



September 2022



# Eastern Heights Lutheran Church *and 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)



**REBUILD**  
THE FOUNDATIONS



## “Rebuild the Foundations”

This is the name of a new campaign to repair, rebuild and renovate which will launch on Sunday, September 11th... @ 8:30, 10:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Isaiah 58:12 is our theme verse:

“And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many

generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.”

Jesus has “repaired and restored” us by His death & resurrection for us. Now, in the 75th year of our congregation here in St. Paul, it is time to attempt to raise additional support for the repaving of our parking lot; the repair of our heating system; and any additional rebuilding that our members would approve (for example, window, floor and seating replacement in the sanctuary, basement kitchen remodel, etc.) As a part of this three-year campaign, we also hope to simultaneously rebuild the “bridges” into our east metro neighborhoods- making connections; developing relationships; and making new disciples for Jesus among the various nations & generations around us. Please plan to be with us (in-person or streaming on YouTube) every Sunday as we, together, seek out God’s good plan for our Eastern Heights family. Our series of messages from September 11th through October will lead us into inspiring, courageous, true stories from God’s Word.

Blessing in Jesus!  
*Pastor Steve Benson*

## “Be built up in HIM”

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” (Colossians 2:6-7)

Pastor Steve announced a campaign for now until the fall of 2025, **“Rebuild the Foundations”** based on this passage,

“And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to dwell in.” *Isaiah 58:12 (ESV)*

The immediate needs are for the physical needs of our church grounds and building. But there is more to consider. Throughout the Bible, stories are told of building and rebuilding. Examining these stories, and there are many, the physical effort, the construction, the rebuilding follows on spiritual effort, spiritual building, spiritual rebuilding. The physical follows the spiritual.

We know we need to do something. Let us begin by building up our spiritual life. “Walk in him (Jesus), rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Put in spiritual effort - pray, read scripture, attend weekly worship, encourage one another. If there is persistent sin tearing down the fabric of your life, seek Pr. Steve or me. We will be glad to help you, in all confidentiality, through the means of private confession and absolution. Don’t let the devil grind you down! Jesus wants to build you up!

As we seek to discover the Lord’s direction, pray, “Lord Jesus, make a way.” Add on to this phrase anything that comes to mind for the needs of church, like “... make a way for a new parking lot.” Or, “... make a way for the needed money.” I have learned when I don’t know the way forward, or it is unclear, to ask, “Lord Jesus, make a way.”

Let us all pray, “Lord Jesus make a way” and then “abounding in thanksgiving” rejoice and be glad for this season of growth and rebuilding - and make a way to connect the next generation to Jesus.

*Pr. Chuck*

*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**.



Worship with us Live Online at [www.ehlc.org](http://www.ehlc.org) at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Worship when you can  
on our channel



Eastern Heights Lutheran Church Saint Paul MN  
OR

Listen to the service on your  
phone

at 8:30 or 11:00 am each Sunday



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

Sunday services can be heard at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. every Sunday.

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## Back to School Night

On August 24, we welcomed families of our preschool and pre-kindergarten students for an evening of getting to know the staff, see the classrooms and learn about our academic year. We are so excited to welcome new and returning families to Open Arms for the 2022-2023 school year.



## Will you be a prayer sponsor?

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 "Open Arms, Attn: MaryEllen" and I will pass it along. DO NOT send gifts or money. All we are asking for are prayers.

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

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

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



## Pizza Fundraiser

Open Arms will again be selling Little Caesars Pizza kits. These kits ship right to the buyer and Open Arms get a percentage of every order! This is the second year we will be doing this fundraiser, and last year we raised \$450! This year we are hoping to raise \$550! The money raised will go back into the classroom to help purchase learning supplies and other educational materials. Please be on the lookout for the order link; the fundraiser will open on September 19 and end on October 18. Please contact MaryEllen Wunrow at [maryellen@ehlc.org](mailto:maryellen@ehlc.org) with any questions.



## Adopt-a-Chap Continues

Open Arms is still praying for and connected to our adopted chaplain Brian Hammer. We will keep you posted as to any special prayer requests and activities. Chaplain Hammer and his crew really enjoyed and appreciated the different packages that we sent them last school year.

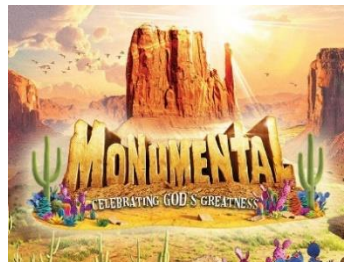
## Saturday Elementary Youth Group

All elementary youth who are in kindergarten through 4th grade are invited to join us once a month for fellowship and a Bible Study. In August, we welcomed those students who will be starting kindergarten in the fall. If you know someone who is in this age group and would be interested in joining us, please contact MaryEllen Wunrow. The next dates we will be meeting are September 10, October 8, November 5, and December 10. We would love to have you join us!

MaryEllen Wunrow, [maryellen@ehlc.org](mailto:maryellen@ehlc.org) or call the church office.

## VBS Recap!

During the week of July 24-28, we had 19 kids aged 3 – 4th grade join us for a fun-filled week learning and celebrating God's Greatness. This week would not have been possible without our 9 amazing volunteers and staff who made the magic of VBS come together!



The kids had lots of fun and took on the challenge of beating last year's totals of paper towel and water bottle donations for Hope for the Journey Home! At the end of VBS, we had a Monumental tower of paper towels! If you see a VBS Participant be sure to ask them about their new friends Tornado Tim and Ravenwood, who will be out and about checking up on them before school starts!

## VBS Coming again!

Now we need to cast our eyes upward and get ready for a STELLAR adventure next year when we head to space and Shine Jesus' Light!



## In-Person Wednesday Morning Bible Discussion

Every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. (with a few exceptions) we gather to discuss a book of the Bible. We are currently working through video books of the Bible. If you are interested in joining our group, stop in at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning for coffee, treats, and discussion. If you have any questions, contact Tim at **651-735-4202** or **tim@ehlc.org**.

## Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study

We are working through books of the Bible. Study continues on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. Contact Pastor Steve (**steve@ehlc.org**) for the Zoom link.

## Zoom Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets every Saturday morning via Zoom. All women are invited to join us Saturdays at 9 a.m. Please contact Michelle Emmons (**michelle@ehlc.org**) for the Zoom link.

# Confirmation

We have confirmed 3 students this year, so far... It has been a blessing to have 3 students confirm their faith in front of the congregation on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This was the first time since Covid-19 hit our world. Several other students are close to completing the confirmation classes and lessons as well. Looking forward, September of 2022 will provide videos for confirmation students to utilize, and potentially the opportunity of confirmation retreat options. Contact me, DCE Bradley Asmus, if your child may be ready to start the process. [bradley@ehlc.org](mailto:bradley@ehlc.org) or 651-735-4202.

# EHLC Youth

The youth took a trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, and it went well. We took 3



youth, 1 adult helper, and me. We attended classes, food trucks, the Mass Events, and Bible Studies. I noticed more involvement from the youth each night at the Mass Gatherings with the other 19,500 people there. We discussed the learnings from each day, and I dug deeper with questions brought up in the mass events. There was a 'click' for all three of them at some point, with the faith being more than just a 'box' they have in their life. Elizabeth has continued to grow in her faith but also in her relationship with God. She is a very deep thinker and isn't afraid to ask questions. I see potential for her to go into ministry, be it as a DCE, DCO, or even as a teacher. Zack continues to ask questions that push out of his comfort zone and continues to have a strong empathy for others. He is a very caring, and I can see him as a counselor, teacher, or somewhere helping others. Dashawn has shown a deeper connection with the Bible being applicable to his life and friendships. He shows a desire to be in entertainment industry and could make a great actor or teacher. All three youth were a blessing. It was a blessing to have Michele there to help me corral the youth, be there for them, and have an adult with the group when something did not go according to plan. We even got to go to the Space Center in Houston for half of the last day we were in Texas.



**Family Fun Night** was a success in getting families from the community to come to the church, have fun, and get to know a little more about who we are. We gave away 240 hot dogs, and I saw many smiling faces. I will work on better communication of the event with a mailing, door to door, and by having a team start this process in January. The dunk tank was a success, and we had a number of classic cars show up, too. I saw many members, Open Arms families, and people from around our community. I am open to leaders for next year to help with planning this Family Fun Night for 2023, to make it even more successful. Thank you!

In the Summer of 2023 our youth group will be going on a **Boundary Waters Youth Trip**. We will be exploring the nature that God has given us and have devotions each night involving creating and how we are all part of God's Creation. We will learn about how God's Creation works together and how are we able to better utilize God's gifts and how we can better protect God's Creation. Please email me if you have any questions or want to help me lead the groups. We will have a guide to help us on the trip.

*DCE Bradley Asmus*

## **Daytime, Thursday Fellowship Group**

Our Fellowship Group has been getting together once a month to enjoy a meal, chat and sometimes have some entertainment. They will be getting together again on September 29, October 27, and November 17. During the winter months of December, January, February, and March we will take a break. Watch the bulletins for the dates and menu. If you have any questions please contact Geneva Laatsch at **651-260-4844**.

# Financial Update



## TELL A NEW GENERATION... ABOUT JESUS 2022



"Declare His power to the next generation"  
Psalm 71:18

Our giving to operations through July 31 is \$219,426 with 161 giving units. Our budgeted income through July 31 is \$245,000. We continue to minimize any unnecessary spending to help when not meeting our budgeted income. You can still join the giving team according to how God has blessed you:

- by check or cash
- electronically at [www.ehlc.org](http://www.ehlc.org)
- set up automatic giving
- make a special gift of a vehicle, house, property, IRA or other savings
- include Eastern Heights Lutheran Church in your estate plan, as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, etc.

If you have any questions or need more information please contact our Director of Church Ministries, Tim Germain.

### Loan Status

Our LCEF loan has been approved, and we are able to move forward and begin to rebuild the foundations. During the month of September we will be removing asbestos from the heating system, inspecting, maintaining, and improving the heating system to optimize the heat. We will also be replacing the parking lot which will have improved grade to increase water drainage away from the building and eliminate potholes, improved quality of pavement along with maximizing marked parking spaces.



## The Faithfully Departed

June Soller – 11/26/21 – Funeral 12/06/21  
Diane Bauer – 12/18/21  
Desiree Reller – 12/28/21 – Funeral 01/09/22  
Delores Wiese – 01/03/22 – Tentative Funeral 06/11/22  
Gerald Holmes – 04/01/22 – Funeral 04/08/22  
Caroline Benitz – 05/20/22 – Committal (Union Cemetery)  
Delores Wiese – 01/03/22 – Memorial 6/11/22  
John Voyda – 06/09/22 – Funeral 06/16/22  
Kevin Olson – 07/10/22 – Funeral 07/22/22  
Don Benson – 07/16/22 – Memorial 07/31/22  
Denise Mickelson – 02/24/22 – Memorial 09/03/22  
Ray Larson – 06/22/22 – Memorial 09/12/22  
Debra Picht – 05/19/22 – Memorial 09/13/22

*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

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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**

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651-735-4202

**Pastor Steve Benson**

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**DCE Bradley Asmus**

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651-735-4202

**DCE Tim Germain**

[tim@ehlc.org](mailto:tim@ehlc.org)

651-295-9962

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We want to be able to connect with our community and be able to provide a fun and safe environment for kids and families to go trick-or-treating in a safe environment. We will give free candy and a free hotdog. Michelle Urban, Laura Rand, and I will be leading this event. We will need candy to hand out as well as vehicles to make this event happen. If you have a vehicle you want to bring, bring your own stuff, or we have streamers we can help deck your trunk out with! The more vehicles, the better.