

DECEMBER 2020



Eastern Heights Lutheran Church & Open Arms Preschool and Childcare

616 Ruth St. N, St. Paul, MN
651-735-4202 • www.ehlc.org • office@ehlc.org

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

December 24 - 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, 11pm

December 25 - 8:30am, 10:30am

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Go to ehlc.org to reserve your spot, or
call the church office at 651-735-4202

Questions? Talk to Tim Germain



All of these services will be live-streamed at
www.ehlc.org

FIERCE JUDGEMENT

Final Grace



"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Micah 5:2

"Though You Are Small..."

We know the story: in a little stable...in the little town of Bethlehem...little Mary...and the "itty-bitty baby" Jesus. From this small, humble beginning came the eternal rescue and redemption of all people of all times. The roaring, warm fire of forgiveness, hope and life sprang from a tiny spark.

Sometimes we feel *small*...inadequate, less than able...like a dwarf facing the unstoppable giants of guilt, worry, meaninglessness, disease, pain, aloneness, death.

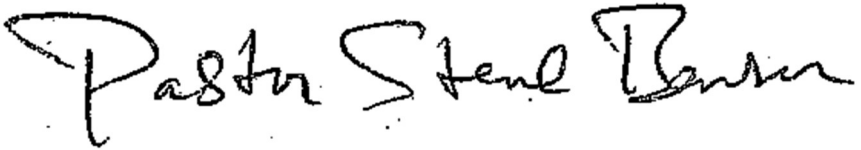
Jesus came for you. He didn't remain a tiny baby in a manger, but grew up to live, die and rise again in order to save us. Our God has a heart for the small. He has a place in His heart for you!

So spend some of your Holiday Season getting to know Him:

- 1) Worship Jesus online or in person
- 2) Read the book of LUKE in your Bible this month (one chapter a day should get you through)
- 3) Pray. Count your blessings. Humbly bring your needs to Him.

And let us walk with you: Our Eastern Heights & Open Arms family—though we are small—stands ready to listen, to provide programs and resources, to support you by mail, by phone, by Zoom, and in person however we can. We will continue to answer God's call to "keep the faith" and be a (little) blessing to our Eastside community.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year in Jesus Christ!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Steve Benson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

In-Person Worship Updates

We have been able to come back and worship together because we put a plan into place to meet the CDC guidelines. Below are a couple of reminders as well as places we can still use your help.

- 1) Please use hand sanitizer when entering the building
- 2) Please make sure to sit on cushions in the pews or where the usher directs
- 3) Continue to maintain social distancing when near people.
- 4) We need volunteers who are willing to help sanitize after the services, which usually takes 10 minutes.
- 5) Our new communion process can also use your talents.
- 6) If you like to greet people your talents can be used checking people in or seating them.

I would like to thank you all for keeping your masks on while in the building as well, following the one-way directions as well as adapting to the new communion process. Our Eastern Heights Lutheran Church COVID Preparedness Plan is available at www.ehlc.org or the church office. Please contact the church office if you would like to volunteer to help with in-person worship:

tim@ehlc.org

(651) 735-4202

Watch Party Bags

This year we are putting together something special for the children. If you are going to be joining us online, please email MaryEllen to reserve a Watch Party Bag for each child in your family. The bag will include some treats and activities that will be mentioned during Christmas Eve services. We will have the bags available from the week of December 14 until December 23. Please let me know how many you need so we are sure to have enough.

For those children who will be attending the Christmas Eve service in person, we will have a bag for you when you arrive at the service you made your reservation for.

Please contact MaryEllen Wunrow @ **651-735-4202 ext 1** with any questions or to reserve your bag!

Financial Update

From January 1 through November 30, 2020, there have been 177 families or individuals who gave to the operations, needs, and projects. We thank you for your continued sacrificial giving as you are able. We are currently running short \$1,505.23 per week for a total of \$72,250.83 behind what was budgeted to receive. Over the past months we also managed to reduce expenses to help offset the reduced income and continue to not access the line of credit. In the beginning of the year we needed a loan to complete the roof payment for \$11,250 and over the course of the year people gave \$8,700 to specially reduce the loan and have been successful in reducing the balance down to \$2,550. Although some have lost jobs and income, others are giving more and new people are joining our team in supporting the mission from God to the people of the east metro. We are truly grateful and appreciate your partnership of connecting people to God through faith in Jesus.

DCE Tim Germain

Updates from Pastor Chuck

December closes out the 2020 calendar year. What a year! December also brings us the season of Advent in a new Church Year. One calendar year ending, another liturgical year beginning.

May your reflection on the past year bring about the turning away from thoughts, cares, and sins that cling to faith, hope, and righteousness that is yours in Christ Jesus.

May your Advent be filled with the joyous expectation of the return of Christ our King.

May your Christmas season be filled with joyful celebration for the birth of our Savior.

And may the coming calendar year 2021 be crowded with blessings – as we hope for the end of the pandemic restrictions so we may have joy in the crowd of God’s people in worship.

May all of this be yours through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rev. Chuck

TurboBridge

Listen to the Sunday worship service on your phone

You can use your telephone and dial in to hear and follow along with our worship services. Here’s how:

1. Dial **612-808-6338**
2. When connected, enter in **990-6073-#**
3. You may hear music until the service begins.
4. When done, simply hang up.

Sunday services can be heard at 8:30 and 10:30am every Sunday.

Zoom Bible Studies

Youth Bible Study

Youth can join us for a Zoom Bible study at 11:45 Sunday mornings, where we talk about various Biblical Accounts using various sources to apply God's Word to our lives.

Young Adult Bible Study

Our young adult group meets over Zoom Tuesdays at 8:15pm. We start with the highs and lows of our week if you want to share and then ease into our Bible Study. We end with a prayer and conversation.

Confirmation Class

We offer a Zoom Meeting Wednesday nights at 7pm for all who want to still have a dedicated time to work on Confirmation and have the opportunity to ask questions. You are welcome to work on Confirmation at any time and finish as much as you want! After every 25 lessons in the Basic Bible Stories, and each major section in the Catechism workbook, you need to meet with Pastor Steve, Pastor Chuck, DCE Bradley, or DCE Tim to make sure we can connect and see where you are at and how you are doing.

Morning Bible Discussion

Every Thursday at 10:30am (with a few exceptions) we gather to discuss a book of the Bible. We are finishing the book of Matthew on January 14 and will begin the book of John on January 21. A few guiding questions are emailed about the two chapters we are reading and discussing for the week. We meet over Zoom to discuss the questions and any other items that come up. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Tim at 651-735-4202 or via email at tim@ehlc.org.

Thursday Night Zoomers

Our study of Micah continues on December 10 and 17. No class on December 24 and 31. On January 7, 2021, we will begin a new series: "The Discipleship Journey."

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study has started again and meets every Saturday morning via Zoom. All women are invited to join us, Saturdays at 9am. We will start by looking at the Books of the Bible and moving into a new devotional series in the new year. Please contact Michelle Emmons (michelle@ehlc.org) for the Zoom link.

Updates from DCE Bradley

One thing I would like to bring up before 2020 comes to a close is that I am in need of 5 adults who are willing to work with me to pray for our youth, be a helper for 1-3 youth events in 2021, help participate and/or lead (if confident) some of our Sunday School classes, and help with Confirmation Classes. You do not need to know everything about the Bible, or even know all the youth's names. What I need are 5 adults who want to put some time, effort, and care into our youth here at Eastern Heights Lutheran Church! Do not worry if distance is a problem, we are blessed with Zoom! If you have any questions, email me at bradley@ehlc.org, or call me at **612-720-5567**. Thank you again for all you have done and continue to do for our youth, congregation, and world!

Our Last Youth Event of 2020 is Wednesday, December 16, from 6:30-9:30pm. We will be creating PPE sets for the homeless, having a devotion, playing socially distanced games, and watching a short movie. January 27th will be our next Youth Event from 7:00-9:00pm.

The dates for Confirmation in January are the 6th, 13th, & 20th. Classes on December 23 and 30 are canceled because it is Christmas and the new year and it is always a crazy time.

Our Young Adult Bible Study is continuing into 2021! Our last Bible Study of 2020 will be Tuesday, December 15, and then for January, every Tuesday will have a Young Adult Bible Study starting at 8:15pm.

DCE Bradley Asmus

Use Your Gifts in Worship 🎵

Do you like to sing or play an instrument? Contact Josiah Bode (josiah@ehlc.org) if you would like to help with the music here at Eastern Heights!

Solos and Duets

For our special music, there will be an emphasis on vocal and instrumental solos and duets. All instruments (piano, organ, guitar, strings, woodwinds, brass...) are welcome! Contact Josiah to see when we can fit you in.

Adult Choir

The adult choir has resumed rehearsals and is starting to work on some music for Advent and Christmas. More singers are always welcome! We will continue utilize the space in the sanctuary to rehearse at a safe distance from each other. Please bring your mask, and be prepared for assigned seating. Contact Josiah or call the church office for more details.

Praise Band

We have started to see a few more people play and sing with the praise team, but there's always room for more! This is a great opportunity for talented high school and college students as well as adults. Contact Josiah to set up an informal audition.

Private Music Lessons 🎵

Want to help with music but can't play an instrument (yet)? Contact our music director, Josiah Bode, at josiah@ehlc.org for information about private lessons! Instruments that can be taught include piano, saxophone, clarinet, bass guitar, and handbells.

Now through December 31 — 20% OFF for new students!

Contact Josiah for details.

Open Arms Child Development Center

Have you ordered your Christmas Cards yet?

Open Arms now has a Shutterfly Storefront! If you go to our storefront and place an order with Shutterfly, Open Arms will receive 8% of your order with no additional cost to you! The storefront does not work on mobile devices, so you will need to access it via a computer. Please check out our storefront when placing any Shutterfly orders.

<http://openarms.shutterflystorefront.com/>

Important Dates for Open Arms

- Open Arms will be closed on December 24-25
- Open Arms will be closed on January 1
- National Lutheran Schools Week is January 24-30

Ministry Partner Opportunities

- A. Be a telephone caller for our Caring Ministry.
- B. Be a Ministry Partner as we continue in-person worship under social distancing protocols. We especially need ushers and tech workers.
- C. Use your musical gifts to enhance our worship! Singers and instrumentalists needed.

Contact the church office to volunteer:
office@ehlc.org or **651-735-4202**

Options for Women

Options for Women East is a pregnancy medical clinic in Saint Paul. To help their prenatal patients, they are in need of donations of gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, and antibacterial wipes. Please email Jennifer Meyer at edjm@optionsforwomeneast.com for more information.

Caring Ministry update:

As you know, the coronavirus pandemic has prevented us from personally visiting those who are ill, disabled, elderly, etc. Most of our Senior Living Center Bible studies and worship services have been suspended since March. We are attempting to reach people through direct mailings (U.S. Postal Service), phone calls, etc.

Get On The List

If you would like to receive a printed copy of our Sunday worship service, hymns, and sermon every week, simply contact the church office and request to get on the weekly mailing list. You can write to **Eastern Heights Lutheran Church, 616 Ruth Street N, Saint Paul, MN 55119** or call **651-735-4202**.

Speaking Of Calling

We are trying to call our members and friends as frequently as possible. So far, our team of callers includes: Betty Oppenheimer, Rosanna Wunrow, Donna Ewalt, Pam Hoppe, Kim and Don Lewandowski, and our coordinator, Geneva Laatsch. Our team:

1. Calls one of our Eastern Heights family members;
2. Asks how they are doing (and then listens);
3. Asks if they need any help/assistance or prayer requests (to be forwarded on to our pastors);
4. Offers to say the Lord's Prayer (or another simple prayer) together, out loud, over the phone;
5. Then offers to call them again next week.

If you are willing to call one (or more) people each week, please join our team: email **office@ehlc.org** or call **651-735-4202**



The Faithfully Departed 2020

Joan Miles – 01/09/20 – Funeral 01/15/20
Erma Kicker – 01/12/20 – Funeral 01/25/20
Gary Wunrow – 02/08/20 – Funeral 02/15/20
Esther Fuhr – 02/23/20 – Funeral 02/28/20
Walter Proft – 03/30/20
William Naatz – 04/12/20 – Funeral 09/14/20
Lois Raatz – 04/16/20
Tony Malm – 04/28/20 – Committal 05/04/20
Buzz Wilson – 05/2/20 – Memorial service 07/18/20
Judith Croft – 05/03/20
Marge Northup – 05/18/20 – Funeral 06/13/20
Richard Carlson – 05/19/20 – Committal/burial 6/23/20
Betty Schultz – 05/20/20 – Funeral 06/26/20
Marvis Stanchfield – 06/02/20
Carol Draz – 06/03/20
Donna Brueske – 06/21/20 – Funeral 06/29/20
Judy Reedy – 07/20/20 – Funeral 08/11/20
Wally Radtke – 08/28/20 – Funeral 09/03/20
Lorena Becker – 11/23/20 – Funeral 11/28/20
Moses Kollie – 11/23/20 – Funeral 12/11/20
Norma Mickelson – 11/30/20 – Burial 12/10/20

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

Note: We will send out announcements when deferred memorial services are scheduled.

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SHOP OUR STOREFRONT

OPEN ARMS WILL RECEIVE 8% OF YOUR ORDER

<http://openarms.shutterflystorefront.com/>

WE WANT TO HELP

If you or someone you know is sick, has lost a loved one, or has any prayer need, let us know: office@ehlc.org or call 651-735-4202

Pastor Chuck Fenton

chuck@ehlc.org
651-735-4202

Pastor Steve Benson

steve@ehlc.org
651-734-3787

DCE Bradley Asmus

bradley@ehlc.org
651-735-4202

DCE Tim Germain

tim@ehlc.org
651-295-9962

Our pastors and staff will NEVER contact you by phone, email, Facebook Messenger, etc. to ask for any gift cards or cash. This is a scam from anonymous criminals—not our staff. Please beware and contact the church office to let us know of any suspicious requests.