

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday, April 14

Matthew 7 Genesis 7

Monday, April 15

Matthew 8 Genesis 8

Tuesday, April 16

Matthew 9 Genesis 9

Wednesday, April 17

Matthew 10 Genesis 10

Thursday, April 18

Matthew 11 Genesis 11

Friday, April 19

Matthew 12 Genesis 12

Saturday, April 20

Matthew 13 Genesis 13

Welcome

OPENING HYMN He's Risen, He's Risen (LSB 480, all)

- 1 He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
 He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
 Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
 And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

- 2 The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
 The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
 In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
 For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

- 3 But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
 And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
 The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
 He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

- 4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
 Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
 For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
 Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

- 5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
 Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
 Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
 With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

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INVOCATION (Divine Service setting one, pg 151)

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth
is not in us.

- C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
(Silence for meditation and reflection)

P Let us then confess our sins to God, our Father

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." ⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you

believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:36-49

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence. ⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

APOSTLE’S CREED

(LSB pg 159)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence

He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven
(LSB 477, all)

- 1 Alleluia, alleluia!
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
Now is risen from the dead.

- 2 Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow'rs of evil
In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried:
Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
Whom we worship and adore.

- D 3 Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior
Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia
To the triune Majesty!

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Message

" An A-Ha Moment, Real Needs of Real People"

The older I get, the less I *need*. Thanks to my parents (and previous generations before them) I live in this prosperous, free nation. I have clothing, shelter, PLENTY of food... I was given a good education. And God gave me a calling, a job, a role in life (a vocation). He also led me to the right partner in life and thanks to Stephanie, I have a home, a family, people to love.

But I know human *need* is real. So many people are hungry, homeless, suffering from pain, injury, diseases, trauma... and they wonder *if anyone cares*. Even people who have all their *physical & financial* needs met, sometimes need hope, peace, or purpose. Many need help dealing with heavy burdens of guilt or shame over their own mistakes (or what has been done to them). Some need help sorting out confusion about what is true (and who is lying to them). Some people really need a mission- something bigger than themselves to give them a reason to get up every day.

Whether it is basic necessities, or more spiritual things... everybody needs something. And today we hear a true story of a conversation between Jesus and an older man named Nicodemus which demonstrates that breaking-through to following Jesus (as your King... your Rescuer) is like an "**A-Ha!**" *moment* in the middle of your need.

Listen again to how this went down. "Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.'" (John 3:1-2) Nicodemus was educated, rich, respected. He didn't think he *needed* much. And yet he was drawn to Jesus- the mysterious, miracle-working rabbi from Nazareth who seemed to be wise beyond his years.

The story continued. “Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’ ‘How can someone be born when they are old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit... The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.’” (John 3:3-8) Nicodemus was heading for a break-through... an A-Ha! Moment when he would start down a road that would lead him to join Jesus on His mission. A time was coming when Nicodemus would realize that Jesus is the ONE who can meet all of his needs. But it doesn’t happen immediately or instantaneously.

The conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus continued. “‘How can this be?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘You are Israel’s teacher,’ said Jesus, ‘and do you not understand these things? ...No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.’ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:9-17) This nighttime visit with Jesus changed Nicodemus’ life. He gradually diverged from the other members of the high council who wanted to kill Jesus. And when they succeeded, Nicodemus (and Joseph of Arimathea) claimed Jesus’ dead body and laid it in the tomb on Good Friday. This conversation with Jesus had to come up in Nicodemus’ mind when He saw Jesus “lifted up” on the cross. “A-Ha! Jesus knew and predicted this would all happen. God had a plan to love and to give...”

Notice how God, the Holy Spirit, works through these words of truth to change everything for Nicodemus (and for anyone who applies

them to their own personal needs.) The truth is, God loved (ALL the people of His world) so much, that He gave... He gave His precious, only Son to be the sacrifice to pay in full our debt of sin. Whosoever believes in Jesus will receive forgiveness, reconciliation, and an eternal life (just like the life Jesus has since coming out of His tomb alive.)

Jesus is on a mission to meet your needs (whatever they may be!) and to meet the needs of the whole world. He is in the process of doing it in so many different (sometimes hidden) ways. Let me give an example. Christian missionaries and human care workers are deployed in many parts of the world where children are literally starving to death. A Christian ministry called *Feed My Starving Children* is trying to make a difference. These workers, along with the children and families whom they are reaching, are literally praying to God for help... for more food to meet their most basic need. On the Tuesday after Easter Stephanie and I went with a group of 8 neighbors (in our Margaret/Winthrop area) to pack "Manna Packs" at the FMSC location in Eagan. In one Tuesday evening, we packed 37 boxes containing 7,992 meals which will feed a daily meal to 22 children for a year. As the evening ended, we gathered and prayed over all the boxes that were to be shipped to the various places where they are needed. Where there is a human need, Jesus is there on His mission to meet it. Every one of us have both physical and spiritual needs. Jesus cares about all of them. When we have an A-Ha! Moment, we can start to see how we can join Jesus (at those places where He is meeting needs) ...whether people need food & shelter first OR (like Nicodemus) they are ready to meet their Savior... to be "born again" ...to believe and receive the love God gave to cure our guilt & shame & loneliness & fears & hopelessness.

It all starts with seeing the man up in the tree (like Jesus did with Zacchaeus in our story last week); learning a name; learning about real needs of real people and listening. Hanging out. Caring. Your life can be changed. Your needs can be met by God Himself who

loved & gave so that we can believe & receive. Jesus really died for you. He really came back from the dead. He is still alive, and He is inviting you to join Him on His mission. Next week Bradley is going to teach us HOW we can join Jesus by practicing 5 simple things that followers of Jesus do. Amen.

Offering (as you exit – offering boxes are available, or Give on-line, www.ehlc.org)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (We lift our hands up)

Lord's Prayer

(LSB page 162)

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

COMMUNION HYMN With High Delight Let Us Unite
(LSB 483, all)

- 1 With high delight
Let us unite
In songs of great jubilation.
Ye pure in heart,
All bear your part,
Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free
Forever, He
Is ris'n and sends
To all earth's ends
Good news to save ev'ry nation.
- 2 True God, He first
From death has burst
Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy
Doth vanquished lie;
His death has been death's undoing.
"And yours shall be
Like victory
O'er death and grave,"
Saith He, who gave
His life for us, life renewing.
- 3 Let praises ring;
Give thanks, and bring
To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed
By word and deed
To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.
So shall His love
Give us above,
From misery
And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

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DISMISSAL

BENEDICTION

(LSB page 166)

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leaders in Worship

Pastor Steve Benson

Music: Mark Krause, Josiah Bode and the Band

Acknowledgments

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Ways to Give

Offering boxes at worship, or

Mail to EHLC, 616 Ruth Street, St. Paul, MN 55119

On the website – www.ehlc.org – **GIVE**

It is very costly to maintain an outpost for Word & Sacrament mission to this community, and to adequately staff that mission. Our "break-even" need for contributions is \$43,947 per month. If God has placed upon your heart the need to continue this work for the sake of the new generations of people growing up here, please plan your generous contributions, based on how God has blessed you with income. You may give online (ehlc.org) by Venmo, U.S. mail, or by placing your gifts in the offering boxes located near the exits.

Worship with us Sunday mornings Live 8:30 AM, 10AM & 11AM

Online at www.ehlc.org or on your phone
at 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

- 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.
-

DCE (Vicar) Bradley and Megan are traveling this weekend. He will be back in the office on Monday.



For parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors of K. thru 8th Grade students... Laurel Community School provides an attractive alternative to public schools. This micro-school (which partners with Eastern Hts. & Open Arms, on our campus) is now enrolling for 2024-25 school year. Can you imagine a school with the highest academic standards &

creative educational philosophy which also honors God and Biblical values? To learn more about L.C.S. go to www.laurelcs.org or contact our Eastern Heights member, Alfrieda Baldwin, who is the Director of L.C.S. (612) 325-4035.

A limited number of half-off tuition vouchers are currently available.

Call now to set up a tour of the school!

I personally see Laurel Community School in action five-days a week here at Eastern Heights, and I support and recommend their program! Feel free to talk with me about the difference this has made in many families. Blessings in Jesus, Pastor Steve Benson.

REMEMBERING IN PRAYER – 04/14/2024

Hospitalized/Transitional Care

Arnie Carlson (Walker Methodist, W. St. Paul), Mike Straley (United)

Requests

Gary Holmes, Mary Jane Brahy, Julie Brooks, Linda Straley,
Dave and Kathy Hildenbrand, Paule Ehmcke, Sandy Pizinger
Terry Lingofelt, Donna Ewalt, Jim Dornfeld, Dale Burbach, Sue James,
Jon Krause, Julie Novak, Jeff Hendrickson, Don Lewandowski,
Phyllis Boettcher, Jim Messick, Elsa Blomgren, Abby Konu,
Sandra & Dave Wilke, Tom Cropsey, Val Gebhard, Julietta Grimes,
Jim Emmons, Kathy Jacobson, Carole Kasal, Chad Anderson
Sue Moore, Carol Fink, Bev Davis,
For Bradley and Megan and all who travel.

Requests (Beyond our church family)

Nicole (Rosanna Wunrow's granddaughter), Barb (John Boyer's sister),
Nicole (Ardys Tallarico's granddaughter), Brian (Jim Messick's son),
Olivia (Judy Ketola's granddaughter), Carol (Kathy Petschl's mother),
Barb (Grace Beehler's sister), Stephen (Rosanna Wunrow's son),
Mike (Steve Fischer's brother), Kenny (Brother of Carol Fink),
Margaret (Mary Martinson's mom), Carol (Rick Urban's Aunt),
Nancy (Diane Herpolsheimer's sister), Eddie (Carol Fink's grandson),
Jim Krause (Mark Krause's brother), Jeanine (Jim Messick's friend)

Open Arms Child Development Center

We ask God to help our staff grow so that we may continue to increase enrollment and to sustain our current staff.

Our Prayers: For God's Comfort

For the family of Bernice Steinke.

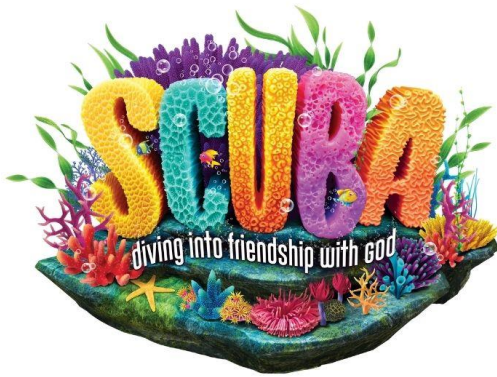
Thanksgiving

Home-bound and Care Center Residents

Lois and Roy McArdell

Missionary of the Week

Kenety Gee



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

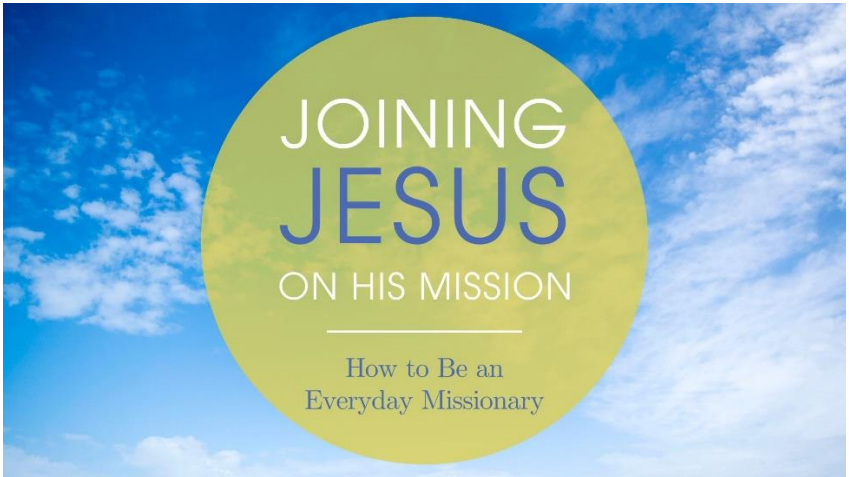
SUNDAY JULY 21 - THURSDAY JULY 25



5:30pm - 8:00pm

Age 3 - 8th grade
****new this year...**
middle school vbs!

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION
ONLINE AT EHLc.org



Saturday, April 27 Workshop (9 am- noon)

Why should I sign-up

Inspiration - Instruction – Implementation

As a baptized follower of Jesus, in this workshop time you will create a “self-identified plan” to *put into daily practice* your faith in God. This will lead to personal, continuing transformation and growth (and contribute to the revitalization of our community of people associated with Eastern Heights & Open Arms.)

How can I put my faith and trust in Jesus into action?

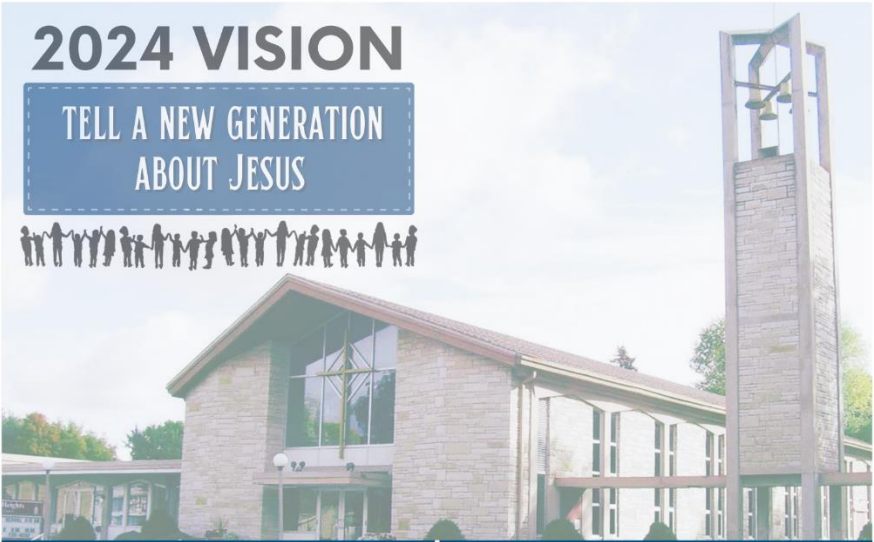
How do I share my story with others?

How do I see God working in my community?

Sign up at the information desk, talk to Tim or follow the link at www.ehlc.org

2024 VISION

TELL A NEW GENERATION
ABOUT JESUS



OBJECTIVES



25 more students in Open Arms
12 Baptisms
6 First Communions
5 more students in Elementary Group
10 more students in 5th-12th grade group

STRATEGY



Family oriented Worship opportunities
Provide practical lessons on how to follow Jesus.

SYSTEMS



Instruction
Generosity
Service

IMPACT



More families and students worshipping and serving their community in the name of Jesus



616 RUTH STREET N.
ST. PAUL, MN 55119

WWW.EHLC.ORG

651-735-4202