

JULY 2020

Eastern Heights Lutheran Church
& Open Arms Preschool and Childcare

The Heights

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



Life Has Changed. Jesus Has Not. Meet HIM Here.

Our Eastern Heights Church Family is (gradually) COMING BACK!

*From mid-summer into the Fall, we are **adding** new ways you can join in our mission of connecting people to God thru faith in Jesus... By means of His WORD (in print, broadcast, digital and **in-person**) and the sacrament of Holy Communion.*

LIFE HAS CHANGED. JESUS HAS NOT.

"For I the Lord do not change, therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." (Mal. 3:6)

The Benson family's life has changed this summer:

On June 3rd my wife Stephanie's dear mother, Renelda Arkebauer, was called home to heaven at age 90. We find comfort in the hymn verse:

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me. (LSB 878:4)*

On June 20th our oldest daughter Emily Ann, was united in Christian marriage to Mr. Alan K. Arntzen. We find joy for Emily & Al in the promise and good plan of God:

A man shall leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two shall become one. (Gen. 2:24)

Even in "good & normal" times, life changes. But in the past four months of this pandemic, change has become the norm. For over 30 years I have tried to juggle my roles and calling as a pastor: psychologist, fund-raiser, theologian, marriage counselor, cultural critic, staff manager, budget connoisseur, entrepreneur, tech wizard, world-class communicator, man of prayer, shepherd, philosopher, all while guarding my own spiritual health and that of my family.

I was blessedly reminded (by Pastor Mark Clark of Village Church in Vancouver, B.C. in his recent *Open letter to Pastors*): I am not the solution. Jesus is. Most of the issues we face (that may bring disagreement and division) are secondary. My calling is to preach and teach the Bible and let God the Holy Spirit convict & convince

people regarding the issues of the day. Jesus is the only solution for ALL of us. The issue & message "of first importance" is "that Christ died for our sins... that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day." (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

So, when I am pushed and pulled and tested by all the changes around us, I will try to remind myself of the Apostle Paul's advice to Timothy: "Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching." (2 Tim. 4:2)

I hope you are finding a way (in print, by telephone or internet) to participate in our summer series of dialog messages between DCE Bradley and myself: "The Discipleship Journey." Perhaps the time is right for each of us to become equipped to walk an eight week discipleship journey with people who are already in our life, but who do not know or follow Jesus.

I promise to pray for you. I humbly request your prayers for me, my family and our Eastern Heights & Open Arms family. I humbly request your partnership in time, talent and treasure if God is calling you to help us continue our mission (in spite of all the changes):

To connect people to God through faith in Jesus...

among our east metro circles of people we are called to connect!

Life has changed. Jesus has not. May our church family of Eastern Heights & Open Arms be known for our unwavering focus on Him!

Pastor Steve

Sunday Schedule

- July 19th - 9-11 A.M. Drive-thru Communion
July 26th - 9-9:45 A.M. Drive-thru Communion
10 AM DRIVE-IN WORSHIP SERVICE w/ Communion
August 2nd - 9-9:45 A.M. Drive-thru Communion
10 AM DRIVE-IN WORSHIP SERVICE w/ Communion
August 9th - 9-9:45 A.M. Drive-thru Communion
10 AM DRIVE-IN WORSHIP SERVICE w/ Communion
August 16th - **10 A.M. INDOOR WORSHIP in our SANCTUARY**
w/ Communion
August 23rd - 9-9:45 A.M. Drive-thru Communion
10 AM DRIVE-IN WORSHIP SERVICE w/ Communion
August 30th - **10 A.M. INDOOR WORSHIP in our SANCTUARY**
w/ Communion

For indoor Worship please note: + bring your mask & be prepared to observe all posted safety procedures.

- + *We are planning a brief service with limited singing. Seating will be spaced-out through the sanctuary with a total capacity of no more than 80 people. Holy Communion will be available as you exit.*
- + *For those who prefer NOT to come inside the building, the service will be broadcast live into the parking lot on AM 1700 on your car radio.*
- + *Our "Turbo-Bridge" conference call will carry these services live at 10 A.M.*
- + *This worship service will also be streamed live (and the recording will be available) at www.ehlc.org.*
- + *Drive-thru Communion will also be available on these days from 9:00 – 9:45 A.M. in the parking lot.*

Tentative September schedule

We plan to offer two indoor services every Sunday in September. Traditional worship at 8:30 A.M. and Blended/Informal worship at 10:00 A.M.

NOTE: **NO** Sunday School, Bible Classes or coffee & treats yet!

Mark your calendar:

"WELCOME HOME" Festival Worship
SUNDAY, September 13, 8:30 and 10:00 A.M.

Some Things Don't Change...

1. We will still mail a printed copy of the service & sermon each Sunday to everyone who would like it.
 2. "Turbo-Bridge" will still be open every Sunday. This conference call is currently at 9:45 A.M. every Sunday. In September, you can choose to listen to the Traditional Worship at 8:30 A.M. or the Blended/Informal Worship at 10:00 A.M. (or both!)
 3. Any Sunday, you can choose to stay in your car in the parking lot and hear the services at 8:30 or 10 A.M. broadcast to your car radio on 1700 AM.
 4. Both the 8:30 and 10 A.M. Sunday services will be live-streamed on our youtube channel.
 5. You can set up private Communion at your home; outside your home; or at the church; or in the church parking lot **anytime** that it is convenient for you. Simply call the church office to make your appointment.
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NOTE: All dates are subject to change

From the associate pastor...

Are you waking up every morning and wondering if there will be good news today? Mornings, days, weeks even in this crazy year 2020 hasn't made for much good news. We might find ourselves saying "I have forgotten what happiness is;" words from Lamentations 3:17b (ESV) probably written by the prophet Jeremiah. Lamentations is a book of poetry describing all the awful stuff around the fall of Jerusalem. Not much good news.

Now imagine you are a scribe. Scribes were guys that copied what was written on one scroll to another scroll. It was their job. There were no printing presses to make copies until about the time of Martin Luther a little more than 500 years ago. Everything before then and for a while after was copied by hand. Books were very expensive! Now you get up in the morning and you have to copy Lamentations. You are making your copy and thinking, "This is pretty grim stuff." But then in the middle, the very heart of all this sad stuff you read in

Lamentations 3:21-23,

21 But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

WOW! What good news! God is faithful! His love never ceases! You get goose bumps, or whatever the ancient scribes called them. You have to do something. And that is what ancient scribes did. They put in something like underlining or margin notes that pointed to these verses making sure every reader would pay attention to the good news. God's news. God's news is that his steadfast love never ceases, his mercies never come to end. And we have this made sure in the death and resurrection of Jesus for us, for you. Your sins are forgiven! You are not forgotten. God cares for you and knows all about the stuff going on in your life and around you. Call it to mind, post it on your refrigerator or mirror - Jesus loves you and is faithful and will always be so.

In Christ, Rev. Chuck

Updates from DCE Bradley

Blessings all! As we come to the start of our 2020 fall, there are some things I would like to share with you all as we have created a few new ways of ministry over the last few months.

Zoom has become the new way of doing Bible Studies from a safe distance. Our Middle and High School Sunday Bible School has been going through the Psalms on Sundays @ 11:30am. There has also been a weekly devotion going out each week for youth to go through either by themselves, or with their family for a good start for Family Devotions. These devotions come from GROUP and have a wonderful way of bringing up things we lose focus of in our faith walk.

Every Wednesday, we make a Children's Message video to reach those in Open Arms, Eastern Heights, as well as those who are staying at home. It's a good way of sharing the weekly Chapel with everyone, no matter where you are!

For Events, we are doing our best to stay safe, at a distance, and see what schools are planning. We may get to start Bonfires in Mid to late August! Stay tuned as we update you with the plans we come up with to keep the youth safe and to stay up to date on both Synod and Governing laws and regulations with Covid-19. One Special Announcement is an event called TheONE Gathering! It is an event from a church in Washington, and a bunch of other churches around the country! It will be an event for our Middle and High school youth to be able to worship together, learn about different ways to serve our community, and be involved with other churches around our country. The official date of the event for our church will be August 22nd.

PLEASE REGISTER WITH ME BY AUGUST 15TH! If I do not have a response by the youth or parent, you will have to do it by yourself at your home. Feel free to ask any questions or concerns by emailing me at bradley@ehlc.org.

Blessings!
DCE Bradley Asmus

BIBLE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

When in sorrow	John 14
When people fail you	Psalm 27
When you have sinned	Psalm 51
When you have worry	Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger	Psalm 91
When God seems far away	Psalm 139
When your faith needs stirring	Hebrews 11
When you are lonely and afraid	Psalm 23
When you grow bitter and critical	1 Corinthians 13
When you feel down and out	Romans 8:31-39
When you want peace and rest	Matthew 11:25-30
When the world seems bigger than God	Psalm 9
When you want Christian assurance	Romans 8:1-30
When you leave home for labor or travel	Psalm 121

BIBLE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

When your prayer grows narrow or selfish	Psalm 67
When you want courage for a task	Joshua 1
When you think of investment and returns	Mark 10
How to get along with others	Romans 12
When people seem unkind	John 15
When discouraged about your week	Psalm 126
When you are praying for yourself	Psalm 87
When you are depressed	Psalm 27
When you are losing hope	Psalm 126
When you need reassurance	Psalms 145:18

*Whatever you're going through and when you're in your time of need ~look up the problem, go to your Bible and read it. Use your **Bible Emergency Numbers** and go and seek help from the merciful and most high God, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and the Holy Spirit. May you find peace in your search!
God Bless ~ and be Safe!*

Contributed by Donna Ewalt

***Turbo Bridge:* Listen to the service on your phone**

You can now 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 9:45 A.M.

Adult (Zoom) Bible study opportunity

Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. We are finishing the Gospel of Luke and will be moving on with another book beginning on July 30th. If you are interested in checking this out please send an email to tim@ehlc.org to be added to the email list and receive information. I look forward to our next book with you.

~ DCE Tim Germain

Open Arms Child Development Center

Open Arms continues to be open and provide care for our families. As we move forward through the summer our School-Age care enrollment continues to grow. Our current average daily attendance for all ages is 21 students. We will be hosting our Back to School night on August 18th and kick off our 20th Year of providing care to the East Side on August 31st! We are excited to start another school year and welcome our new families and welcome back those who have been gone. Please follow us on Facebook to stay up to date will all the exciting things that are happening at Open Arms!



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

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

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.

Church Garage Sale August 13th – 15th

We are accepting donations for the garage sale. The garage sale will take place August 13th, 8am-6pm, August 14th, 8am-6pm, and August 15th, 8am-2pm. If you are interested in helping to setup, sort, pickup large items, or work the sale please contact Michelle Urban, chelle_urban@hotmail.com or 651-269-2643.

Eastside Ablaze 2020 is cancelled!

We hope to revive our neighborhood event in 2021

Let your Light Shine as a Ministry Partner

Maybe now is your “time to shine” as an Eastern Heights Ministry Partner (volunteer):

- A) Be a telephone caller for our Caring Ministry
- B) We will need ushers and other helpers when we begin drive-in worship in our parking lot, AND when we re-open In person worship under social distancing protocols.
- C) We are planning some parking lot pot hole filling & patching “parties”!

Contact the church office to volunteer:

office@ehlc.org or 651-735-4202

Personnel updates:

- 1) Our long-time Communications specialist and office assistant, Stephen Wunrow has moved on and his talents will be used to help another local congregation. We would like to thank Stephen for his many years of service as a part of the team that connected people to God through faith in Jesus.
- 2) Congratulations to Emily and Al Arntzen who were married in the courtyard the evening of June 20th.
- 3) Congratulations to DCE Bradley and Megan Asmus who were married at Redeemer Lutheran, Wayzata, MN on June 27th.

Caring Ministry update:

As you know, the coronavirus pandemic has prevented us from personally visiting those who are ill, disabled, elderly, etc. All 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).

“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.

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

Financial update

From January 1st through June 30th 2020 there has been 167 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 \$1,013 per week for a total of \$26,825 behind what was budgeted to receive. We are currently assessing our current needs and programs and have also reduced expenses over the last months. Although some have lost jobs & 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. Our congregation also received approval and opened a line-of-credit with our Lutheran Church Extension Fund. As of the end of June we have not yet needed to access the line of credit.

Payroll Protection Program (PPP) update:

We were able to secure this loan on the second issue from the government. The money is designed to help businesses cover a set group of expenses: Payroll, etc. over an eight week period of time. With proper tracking and accountability the funds spent on the qualifying items will be forgiven. The loan amount for EHLC and Open Arms was for a total of \$111,949.

We have been able to use these funds for the exact purpose they were intended, Payroll and Health insurance. Recently there was a change that authorized the use of the funds over a 24 week period. This will enable us to utilize 100% of the funds for categories that are considered forgivable. I established processes within our accounting software that will track these requirements and will not be spent on non-qualifying expenses. These funds were a miracle and have provided a buffer to help weather our situation. The process to secure this loan was lengthy and time consuming but following the rules of the loan will definitely be beneficial.

DCE Tim Germain

Your Faithful Offerings are Truly Needed

Please help us close the “giving gap” for our regular operations. Many people are giving on-line; some are setting up on-going weekly or monthly tithes & offerings as automatic transfer of funds from checking, savings or credit card. Visit www.ehlc.org and click on the “Give” button or call DCE Tim at (651) 735-4202 for easy set-up.

1. You can mail in your offerings, EHLC, 616 Ruth Street N, St. Paul, MN 55119 or drop them off at the Church or Open Arms office. You can also give at Drive-thru Communion.
2. Special gifts of stock, property or houses, vehicles, or other one-time gifts from IRA's, etc. could also help us close our giving gap.
3. To give online go to www.ehlc.org. Click on the “Give” button. You can give through our secure site by credit, debit card or checking account. Simply contact the church office if you need assistance to set up one-time or ongoing gifts. You can reach the office – (651) 735-4202 or email at office@ehlc.org

Special Project giving is needed

The DCE house has undergone repairs and upgrades. Shower faucets were repaired to eliminate water damage within the wall. Upgraded **plumbing** shutoff valves were installed to allow for the replacement of the water heater and installation of new copper plumbing replacing the outdated galvanized pipes. With the expertise of a parent of a student in our Open Arms center we were also able to meet the requirement from the City of St. Paul to have the exterior of the house **painted** at a reasonable rate. However our repair budget for the year is being depleted.

Other needs remain so we invite your prayers for the following...

1. Better lighting and cameras in the Sanctuary to improve our video (streaming & recorded).
2. Repair of our parking lot (patching and filling potholes)
3. Gifts to our *H.O.P.E. Fund* to help us bridge gaps for food and housing for members and friends to find long-term solutions.

Rocky Railway VBS is online until 08/12

We have posted videos on our YouTube channel with all of the VBS Stations. The link to the YouTube channel is available on the church website and Facebook pages. Everyone is welcome to watch the videos and join in the fun. All videos will be posted through Wednesday, August 12th. It is for everybody! The Bible lessons and songs will be appreciated by all ages. Tune in and see our staff and volunteers in action.



Let us know how we can help you

Please contact us anytime. We would love to talk with you:

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651-735-4202

Pastor Steve Benson
steve@ehlc.org
651-735-4202 or 651-734-3787

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