

**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 Bible Class by clicking on this link.](#) Or call in: [+1 920-250-7472](#) Conference ID: 684 324 245#

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**BRANCH LUTHERAN SCHOOLS (HAITI), OUR MEAL FOR A MISSION PROJECT**—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)
	<b>9:15 am</b>	Bible Study—The House of the Lord (Zoom)
Monday	6:30 pm	CAP Class
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 <a href="mailto:Robert.Balza@gmail.com">Robert.Balza@gmail.com</a> for invite link)
Thursday	6:00 pm	Bible Information Class
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 are also in need of volunteers to take turns checking and restocking a couple times every day. Contact [kara.witthuhn@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 this coming week. Thank you for your generous spirit! Please watch our communications in the days ahead 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](mailto:Stewardship.Director@eternal-love.org)

**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.)

**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](http://ChristianFamilySolutions.org) to learn more!

**MEDITATIONS**—The newest edition of *Meditations Daily Devotional* begins on May 31. While we have received our usual shipment and have them available at church for those who would like to pick up a physical copy, Northwestern Publishing House has also made this issue available for free in digital format. [Click on this link](#) to download your complimentary copy of the May 31-August 29 issue of *Meditations*.

**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!

**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](mailto: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 Palace (The Temple).

**WEDNESDAY MORNING 2 TIMOTHY BIBLE CLASS LOG-IN LINK**—(8:30 am) . [Join our Bible Class by clicking on this link](#). Or call in: [+1 920-250-7472](tel:+19202507472) Conference ID: 684 324 245#

**You Tube** **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.

**f** **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](http://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 Telling Truth." With the sound of a rushing wind and tongues of fire, the promised Holy Spirit descends on the disciples. As they speak "in other tongues" (Acts 2:4), their hearers, from a multitude of nations, hear about "the mighty works of God" (v. 11) in their own languages. Beginning with Old Testament prophecies, Peter's sermon proclaims Jesus, the promised Messiah. Discuss, "How did Pentecost change the Church forever?"

If you would like to receive the lessons, but are not on our email list, please email [office.manager@eternal-love.org](mailto: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.

**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

**CONTACT US**

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