

SEPTEMBER 2021



Eastern Heights Lutheran Church *and Open Arms Preschool and Childcare*

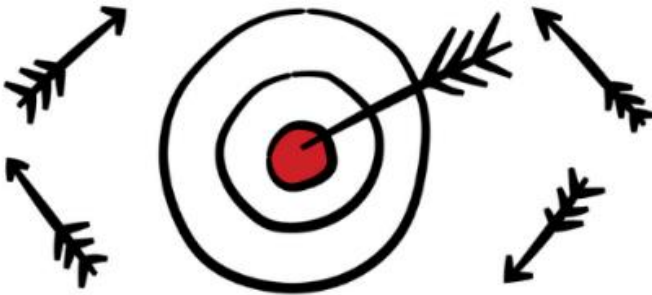
616 Ruth St. N, St. Paul, MN

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

FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

BEING

CHALLENGE



A 40-DAY CHALLENGE TO BE LIKE JESUS

ZACH ZEHNDER

Starting September 26!
Learn the 5 keystone habits that
lead to being more like Jesus

What Is NEXT?

As we move into the Fall of 2021, we can't help but ask the question, "what is next?" We might ask it in hope—or in fear. But we ask it now as (hopefully) school resumes, and our work and life, in general, move into our next chapter. Our immediate past includes a shut-down of in-person worship from March to September of last year; a long season of precautions, restrictions, and limitations; and a gradual emergence of a new way of carrying out our mission of connecting people to God through faith in Jesus. Earlier this year, we observed Lent, celebrated Easter, and then took up the "Red Letter Challenge." Many blessings came into our Eastern Heights and Open Arms community through learning how to BE with Jesus, Forgive, Serve, Give, and Go out to share the good news about Jesus. This past summer, our VBS reminded us of how we are Treasured by God, our sermon series from Ephesians emphasized that we are Chosen by God, who has good plans for each of us...and we saw a Summer Miracle of generosity toward Keeping the Faith going out to the east metro.

Now, what's next? As a follow up to the "Red Letter Challenge," we are launching the "Being Challenge" on September 26. It is a 40-day challenge to **be like Jesus**. Through daily devotional reading, weekly small groups (in-person and on Zoom), and a series of Sunday messages, we will identify five main habits that Jesus regularly practiced to be in relationship with God. A unique feature of the "Being Challenge" is an "Intergenerational" gathering between the two Sunday worship services. All ages will learn and laugh together as we explore the "Being Challenge" principle for that week.

Our Sunday morning schedule is changing on September 26:

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:45 a.m. "Intergenerational" gathering for all children, youth and adults (led by our pastors, DCEs, and early childhood staff)
- 11:00 a.m. Informal Worship

We do not **really** know “what is next.” But our Lord Jesus does! He said, “*Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*” (Matthew 7:24) When the storms of life beat against you, stand on the solid rock of Jesus Christ—His words and His habits.

Commit yourself and your family to a 40-day challenge to be like Jesus. For a few weeks, prioritize hearing Jesus’ words and putting them into practice. Incorporate five new habits into your life...and grow in your closeness with your Heavenly Father. He will use you to make a difference and to be a blessing to the people in your world.

Pastor Steve Benson

“Being Challenge” Groups

Sunday morning — 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Intergenerational Group, in the Lounge

Wednesday morning — 10:30 a.m. with DCE Tim

For anyone who can make it, in person at church

Thursday morning — 10:30 a.m. with Don Lewandowski

For anyone who can make it, on ZOOM

Thursday Evening — 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Steve

For anyone who can make it, on ZOOM

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 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.
Sunday service times starting September 26—8:30 and 11:00 a.m.**

BEING

CHALLENGE

Are You Ready?!

On April 13 this year, we launched the 40-day Red Letter Challenge. We had over one hundred people engaged in small groups, in-person, online, and individually. We heard stories how this time changed people's lives. I was having a conversation with a member and asked if she would share her story, she agreed, read below—

My life has completely changed since I completed the Red Letter Challenge. For a very long time I questioned God. I didn't understand why He took my dad and two grandpas from me. All three of them were gone by the time I was 16. Losing them broke me! I didn't know how life was gonna go on. As I became older, I started to become less angry and realized the Love God has for me—He has a plan. God does everything for a reason. I could no longer question what he does. Now that I am 26, I've started to see His plan. He may have taken my dad and two grandpas home with Him but He gave me my son and two brothers. It was all in God's plan.

God gave me the strength to be able to forgive somebody that hurt me more than anybody had ever hurt me before. It took me 4 years, but God helped me through it. I forgave my son's dad. I had my son's dad completely blocked out of my life. But after the Red Letter Challenge, I was finally able to do it: I forgave him. I was able to call him and simply ask how he was doing. I'm not lucky to receive strength from God; I am blessed.

When it comes to serving God, I feel I do pretty well, but there's always more we can do. It will never hurt to go the extra mile. Especially serving food. The Red Letter Challenge reminded me it takes very little to give a lot. We receive when we give. Sometimes all I have to give is \$1, but that can go a long way for somebody who has nothing at all.

The week of Going was very powerful to me. I've always struggled with losing the people I have at such a young age. I always wondered why my loved ones couldn't beat cancer like other people have. But

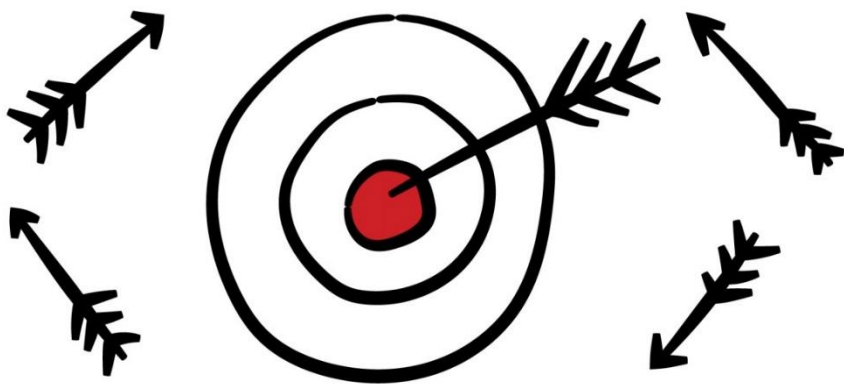
after the Red Letter Challenge, I understood nobody did anything wrong; God chose them. I found a reason to celebrate. I couldn't wait to go to my dad's grave to say, "Dad, God chose you."

A huge thank you to the Red Letter Challenge for changing my life! Thank you to Pastor Steve, Pastor Chuck, and DCE Tim Germain for always bringing me closer to God and encouraging me. Last but not least, thank you to my church family at Eastern Heights Lutheran Church!

—Jurzee Sullivan

This is just one of the stories of transformation. The author, Zach Zehnder, has created more in-depth 40-day challenges that follow up the Red Letter Challenge. We are going to be launching "BEING Challenge" on September 26. The Being Challenge is similar to the RLC and will challenge us to instill the 5 habits (Community, Scripture, Prayer, Solitude, and Church) in our life. Books will be \$20 and will be available for pickup beginning September 12. We will also have information on the available options for discussion groups. I look forward to taking on another challenge with my church family.

DCE Tim Germain



A 40-DAY CHALLENGE TO BE LIKE JESUS



We are nearing the end with only two sessions left. Thursday mornings meet for an hour. Every first and third Thursday will be in-person at 10:30 a.m., and the second and fourth will be online via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Contact tim@ehlc.org for the meeting link or use the information below.

Zoom information

10:30 a.m. — Meeting ID: 986 6851 4825 Password: 354468

7:00 p.m. — Meeting ID: 936 0001 3064 Password: 528903

Discussion group schedule

Session 7 — Romans 8

August 29, 9:40 a.m., in-person

September 2, 10:30 a.m., in-person

September 5, 9:40 a.m., in-person

September 9, 10:30 a.m., Zoom (DCE Tim)

7:00 p.m., Zoom (Pastor Steve)

Session 8 — Revelation 20

September 12, 9:40 a.m., in-person

September 16, 10:30 a.m., in-person

September 19, 9:40 a.m., in-person

September 23, 10:30 a.m., Zoom (DCE Tim)

7:00 p.m., Zoom (Pastor Steve)

It is never too late. Join us in any of the sessions.

DCE Tim Germain



The countdown is on! Classes begin at Laurel Community School (LCS) on Tuesday, September 7. The staff is working hard to be ready to welcome 14 students to our Charlotte Mason-style micro-school.

Demand from the homeschool community has led LCS to adopt a hybrid model. Some students will come to school full-time Monday-Friday. Others will attend part-time on Monday and Tuesday, or Wednesday and Thursday, and their parents will educate them at home the other days of the school week. The part-time Monday/Tuesday cohort is full. Eight spots remain in the Wednesday/Thursday cohort, and nine spaces are available in the full-time program. If you know of parents looking for a school that aligns with their values and beliefs, LCS encourages you to invite them to consider Laurel, www.laurelcs.org.

The school has some exciting events planned for the next few weeks. September 2 is Back to School Night. Then, on September 7th, the school year will begin with a prayer service at 9 am. Lastly, on September 11, the community will gather for food and fun at what we hope will become an annual celebratory picnic.

Watch this space for ongoing news about the school, and please keep us in your prayers.

Alfrieda Baldwin

Did You Know...

You Can Receive a Weekly Mailing?

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.



Seeking Prayer Sponsors

Open Arms is looking for Prayer Sponsors for the 2021-2022 school year. As a prayer sponsor, you will be given the name of a child who is currently enrolled at Open Arms. We ask that you pray for that child during the school year. You can pray for their education, health, relationship with Christ, or anything you feel moved to pray for.

This is a one-year (school year) commitment. There will be no contact between you and the child. If you wish to send them a card on their birthday or for a holiday that is fine, but it must be sent to the Open Arms office, and we will pass it along. DO NOT send gifts or money. All we are asking for are prayers.

A red rectangular graphic with a white border. Inside the border, the words "Prayer Sponsor" are written in a black, cursive script. The graphic is positioned to the right of the text in the first paragraph.

By signing up to be a prayer sponsor you are committing to pray for a child for 1 year. Your \$10 donation will provide that child with a Bible or other devotional reading materials.

We are looking for 70 Prayer Sponsors for this school year.

Please contact MaryEllen Wunrow at maryellen@ehlc.org or 651-735-4202 ext. 1 with any questions or if you wish to be a prayer sponsor this year.

Adopt-a-Chap

Open Arms is excited to announce that we have officially adopted a Chaplain through the LCMS. Open Arms adopted Navy Chaplain Brian Hamer. Chaplain Hamer is a Lieutenant Commander stationed in San Diego, CA, and has been serving in the Navy for the last 9 years. Open Arms will be praying for and communicating with Chaplain Hamer throughout the next year. We invite our Eastern Heights Family to join us in praying for Chaplain Hamer and his family.



Upcoming Events and Fundraisers

Open Arms is excited for our upcoming fall session to begin. We want to share a few important dates with you all and hope you will join us! Our Fall Session will officially start on September 7. We invite you to come and meet our Open Arms Staff on Sunday, September 19, as we pray for our staff and ask God to bless our school year. September 27 to October 27, Open Arms will be selling Little Caesars Pizza for you to make at home! This is a new fundraiser for us, and we are excited because who doesn't love PIZZA? On December 17, we will again host our Family Christmas gathering with a Silent Auction. We will be looking for donations to the auctions starting the end of October. We hope you will join us in celebrating in December! Contact MaryEllen Wunrow at maryellen@ehlc.org with questions.

Intergenerational Ministry

Starting Sunday, September 26, you will experience Children, Youth and Adult Ministry like never before. After much thought, prayer, and discussion, we have created three focused times for Children and family ministry during the year in an intergenerational setting.

Intergenerational is a big word and kind of sounds scary, but let me help you with the definition so we are all on the same page. Intergenerational means “involving multiple generations.” See? It isn’t scary; its just different than what we may be used to. We will have an Intergenerational class for anyone 3 years old and older. The goal and focus of this class is to form relationships with people of all ages, backgrounds, and various ways of learning.

The focused Intergenerational Bible Classes will be on Sundays between the services (9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.) and offered during specific times during the year. The first time is September 26 to November 7 for the Being Challenge. Second will be during the season of Advent, November 28 to December 26. The third season will be during Lent and Holy Week from March 6 to April 10.

The last thing to include in this list for the upcoming year is next year’s VBS, “Monumental,” from July 24 to 28.

We are looking for interested individuals to partner with us and become co-leaders. You do not need to commit for the entire year, just connect with one of the focused times: Advent (4 Sundays); Lent (5 Sundays); VBS (1-5 days). Join us as we continue connecting more people of all nations and generations to God through faith in Jesus.

DCE Bradley Asmus

DCE Bradley-Led Bible Studies

(for students in grades 5–12 and young adults)

Confirmation will start again this fall on September 1, 2021, and we will meet in person and online from 7-8 p.m. on Wednesday Nights.

Meeting ID: 928 8723 9614

Meeting Password: 55119

Sunday Bible Class is still happening every Sunday but moving into the Intergenerational Sunday School starting on September 26, at 9:45 a.m.

Young Adult Bible Study will now happen every Thursday night 8:15 to 9:15 p.m starting September 2. You are welcome to join any time! No need to worry if you missed a week; we still want you with us!

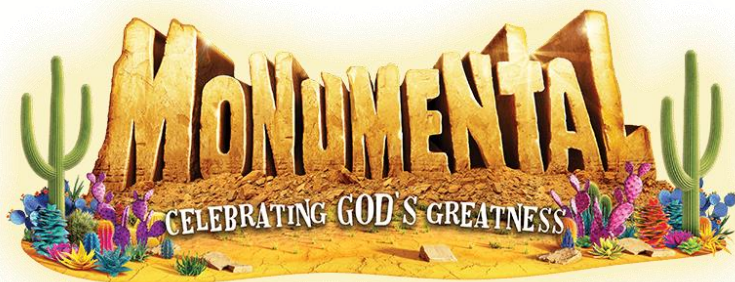
Meeting ID: 998 5881 6519

Meeting Password: 55119

DCE Bradley Asmus

VBS—Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped or donated to VBS this year. We had a great time learning how we are Treasured and Priceless to God. Mark your calendars because we hope you will join us next year for “Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness!” VBS will be July 24 to 28, 2022.



Ministry Partner Opportunities

- Be a telephone caller for our Caring Ministry.
- Be a Ministry Partner for our worship services. We especially need ushers and tech workers.
- 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

Telephone Ministry

Phone calling can be a ministry. We have a team of callers, which 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.

Become a Telephone Caller

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.

If you would like to receive a weekly phone visit, call the office to get on the list.

We received a Summer Miracle

Keep The Faith 2021

*I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.
2 Timothy 4:7*



With 37 givers as of August 25th. We received gifts and pledges of \$24,370. We are also still receiving gifts.

God is Great!
AMEN!!!!

Where are we financially?

The mission of “Connecting people to God through faith in Jesus” continues here at Eastern Heights and Open Arms with the financial support of 155 givers. We have received \$216,605 of our budgeted need of \$231,300.

Online at www.ehlc.org, and click on the menu and go to GIVE. Mail your check to Eastern Heights Lutheran Church, 616 Ruth Street North, St. Paul, MN 55119. In the offering box at worship on Sunday at 8:30 or 10:30 a.m.

Even if you can only give a few dollars each week, NOW is the time!

Baptism

If you or a young child want to be baptized, (but you would like to learn more about it) we invite you to join us for a 2-part series of classes about Baptism on September 9 (part 1), October 14 (part 2), November 11 (repeat of part 1), and December 9 (repeat of part 2). The classes will be held in the Opening/Closing room in Open Arms from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. You are encouraged to attend both parts.

*If you have any questions, feel free to contact DCE Bradley at
bradley@ehlc.org*

LWML NEWS

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is collecting coins

September to Remember will be September 14, 2021. Donate to LWML in honor of those “Shining Lights” in your life, making an eternal difference in the lives of others. You can mark your donation “LWML/Giving Tuesday” and drop in the offering box or mail to the church. Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is the first of 28 recipients to receive mite offerings grants. Please continue to support by continuing to collect and turn in coins or send in a special donation marked for LWML Mites. God’s blessings to you.

Stop at the Information Center to get a box to collect coins.



The Faithfully Departed 2021

Ron Larson – 01/03/2021 – Funeral 01/09/2021

Lyle Fuhr – 01/11/2021 – Funeral 01/15/2021

Tim Moore – 01/12/2021 – Funeral 01/23/2021

Irv Wiese – 02/03/2021 – Internment 02/12/2021

Jody Ihrke – 02/13/2021 – Funeral 02/19/2021

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stohlmann 02/15/2021 – Funeral 02/19/2021

Lois Raatz – 04/16/2020 – Memorial service 04/10/2021

James Bivin – 05/09/2021 – Memorial service 06/05/2021

Walter Proft – 03/30/2020 – Memorial service 07/02/2021

Irv Wiese – 02/03/2020 – Memorial service 07/31/2021

Eku Wolfe – 07/31/2021 – Memorial service 08/27/2021

Cecil Picht – 07/08/2021 – Memorial service 09/09/2021

Ken Buell – 08/21/2021 – Memorial service 09/02/2021

Bill Kenal – 08/22/2021 – Memorial service 09/18/2021

Walter & Donna Proft – 10/26/2021 - Internment

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

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

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 Christian Education program for all ages and selfless service to our diverse community.

Under the blessing of Almighty God . . .

- We will develop devoted disciples for Jesus through education, service, and caring ministries.
- We will continue our outreach to children, youth, families and older adults by meeting the needs of our community.
- Through Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center serve families in our community by providing high quality, affordable, Christian education and childcare.
- We will maintain and improve our physical property as needed, in order to efficiently carry out our mission of making new disciples for Jesus Christ.

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.

Starting September 26!



Traditional
Worship
Service
8:30 am

Educational Hour
9:45 am



Informal
Worship
Service
11:00 am



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 5PM – 7PM

We will be having Trunk or Treat this year. We are looking for interested parties to come and decorate their trunks and hand out candy. We can also use people who may want to just donate candy to ensure we have enough. In past years we have had up to 400 kids come through. Watch for more information in the coming months. Any questions contact Michelle Urban, chelle_u@hotmail.com or 651-269-2643.