

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 to allow us to keep in touch.

Bible Study Opportunities – Join Us for Our New Online Format

Today: Triumph of Grace–Book of Romans Bible Class @ 9:00 am [Join our Sunday Morning Bible Class](#) or call in: [+1 920-250-7472](#) Conference ID: 278 650 672#

Monday: CAP Class @ 6:30 pm (*Microsoft Teams*)

Wednesday: Titus Bible Study @ 8:30 am [Join our Wednesday Morning Bible Class](#) or call in: [+1 920-250-7472](#) Conference ID: 118 433 454#

Women’s Bible Study @ 1:00 pm: [GOD Is Here](#) study (Microsoft Teams). For an email invite to the online study, contact Kara Witthuhn at kara.witthuhn@gmail.com.

In My Daily Prayers

TAYLOR JESKE—recovering from surgery

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

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

WEE 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.

GOSPEL OUTREACH IN EAST ASIA— There are currently 7 congregations, 9 mission groups, and 7 other groups under Confessional Lutheran influence in East Asia. Pressure continues to grow for the local church in East Asia because of government policies and actions.

THIS WEEK

Today	8:00 am	Family Worship—Livestreamed (then archived for later viewing on our YouTube channel)
	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study (Microsoft Teams)
Monday	6:00 pm	Growing in Hope BIC (Microsoft Teams)
	6:30 pm	CAP Class (Microsoft Teams)
Wednesday		NO Confirmation Class—Holy Week
	8:30 am	Titus Bible Study (Microsoft Teams)
	1:00 pm	Women’s Bible Study (Microsoft Teams— <i>see details below</i>)
Thursday	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Family Worship—Livestreamed
Friday	12:00-3:00 pm	Joint Good Friday Worship hosted by St. Paul Lutheran (<i>see details below</i>)
	6:30 pm	Good Friday Family Worship—Livestreamed
Sunday		Easter Festival Worship (<i>available to view on our website or YouTube channel any time after 8:00 am</i>)

ONLINE COUNSELING SERVICES – Christian Family Solutions contacted us and informed us of a special offer for counseling, due to this unique time in our country. If you have insurance, and you have not met your deductible, they will offer you counseling sessions at no charge. Again, you do need to have insurance, and if you met your insurance deductible then your insurance will pay for the counseling. But if you have not met your deductible, your sessions will be for free. You can set up an appointment for online counseling at: www.christianfamilysolutions.org and click on Request an Appointment.

A COMMEMORATION OF THE LOVE OF JESUS—This Maundy Thursday join us for a livestreamed service at 6:30 pm on YouTube. We will be looking at four ways in which Jesus demonstrated and taught love to us on that holy day. We will contemplate readings from the gospels of John and Matthew as well as from Isaiah. There will be responses and music, too. We hope you can join us Thursday night online!

HOLY COMMUNION DURING “SAFER AT HOME”— Because we are not able to gather together in person for worship, there will be no holy communion as part of our service today or Maundy Thursday. Although this is not ideal, we are freely refraining from the supper for a time until when we feel it is both wise to do so and in the spirit of honoring our government’s directives. In the meantime, we remember that the same spiritual blessings given us in baptism and holy communion are also given to us through the spoken and sung Word. Although holy communion will be conspicuously absent from these services and our lives, by God’s good grace may our temporary abstention move us to treasure the Supper’s frequent use when we are able to do so again! May our ears listen and our hearts treasure the spoken and sung means of grace today and every opportunity we’re blessed to have to do so. Private communion with one of the pastors is available upon request.

GOOD FRIDAY THREE HOUR WORSHIP—On Good Friday, April 10, St. Paul Lutheran will host this annual service with devotions on the seven words from the cross given by area pastors. The service will be aired from Noon – 3:00 pm on WNAM radio (1280 AM) and on St. Paul’s Facebook page: [@StPaulAppletonWI](#). Tune in for all three hours or any amount of time that fits your schedule.

WHAT ABOUT EASTER?—We had planned to celebrate Easter in a big way on April 12 in person, like we do every year. Given the current situation, you might be wondering if we will postpone the celebration of Easter until a date when we will be able to gather in person? The answer is no...and yes. NO—We will continue to follow our path to the cross and empty tomb on the days historically appointed, today with Palm Sunday and continuing with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and Easter next Sunday. But YES—we do anticipate planning a wonderful reunion celebration which basks in the joy of Easter on that day when, Lord-willing, we can all gather together back into his house to be served by his wonderful means of grace. What that date is yet, we don’t know.

SYNOD-WIDE EASTER SERVICE LIVESTREAM— Join us for a [synod-wide Easter Sunday evening worship](#) service. This is not intended to replace your Eternal Love morning worship, but to supplement it. This will be an opportunity for our entire synod to gather online for a special Easter Sunday evening service to be broadcast from our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at 6 p.m. We will gather as one family of believers, from across the country and around the world, not only to celebrate our Savior’s Easter victory but also to express our unity of faith and mission as members of the Wisconsin Synod. The theme of the service will be, “Together at the Empty Tomb.” Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary President Earle Treptow will deliver the Easter message and WELS President Mark Schroeder will deliver the liturgy. A small choir, along with a few instruments, will enhance the worship with music and songs of praise. Immediately following the service Pastor Jon Hein, director of WELS Congregational Services, and President Treptow will host a live Question and Answer session.

SHARING EASTER’S GOOD NEWS—While we haven’t had that physical, in-person interaction with many of our co-workers and friends the last few weeks, we do still love them and want them to know about Jesus. Here’s an example of what you might say to someone who doesn’t already have a Christian Church to invite them to join us online this Easter:

Hi Beverly! [insert your own words of greeting/small talk] My church is having an Easter service online this year. I’m planning on attending online this Sunday morning at 8:00 am here on YouTube [insert link]. Do you already have a Christian church family or pastor who serves you? If not, I wanted to invite you to check out my church’s service. The service will focus on the good news that Jesus rose from the dead and the victory that he won for us to give us spiritual peace and eternal life, so we can have joy in this troubling time. Have a great day! -Sally

- You might consider scrolling through your Facebook friend list and looking for people to invite to the event on Facebook.
- You might consider sending an Easter card with a resurrection Bible passage and a hello to a friend who might not know Jesus or have an opportunity to hear the good news online, and explain to them how Jesus’ victory over death gives you peace during this pandemic.

- Continue to pray for those you love and whom God loves who do not yet have faith in Jesus. Pray that your pastors and that our many Christian congregations throughout the world continue to find ways to serve people with the gospel.
- After the livestream is over on Easter, you could email a link to the video with a little note saying, “Check this out! etc.”

[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. Please click the hyperlink above in this pdf and subscribe. Subscribing will help you in that you will get  notifications of the latest posted videos. Subscribing will help us as a church build a stronger YouTube presence, and hopefully unlock more features for us with which we can serve you with the gospel more. After our livestreamed videos, they will remain archived there for later viewing for your convenience and edification.

[FOLLOW @ETERNALLOVELUTHERAN](#)—Facebook remains our only social media account that we use regularly as a congregation. We recommend that in order to stay as connected as possible, that you make sure you like and  follow our church page. You can click the hyperlink in this pdf to do so. Also, at the top of the page 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.

COVID19@ETERNAL-LOVE.ORG—Petr Eliseev, our Stewardship Ministry Director, has assembled a small team to offer help to those in our community who might be struggling during this time of social distancing during the coronavirus outbreak. This email address is posted on our digital roadside church sign, inviting people to email if they need help. The intent is to provide help for spiritual and physical needs as we are able. If you are interested in being part of the team of volunteers to support this effort, please reach out to him at stewardship.director@eternal-love.org.

THIS WEEK’S ENDURING FAITH LESSON—*Our Sunday School families received today’s lesson via email. Parents are invited to work through the lesson as a family.*

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. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to serve you.

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)

PRAYER FOR OUR MISSION WORK IN EAST ASIA— *Dear Father, we pray for Lutherans in East Asia, as they continue to reach out with the gospel in a country that is looking to restrict Christian activities. Please bless them as they gather with fellow believers in hiding to learn more about the precious truths of Jesus Christ. Continue to equip witnesses for Jesus through our relationships with international students in our Lutheran schools here in the U.S. Amen.*

APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY—Thank you to those that have donated to April’s food pantry collection! During this difficult time, the pantry welcomes any continued monetary donations. If you would like to support the pantry in this way, you are welcome to send a check (payable to WELS Apple Valley Food Pantry) directly to:

WELS Apple Valley Food Pantry
 c/o St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church
 129 S. Mason St.
 Appleton, WI 54914-5246

OFFERINGS—Please know that though we are not able to worship together in person, Eternal Love is still grateful 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.



FVL SCHOLARSHIP—The Ladies Guild Memorial Scholarship offers grants of up to \$500 to new FVL freshmen or incoming upperclassmen who demonstrate financial need and a love of Christian education. Application deadline is April 16. Details at fvlhs.org/todays-news.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS LOG-IN LINK: [Join our Sunday Morning Bible Class](#) or call in [+1 920-250-7472](#) Conference ID: 278 650 672#

WEDNESDAY MORNING TITUS BIBLE CLASS LOG-IN LINK: [Join our Wednesday Morning Bible Class](#) or call in: [+1 920-250-7472](#) Conference ID: 118 433 454#

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Our women's Bible Study group is meeting online via Microsoft Teams on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. We are currently reading and discussing the book 3 Words That Will Change Your Life by Pastor Mike Novotny. Throughout this book we are faced with many provoking questions about God and where and how he stands in our lives. The ultimate goal is for us to realize that GOD is here. Every day. In every situation. Always. Even now during the Corona virus, GOD is here. The book is available in both paperback (\$11.99) and Kindle version (\$9.99) on Amazon. Even if you do not have a book, however, you may gain insights as others read excerpts from the book and as we look at passages from the Bible. If you would like to join in the discussion, contact kara.witthuhn@gmail.com for the online video link.

BOOK CLUB—Our regularly scheduled meeting for April 14 has been postponed and we will resume upon further notice. If you'd like to join in reading the book for our next meeting, it's entitled The Song Poet by Kao Kalia Yang. It tells the story of the love between father and daughter. In the Hmong tradition, a song poet recounts the story of his people, their joys and tragedies. It is written with great beauty. You will understand anew why the WELS has devoted so much effort towards instructing the Hmong people in Bible truths.

APRIL NEWSLETTER—In light of the current, fluid situation in our communities, we will not be publishing a newsletter for April. Instead, we will continue to communicate and update you on current and future events utilizing email, our website (Eternal-Love.org), YouTube videos, and these weekly Love Notes. As always, you are welcome to call the office or one of the pastors for any questions or concerns.

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