

MARCH 2015

# Eastern Heights

Lutheran Church & Open Arms Preschool  
and Childcare

# Highlights

616 Ruth St., St. Paul, MN  
651-735-4202 • [www.ehlc.org](http://www.ehlc.org) • [staff@ehlc.org](mailto:staff@ehlc.org)

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## **Cross Words: Lenten and Easter schedule**

**Sundays: Worship at 8:30, 9:45, 10:45 a.m.**

**Mondays: Worship at 7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesdays: Special Lenten Bible study at 6:45 p.m.**

**Wednesdays: Lenten Worship at 11:30 a.m. (followed by soup  
lunch)**



# “Cross Words”

## LENT 2015

“What will you give up?”

**1. Time:**

Is often more valuable to us than money. Do you have time for God and His Word in the next 40 days?

**NEW Lenten Bible Study “Cross Words”**

“Cross Words – The seven last words of Jesus Christ spoken from the cross.” Every Tuesday at 6:45 p.m.

**Grow Group**

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

**“Heroes of the Faith”**

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. (and also Sundays at 9:30 a.m.)

**2. Talents are needed:**

Is it time to volunteer to help our music program... youth ministry... or caring ministry?

**3. Treasure:**

Can you economize, save or sacrifice for a special Lenten gift for your Savior?

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*Blessings as we travel together through this season of repentance, reflection and response to our Lord Jesus who gave His ALL for us!*

## 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. If you are interested in helping us study the feasibility of a new major effort to lead our congregation to debt freedom, please contact me this month

*In Christ,  
Pastor Steve Benson*

## March 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)

**Wednesdays** (11:30 a.m., with soup lunch following service)

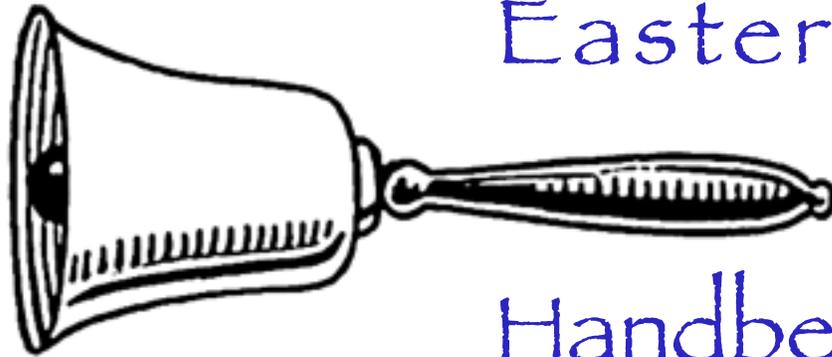
## "Filling the Storehouse 2015"

*"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.*



Easter

Handbell  
Choir

You are invited to our Easter Handbell Choir!

- + Adults and students (Jr./Sr. High) are welcome
- + A great parent/child activity!
- + Practice schedule: Saturday, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 – 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.
- + We plan to play for worship on Easter Sunday, April 5 at 8:30, 9:45 and 10:45 a.m. services.

Eastern Heights is calling all past and future ringers!

We are re-starting a handbell choir for Easter Sunday. Don't play handbells? Don't read music? Not a problem! Come and join us for a seven-week musical journey to say you've helped our church and played handbells. Any questions, please contact Dana Reynolds at [danar1986@gmail.com](mailto:danar1986@gmail.com)



## **EASTER GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE 2015**

You may order an Easter lily, Hyacinth (white, pink, lavender) or Tulips (red, yellow, pink) – **cost is \$9.00**

**OR**

A mum (white, yellow, lavender) — **cost is \$14.00**

and offer it in honor or in memory of a loved one to be on display for the Easter Garden. The flowers will be ordered and delivered directly to the church for Easter Sunday.

Note: we need to order by **Wednesday, March 25.**

Please make your check payable to Eastern Heights Lutheran Church. Place this order blank with your check in an envelope marked *Easter Garden*. Place the envelope in the specially marked box in the church entry.

The plants will be displayed for Easter Sunday only and you may pick up your plant after the 10:45 service. If you are not planning to keep your plant and wish to have it given to a shut-in, please indicate by checking the box below.

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**Easter Garden Order Blank**

**Please place your order soon, but no later than**

**Wednesday, March 25 Cost: \$9.00**

**Number of Lilies** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Hyacinth (note color white, pink, lavender)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Tulips (note color: red, yellow, pink)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Mums (note color: white, yellow, lavender) [cost \$14]** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone #** \_\_\_\_\_

Please deliver plant to shut-in

# Greetings in the name of Jesus

From DCE, Missionary to Youth and Families



This year the church season for March is Lent. For us this time consists of 40 days excluding Sundays before Easter. We use this time to remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and facing the temptations of the Devil. Some use this time to prepare themselves for Good Friday and then ultimately Easter. This year during Lent we are having a Lenten pause to begin our services to help us focus on the sacrifice of what Jesus did for us. Our Wednesday evening classes are full of energy, enthusiasm, and learning. We are continuing with the 10 Commandments for the 7th/8th grade, led by Vicar Chuck Fenton. The 5th/6th grade will be working on The Lord's Supper with Pastor Benson, and I will be working with the 9th/12th grade to prepare our special Good Friday, 7:00 p.m. service. Our communion ware creation was a great time of fellowship – we sculpted individual communion ware which will be used on Maundy Thursday. We also had the opportunity to make crosses which we will be able to use as gifts from Eastern Heights and Open Arms. Going along with the special communion ware for Maundy Thursday the

7th/8th grade students will be making unleavened bread to be used in the worship service.

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

# Worship/Bible study series



"Heroes" is our March 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.

## EHLC Leaders: 2015

**President:**

Lonn Maly

**Secretary:**

Amy Dorn Fernandez

**Vice President:**

Craig Nelson

**Treasurer:**

Kathy Jacobson

**Members at Large:**

Geneva Laatsch, Travis Pearson, Graeme Chaple, Joe Zastrow

**Elders:**

Don Lewandowski, Howard Arntzen, Iassu Tedla, Eloy Fernandez

**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 Burbach

**Recording Secretaries:** Irv Wiese, Delores Wiese, Jan Wiening

## 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](mailto:tcgerm93@gmail.com)

# Church Events



## and Activities



## Taste of India

### At Eastern Heights and Open Arms

Come join us Saturday, March 21 from 2:00 to 4:00pm

- Taste Indian food!
- Learn about Indian culture, customs, geography, etc.
- View photos, videos of India
- Welcome our families from India who have students in our Open Arms Child Development Center

Everyone is welcome!

## Soup lunch

Every Wednesday in March, at 12:15pm, after the Lenten midweek services. Here's what's on the menu:

- 3/4 - Tomato Basil
- 3/11 - Chicken Wild Rice
- 3/18 - Vegetable Beef
- 3/25 - Chicken Enchilada

## Prayer Walk Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars for the Spring Prayer Walk on Saturday, April 11, 10:30 a.m. to noon. We will meet at church and go out into the neighborhood to pray.

## 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.

## Craft Group

This group is busy exploring possible church projects that help others. Their name is "Stirred Hearts ... Skilled Hands" from Exodus 35. Next gathering will be Wednesday, March 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](http://www.lcef.org) or call 800-843-5233.

## Save the date Celebrate Life Banquet

Saturday, April 18, at Lake Elmo Event Center, 3712 Layton Ave. N., Lake Elmo, 55042.

# 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**

March 13 Open Arms closed (MN educator's conference)  
March 19/20 No Preschool and Pre-K classes (conferences)  
March 30/31 No Preschool and Pre-K classes (Spring break)

## “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!)

### **March Hero Bible stories:**

March 1- Hannah, March 8 – Widow, March 15 – Naaman,  
March 22 – Zaccheus, March 29 – Dorcas

## New Member Sunday

Receiving new members:

Sunday March 8 and Monday March 9

At all services

Our next New Member class is Thursday, March 19 from 7:00 until 8:15 p.m. Childcare is available on request. Call 651-735-4202 or email [staff@ehlc.org](mailto:staff@ehlc.org) to register. Our next New Member Sunday will be April 5. This month we welcome

new members:  
Gerald Holmes and Jim Rainey

THANK YOU...

For contributing to Hope for the Journey Home

*Dear volunteers, Tim and the Youth Group:*

*We thank you so much for your extremely generous donations of 200 pre-packed and decorated lunch bags. You cannot believe what a time-saver this is for the volunteers who make the lunches, plus everyone (even adults!) like to see what you put on their bags. May God bless you all for your kindness.*

*Sincerely, Catherine Sorenson*

## March Meetings

### **Leadership Council meeting**

*Tuesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.*

### **Board of Education meeting**

*Tuesday, March 24, 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*

# Devotional Corner



*Faith has to do with things that are not seen and hope with things that are not at hand.*  
— Thomas Aquinas (1223-1274)



## 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