



THE CALL COMMITTEE met on 24th and identified three Pastors to be interviewed. Copies of the information on the Pastors are available for review in the church office. Tentative date for Call Meeting is May 19th after the service. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the Call Committee and to prepare the Pastor the Lord wants at Open Arms to be receptive to His Call.

LOGAN AND GWEN KOCH, children of Nathan and Kennedy Koch, will be baptized during the service on Sunday. If you are at the service, be sure to welcome them and stay around for a piece of cake to celebrate their baptisms.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES

- Gwen and Logan Koch baptisms, April 28th
- Youth Tailgate Party after Worship Service, April 28th
- National Day of Prayer at Van Buren Fire Station 2, May 2nd
- Mother's Day and Confirmation Sunday, May 12
- May 19th, Deadline for Veterans "Take Out Tuesday" gift cards
- Tentative Date for Call Meeting, May 19th

IT'S TAILGATE PARTY TIME for open arms youth and friends on Sunday, April 28th, with Family Life Student Jackson. Youth 6th grade up and their friends are invited for food, games, and some thoughts from Jackson about faith, sports and life. Wear a shirt or hat from your school or favorite team. Follow this link to the sign up for the event.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B48A9A728A1FEC61-49186609-post>

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER is Thursday, May 2nd. Open Arms will be leading a time of prayer for our First Responders and for our nation beginning at Noon at Van Buren Fire Station 2, next to the church. Plan to be part of this special event and pray for our nation and First Responders. Open Arms will be providing lunch for First Responders after the prayers.

DO YOU HAVE EMPTY SHOE BOXES? Brandon Underwood, Kindergarten Teacher at Tyler School, is collecting empty shoe boxes for a project with his students. You can drop them off at Open Arms for Brandon to pick up.

HYGIENE KIT PACKING. The 252-youth packed 140+ Hygiene Kits on Wednesday for Belleville School Students. Thanks to all who donated and to the 252 kids for packing.

A BIG THANK YOU to Tom Griffin and his team for coordinating and leading 252. Wednesday, the 25th, was the last session for this school year. Look for the return of 252 in October. 252 is a time for grades school youth to grow in their faith, do acts of service and learn skills from members of the congregation and community.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION is Sunday, May 12th. Emma Bower, Creighton Buckalew, Zah Layah Pape, and Colin O’Kelley will make a public confession of their Christian faith that day. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they prepare for this important step forward in their faith. Plan to join them and their families for a cake reception after the service.

IT'S “TAKE OUT TUESDAY” TIME. Open Arms will be collecting VISA gift cards for Veterans between now and May 19th so they can use them to order food for “Take Out Tuesdays.” The cards will be given to the Veterans before Memorial Day, May 27th. Please bring VISA Gift Cards to Open Arms so they can be taken to the Wayne County Veterans Hospital.

MEAL TIME is a free meal for Day Care, Church members and friends on the last Wednesday of the month. The Church provides the money for the food. Monthly coordinators prepare, serve the food and clean up after the meals. A Big THANK YOU to everyone who has helped with one of the meal times. Tentative Schedule for MEAL Times in upcoming months:

May 29 th Men’s Bible Study	June 26 th Cantrell & Moro families
July 31 st VBS Meal Team	August 28 th Ladies of Open Arms

THRIVENT ACTION GRANTS can be used to support ministries and special events at Open Arms. If you are Thrivent member, please consider using one of your two yearly action grants for one of these upcoming events:

Any of the Upcoming MEAL times	Veterans “Take Out Tuesday” Gift Cards
	Vacation Bible School July 29 – August 1

TYLER SCHOOL is our neighbor only 1½ miles from the church. We have tentative plans to provide back packs filled with food for Tyler students to take home for the weekend each week. This will be a major service project for Open Arms. If you know any business that could make in-kind or money donations to help with this service project, please consider contacting them. Dana and Brandon Underwood are coordinating this project for Open Arms.

PRAISE THE LORD, OPEN ARMS IS GROWING. Look at the growth in average in person worship attendance. 2021, 48. 2022, 65. 2023, 72 2024 year to date, 86. 90 in March & April

Open Arms Lutheran Church & Day Care	7865 Belleville Rd	(734) 699-5000
Pastor Larry Courson	pastorlarry@openarmscenter.com	(734) 395-0974
Daycare Director Greta Bower	gbower@openarmscenter.com	