

NOVEMBER 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

A THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR EVERYONE!

11:30 A.M., SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23



***Plan to come and enjoy a time of friendship,
food and thankfulness!***

1. Please let us know if you plan to attend - call the church office 651-735-4202 or email staff@ehlc.org or sign up at the Info Center at church.
2. Let us know if you'd like to volunteer to help decorate, set-up or clean up.

Invite a friend, neighbor or family members to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving Feast. Free-will offering will be accepted. We will serve both in the basement and Priebe Chapel (no steps!).

Let's gather to thank God for the blessings of the past year.
I thank God for you!

- Pastor Steve Benson

“Filling the Storehouse 2015”

Is underway this month. Please check your bulletin each Sunday in November and watch for a special mailing inviting you to begin considering your commitment to God’s work through Eastern Heights in 2015. Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in this unique church family.

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

(Malachi 3:10)

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,

I have asked the youth, on a few occasions, how much time they could take to spend with God on a daily basis for a week. Some indicated that they would spend from ten to 30 minutes a day. The following week I asked if they were successful. Many said that it was difficult as they found other reasons or excuses that kept them from finding the time.

When we spend our time in any endeavor, we become better at the task and when we spend our time with another person, the relationship deepens. These results will also be true if we dedicate more time thinking and being with God. When we begin our time with God, our mind may wander, but with practice and help from the Holy Spirit it will become easier and our relationship with our heavenly Father will deepen. I would like to challenge everyone to set some time apart from your regular schedule just to spend one-on-one time with God.

In October, we had our regular activities as well as some special events. We were blessed by the Boy Scout troop here, who had a candidate complete work for his Eagle project: Steven Nguyen was able to paint the garage, hang cabinets in the pre-school room, sand and paint the doors on the portable classroom building and paint the hand rails. On October 19, 38 people came out Pine Tree Apple Orchard for some time of fellowship - and the weather was outstanding. On the 22nd the confirmation students helped with an Open Arms/Harvest Fest event. The basement was full of people creating and building relationships. We ended the month with Reformation Sunday where four of the students, Daniel Maloney, Kallee Draz, Manna Tedla, and Dana Rosbacka celebrated their confirmation (see their personal statements of faith on page six).

November will have our regular activities and classes and we will also have our congregational Thanksgiving Dinner on November 23. Stay tuned for more information. The youth will also have the opportunity to attend the Wednesday night Thanksgiving service November 26 at 7:00 p.m. which will be followed up with an evening playing "Romans & Christians".

*May God bless as you live out your faith,
Tim Germain, DCE - Director of Youth Ministry
651-295-9962, tcgerm93@gmail.com*



Be an adventurous Christian

July 11-18, 2015

A summer event has been announced, "Boundary Waters Canoe Area." This is open to anyone 9th grade or older. You are welcome to come with the group even if you do not have a student in the youth group. Cost for the event is \$415. We will be spending a week in God's country. Our Bible study will focus on the book "Together with all creatures, Caring for God's living earth." The deadline for signing up is December 1, with a \$120 non-refundable deposit. If you have any specific questions please contact Tim Germain. Cell 651-295-9962, Office 651-735-4202, email: tcgerm93@gmail.com

Staff transitions have arrived...

Pam Hults is now a 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:

Show your thankfulness this season!

Each holiday season, we anticipate a seasonal increase in contributions. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year.

If you are looking for a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving option. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, electronic giving can be a welcome way to make contributions.

To set up a one-time special gift or to set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.ehlc.org and locate the Online Giving button. Or if it's easier, meet with **Tim Germain** and he'll set you up. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Confirmation Class of 2014

Four of our youth were joined by friends and family as they confirmed their faith on October 26. This is the time in their life when they begin taking their faith as their own. Hear what they have to say:

Kallee Elizabeth Draz

Baptized: September 24, 2000

Joshua 1:9 *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

My confirmation verse is Joshua 1:9. I like how this verse is saying “be strong” and that “God is with you always”. It is a reminder for me to know that He is always there for me. To me, a Christian means having faith in God no matter what. A Christian also goes to church and praises Him. My relationship with God began when I was baptized. My relationship with God has grown by going to church and attending confirmation throughout the years.

Believing in God has affected my lifestyle by helping me choose better friends and by giving me confidence in knowing that I have nothing to fear because God is with me. My promise to God is that I am going to be more devoted to God. I am going to be more involved with church. Attendance at church and confirmation has connected me to Jesus because I feel closer to Jesus and I feel more connected to him when I take communion. I think God feels good about me today, because even though I don’t go to church every week, he still loves me.

God was especially important to me when I went to Mission Possible. Mission Possible made me realize how important God is to me. It made me more faithful and more connected to God. Most of all, it made me a better person. I think God wants me to be myself and do what I want to do. I think God supports my dreams. Ten years from now I see myself as an author or a singer. In 20 years, I see myself being successful with my career and with a family of my own.

Daniel John Maloney

Baptized: June 6, 1999

Isaiah 41:10 and Matthew 14:27 ¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ----
²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

15 years ago, when I was just a baby, was the day that I got baptized. When I was first asked about what Bible verses I wanted to pick, I looked back on my childhood and realized that I was afraid of some things. So I found two verses I Isaiah and Matthew that talk about over-coming fear. To me, these verses are the kind of things I like to hear: In the morning, or if I'm sad or angry. I just read these verses over and over and it makes me happy.

I remember a lot of people asking me why do you believe in God... it's taken me awhile but I finally figured out the answer that won't get that person mad. I believe in God because I know for a fact that God will always be here for me, even when it seems like no one else is here.

I'll always know that God is here.

My relationship with God began on June 6, 1999, when I was baptized. When I started going to Sunday school and I was learning thing and my relationship with God was growing stronger every day. When I was really little, I always thought that when someone died they turned into ghosts, but now after going to church, it changed my view in everything. I made a promise that I will never break and that I'll never stop believing in God and that I will never say that God is not real. I will believe and never stop.

(continues next page)

During Bible study I've been learning so much about God that I never knew before and that made my relationship grow stronger with Jesus. I feel like God is proud of me and all the work that I have done in life. During my middle school years my relationship with God grew stronger because I felt like I didn't know any friends and it was just me and God.

I feel like God wants me to succeed in life and be very successful. In ten years I see myself finishing school and becoming a history teacher. But to think about 20 years ahead, I see myself starting a family and traveling so that I'll be able to learn new things. But we have to remember the choices we make will affect our future plans. So the only thing we can do is take on each day at a time.

Dana Rosbacka

Baptized: May 1, 2001

Philippians 4:13 ¹³ *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

Hi, my name is Dana; I am currently attending Johnson high school. My confirmation verse is Philippians 4:13, which states, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." I love how this verse can just give you that automatic sense of hope that everything is going to be alright. The verse applies to my life because I'm just starting high school and I will need that sense of comfort and strength. God will help me with this by keeping close Christian friends and family by my side.

To me being a Christian means you will always believe and trust in God even if you don't like the plan he has for you. God has made such a huge impact on my life. In ten years, I see myself just finishing college and hopefully having a degree. In 20 years, I see myself settling down with a family.

Manna lassu Tedla

Baptized: July 16, 2000

2 Corinthians 5:7 ⁷ *For we live by faith, not by sight.*

My confirmation verse is 2 Corinthians 5:7, I really like this Bible verse because it makes me feel safe. Sometimes when I'm feeling awful and really sad, this verse reminds me that through faith things will get better and that through my roughest times, God will be right next to me, with open arms.

My relationship with God started on July 16, 2000 - that was the day that I was baptized. Since then my faith has grown so much mentally, physically and emotionally. He has affected so much of my life, even in everyday decisions. For my whole life I've been going to Lutheran schools, God was still definitely on my mind, but it wasn't so hard to make decisions. You really didn't get an option of friends, everyone knew you and the teachers understood more of what you're capable of. Now that I'm going to Woodbury High School it's very hard. You need to put God as your top priority before anything else. And because I chose to put God first, I always think "What would Jesus do?"

Over the past four years, coming to confirmation classes really changed me. It got me closer to God by the teachings. I always thought I knew most of the Bible, but every time I go, I'm always taught more and more.

On this day (Confirmation Day), I promise, even though sometimes I will doubt and have hardships through life, that I will always remember how much he loves me and that love will be eternal. I will live my life to the fullest for God, until the day we meet.

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

Thursday, November 20

You are invited to lunch, a time of conversation, inspiration, and fun. Lunch is catered by Magnolias and included Swedish meatballs and all the fixings. Cost is just \$8.00. Please sign up at the Info Desk or call the church office: 651-735-4202.

Crib success!

Thanks to all who contributed to our additional cribs fund for our Open Arms infant program. We are up and running now! Feel free to visit our new infant room in the portable classroom building near the playground.

“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.

Mark your calendars:

The Jesus Central children will be singing on Sunday November 2, during the 10:45 a.m. church service.

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

November Hero Bible stories:

November 2	Job
November 9	David
November 16	Elijah
November 23	Jonah
November 30	Esther

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

November 2	Open Arms children sing during 10:45am worship
November 21	No preschool/pre-kindergarten classes, conferences
November 27-28	Open Arms closed – Thanksgiving holiday

New Member Sunday

Receiving new members:

Sunday November 2

At all services

Our next New Member class is Thursday, November 20 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 December 7.

Communion help

The Altar Guild needs volunteers to help with communion preparation and distribution during the three Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day service. For more information, or to volunteer, call: Sandy Pizinger at 651-770-4904.

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, November 5, 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 and Gratitude

The Chytracek's wish to express their gratitude to Eastern Heights Church and all the members who participated in the Benefit Fundraiser. God was gracious in blessing us with so much help and resources. Thanksgiving and praise to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Chytracek family

Thank you!

We are overwhelmed with how kind and generous you have been to Gene and I as I retire. All your good wishes, lovely gifts... and wow! – what a great celebration. A special thank you to the planners and the workers who made that day so special. The poems were outstanding. Answering that want-ad over 23 years ago in the St. Paul newspaper, turned out to be just right for me. We have been so blessed by you at Eastern Heights in ways we can't even count. You really are our Christian brothers and sisters. May the Lord continue to bless each of you.

Pam and Gene Hults



November Meetings

Open Arms staff meeting

Monday, November 10, 6:30 p.m.

LWML Ladies' Guild

Tuesday, November 18, 12:30 p.m.

Leadership Council meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Education meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 6:30 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, Mary Grewe, on October , 2014. A memorial service was held on October 17 at Eastern Heights. † † †

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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