

February 2015

Eastern Heights

Lutheran Church & Open Arms Preschool
and Childcare

Highlights

616 Ruth St., St. Paul, MN

651-735-4202 • www.ehlc.org • staff@ehlc.org



Friday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.

FREE CONCERT

Eastern Heights Lutheran Church, 616 Ruth St., St. Paul
(dessert, coffee and fellowship: 6 to 6:45 p.m.,
concert 7 to 8:30 p.m.)

Debt Freedom 2015

The apostle Paul wrote (nearly 2,000 years ago): "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another... love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbor... love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here..." (Romans 13:8, 11-12)

I believe God is opening a unique door in 2015 for our Eastern Heights/Open Arms family. Will you:

1. Connect to God (in daily devotions, weekly Bible study and worship)?
2. Care for people (with your gifts and time)?
3. Become a Blessing (wherever God has placed you)?

I see it. It is already happening. Here are some practical ways you can live the faith in your heart this month:

1. Promise yourself to connect to God... in prayer, study and worship (every Sunday/Monday that you can).
2. Care for people:
 - A) Invite a friend or neighbor to our Lost and Found concert on February 6.
 - B) Give (and consider volunteering) for Hope for the Journey Home family shelter.
 - C) Find a place on our "Summit Hill" or other caring teams...
3. Become a Blessing by:
 - A) Giving regularly to the mission of Eastern Heights (in proportion to how God is blessing you).
 - B) Consider how you can become free of debt and more financially healthy.
 - C) Consider how you might be involved in a new major effort to lead our congregation to debt freedom (more information to come).

We want to be a blessing to you. Please let us know how we can help.

*In Christ,
Pastor Steve Benson*

February worship opportunities

Every Sunday (8:30 a.m. – traditional service, 9:45 a.m. – brief service, 10:45 a.m. – informal service) **Every Monday** (7:00 p.m. evening service)

Ash Wednesday (February 18 – 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.)

Lenten Wednesdays (beginning February 25 – 11:30 a.m. only, with soup lunch following service)

“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)

A Stewardship Prayer

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 February 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 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.

Greetings in the name of Jesus

From DCE, Missionary to Youth and Families

Greetings in the name of Jesus,

This month we are finishing up the season of Epiphany. In the church calendar the time of Epiphany is the realization that Jesus is the son of God. We recognize this when the Magi came to visit the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Celebrated on the 12th day of Christmas, Epiphany lasts for six weeks. The next season in the church year is Lent and starts with Ash Wednesday. This year Lent begins February 18 with Ash Wednesday services at 11:30 a.m. (followed by a soup lunch) and 7:00 p.m. Lent is 40 days and six Sundays, where we remember the fasting and temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and garden of Gethsemane before the first Easter morning.

Our Wednesday classes will continue with the 5th/6th grade continuing with the New Testament and on March 4 we will begin studying the Lord's Supper. 7th/8th grade students will remain focused on the 10 Commandments and the 9th/12th graders will work on "How to be a Christian without being religious." They will also begin looking at the passion as they prepare for leading the 7 p.m. service on Good Friday.



We also have a special event on Saturday, February 21: Students and parents will be invited to make their own communion ware to be used in celebrating communion on Maundy Thursday. We get to mold and paint our own cup and plate. This is not only open to the students in The Lord's Supper class but anyone who wants to have personal communion ware for the

Maundy Thursday service. If you created one last year you are invited to bring your communion ware and participate this year. We will be meeting at church at 10:45 a.m. and head out to the Kiln Kreation, and return to church about 1:15 p.m., the cost of the workshop is \$25. Please let me know if anyone is interested in attending, I currently have 10 spots reserved but can add more. Payment is due the day of the event or earlier.

*In His grip, Tim Germain, DCE – Director of Youth Ministry
651-295-9962, tcgerm93@gmail.com*

Greetings in the name of Jesus

From the Vicar

So, how is the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program going for your Vicar? Simple answer: It's going great! I am very much enjoying my classwork, my service to you all and working with my mentor, Pastor Steve Benson, and the rest of the church staff.

To fill in a bit more detail, the SMP program is a distance education program of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It is training done in the church where they serve. Pastor-mentors support and guide us in the program, provide day-to-day guidance, encouragement and prayer. God willing, Pastor Steve will be my mentor for the whole program.

The SMP program training is four years, sixteen semester quarters. I finished my first course, SMP101 – Introduction to Pastoral Ministry in November last year and am now in SMP102 – The Master Narrative. Introduction to Pastoral Ministry was designed to train us to think and act like pastors. The Master Narrative, considered the most challenging class in the program, presents the fullness and wonder of God's creation-redemption story, how to present it properly and where it has been distorted.

Schoolwork occupies fifteen or more hours every week. The nine of us in my SMP class meet with our instructor over the Internet (on-line) on Monday evenings for 2 hours. It is a great facility. Having come out of an information technology background, I can say the web-based facility is top-notch.

I appreciate your support in this journey. I had thought that God had closed the door to my becoming a pastor, but the door re-opened. Now, I can't think of anything I would rather be doing than serving in Eastern Heights with you all and studying to become better equipped to do so, with God helping me through the Holy Spirit!

If you have questions about the SMP program, or my coursework, let me know. I'd be happy to fill in more detail.

*In Christ Jesus,
Vicar Chuck Fenton*



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

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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 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!

Church Events



and Activities

Cookies and Bars needed!

Donated treats are needed for the Lost and Found concert, Friday February 6. A reception is planned from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. to welcome visitors and fellowship with each other before the concert begins. Please contact Amy Dorn-Fernandez at 651-399-1003 or email dornfernandez@yahoo.com or drop off cookies and bars at the church anytime before 2/6.

Conference Time

Each year we seek to provide continuing education & conferences to help our full-time staff serve the Lord with even more effectiveness. January 28 to 30 our Director of Christian Education, Tim Germain will be in Colorado for a conference about recruiting and supporting volunteers. Pastor Steve Benson and Michelle Emmons (our Director of Early Childhood Ministries) will attend the L.C.M.S. Best Practices for Ministry conference in Arizona, February 26-28.

Soup lunch

After Lenten midweek services beginning Ash Wednesday February 18. Here's what's on the menu: 2/18 chicken noodle, 2/25 broccoli cheese, 3/4 tomato basil, 3/11 chicken wild rice, 3/18 vegetable beef, 3/25 chicken enchilada

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, February 26, 11:30 a.m.

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.

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

February 16 Open Arms staff in-service

February 27 No Preschool and Pre-kindergarten classes

“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!)

February Hero Bible stories:

February 1 Stephen

February 8 Philip

February 15 Peter

February 22 Paul

New Member Sunday
Receiving new members:
Sunday February 1 and Monday February 2
At all services

Our next New Member class is Thursday, February 19 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 March 1. This month we welcome new members: Melanie/Phillip Zastrow; Christina/Russell Forga, R.J., and Benjamin

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, February 4, at 1:30 p.m. in the Priebe Chapel.

Weekly Grow Group

You are invited to join us for our Wednesday Grow Group, in the Priebe Chapel, 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.

Altar Guild volunteers needed

Helpers needed to sign up for the months of February, March and December. For more info, or to sign up, please call the church office 651-735-4202.

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 or call 800-843-5233.

February Meetings

Leadership Council meeting

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

Board of Education meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 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



A human being is a vessel that God has built for himself and filled with his inspiration so that his works are perfected in it.

— Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

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

