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Eastern Heights Lutheran Church  
& Open Arms Preschool and Childcare

# The Heights

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



*Is it time to give up?*

*Is it time to cry?*

*Is it time to get mad?*

*Is it time to get cynical or depressed?*

*Is it time to die?*

Only God Knows...

And God said, "I know the plans I have for you, ...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

(Jeremiah 29:11)

The Rock of our Salvation is with us- He cares for us... He cries with us through the medical, economic, and personal toll of this pandemic. He doesn't promise us a trouble-free life in this world, but by His grace in our Savior Jesus He gives us hope and a future.

- We are His dearly loved & forgiven children.
- Even when death comes, He gives us the victory of eternal life in heaven.
- And, until we are called home, He gives us a purpose; a mission; a plan.

Our mission as a family of Lutheran/Christian followers of Jesus on the eastside of St. Paul is ***to connect people to God through faith in Jesus***. That mission is unchanged by the COVID19 pandemic. God is STILL calling us to connect people of all nations & generations to Him through the work we do together as EHLC and Open Arms Child Development Center.

*Our Methods are Changing but our Mission is the Same!*

Actually, our Mission is now even more urgent. People are facing many unknown factors. We don't know who or what to trust. Our jobs; our money; our health; our life is uncertain. Many are facing the loss of loved ones and the personal prospect of an unknown (potentially deadly) virus. Big questions are everywhere. This time in which we are now living is similar to those decades immediately following the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. During those days of the Roman Empire (and similar epidemics), the Apostle Paul traveled throughout the Mediteranean world with this message:

*“Remember that... you were separate from Christ... without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace... For through him we... have access to the Father by one Spirit... You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but... members of God’s household... with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.”*  
(Ephesians 2:12-20, excerpts)

Eastern Heights and Open Arms has been given a purpose, a mission, a plan... to connect precious people who are living “without hope and without God in their world”... to the ONE who can answer our questions and give us “hope and a future.”

Is it time for our Eastern Heights family to surrender? No. By God's grace and provision in our Lord Jesus, it is - **TIME TO SHINE!**

*Pastor Steve*

# From the associate pastor...

Just before the pandemic hit my daughter Betsy and her husband Mark were able to farm out their six children to family and friends so they could get away to somewhere sunny and warm. We hosted the four oldest for a few days while the two “littles” spent time with cousins. It proved to be a great visit for all, save for the bug (flu) that was carried by the “littles” back into the family afterward - but not Karen nor I. Karen and I were able to do some shopping for the family while they recovered.

The sunshine did a world of good for Betsy. She learned how much she needed the sunshine induced Vitamin D to help her mood. She had neglected to take her supplement through the dark of winter. We are all in the dark of a pandemic. Thankfully the spring sunshine brightens our mood. But, like most of you, Karen and I are sheltering in place, for we don't know when this pandemic will end.

In the mean time we take our vitamins, and I mean more than the bottle kind. God's Word informs us from Moses sermon in Deuteronomy 8:3 (NIV),

*He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.*

We are all humbled in this season. We all hunger to do the things we once did with no restrictions and without masks. Yet in our wilderness pandemic journey God continues to feed us from his Word. Are you feeding and digesting God's Word? He has promise and provision for you in His Word. It is His vitamin for your mood.

If you don't have the habit of reading the Bible, you probably have time now to form a habit. Start the day with God's Word. As Pastor Steve has recommended for years, take up **Portals of Prayer**. It will be the daily vitamin shot of God's Word you need for your mood.

May God bless you and keep you in His care through Jesus Christ our risen savior.

*Much love to you all!  
Rev. Chuck*

## Are you getting our emails?

We have switched formats so all email will be coming from EHLC Office, via Mail Chimp. If you are not getting the church emails, please check your spam, social or promotion folder of your inbox. If you are not subscribed to the emails you can go to [ehlc.org](http://ehlc.org) and click “subscribe to the newsletter” at the bottom of the page. Please contact MaryEllen Wunrow at [maryellen@ehlc.org](mailto:maryellen@ehlc.org) if you have any questions.

# Church Events



## and Activities



### Online giving

Go online to [www.ehlc.org](http://www.ehlc.org). Click on the "Give" button. You will have an opportunity to 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](mailto:office@ehlc.org)



### Rocky Railway VBS is coming online July 12-16!

We're going full steam ahead with VBS 2020.

This year will be a little different however. Rocky Railway VBS will be all online July 12-16. Videos and activities will be available for kids age three through entering grade four.

For more information, and to register, go to [ehlc.org](http://ehlc.org)

If you have any questions, contact MaryEllen Wunrow at: [maryellen@ehlc.org](mailto:maryellen@ehlc.org)

Remember: Jesus Power Pulls Us Through! Trust Jesus!

### Open Arms Child Development Center

Open Arms Continues to be open and provide care for our families. In addition to caring for the children who are present we have been sending activity packets to the children who are spending time at home. Due to COVID-19 we have canceled our end of the year picnic and graduation. We are looking forward to when we are all able to safely be together to learn and play again.

# 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.

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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*

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## **“Holy Communion”**

The Lord's Supper is available by private appointment at the church. Simply call ahead and our pastor will meet you. If you are not living in a quarantined building (or in home quarantine), the pastor is available to meet you on your driveway or doorstep to bring Holy Communion to you. He will take all necessary precautions. We are also offering drive-up communion in the church parking lot on Sundays from 9 to 11 A.M. Stay in your car and we will come to your car window.



† † † God has called to Himself the souls of our sisters and brothers: Walter Proft (3/30); Bill Naatz (4/12); Lois Raatz (4/16); Buzz Wilson (5/2); Judy Croft (5/3); Tony Malm (5/4)  
Memorial services will be scheduled and announced as soon as possible. † † †

*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*

## Shining Stories in the time of COVID~19:

**A.)** Several large boxes of high quality frozen chicken were given to the church from a local agency that had been forced to close and they had no room to store it. We were able to pass it on to the Christian Cupboard at Guardian Angels Church (next to Hope for the Journey Home shelter). The food shelf clients were blessed!

**B.)** Excess boxes of breakfasts, lunches (and jugs of milk) from the public school program are being distributed to our Open Arms families and to any church family (or ANYONE who has need). [Please contact the church office if you have unmet needs]

**C.)** An 87 year old friend of this ministry (living on a fixed income) responded to our recent letter asking for contributions to our mission. He was moved to immediately send a \$100 check to keep our Gospel outreach to the eastside of St. Paul "going strong" during this crisis.

**D.)** A man who lost his "retirement job" chose to come to the church and become an unpaid "ministry partner," painting and performing outdoor maintenance and landscape work as a service to His Lord!

**E.)** Phone callers are stepping up in our Caring Ministry Program.

**F.)** A pick-up truck with a snow plow attached (which one of our members generously provides for our church to use) was parked in our Church Bus Garage. Early one morning someone broke in and stole the truck and plow! The Saint Paul Police Department recovered the vehicle and returned it (undamaged!) the next day.

**G.)** Some of our ambitious staff members (and wonderful ministry partners) took advantage of the opportunity to move our pews and repair the areas of missing floor tiles from our sanctuary floor. They were able to safely and legally encapsulate the old damaged tile under layers of epoxy and gray floor paint. The pews were then put back in place. It's not perfect, but will serve the purpose until God provides the resources for carpet and new seating.

## Financial update, Dollars and Sense

After the first four months of 2020, our expected tithes and offerings are about \$15,767.54 behind what we had hoped for. This amounts to a "giving gap" of about \$925.00 per week.

Although some have lost jobs & income, others are giving more and new people are joining our team in supporting this mission from God to the people of the east metro.

We have also been blessed to receive a "forgivable loan" (grant) from the Small Business Administration designed to help us protect our payroll (for Eastern Heights Lutheran Church and Open Arms Child Development Center) for eight weeks. With this assistance (AND, with your continued generosity) our goal is that none of our valued staff members will be laid-off or terminated.

Our congregation also received approval to open a line-of-credit with our Lutheran Church Extension Fund (but, at this point, we do not anticipate any need to use it).

## Opportunities to Shine generously

**A.)** 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](http://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 or drop them off at the Church or Open Arms office.
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.

**B.) Debt Relief.** In order to finish our flat-roof project last Fall, we were forced to borrow money. Our current balance is \$8,587.69. Your gifts toward this debt could help our church become *totally* debt-free.

**C.) Project Giving.**

We have been blessed to have generous people step up for specific needs for our mission. Recently, gifts have been received for a clothes dryer and a water heater (that needed to be replaced in the DCE house where DCE Bradley lives.) Others have provided paint, etc. A generous couple provided the equipment and hardware for the video taping of our worship services and the AM radio transmitter & antenna. Others are making Turbo Bridge available so people can listen to the worship services on their telephones.

But, needs remain so we invite your prayers for the following...

1. Better lighting is needed in the front of the sanctuary to improve our video (streaming & recorded).
2. Repair of our parking lot (patching and filling potholes) remains a priority.
3. New seating (comfortable, padded church chairs that connect in rows) and carpeting for the sanctuary... as well as additional new windows.
4. Our basement kitchen project needs funding to be completed.
5. Human care needs in our community are great. Gifts to our *H.O.P.E. Fund* help us to bridge gaps and help our members and friends find long-term solutions.

## 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"!



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**Simply call, write or email the church office to become a ministry partner**

\_\_\_\_\_ telephone caller

\_\_\_\_\_ usher/helper for drive-in worship

\_\_\_\_\_ usher/helper for Indoor worship

\_\_\_\_\_ pothole patching

\_\_\_\_\_ garage/yard sale

\_\_\_\_\_ ???

\_\_\_\_\_ (you name what you'd like to do!)

***Come join our team! office@ehlcorg***

## **Re-opening in-person worship services**

- A "drive-in" worship in our parking lot is being planned. We announce a launch date soon.
- Our tentative goal is June 7 (with special social distancing restrictions)
- More information will be mailed, emailed, and posted on the website as soon as the state of MN allows us to go forward with gatherings.
- Anyone who is ill or in a high risk group should continue to join us for worship by mail, telephone or computer/ smart phone.

## **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.**

## Shining on-line ~ [www.ehlc.org](http://www.ehlc.org)

Recorded audio and video of the Sunday worship/sermon, plus other resources.

Subscribe to our *youtube* channel, and follow us on *Facebook*. Contact Mary Ellen Wunrow for information [maryellen@ehlc.org](mailto:maryellen@ehlc.org)

## Payroll Protection Program (PPP) details:

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, healthcare, disability, and retirement benefits over an eight week period of time. With proper tracking and accountability the funds spent on the above qualifying items at the end of the eight weeks will be forgiven. The loan amount was calculated using tax documents for salary, \$443,348.58, and accounts payable to CHP, \$94,005.72. These totals were for both EHLIC and OA for a total of \$537,354.30 for 2019. The loan was then calculated at 2.5 x avg month, \$44,779.53 for a total of \$111,949.

I have created and established processes within our accounting software that will track these requirements and will not be spent on non-qualifying expenses. This will provide a buffer to help weather our situation as well as help us not access the LCEF line of credit. 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

## Zoom Bible study opportunity

Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Email Tim Germain at: [tim@ehlc.org](mailto:tim@ehlc.org) to get an invitation. We are studying the Gospel of Luke.

## Youth Bible study

Is on Zoom every Sunday at 11:30a.m. Email [bradley@ehlc.org](mailto:bradley@ehlc.org) to get an invitation.

## Bible reading challenge

Read through the Gospel of Luke a chapter or two each day.

Contact us if:

- A. You need a Bible
- B. You need a Portals of Prayer daily devotionl booklet
- C. You would like a hymnal to use at home

## “Shine the Light”

It is “Time to Shine” the light of our savior Jesus to our dark world! Please contact us anytime. We would love to talk with you:

Pastor Chuck Fenton

*chuck@ehlc.org*

(651) 735-4202

Pastor Steve Benson

*steve@ehlc.org*

(651) 735-4202 or 734-3787

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