

January 2015

**Eastern Heights  
Lutheran Church**

# Highlights

616 Ruth St., St. Paul, MN

651-735-4202 • [www.ehlc.org](http://www.ehlc.org) • [staff@ehlc.org](mailto:staff@ehlc.org)  
Open Arms Preschool and Childcare 651-735-4202

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**Change your money...**

# Change your Life.

***Applying God's Word to your money...***

**This nine-week class will show you how to get rid of debt,  
Manage your money, spend and save wisely, and more!**

***Begins Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m.***

***at Eastern Heights Lutheran Church***

**Contact the church office to register:**

**[postmaster@ehlc.org](mailto:postmaster@ehlc.org)      651-735-4202**

2015:

## The Year of the Lord's Favor?

Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah when He spoke in the synagogue at Nazareth: <sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set *the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”* (Luke 4:18-19)

God has answered many prayers and has richly blessed our Eastern Heights and Open Arms family in 2014. We are making strong progress in carrying out our mission, “To connect people (of all nations and generations) to God through faith in Jesus.”

In 2015 we will be asking you and many others to Connect to God -> Care for people -> and Become a Blessing wherever you are.

A practical strategy to grow into health and strength (as individuals and as a church family) will be freedom from debt:

1. We hope to launch a major debt elimination drive for Eastern Heights/Open Arms this year.
2. We will be offering resources to all our members and friends to become more financially healthy.

Our first opportunity is Financial Peace University, a special nine-week class which begins on Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. See our website, [www.EHLC.org](http://www.EHLC.org) for more details.

Blessings in our Lord Jesus - who gives us eternal favor!  
*Pastor Steve Benson*

## “Filling the Storehouse 2015”

Is underway! Please check your bulletin each Sunday and watch for a special mailing inviting you to make your commitment to God's work through Eastern Heights in 2015 (if you have not already done so.) 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)

# Stewardship & Prayer

Last Fall, we kicked off our stewardship emphasis with “phase one: prayer.” Many of you received names of your fellow EHLC members for whom you have been praying. This is an idea of how we can pray for each other:

Dear Heavenly Father, You have created all things.  
*Everything we have is yours. You have made us stewards of these things. I ask that you would guide the members and friends of Eastern Heights Lutheran Church in their stewardship of the time, treasure and talents you have given them. Give them wisdom to use these gifts rightly. I ask you to provide them health in body, mind and spirit.*

*Grant them the good company of family and friends. Bring reconciliation where needed. Make substantial provision for their food, clothing and shelter and any other earthly need. Bring them comfort in any grief or loss. Father, you have provided for them. Make apparent to them your provision. Increase their faith and hope. May they return thanksgiving for your provision through sacrificial giving and may their joy be full. All this I ask in Jesus name. Amen.*

# Worship/Bible study series



“Heroes” is our January through May 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 superhero 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 hope you had a good Christmas with a time to worship Jesus' birth, visit with family, and even some time to relax and rejuvenate. We will be resuming Wednesday evening Confirmation on January 7. We will start out with the 5th-8th grade students meeting in the chapel and then breaking out into our classrooms. The 9th – 12th grade will meet in the Youth room.

Our time this winter will cover a variety of subjects depending on class. The 5th/6th grade will be covering The New Testament and Communion. The 7th/8th grade will be covering The 10 Commandments as well as Lutheran Life. The 9th-12th grade will be completing their book they started, "How to be a Christian without being religious."

We will also have special activities sprinkled throughout our winter and spring. They will be:

- Green Acres for tubing on **January 23**
- Game night on **January 28**
- Ash Wednesday service on **February 18**
- Communion ware creation on **February 28**
- Leavened Bread baking **March 25**
- Maundy Thursday service **April 2**
- Student led Good Friday Service **April 3**
- Annual spring picnic on **May 20**

Our Heroes of the Faith series is continuing January through May. We have a couple of meeting times available; Thursday morning at 10:30 and then Thursday Evening at 6:30. We also have two options available on Sunday morning at 9:45. Personally I have learned various facts about individuals in the Bible with the most recent being about Simeon and his reaction to seeing Baby Jesus is part of our Divine Service, the *Nunc Dimittis*. This series allows you to join in at any time throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you.

We are also blessed to have the opportunity to offer the Financial Peace University courses led by one of our Open Arms families. Classes will begin on Tuesday, January 20, 6:30-8:00 and will be for nine weeks. Contact me for registration and cost information.

In His grip,  
Tim Germain, DCE – Director of Youth Ministry  
651-295-9962, [tcgerm93@gmail.com](mailto:tcgerm93@gmail.com)

Online Giving,  
Online Payment  
Show your thankfulness!



If you are looking for a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make additional gifts, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving option. As the pace of life speeds up, electronic giving can be a welcome way to make contributions. To set up a one-time special gift or set up recurring giving schedule, visit us online at [www.ehlc.org](http://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!

# 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 now 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

## 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

# Church Events



## and Activities

### 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, January 29**

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

### "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!)

#### **January Hero Bible stories:**

January 4	The Poor Woman
January 11	Thomas
January 18	Isaiah
January 25	Samaritan Woman

# 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**

- January 1 Open Arms closed, New Year's Day  
January 19 No preschool/pre-kindergarten classes (Martin Luther King Day)  
January 23 No preschool or pre-kindergarten classes

## **New Member Sunday**

**Receiving new members:**  
**Sunday January 4 and Monday January 5**  
**At all services**

*Our next New Member class is Thursday, January 15 from 7:00 until 8:15 p.m. Call 651-735-4202 or email [staff@ehlc.org](mailto:staff@ehlc.org) to register. Our next New Member Sunday will be February 1. This month we welcome new members: Kathryn/Michael Petschl, Zachary and Elizabeth; Sharyn/Dick Hoium.*

## 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.

# Lutheran Church Extension Fund

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](http://www.lcef.org) or call 800-843-5233.

## January Meetings

### **Leadership Council meeting**

*Tuesday, January 13, 6:30 p.m.*

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### **AA Meetings**

Every Wednesday – 6:30 p.m.

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



*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, Dorothy Richter, on December 21, 2014. A home-going service was held at Eastern Heights on December 26. Buriel was in Brainerd, MN. † † †

# Devotional Corner



“Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.”

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

## 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

