost in our community.

For many years Eastern Heights Lutheran Church has sung the “same old tune”: “Help! We are short. We have a giving gap. We can’t afford to build and maintain God’s property. We can’t afford to properly take care of our staff.” God has used the Revitalization Process from our MN South District (LCMS);

(continues next page)

our “Renewing the Vision for Tomorrow’s Mission” stewardship drive; and most recently, “Stand-in-the-Gap,” to help us move closer to financial health. It is time to “sing a new tune.” Psalm 98:1 says, “Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.” Our Turn-around Strategy can be greatly accelerated if we can accomplish three financial goals now:

1. **REVITALIZE** our music program. Mark Krause, our long-time Director of Music is moving quickly toward retirement. We will establish a special Music Fund so that we can begin moving into a new music staffing scenario (utilizing multiple part-time specialists), while helping our current Director of Music transition into retirement (over the next 12 to 15 months). Estimated amount for funding this transition: \$16,000.

2. **RESTORE** the Savings account money from various special purpose funds (which has been used as a cash reserve for our current budget needs). The immediate advantage of restoring these funds is that they would now be available to achieve the goal for which they were given. Estimated amount: \$14,000.

(Specific examples include: Accessibility Project: \$1,441; Technology upgrades: \$950; Sound System: \$5,209; memorials: \$3,469.)

3. **CREATE** a new Cash Reserve savings account that can be utilized during months when our offerings go below our weekly expenses. This will protect our designated fund savings from any future “borrowing” and keep us solvent through lower-giving times of the year. If giving does not come back up to meet expenses, then the budget can be adjusted downward at the beginning of the next cycle. Estimated amount (dependent upon our current shortfall): \$16,000 to \$40,000. *(Specific examples include October street assessment: \$3,200 and 2014 Concordia Academy assessment \$2,500.)*

Eastern Heights and Open Arms have achieved great strides toward financial health. We are inching closer as we continue to implement our Turn-around Strategy. By reaching these three financial goals, we position ourselves to truly become a healthy mission station connecting people of all nations and generations to God through faith in Jesus Christ. If you have not already done so, you can give (or pledge to give) to “Sing to the Lord” during the coming 12 months.

- **REVITALIZE** our music program and help our current Director of Music transition into retirement over the next 12 to 15 months.
- **RESTORE** our designated fund savings balances so the money can be spent on the intended projects.
- **CREATE** a new Cash Reserve to prevent future financial difficulties.

The total goal for this special offering, above and beyond our normal, regular envelope giving is between \$46,000 and \$70,000.

So far, \$37,546 has been pledged. Of that amount, \$29,901 has already been received. That’s good news! Our Leadership Council has

restored our designated fund balances and they are available for the uses for which they were given. However, we are still over \$8,500 short of our minimum goal for this Special Fund Drive (\$32,500 is needed to fully fund our needs.) Can you help now? Make your (tax-deductible) gift (or pledge) to “Eastern Heights Lutheran Church” and mark it for the “Sing to the Lord a New Song” Campaign. Return in the offering plate or to the Church Office. Every \$20 gift and \$100 pledge, in the blue envelopes, brings us closer to financial health!

New Worship/Bible study series



“Heroes” is our 2014/15 series of messages and Bible study. We face many challenges! In this series we are learning the stories of men and women in the past who overcame extraordinary difficulties. The true hero in all these historical accounts is God. He powers courageous, heroic, exceptional lives by His

mercy and love which is revealed in the super-hero of all super heroes... Jesus! Come for worship at 8:30 a.m. (traditional service), 9:45 a.m. (brief service), 10:45 a.m. (informal/contemporary service). We also repeat the Sunday message at our brief, informal Monday worship service, every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.



Accessibility Project

The Main women’s rest room is nearly completed as our access project progresses. If you have specific ideas about this project, please contact Kevin at 651-771-0634 or 612-554-9839. Thanks to all who are giving targeted gifts. Mark your gift “Access Project” and return to the church office or offering plate.



Greetings in the name of Jesus

From DCE, Missionary to Youth and Families

Greetings in the name of Jesus,

September proved to be a wonderful month. We started out our new churchwide Bible Study, *Heroes of the Faith*. We have all the same opportunities for attending class. We have four availabilities, Thursday at 10:30 a.m., Thursday at 6:30 p.m., and Sunday at 9:45a.m. in the Chapel and the Lounge with the youth meeting in the youth room and Jesus Central on track in the basement. The Saturday morning men and women Bible Study watched the movie "God's not Dead" and worked through the Bible Study.

The Wednesday evening classes have taken off well with our new curriculum, *Faith Inkubators*. The program includes class, service, and special activities which is geared to incorporate the family more as well as the congregation. It is a joy having some of the parents coming and sitting in and participating in the classes.

Our schedule is busy with our classes on Wednesday night as well as other activities. Our annual trip to Pine Tree Apple Orchard is scheduled for October 19 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Come out for some fellowship, snacks, and a devotion around the fire after our wagon ride to the pumpkin patch. You can find additional information on the website www.ehlc.org under the youth and family tab. Our regularly scheduled class on October 22 is being moved to help run "Harvest Fest" on Thursday October 23. An evening of games snacks and fellowship for the children and families in our Open Arms and Jesus Central programs.

The last Sunday of the month, October 26, is a special day. At our 10:45 a.m. service we will be able to support Dana Rosbacka, Manna Tedla, Kallee Draz, and Daniel Maloney when they will be confirming their baptismal vows.

I am in the final phases of selecting the summer event for the current 8th - 12th grade students. Watch for a letter to come home and an email announcement for when the initial meeting will be happening. The current front runner is something we have not yet done but will have a lasting impact.

*May God bless as you live out your faith,
Tim Germain, DCE - Missionary to Youth and Families
651-295-9962, tcgerm93@gmail.com*

Staff transitions have arrived...

After 23 years of full-time ministry as our Administrative Assistant, Pam Hults has chosen to transition into a part-time role as of October 1, 2014. We celebrated on September 28 as a Day of Thanksgiving and special recognition. Pam has graciously agreed to work one day a week in her retirement as part of a job-sharing administrative team which also includes Geneva Laatsch and Stephen Wunrow. You can look forward to talking with any of them when you contact the church office. Our new church office hours are: Monday through Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Chuck Fenton has now begun his work as vicar (intern-pastor). He will be working with Pastor Steve as an Associate for Mission Development, teaching, preaching, visiting and leading various teams and work groups.

Pastor Steve Benson
steve@ehlc.org, 651-735-4202

EHLC Leaders: 2014/2015

President:
Lonn Maly

Secretary:
Amy Dorn Fernandez

Vice President:
Craig Nelson

Treasurer:
Kathy Jacobson

Members at Large:
Geneva Laatsch, Travis Pearson, Graeme Chaple,

Elders:
Don Lewandowski, Howard Arntzen, Chuck Fenton, Iassu Tedla

Directors:
Michelle Urban/**Missions**
Kim Lewandowski/**Education**
Kevin Rosbacka/**Trustees**
Josh Becker/**Asst. Director**
Sara Becker/**Finance & Stewardship**

Financial Secretaries:
Jan Wiening, Dianne Chapeau, Kathy Hess, Gloria Grob, Diane Wiese, Laura Burback

Recording Secretaries: Irv Wiese, Delores Wiese, Jan Wiening

Online Giving, Online Payment



What to expect:

We have effectively rolled out an "Online giving" program! There are a couple of different ways you can donate. You can set up recurring payments to your Visa, Mastercard, Discover, checking or savings account. You can also give a one-time donation. If you have a smartphone or tablet you can scan the QR code (below) and it will bring you to our donation page or you can locate the tab on your computer on the churches website homepage, www.ehlc.org. **Any questions, please contact Tim Germain: 651-295-9962 (cell), 651-735-4202 (office) or tcgerm93@gmail.com**

Church Events



and
Activities



Church planting...?

Could Eastern Heights plant a daughter church... or start a ministry on another site? Come to explore the possibilities. Rev. Dr. William Utech, Assistant to President Nadasdy for Missions (from our MN South District of the Lutheran church) met with a group of interested EHLC members on September 20. This group will meet again to follow-up on Saturday, October 4 at 11:00 a.m. You are invited!

HOPE Fund

Our HOPE fund is used to help our members in a time of need. It is used for rent, utilities, food and other emergency help. It is funded by gifts from our congregation. Our H.O.P.E. fund balance is very low. Can you help? Just mark your check "HOPE fund" and put it in the offering plate.

Eastern Heights Lutheran Luncheon *and* Lutheran Hour Ministries

Thursday, October 23

You are invited to lunch, a time of conversation, inspiration, and fun. Lunch is catered by Magnolias and the cost is just \$8.00. Special program will be "Creation: The Wonder of God's Creation (including frogs)" presented by Rosie Thill. Please sign up at the Info Desk or call the church office: 651-735-4202.

LWML Fall Rally

Lutheran Women's Missionary League – Women in Mission, St. Paul Metro Zone will have their Fall Rally at Jehovah Lutheran Church on October 11. Registration 8:00 to 8:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. breakfast, 9:00 to noon Rally. Featured speaker: Richard Dorn "God is the Potter, we are the clay". Donations of bedding/towels (new or slightly used) will be collected for Bridging. \$8 donation plus offering for district is requested. RSVP: Beth 651-631-8956 or presspaulmetroz@mnsllwml.org

“Jesus Central” (Sunday School)

A free program for kids!

Come join us each Sunday for our Jesus Central program from 9:30am to 10:30am in the basement.

What age can my child start Jesus Central Sunday School?

Our program is for children three years through fourth grade – and you can enroll your child at any time.

How do I register my child for Jesus Central Sunday School?

Registration forms are available before class every Sunday. Simply bring your child to “Jesus Central” down the steps on the lower level and meet Michelle or Stephanie.

Jesus Central is studying “Heroes of the Faith” this year (just like the adult classes!)

Mark your calendars!

October 5	Hezekiah
October 12	Mary and Martha
October 19	Apollos
October 26	Deborah

Open Arms

Christian Child Development Center

- Childcare Program --6 weeks to 12 years
- Preschool Program -3years to 5 years
- Pre-Kindergarten Program- 5 years
- School-age Summer program, K-age 12

We are now taking enrollment forms for these programs:
Please call Michelle at 651-735-4202 or stop in the Open Arms office.

Open Arms Calendar Events

October 2&3	Picture Day
October 5	Open Arms Children sing during the 10:45am church service
October 16/17	No Preschool or Pre-Kindergarten classes- Professional Development
October 31	No Preschool or Pre-Kindergarten classes- Professional Development

New Member Sunday

Receiving new members:

Sunday October 5

At all services

Our next New Member class is Thursday, October 16 from 7:00 until 8:15 p.m. Childcare is available on request. Call 651-735-4202 or email staff@ehlc.org to register. Our next New Member Sunday will be November 2.

Craft Group

This group is busy exploring possible church projects that help others. Their name is "SH . . . SH" (Stirred Hearts ... Skilled Hands) from Exodus 35. Next gathering is Wednesday, October 1, at 1:30 p.m. in the Priebe Chapel. Come and check it out!

Weekly Grow Group

You are invited to join us for our Wednesday Grow Group, at Byerlys on Suburban Ave., to talk, share and pray together. This is not a Bible study *per se* but an informal get together to receive strength from God's Word and from each other. Please consider joining us next Wednesday at 9:30 am.

What is...?

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

The LCEF is like a bank owned by our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Lutherans from all over the U.S. invest money in savings programs (and withdraw it when they choose). The LCEF also loans money to congregations, like Eastern Heights, for building improvement, expansion, new construction, etc. LCEF has a new "Shared Blessings" rebate which could result in Eastern Heights receiving \$1,000 to \$4,000 each year (depending on our number of investors).

For more info, visit: www.lcef.org or call 800-843-5233.

Thanks!

To our Garden Club volunteers

Thanks to all of those who have contributed their time, effort and skills this year to the Garden Club. The outside of our church has never looked better! All summer it has made the outside of our church look like it was maintained by a professional landscaping service. For six months our volunteers have taken turns each week planting, grooming, watering, pruning and weeding. Your special ministry to our church and community has made a difference... a huge thank you to all who participated this year!

Gary/Rosanna Wunrow



October Meetings

Mission Possibilities meeting

Saturday, October 4, 11:00 a.m.

Property Task Force/Leadership Council

Tuesday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.

Open Arms staff meeting

Monday, October 20, 6:30 p.m.

Leadership Council meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.

LWML Ladies' Guild

Tuesday, October 21, 12:30 p.m.

AA Meetings

Every Wednesday – 6:30 p.m.

("Step discussion" meeting) *For more info call Mike at 528-2667*

Devotional Corner



“Sabbath, in the first instance, is not about worship. It is about work stoppage. It is about withdrawal from the anxiety system of Pharaoh, the refusal to let one’s life be defined by production and consumption and the endless pursuit of private well-being.”

— *Walter Brueggemann (theologian/preacher)*

Mission & Vision

“At Eastern Heights Lutheran Church, our mission is to connect people to God through faith in Jesus Christ.”

Vision

We see Eastern Heights Lutheran Church as a center for making new disciples from all nations in this generation and the next. This will happen through vibrant worship, a strong program of Christian education for all ages and unselfish service to our diverse community.

Under the blessing of Almighty God . . .

1. We will develop devoted disciples for Jesus through education, service and caring ministries.
2. We will expand our outreach to children, youth, families and older adults by meeting the needs of our community.
3. We will, through our *Open Arms Christian Child Development Center* serve families in our community by providing high quality, affordable, Christian education and childcare.
4. We will remodel or replace our buildings and property, as needed, in order to more efficiently carry out our mission of making new disciples for Jesus Christ





Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.

Yes says the Spirit, they will rest from their labors.

Revelation 14:13

† † † God has called to Himself the soul of our sister, Sherry Nyberg, on July 6, 2014. A funeral service was held on July 11 at the church, with internment at Acacia Park Cemetery. † † †



Devotional Corner



⁸ Finally, brothers (and sisters), whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9



Recent Memorials To Eastern Heights Lutheran Church

In Memory of: Sherry Nyberg

Thank you to our church family for the support, many acts of kindness and all the cards and memorials when we lost our dear daughter/sister/mother and wife, Sherry Nyberg.

The Hagberg and Nyberg families