

SEPTEMBER 2020

# Eastern Heights Lutheran Church & Open Arms Preschool and Childcare

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

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## Welcome Home Sunday is September 27!

8:30 a.m.  
Traditional  
Worship



10:30 a.m.  
Informal  
Worship

Welcome home to in-person services in our sanctuary every week starting **Sunday, September 27 at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.**

Services will be live-streamed and available at  
**[www.ehlc.org](http://www.ehlc.org)**

Drive-thru Holy Communion will be available in the church parking lot EVERY SUNDAY from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. It is also available any day, by appointment.

# He Wore the Mask

*Devotion for a Pandemic*

My two brothers are both growing beards. Little Brother Al says that no one sees him without a mask anyway, so why should he bother to shave? Big Brother Eric says he's growing a beard because it's something to do. (I always did wonder a little about Eric.) Besides, says Eric, a beard is always scruffy-looking when it's new, but the mask will hide it. Maybe by the time the beard looks good, masks won't be necessary.

Masks are everywhere—or, at least, they ought to be. When we see people without masks, we either want to keep far away from them or we want to lecture them. Masks are important!

But it's a funny thing about masks: they protect the wrong person! The CDC says that cloth masks don't really do much to keep the mask-wearer healthy. What they mostly do is to keep other people healthy. If you have the virus, your mask keeps your respiratory droplets from spraying out to infect other people. But if a mask-less person is sick, his respiratory droplets are so tiny and aerosolized by the time they get over to you that your cloth mask doesn't do much to stop them.

This hardly seems fair. The guy without the mask is doing the wrong thing, yet he's the one who is protected. The person who wears the mask can't save himself, but he does save other people.

That reminds me of a Bible verse: "So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him [Jesus], saying, 'He saved others; He cannot save Himself.'" *Matt. 27:41-42 (ESV)*

Come to think of it, the whole idea of wearing masks reminds me of Jesus. Masks are hot and uncomfortable and can even make it hard to breathe. It's almost a form of punishment. And all they do is protect another person who doesn't have sense enough to do what he should and wear a mask himself.

And isn't that exactly what Jesus did for us? We do everything wrong. We are "by nature sinful and unclean." Sometimes it seems as though we have no sense at all.

But Jesus did everything right. He was perfectly righteous, innocent, and sinless. And He took our punishment! HE WORE THE MASK! And He saved us—from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

We pray:

Dear Jesus,  
Thank You for wearing the mask for us.  
We're sorry for the wrong things we continually do.  
Thank You for forgiving us and saving us.  
In Your name we pray. AMEN

*(written and submitted by a member of our church family)*

## Our new series of messages: **THRU THE BIBLE**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Sept. 27 | <b>Sin Enters the World</b> (Genesis 3)             |
| Oct. 4   | <b>God Gives 10 Commandments</b> (Exodus 20)        |
| Oct. 11  | <b>God's Loving Character</b> (Psalm 103)           |
| Oct. 18  | <b>Messiah Offered for Sin</b> (Isaiah 53)          |
| Oct. 25  | <b>God's Son Comes to Us</b> (John 1)               |
| Nov. 1   | <b>Jesus' Death &amp; Resurrection</b> (Matthew 28) |
| Nov. 8   | <b>Hope for Life</b> (Romans 8)                     |
| Nov. 15  | <b>Jesus Will Return to Rule</b> (Revelation 20)    |

# Updates from DCE Bradley

As you may know, it has been very crazy with school starting up here in September, and many schools are sticking to either all online, or partial online and at school. For Confirmation, please remember to be working on the *100 Basic Bible Stories* or on the *Luther's Small Catechism Work Book*, and if you have any questions, please contact me at [bradley@ehlc.org](mailto:bradley@ehlc.org). We can Zoom or call to solve any questions, problems, or even complete our check-ins to keep you working on your faith, relationship with God, and knowledge of everything.

Devotions are still coming each week to both youth and parent email addresses. These are currently coming from Group, but will soon be home-made. If you have devotions you love or write your own, I would love to incorporate them into my weekly Youth Informational email.

If you just turned 18, are in college, are just out of college, or even have young kids, I am leading a new Bible Study you may be interested in. Young Adult Bible study will be starting soon. I have no age limit to what defines young, but some topics we will be discussing are: Mental Health, How to be Christian with Peers, Loving my Neighbor, What is the Sabaoth & How Do We Keep it Holy, and other subjects. I am always open to suggestions to focus on topics that apply to our lives and our faith journeys. I would love to see you on Zoom! Please know we will work on a day and time that works for as many of the people interested as possible, and we will start this Bible Study group in October. Many thanks for all ideas on this!

Speaking of Zoom, for the time being, we are continuing Sunday School for Middle and High School students with Zoom at 11:30am every Sunday Morning.

Blessings!  
*DCE Bradley Asmus*

# Open Arms Child Development Center

We are excited to start our 20th year of learning! Please follow us on Facebook to find out all of the exciting things that will be happening. If you wish to help support our students, we are still looking for Prayer Sponsors and can always use donations from our Amazon Wish List.



*Amazon Wish List*

## Will you be a Prayer Sponsor?

A Prayer Sponsor is someone who makes a 1-year commitment to pray for a child who is currently enrolled at Open Arms. We are currently looking for people to sponsor 1 or more of the 53 children who are enrolled at Open Arms.

We ask for a one-time donation of \$10 that will provide a Bible to your sponsored child.

If you are interested in being a Prayer Sponsor please contact MaryEllen Wunrow at [maryellen@ehlc.org](mailto:maryellen@ehlc.org) or Michelle Emmons at [michelle@ehlc.org](mailto:michelle@ehlc.org), or call 651-735-4202.

## 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 10:00 a.m. on September 20th, and at 8:30 AND 10:30 a.m. on every Sunday thereafter.



## 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

*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.

# Keep Me Sweet, Lord!

(from *Having a Mary Spirit: Allowing God to Change Us from the Inside Out*  
by Joanna Weaver.)

Lord, you know better than I know myself that I am growing older  
and will someday be old.

Keep me from getting talkative, particularly from the fatal habit of  
thinking that I must say something on every subject and on  
every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but  
you know, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind from the recital of endless details—give me wings  
to come to the point.

I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of others' pains.

Seal my lips on my own aches and pains—they are increasing, and  
my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the  
years go by.

Help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility  
and a lessening coxsureness when my memory seems to  
clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I  
may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet.

I do not want to be a saint—some of them are so hard to live  
with—but a sour old person is one of the crowning works  
of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and  
talents in unexpected people.

And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

# Making a Joyful Noise—Safely

This fall, our music will continue to support the rest of our ministry, but it will look a bit different! Due to social distancing guidelines and safety protocols, some of our ensembles will not return right away.

## Solos and Duets

For special music, there will be an emphasis on vocal and instrumental solos. If you are interested in using your gifts for the music of our services, please email me at [josiah@ehlc.org](mailto:josiah@ehlc.org).

## Adult Choir

The adult choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, October 7. We will 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. I look forward to seeing (and hearing) our returning choir members and would love a few more voices to join us! Contact me or call the church office for more details.

## Children's Choir

The children's choir will **not** rehearse for the time being.

## Handbell Ensembles

Our handbell ensembles (the full ensemble and the beginning bells) will **not** rehearse for the time being. However, I will be offering private instruction for anyone who wishes to learn more about ringing. Depending on the number of people who are interested, this may include solo ringing and/or working on individual parts for a "virtual ensemble" to provide special music. I encourage all of our former ringers to take advantage of this, and if you have not rung with us before, this would be a great opportunity to start!

## Praise Band

With our informal service relaunching on September 27, I need volunteers to sing and play with the praise band. This is a great opportunity for talented high school and college students! We need singers and the standard instruments (guitar, keys, bass, drums)—and even other instruments like flute, saxophone, trumpet, or violin. Contact me at [josiah@ehlc.org](mailto:josiah@ehlc.org) to set up an informal audition.



## Tech for Music and Worship

With our improved technology, lighting, and live-streaming, we need more volunteers to help run things! Please contact our tech director Al Arntzen at [al.arntzen@gmail.com](mailto:al.arntzen@gmail.com) for more information and to see if your skills are a good fit for our tech ministry.

## Technology Improvements

*(in-progress and needed)*

With a major shift to a more digital environment and recording our services for people outside our church walls, it has come to our attention that major improvements are needed. The first need is lighting to better see the altar during recordings which are posted online. To make this happen we received a gift that was dedicated to provide the needed lighting. We will soon begin installation. Additional gifts are needed—please mark your gift for “Tech.”

## Private Music Lessons

Want to lead hymns on the piano or join our handbell ensemble? Want to join the band but can't play an instrument (yet)? Contact our music director, Josiah Bode, at [josiah@ehlc.org](mailto:josiah@ehlc.org) for information about private lessons! Instruments that can be taught include piano, saxophone, clarinet, bass guitar, and handbells. A special discount is available for anyone planning to use their new skills in the context of our worship services!

## Church Garage Sale was a success!

Thank you to all workers and all your donations for the garage sale. Together you helped raise \$2,020 that will be set aside and used for outreach events. We were successful in connecting with people from the neighborhood. Thanks again to Michelle Urban and her crew of workers!

## 2 Adult (Zoom) Bible study opportunities

Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. We have already made it through the book of Luke and will be finishing the book of Mark in the first three weeks. On September 24 we will begin reading and discussing the book of Matthew. We read two chapters a week and then have our Zoom meeting to discuss items and questions. If you are interested in joining our group please contact me so I can add you to the communication list. I can be reached at 651-735-4202 or via email at [tim@ehlc.org](mailto:tim@ehlc.org).

Starting Thursday, October 1 at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Steve will begin a new evening Zoom class—“Thru the Bible, a fast-forward overview.” In 8 sessions we will study the eight “most important” chapters from Genesis to Revelation. Call **651-735-4202** or email [steve@ehlc.org](mailto:steve@ehlc.org) to sign up.

*DCE Tim Germain*

## Ministry Partner Opportunities

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

- A. Be a telephone caller for our Caring Ministry.
- B. Be a Ministry Partner as we begin in-person worship under social distancing protocols. We especially need ushers and tech workers.
- C. We are planning some parking lot pot hole filling & patching “parties”!
- D. Use your musical gifts to enhance our worship! Singers and instrumentalists needed.

Contact the church office to volunteer:  
[office@ehlc.org](mailto:office@ehlc.org) or **651-735-4202**

## 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.

## 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](mailto:edjm@optionsforwomeneast.com) for more information.

# Financial Update

From January 1st through August 31st, 2020, there have 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 \$1,289 per week for a total of \$45,107 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 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. Our congregation also received approval and opened a line of credit with our Lutheran Church Extension Fund. As of now we have not yet needed to access the line of credit.

We were blessed with a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan. With proper tracking and accountability, the funds spent on qualifying items will be forgiven. These funds were a miracle and have provided a buffer to help weather COVID.

*DCE Tim Germain*

## Your Faithful Offerings are Truly Needed

Please help us close the “giving gap” for our regular operations. Many people are giving online (see #3 below for details).

1. You can mail in your offerings to 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 IRAs etc. could also help us close our giving gap.
3. To give online, go to **[www.ehlc.org](http://www.ehlc.org)** and click the “Give” button. You can give through our secure site by credit, debit card, or checking account. You can set up ongoing weekly or monthly tithes and offerings as automatic transfer. Simply contact the church office if you need assistance to set up one-time or ongoing gifts. You can reach the office at **651-735-4202** or email at **[office@ehlc.org](mailto:office@ehlc.org)**.

## Special Project Giving Is Needed

Thanks to special gifts, the DCE house has undergone repairs and upgrades. Other needs remain so we invite your prayers for the following:

1. Better lighting and cameras in the Sanctuary to improve our video (streaming and 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

## Masks for Hope

Masks for Hope is a drive to gather masks for Hope for the Journey Home shelter. The shelter has been closed but will open in mid-October, on a partial basis at the shelter and using hotels. They have some supply needs before opening:

1. 4 mini refrigerators
2. 4 folding or card tables
3. Disposable masks
4. Personal size hand disinfectant
5. Disinfectant wipes
6. Continued need for sewn cloth masks



Everyone, adults and children, will need masks. You can help in three ways:

1. Donate cloth or disposable masks. Bring them to church; a box will be available just inside the back parking lot door.
2. Donate money to purchase masks or sewing supplies.
3. Donate your time to sew masks; supplies will be provided. Disinfectant wipes are also in high need.

Thank you for your help and support! We have already received 50 cloth masks, but more are needed. For questions, contact Kim Lewandowski at **651-230-5447** or **[kdlewand@gmail.com](mailto:kdlewand@gmail.com)**.

## Sock Ministry

Jim Seeman coordinates Prison Ministry with the LCMS here in Minnesota. He needs your help! Our Youth Group wants to make 500 Sock Kits, but we need your help with supplies to accomplish this. These 500 sock kits will be handed to people who have gotten out of prison and are working with Jim Seeman. We want people to know God cares about them, and support them in their new start to life and their faith journey! Here are the supplies we need:

- **73** sheets of colored card stock paper
- **670** ft of twine for wrapping the socks shut
- **500** pairs of long adult socks
- **500** regular size sticks of deodorant
- **500** bars of soap
- **500** granola bars
- **500** portable Kleenex bags (10 Kleenex packs)
- Donations for **500** portals of prayer or for the above supplies are welcomed with many thanks for anything you are willing to help give!

## Special Visit—Concordia Seminary

Have you ever considered becoming a pastor or deaconess? If so, Rev. Scott Holder from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, would like to meet with you at Concordia University, St. Paul, on September 29 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Rev. Holder is interested in meeting with prospective students of all ages—elementary school age through adults. Appointments are individual, informal, and family/friends are welcome to come with you. Appointments are not necessary but encouraged. If you are interested in scheduling a specific time, please contact Rev. Holder at **314-505-7225** or [holders@csl.edu](mailto:holders@csl.edu).

# When This Is Over *by Laura Kelly Fanucci*

When this is over,  
May we never again  
Take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theater  
Friday night out  
The taste of Communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

When this ends,  
May we find  
That we have become  
More like the people  
We wanted to be  
And may we stay  
That way—better  
For each other  
Because of the worst.

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## 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](mailto:office@ehlc.org) or call 651-735-4202*

**Pastor Chuck Fenton**  
[chuck@ehlc.org](mailto:chuck@ehlc.org)  
651-735-4202

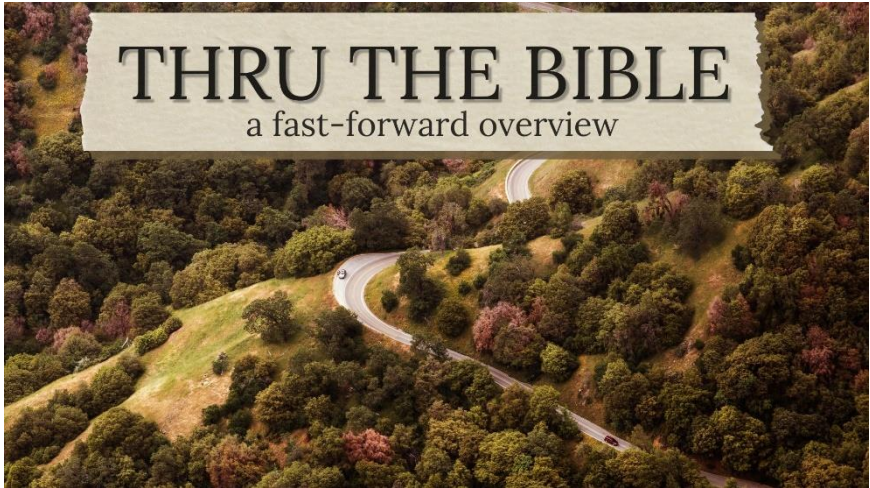
**Pastor Steve Benson**  
[steve@ehlc.org](mailto:steve@ehlc.org)  
651-734-3787

**DCE Bradley Asmus**  
[bradley@ehlc.org](mailto:bradley@ehlc.org)  
651-735-4202

**DCE Tim Germain**  
[tim@ehlc.org](mailto:tim@ehlc.org)  
651-295-9962

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Starting September 27



This series is based on a study by Gary Stump and the late Ed Watson from Onward Church in Fishers, IN. Over 60% of Americans surveyed said they would be willing to study the Bible if someone asked them. But where do you start? What is the Bible really all about? This study is designed to answer these questions. Over eight weeks we will look at eight key chapters from the 66 books that make up the Old & New Testaments of the Bible. These chapters will provide a fast-forward overview of the entire message of the Bible: God's love & sacrifice for broken people.

The Bible is the most read and respected (& controversial!) book in history. There are currently over 6 billion copies in print. Why is it so popular? What are the major themes of the Bible? How can we understand what it is saying—especially for us in 2020? The Bible was written between the years of 2000 BC and AD 100 by 40 different human authors, and yet it tells one consistent story of the Creator pursuing people to be reconciled to Himself.

Join us for this series of Sunday messages, in person on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary on Ruth Street in St. Paul, OR streaming-live (and recorded) at [www.ehlc.org](http://www.ehlc.org) OR on our TurboBridge telephone service. You are also invited to an eight-session Bible study on the same topics beginning on Thursday, October 1, from 7 until 8 P.M. on Zoom. Email [office@ehlc.org](mailto:office@ehlc.org) to receive the link.