



OPEN ARMS CALL UPDATE. Pastor Mark Dahn decided to decline the Call to Open Arms. (His letter is attached at the end.) The Call Committee will review the names of Pastors on the two Call list while waiting for the Michigan District to provide the church with a new Call list. Pastor Larry plans to continue serving Open Arms as we pray for the Lord's guidance.

LENTEN SEASON WORSHIP THEME: "FOLLOW JESUS"

- Live in the Light and Follow Jesus, March 10th, John 3:1-21
- Serve and Follow Jesus, March 17th, Mark 10:32-35
- Humbly Follow Jesus, March 24th, Philippians 2:5-11 (Palm Sunday)
- The Lord's Supper, March 28th, Hebrews 9:15, 22, Mark 14:12-26. (Maundy Thursday)
- Listen, Believe and Follow Jesus, March 29th, John 19:17-37 (Good Friday)
- Follow the Risen Lord, March 31st, John 20:1-18. (Easter Sunday)

FIRST COMMUNION. The youth who have completed the First Communion instruction with Pastor Larry will commune with their families for the first time on Maundy Thursday, April 28th.

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.

- Open Arms Community Easter Egg Hunt, March 23rd
- Easter Breakfast, March 31st
- Belleville Schools Hygiene Kits

THE COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT is March 23. This big event allows Open Arms to welcome the community. Donations of individually wrapped candy and small trinket items are needed to be put into the plastic eggs. Your support and donations are appreciated.

JEFF & TIFFANY KELLY would like to thank the Open Arms family for your prayers, support and gifts from the Agape Fund following the death of their daughter-in-law and unborn grandson. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

DON'T FORGET Daylight Savings Time goes into effect early Sunday morning. Be sure to set your clocks to "**Spring Ahead**" one hour Saturday night.

THE NEXT MEAL TIME is March 20th. Would you, your family, or the Bible Study or fellowship group you are part of be willing to host Meal Time in March? You plan the menu and help with set up and serving. The church provides funds for the meal. Talk with one of the Elders, Marty Moro, Bayo Adebajo, Ted Bower or Tom Griffin for more information or to volunteer.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES

- Meal Time March 20
- Easter Egg Hunt, March 23
- Maundy Thursday Service, March 28, 6:30 PM
- Good Friday Service, March 29, 6:30 PM
- Easter Breakfast, Service, & Egg Hunt, March 31
- Confirmation Sunday, May 12

LADIES OF OPEN ARMS. You are invited to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Ann Arbor zone rally on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Open Arms. Doors opening at 8:45 am for breakfast being served at 9:00 am. Open Arms Women's Ministry is hosting the breakfast. If you are interested in helping with the breakfast and setting up on Friday evening at 6:30 pm please let Bev Conry know. The speaker for the meeting is from Elly's House in Detroit. There will be a \$5 cost for each person for the breakfast.

FROM PASTOR MARK

Leaders and Congregation at Open Arms,

I am both humbled and honored at having received your Call to be Pastor at Open Arms Lutheran Church & Daycare. However, it with both sadness and clear conviction that I return to the Call to you. Because I have grown to both respect and admire you and your ministry, please allow me a brief bit of explanation.

I recognize both the exciting opportunities at Open Arms as well as it being a good fit for me. You have weathered times of instability and challenge and grown more resilient by God's grace. I see that you have regained both hope and initiative in some of the most commendable ways. Your ministry is poised to blossom and flourish.

Through this Call process, I also have a clearer view of the tasks God has for me, both personally and professionally, in my current location. At my current church, we have just come through a series of challenges and have unveiled a three-year plan in just the last two months. I believe my staying is an important piece of the health of that process going forward. I have also come to see the personal need to remain in Georgia for now. My wife and I have one college-age child living at a distance where visits are difficult. I don't relish the idea of that being true for all three kids. We are also the closest family to my aging parents who own a house 11 miles from mine. Our measure of support for them has increased in recent years...and is likely to continue in the years to come.

Thank you for your generosity and graciousness to me in recent weeks. I count it a lasting blessing. When I announce this decision to my congregation this weekend, I will thank God for your partnership in ministry and continue to lift you up in prayer. God's Best to you all as you continue to walk into the blessed future our Lord has for you.

Peace of Christ, Mark Dahn

OPEN ARMS has the opportunity to participate in the Belleville Rotary Club Hygiene Kit Drive for high school students and their family members who are experiencing housing insecurity. Please drop off your donation of travel size shampoo and conditioners, face and body wash, moisturizers, chap sticks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, floss, 1-use laundry detergent, and deodorant by April 24th. We plan to assemble the kits after the Meal Time that day.

HYGIENE KIT DONATION DRIVE

FOR VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPONSORED BY





The Need

Hygiene kits are needed for high school-aged students and family members experiencing housing insecurity. These free kits are provided as needed by school counselors.

Please Donate New Travel-Sized Items:

- ✓ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ✓ Face & Body Wash
- ✓ Moisturizer & Chapstick
- ✓ Toothbrush, Toothpaste,
- ✓ Mouthwash, Floss
- ✓ 1-use laundry detergent
- ✓ Deodorant



Drop off donations by April 30th to
Belleville Area District Library
167 4th St. Belleville, MI 48111

Scan QR to donate towards supplies and gift cards or
visit www.bellevillerotary.org/page/give

Open Arms Lutheran Church & Day Care
Pastor Larry Courson
Daycare Director Greta Bower

7865 Belleville Rd
pastorlarry@openarmscenter.com
gbower@openarmscenter.com

(734) 699-5000
(734) 395-0974