

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 – Today’s Lesson: The Lord’s Mobile Home. See Friday’s email for the Zoom meeting link or contact Pastor Backus at Pastor.Backus@eternal-love.org to receive log-in information.

Monday: CAP Class @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday Morning: 2 Timothy Bible Study @ 8:30 am [Join our Bible Class by clicking here](#) or dial in at: [+1 920-250-7472](tel:+19202507472) Conference ID: 213 412 635#

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 is led by Pastor Balza and is hosted online via Zoom. To participate, please send Pastor Balza an email (Robert.Balza@gmail.com) and he will reply with the information needed to join the Bible study. More info on this study is 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.

BRANCH LUTHERAN SCHOOLS (HAITI)—After an earthquake in 2010, WELS responded compassionately with disaster relief and gospel outreach. Nutritional programs and healthcare for eight orphanages were established. Out of that effort, God blessed the opening of 3 Lutheran schools at those orphanages. Currently over 900 students are being served with the gospel in these schools. We pray for their continued blessing, in Jesus’ name.

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 Budget Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday | 8:30 am | 2 Timothy Bible Study (Microsoft Teams) |
| | 1:00 pm | Women’s Bible Study (Microsoft Teams—contact 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 | 6:00 pm | Bible Information Class |
| Friday | 8:00 am – 2:30 pm | Blood Drive at Eternal Love (signup online) |
| Sunday | 8:00 am | Family Worship |
| | 9:00 am | Bible Study—The House of the Lord |

LITTLE FREE PANTRY— Dear friends, we have temporarily made our Little Free Library into a "Little Free Pantry" to share food with those in our community who might be experiencing financial difficulties and food insecurity due to the current school and business closings.

We are collecting donations to keep the pantry stocked. Please bring food that will be ok if it freezes. Choose whole-grain and 100% fruit options when available. See list below for ideas.

Canned soup/soup mixes, applesauce cups, pancake mix (just add water), pasta, pasta sauce (plastic jar), oatmeal packets, granola bars, trail mix packets, whole-grain crackers, peanut butter and jelly (plastic jar), (short boxes of) whole-grain cereal, etc. Small bottles of hand sanitizer and toilet paper would also be appreciated.

Food donations can be dropped at church in the box by the kitchen or, if you don't have a key, we are willing to pick up from your house. We also in need of volunteers to take turns checking and restocking a couple times every day. Contact kara.witthuhn@gmail.com if you are willing to help or if you need donations picked up. Thank you!

During this time, we are also helping members and friends that are in need of groceries, medication, or other essential items. Please contact the Eternal Love office or send an email to COVID19@eternal-love.org if you are in need of assistance or know someone who is.

Questions? Please contact Petr Eliseev, Pastor Backus, Kara Witthuhn, or Patty Ferrante.

"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.

MEAL FOR A MISSION—The joy of living for Jesus and serving others—that is the heart of our Meal for a Mission program. The "Meal" part is the suggestion that we sacrifice a meal out and share those savings with others. It need not be a meal out, especially when local businesses also need our support, but rather it is the spirit of a joyful sacrifice when we reflect on our occasional plenty as a gift from a loving God. Through our voluntary designated gift (see the monthly envelopes in your offering envelope box), and beyond our regular offerings, we gather together to lift up others and fill needs.



Currently, we are showing some love to Branch Lutheran Schools in devastated Haiti, 100+ orphans, and other children living in poverty nearby. We are helping them with basic material needs and sharing gospel joy with them daily. COVID-19 has now multiplied their need. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about their efforts. With strong support from you, in the midst of our own challenges, we have surpassed our goal and will send them our gift of love on the 7th of May. Thank you for your generous spirit! Please watch our communications closer to that date for our total gift. Next, we have an opportunity to choose a new recipient. If you have a suggestion or question on what the next partner mission should be, please contact Petr Eliseev at Stewardship.Director@eternal-love.org

BLOOD DRIVE—Eternal Love has scheduled a pop up blood drive in our parking lot on Friday, May 1, from 8:00 am -2:30 pm in cooperation with the Community Blood Center. To ensure they can best honor social distancing and limit the number of individuals gathered at one time, donations will be by appointment only. If you are able, please consider registering to donate for this community event at the Community Blood Center's [Pop Up Donor Centers](#) site. (Scroll down to our name and date under the Menasha heading.)



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.)

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. May God's Word be a source of comfort to you as you face life's challenges.

DEFEND YOUR FAITH—It's not too late to join this new Bible study for members and guests alike that just started up last Wednesday evening. The objective of this study is to help Christians be ready to defend their faith. Individuals who are interested in participating but haven't yet, should email Pastor Balza (Robert.Balza@gmail.com).

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD—Last weekend, we began a new Sunday morning Bible study. In this class, 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 allow Pastor Backus to travel home after the 8:00 am livestream). To join, please see the link and details that were shared in Friday's worship email. This week's lesson: The Lord's Mobile Home (The Tabernacle).

WEDNESDAY MORNING 2 TIMOTHY BIBLE CLASS LOG-IN LINK—(8:30 am) [Join our Bible Class by clicking here](#) or dial in at: [+1 920-250-7472](tel:+19202507472) Conference ID: 213 412 635#

 **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, "An Ascending Truth." During His last days on earth, Jesus instructs His disciples, preparing them for the challenges that lie ahead. Gathering His disciples on the Mount of Olives one last time, Jesus physically ascends to heaven. Two angels repeat Christ's promise to return in the same way He ascended into heaven. Discuss, "What great commission does Jesus give His followers?"

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.

[MEAL FOR A] MISSION PRAYER: BRANCH LUTHERAN SCHOOLS (Haiti)—*Lord God, we thank you for the doors you've opened to your gospel in Haiti through the humanitarian efforts a decade ago. Continue to provide for the needs of Branch Lutheran Schools, as they provide a Christ-centered education at orphanages in Haiti. We thank you for the opportunity you've given us to send our support through this Meal for a Mission offering. Give us joy as we give, and give your gospel success in all the world! 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. 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.

APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY—At this time, we are still planning to have our May collection on Sunday, May 3, 2020. Here’s the list of needed items for May:

Cereal, plain rice (1 lb. bags and Minute Rice), jam, canned fruit, tomato and chicken noodle soups, chunky soups, beef stews, canned pastas, body washes (adults), paper toweling, hamburger helper, canned tomato products, cake/brownie mixes, all side dishes (potato, rice and pasta) and canned meats (SPAM, chicken, tuna).

As always, you are welcome to send monetary donations to the pantry c/o St. Matthew Lutheran Church (129 S. Mason St. Appleton, WI 54914-5246). Thank you for your support of the pantry. Because we are having a difficult time purchasing in bulk, every donation is greatly appreciated!

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)

FINANCIAL UPDATE—March offerings were again below budget, however due to several generous gifts in January, our YTD offerings are still slightly ahead of YTD expenses. We are thankful that so many of you continue to send in your offerings electronically and through the mail, even though we are not able to worship together in person right now. Looking ahead, we anticipate lower spending in several ministry areas due to the Safer At Home orders, but continue to fully support our called workers’ and office manager’s salaries and benefits, WELS, FVL, and our LACE mortgage payment. So we thank you for your continued, prayerful support of Eternal Love’s ministries during these unusual times.

At the end of March, our building fund balance sits at \$37,039, which is more than adequate to cover the few remaining punch list items. Therefore, we would ask that members consider re-designating those offerings into the operating fund instead to help cover our ongoing mortgage payment.

| | March | YTD (Jul-Mar) |
|---|----------|---------------|
| Budgeted Income | \$36,344 | \$326,425 |
| Operating Fund Offerings & WeeLove Income Rec’d | \$28,480 | \$318,866 |
| Expenses Paid | \$33,665 | \$315,821 |
| Building Fund Offerings | \$ 1,021 | \$16,768 |

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