

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 to allow us to keep in touch.

Bible Study Opportunities – Join Us for Our New Online Format

Today: *No Adult Bible Study today – we'll resume next Sunday*

Wednesday Morning: Titus Bible Study @ 8:30 am [Join our Wednesday Morning Bible Class](#) +1 920-250-7472
Conference ID: 687 675 945#

Wednesday Afternoon: 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.

Wednesday Evening: Defending Your Faith @ 6:30 pm. This Bible Study will be led by Pastor Balza and will be hosted online via Zoom. To participate, please send Pastor Balza an email (Robert.Balza@gmail.com) and he will reply with an invite link to the Bible study. More info on this study is below.

Next Sunday Morning: The House of the Lord @ 9:00 am. See info below.

In My Daily Prayers

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.

LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION FOR CHRIST (LCMC—KENYA)—This church body sought confessional Lutheran fellowship and found it in our (former mission and now) sister synod, the Lutheran Church of Central Africa—Zambia (LCCA—Zambia). The two bodies declared fellowship in 2018, and we (WELS) followed suit in our 2019 convention. We partner with these 46 congregations and 3400 souls in the areas of worker training and worship and Sunday School publications.

THIS WEEK

Today	8:00 am	Easter Festival Worship—Livestreamed (then archived for later viewing on our YouTube channel) NO Adult Bible Study—(Suggested readings for personal study: Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16: 1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18)
Monday	6:00 pm	Growing in Hope BIC (Microsoft Teams) NO CAP Class
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Church Council (special long range plan meeting)
Wednesday	5:45 pm	Confirmation Class—Regroup (online)
	8:30 am	Titus Bible Study (Microsoft Teams)
	1:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (Microsoft Teams— <i>see details below</i>)
	6:30 pm	Defending Your Faith Bible Study (Zoom—email robert.balza@gmail.com for invite link)
Thursday	6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday	8:00 am	Family Worship
	9:00 am	Bible Study—The House of the Lord

WE HOPE THE JOY OF JESUS' VICTORY IN TODAY'S SERVICE WAS A BLESSING TO YOU!—Now what?

- Share that good news that brings great joy with others in any way you can! He is risen!
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel and our Facebook page.
- Share the video on social media
- If you don't have a pastor or a church family you connect with regularly and are looking to get connected, we'd love to hear from you! Call or text Pastor Backus at (920) 716-7987.
- If you are a member of Eternal Love and haven't been able to connect with us in a while, we'd love to hear from you! Call or text Pastor Pries at (920) 285-1068.
- Email the link of today's service to a friend or family member or coworker, inviting them to watch and join us next week.
- Support the ongoing ministry of our congregation by making a generous financial gift. (See "OFFERINGS" blurb below.)

You  **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.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS—Thank you to the following families who donated the Easter lilies that grace the altar today.

Rob & Sue Fritsch	<i>In memory of Gerald Fritsch & James Wenzel</i>
Frank & Joy Zeman	<i>In memory of Bob Mitte and Frank & Jeanette Zeman</i>
Leon & Carol Sawall	<i>In memory of their parents</i>
Mike & Donna King	<i>In memory of James McDonald and Donald Neise</i>
Joel & Carrie Schmidt	<i>In memory of Mae Ryann Klett</i>

NEW OPPORTUNITY TO GROW IN THE WORD: DEFEND YOUR FAITH—Our new bible study offering for members and guests alike begins this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. The objective of this study, titled "Defend Your Faith," is to help Christians be ready to defend their faith when it is challenged by critics, skeptics, doubters, and anyone who would question why we believe. We think you'll find this study highly practical in helping answer objections to the Christian faith, digging into Scripture and in sharing the gospel with others. Individuals who are interested in participating should email Pastor Balza (Robert.Balza@gmail.com) for a link to join the study on Zoom, (a tool similar to Microsoft Teams which we've been using on Sunday mornings). Here is the course path we will follow, including seven of the most common objections to the Christian faith:

Lesson: 1	Introduction
2	Why do you believe in God?
3	Is Jesus really the Son of God?
4	How do we know that the Bible is true?
5	How can I know the truth?
6	Why do you believe that God created the world?
7	Why does God allow people to suffer?
8	Why do you believe that Christianity is the one true religion?

NEW OPPORTUNITY TO GROW IN THE WORD: THE HOUSE OF THE LORD— Beginning next Sunday, April 19, we will begin a new morning bible study. This study will take up a panoramic view of the theme of God’s dwelling in the Scriptures.

- April 19: The Lord’s First House (The Garden of Eden)
- April 26: The Lord’s Mobile Home (The Tabernacle)
- May 3: The Lord’s Palace (The Temple)
- May 10: The Lord’s Model Home (Jesus Christ)
- May 17: The Lord’s Current Residence (The Church)
- May 24: The Lord’s Dream House (Heaven)

WEDNESDAY MORNING TITUS BIBLE CLASS LOG-IN LINK: [Join our Wednesday Morning Bible Class](#) +1 920-250-7472 Conference ID: 687 675 945#

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.

SYNOD-WIDE EASTER SERVICE LIVESTREAM— Join us this evening for a [synod-wide Easter Sunday 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.

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.



THIS WEEK’S ENDURING FAITH LESSON—Take a look at the lesson emailed out on Friday which focuses on Jesus’ Easter victory as he rises from the dead! Today is a day to tell the story with joy! “He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” 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.

PRAYING FOR OUR NEW SISTER SYNOD AND ITS MISSION – *Lord of the nations, your pure gospel continues to set prisoners free and draw the hearts of men and women near to your loving embrace. We thank you for the blessings you have poured out on the members of the LCMC–Kenya through the preaching of your Word and ask*

you to strengthen their commitment to hold on to the teachings they have received from you, so that your gospel kingdom continues to expand in East Africa. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

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.

THE HOPE CENTER—Hosanna, blessed is He in the highest! While we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, please remember in your prayers those struggling during this time of uncertainty. The Hope Center is continuing to serve the physical and spiritual needs of our clients and will continue to do so as long as we have supplies to present to them. Right now, due to limitations on amounts we are able to purchase at one time, this has become more difficult. We would like to ask you if, when you are out shopping and you don't need to buy one for yourself, you could help us by picking up some hand soap (the kind in the pump bottle), toilet paper, and/or disinfecting wipes. We will have a drop-off bin outside The Hope Center (1316 W Lawrence St, Appleton, Door #5) during our regular hours: Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 am, Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30 pm, or Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm. Or you may call the office at 920-739-0039 and let us know where we can pick up supplies. Thank you for your assistance and prayers. Have a joyous Easter and may God bless you!

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.

HOLY COMMUNION DURING “SAFER AT HOME”— Because we are not able to gather together in person for worship, there will be no corporate holy communion as part of our services during the “Safer at Home” order. 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.

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)

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 communication needs.

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