

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

WELCOME TO OUR DIGITAL LOVE NOTES.

Since much of our communication in the coming weeks will be via email, please be sure to let us know if your email address changes so we can update our records.

Bible Study Opportunities – Join Us for Our Online Formats

Today: *The House of the Lord* Adult Bible Study @ 9:15 am. See Friday’s email for the Zoom meeting link or contact Pastor Backus at (920) 716-7987 to receive entry information.

Monday: CAP Class @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday Morning: 2 Timothy Bible Study @ 8:30 am. [Join our our Bible Class here](#) +1 920-250-7472
Conference ID: 533 508 991#

Wednesday Afternoon: Women’s Bible Study @ 1:00 pm: *GOD Is Here* study. For an email invite to the online study, contact Kara Witthuhn at Kara.Witthuhn@gmail.com.

Wednesday Evening: Defending Your Faith @ 6:30 pm. This Bible Study is led by Pastor Balza and is hosted online via Zoom. To participate, please contact Pastor Balza at Robert.Balza@gmail.com and he will reply with the log-in information.

In My Daily Prayers

PAM NEUBAUER—and her friend Diane Tranberg who are both seeking successful treatments for multiple myeloma

HILLARY GRAHAM (daughter of Brian Rasmussen), **EMILY REILAND** (daughter of Mike & Debbie Armitage), and **JONALYN ARMITAGE** (daughter-in-law of Mike & Debbie Armitage)—that God continue to bless them with safe and healthy pregnancies

PATTI JANCE (Jon McElroy’s aunt)—cancer treatments

COVID-19 SITUATION—for a vaccine, health, healing, comfort, calm, healthcare workers, public leaders, & communities

WE LOVE LEARNING CENTER—We pray that the Lord of the Church would provide us with a willing and qualified candidate to serve in our aftercare supervision role in the new year.

RUSSIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH—Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2019, our brothers and sisters in Russia continue to be blessed by the Lord’s gracious hand. We pray for Rev. Luke Wolfgramm, the pastors, deaconesses, and members of our sister congregations, that their mission to grow and go with God’s Word might continue to spread throughout their country.

THIS WEEK

Today	8:00 am	Family Worship—Livestreamed (then archived for later viewing on our YouTube channel)
	9:15 am	Bible Study—The House of the Lord (Zoom)
Monday	6:30 pm	CAP Class
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Wee Love Board Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
	8:30 am – 11 am	Pastors’ Circuit Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Wednesday	8:30 am	2 Timothy Bible Study (Microsoft Teams)
	1:00 pm	Women’s Bible Study (email Kara Witthuhn to join)
	5:45 pm	Confirmation Class—Regroup (Zoom)
	6:30 pm	Defending Your Faith Bible Study (Zoom—email Robert.Balza@gmail.com for invite link)
Thursday	6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Saturday	9:00 am	Long Range Planning Listening Session

Sunday 8:00 am Family Worship
9:00 am Bible Study—The House of the Lord
9:00 am – 11:00 am **Lord's Supper offered at church**

HOLY COMMUNION – Sunday May 17, 9:00 am to 11:00 am—Eternal Love will be offering the Lord's Supper to our communicant members next Sunday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. We will be able to commune up to 9 people at a time. Each devotional service will last about 5-7 minutes. For our safety, we will be using individually wrapped communion wafers and wine cups. The process is easy, please drive into the parking lot. Someone will greet you at the main entrance of the church. Another person will let you know when you can enter the chapel. If Sunday does not work for you, please feel free to contact one of the pastors. They are happy to offer you private communion at your convenience.

LONG RANGE PLANNING—The Long-Range Planning Committee has continued to work on a 10-year vision for Eternal Love and is excited to share those plans with all of you for input and discussion. We are scheduling three, one-hour long Listening Sessions to present these ideas to you and hear your feedback. These sessions are scheduled at the following times:

Saturday, 5/16 @ 9:00 am
Tuesday, 5/19 @ 6:00 pm
Thursday, 5/21 @ 6:00 pm

The Listening Sessions will be online/phone meetings using Microsoft Teams software. In order to allow everyone the opportunity to provide input, we would like to keep each meeting to no more than 20-25 participants, so we are asking that you contact the office to reserve a time in one of these meetings (Office.Manager@eternal-love.org or 749-9744). The meeting login info will be provided a day or two before each session.

In last Sunday's Bible class, Pastor Backus shared two Bible passages that talk about planning: God's plans to give us hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11) and a reminder that His plans are higher than our plans (Isaiah 55: 8-9). We know that our human planning cannot measure up to the plans that God has in store for Eternal Love. But we also know that we have been charged with a mission to spread the message of God's amazing love (Matthew 28:19-20). So we move forward, confident that God does have an amazing plan for Eternal Love, and we pray that through this process, we can clarify and unite around a path forward, all the while keeping our hearts and minds open to God's plan, so that in all of our efforts, God's will be done.

MEAL FOR A MISSION—Thank you, Jesus! The voices and hearts of Eternal Love today joyfully join those of our Meal for a Mission (M4M) partner, the orphans and children of Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti (click [HERE](#) to learn more about their efforts). Jesus has moved us at Eternal Love to share \$3,293.70 with these needy children—exceeding our goal by over \$700! God blessed us with this opportunity to reflect his love and lift up some who struggle in very difficult circumstances. We invite you to submit an idea for consideration for our next M4M compassion ministry partner. Please contact Petr Eliseev at Stewardship.Director@eternal-love.org with any questions or suggestions.



LITTLE FREE PANTRY—Eternal Love's *Little Free Pantry* is being utilized by the community a few times every week. The most popular needs have been toilet paper, hand soap, cereal, oatmeal packets, peanut butter/jelly, canned fruit, applesauce, and pasta/spaghetti sauce. If you are able to donate a few items or a bag of groceries to keep the pantry stocked, feel free to drop off items in the church kitchen (contact the church office for a convenient time if you do not have a key) or contact Kara Witthuhn (kara.witthuhn@gmail.com or 920-540-4995) for a pick up. Thank you for showing love to our community in this way!! *"The King will answer them, 'Amen I tell you: Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'" Matthew 25:40.*

WEE LOVE YARD SIGNS—It's that time of year again, when we invite you to help promote our ministry to young families in the area through word of mouth and by placing one of our Wee Love yard signs on your front lawn. Beginning Sunday, you can pick up your yard sign by the office door. Thank you for helping us reach out to our community! (Remember to place the sign between your house and your sidewalk, per city regulations.)

MISSION PRAYER: RUSSIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH—*Jesus Christ, the Living Stone, we ask you to sustain and bless the Russian seminary students and deaconesses who are faithfully studying and working to spread the gospel; the youth of the Russian congregations, who meet twice a month for Bible study and fellowship; the students in*

our adult instruction classes; and for the good health and safety of the missionary families. By your gracious and saving arm, continue to bring about the ripe fruits of gospel ministry among them. Preserve our unity and fellowship, for you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH—This month we are partnering with Christian Family Solutions in recognition of Mental Health Month. One in five adults experience mental illness. This means one person in your pew is struggling. One person in your workplace is struggling. One of your friends is struggling. Christian Family Solutions can help. Their counseling services use Christ-centered care and evidence-based treatment to provide healing to the clients they serve! If you are interested in their programs or have a friend who could benefit, please visit ChristianFamilySolutions.org to learn more!

MEDITATIONS—We have received the newest edition of *Meditations Daily Devotional* which begins on May 31. They are available for pick up at church or, if you are not able to stop by, you are welcome to contact the church office and we can mail you a copy or have one delivered to your home. In addition, Northwestern Publishing House has made this issue available for free in digital format. [Click on this link](#) to download your complimentary copy of this next issue of *Meditations* from their website.

FORWARD IN CHRIST—During these challenging times we know that God is in control. To help you stay connected to your Lord, to your church, and to WELS, Northwestern Publishing House is offering free digital access to their "Forward in Christ" magazine for April and May. Click [HERE](#) for online access where you can download these complimentary issues. We also have a limited number of issues at church if you would like to pick up a printed copy. May God's Word be a source of comfort to you as you face life's challenges!

FVL/MINISTRY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP—Eternal Love is now accepting applications for our FVL/Ministry Christian Education Scholarship. Applicants must be a member of Eternal Love and enrolled at FVL, MLC, or Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for the 2020-2021 academic year. The deadline to apply is July 6. Please contact the church office for an application. Completed applications should be placed in the Vice President's mailbox, sent to Dan Feld, or returned to the church office.

DEFEND YOUR FAITH—It's not too late to join this Wednesday evening Bible study focused on equipping Christians to be prepared to defend their faith in all types of situations. Individuals who are interested in participating but haven't yet, should email Pastor Balza (Robert.Balza@gmail.com).

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD—In this Sunday morning Bible study, we are looking into the panoramic theme of God's dwelling in the Scriptures. We will meet on Zoom for this study. Class will begin at 9:15 am. To join, please see the link and details that were shared in Friday's worship email. This week's lesson: The Lord's Model Home (Jesus Christ).

WEDNESDAY MORNING 2 TIMOTHY BIBLE CLASS LOG-IN LINK—(8:30 am) [Join our our Bible Class here](#) +1 920-250-7472 Conference ID: 533 508 991#

INTERNATIONAL HOST FAMILIES—Host families are still needed for FVL's International Program next fall. Despite the current health concerns, FVL's International program continues to offer the opportunity to share the Gospel with students from around the world. Applications are being received, and we have a great need to find housing for both male and female students. International Coordinator Monica Uhlenbrauck stays updated with all the latest travel and health advisories to keep both our host families and students safe. If you are interested in helping share the Gospel with international teens in this way, please contact Monica at muhlenbrauck@fvlhs.org. A stipend of up to \$6,500 is offered to host families to offset possible costs.

FVL SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHER—FVL is still in need of applicants for their Special Needs teacher position that is open this fall. If you might be interested in serving your Lord in this way at FVL, you are encouraged to apply. [Click here](#) for a link to the position description and application.

FVL TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND MATCH—Six generous donors have created a \$20,000 opportunity for friends and supporters of FVL to match. The need is great! Over 100 students are attending FVL this year with the help of FVL's Tuition Assistance program. Please consider a generous gift to help meet this goal by May 15. Details on the match and progress toward the goal can be found on [this page](#).



SUBSCRIBE TO ETERNALLOVEAPPLETON ON YOUTUBE—During this time of social distancing, we’ve chosen youtube.com to be the main repository of our communicative, devotional, and worship videos. Subscribing will keep you connected while we are apart. After our services are livestreamed, they will remain archived there for later viewing at your convenience and for your edification.



FOLLOW @ETERNALLOVELUTHERAN—Facebook is our social media account. Like and follow our church page. When doing so, make sure you select; “See first” in your news feed, so that you won’t miss any communications that might otherwise get lost in Facebook’s newsfeed generation algorithm.

OFFERINGS—Please know that though we are not able to worship together in person, Eternal Love is grateful now more than ever for your generous offerings. Here are several options to consider:

- Mail your offering to: Eternal Love Lutheran Church, 1011 E. Midway Rd., Appleton, WI 54915.
- Submit an offering through bill pay at your financial institution. Please see your financial institution for any fees and the process for submitting these offerings.
- Electronic offerings through Thrivent Simply Giving® Program (secure direct deposit donation services provided by Vanco Services, LLC). Please contact the church office for the form to fill out and submit. Please also understand that Vanco keeps a service fee of 1.00% of your offering + \$0.45/transaction.
- Electronic offerings via PayPal using this QR code:
or online at www.eternal-love.org/donate.
Please understand that PayPal keeps a service fee of 2.9% of your offering + \$0.30/transaction.



THIS WEEK’S ENDURING FAITH LESSON—Take a look at this week’s Sunday School lesson emailed out on Friday, “A Soldier Believes.” In Philippi, Paul and Silas cast the spirit of divination from a slave girl, but her angered owner has the two thrown into prison. Around midnight, Paul and Silas are praying and singing to God when suddenly an earthquake shakes the prison. The jailer, thinking his prisoners have escaped, prepares to take his own life. Paul and Silas interrupt his plan as they share the Gospel with him and his whole family, whom Paul then baptizes. Discuss how God uses events in our lives to give us opportunities to share His Word.

If you would like to receive the lessons, but are not on our email list, please email office.manager@eternal-love.org or reach out to Pastor Backus.

PASTORAL VISITS—During this timeframe in which our nation and country is striving to slow the COVID-19 outbreak, Pastor Pries and Pastor Backus do not intend to make any casual face-to-face visits. However, your pastors are available and eager to serve you via phone or video conference. If a situation arises in which a face-to-face pastoral visit is desired, that can be arranged on an individual basis as well. If you desire private communion, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to serve you and are happy to do so.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR IN-HOME WORSHIP—

- Local Time of Grace broadcast on Green Bay-Appleton WGBA-NBC 26 (Saturday nights at 12:00 am or Sunday mornings at 6:30 am)
- National Time of Grace broadcast on The Cowboy Channel (Sundays at 8:00 am) or Daystar TV Network (Sundays at 3:30 pm)
- Trinity Lutheran (Kaukauna) radio broadcast on WEMI 91.9 FM (Sundays at 7:30 am)
- St. Paul Lutheran (Appleton) radio broadcast on WNAM 1280 AM (Sundays at 8:00 am)

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