



## OCTOBER WORSHIP THEMES

1 <sup>st</sup> Follow the Mercy	Philippians 2	22 <sup>nd</sup> Pastor Kasper	1 Thessalonians 1
8 <sup>th</sup> Explore the Frontier	Philippians 3	29 <sup>th</sup> Reformation Sunday	Romans 3
15 <sup>th</sup> Rejoice in the Lord	Philippians 4		

**OPEN ARMS CALL UPDATE:** Pastor Ryan Ankersen has declined the Call to Open Arms so that he and his family can remain in Nebraska where both his and his wife's Keri parents live. See his attached letter to Open Arms.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students begins this coming Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, following the service. This year's topic is an overview of the Bible. Contact Pastor Larry for more information.

**"SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS"** Adult Bible study looking at the New Testament readings from the previous week begins on October 1<sup>st</sup> after the worship service. Marty Moro and Dave Ferber will lead the discussion. Join the class every Sunday you can.

**252 FOR ELEMENTARY CHILDREN** begins again on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Participants can register ahead of time or on Wednesday evenings. Contact Tom Griffin, [tgriffin@umich.edu](mailto:tgriffin@umich.edu) for more information.

**THE HARVEST FESTIVAL** is Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. What to expect? petting farm -- hayride -- trunk or treat -- snacks -- games -- crafts -- bonfire. Kids (and grown ups!) are encouraged to dress up in kid-friendly costumes. How can you help? Set up the afternoon/night before. Volunteer during the event. **Host and decorate a trunk (pass out candy).** If interested, contact Greta Bower [gbower@openarmscenter.com](mailto:gbower@openarmscenter.com)

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY** next meeting is Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at a different location, Sam's Restaurant on Main Street at 9:30AM. Sue Jackson and Deb Kasper will lead the study based on the book, "Bad Girls of the Bible." The group meets every other week.

**THE MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** sessions meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in the Upper Room. The Fall sessions will consist of videos titled "Stuff They Didn't Teach me in Sunday School." These videos will cover "The Prophets," "Matthew & Mark," and "About Letters to the New Church." The schedule for the rest of 2023 is 10/24, 11/21, 11/28 & 12/19 (No sessions on 10/31 & 12/26).

**MOST MINISTRIES** is looking for prescription glasses and sunglasses. You can drop them off on Sunday or any day at open arms. The glasses are used in their eye care mission trips.

**MARTY MORO** will be the guest speaker at the LWML Fall Rally, Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at Living Water Lutheran Church, Whitmore Lake, MI.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH.** We need someone to lead one Sunday a month. The church provides weekly lesson topics and teaching ideas. Contact Pastor Larry for more information.

**REFLECTION ON DAILY READINGS:** Email your thoughts or questions about the readings to Dave Ferber for Sunday services. Dave's email is [ferber\\_david@yahoo.com](mailto:ferber_david@yahoo.com)

**SACK LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS.** Sunday, October 15, we will be making lunches for the homeless. This will take place right after worship. In order to make these lunches, we are asking for your help. Please consider donating any of the following:

12 loaves of bread	100 services of sweet snacks
300 to 400 slices of lunch meat	100 ziploc sandwich bags
100 slices of cheese	100 large lunch bags

If you are able to donate, email Dana Underwood. [dana.underwood1468@icloud.com](mailto:dana.underwood1468@icloud.com) to let her know. All donations should be dropped off at the church by Sunday, October 15. We are also looking for large boxes to put the lunches into to carry to the bus. I am also looking for help transporting the lunches and loading them on the bus. If you're not able to donate, but still want to help, please consider offering a hand to help make lunches. We'd love to have you join us! As always, thank you so much for your generosity. If you have any questions, please reach out to either Brandon or me. Dana Underwood

**DAILY NEW TESTAMENT READINGS** September 28<sup>th</sup> – October 7<sup>th</sup>

Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup> Ephesians 6	Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Philippians 4:2-23
Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup> Philippians 1:1-26	Oct. 4 <sup>th</sup> Colossians 1:1-18
Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup> Philippians 1:27-2:18	Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup> Colossians 1:19-2:7
Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> Philippians 2:19-3:3	Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup> Colossians 2:8-23
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Philippians 3:3-4:1	Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup> Colossians 3:1-17

#### **CEF IS HIRING - CEF Loan Processor**

Church Extension Fund is a ministry-based financial institution located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with total loans outstanding exceeding \$160 Million. CEF seeks qualified candidates for the position of Loan Processor. This position handles all facets of loan processing, post-closing loan functions and monitoring of open loan accounts. The position reports to and assists the CEF Assistant VP-Loan Manager. Opportunities for advancement exist. A complete job description is available on CEF's website: [mi-cef.org/news](http://mi-cef.org/news). Applicants should mail or email a cover letter with resume and any salary requirements no later than October 31, 2023 to: Ms. Kris Nowak – Executive Assistant, Church Extension Fund, 3773 Geddes Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, [kris.nowak@mi-cef.org](mailto:kris.nowak@mi-cef.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT OPEN ARMS:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday for Confirmation Class Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Adult Bible Study (Spiritual Conversations), Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Harvest Festival October 7<sup>th</sup>
- Homeless Lunch Packing, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>
- V.A. Hospital Collection, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>
- MEAL Time, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>

**Open Arms Lutheran Church & Day Care**      7865 Belleville Rd      (734) 699-5000  
**Pastor Larry Courson**      [pastorlarry@openarmscenter.com](mailto:pastorlarry@openarmscenter.com)      (734) 395-0974

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September 20, 2023

Family of Open Arms,

Over the last couple of weeks, and especially through the weekend, my wife Keri and I had a chance to investigate, discuss, and pray about the next steps and where God is calling us right now. Looking at Open Arms, you are a Spirit-filled community of people who are passionate about their community.

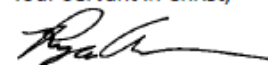
It is the church's heart for the lost that fuels what we do and why we gather. So often, you and I can also feel lost, and yet we have come to know an amazing Dad who sees us, runs after us with open arms and embraces his children over and over and over again. Open Arms, I can feel and sense your Godly passion all the way from Nebraska. The daycare ministry that you have pursued is a very compelling and exciting outreach to the community of Belleville and demonstrates your servant's heart, especially to young families who get to experience Christ through caring employees and friendly church members. It's worth mentioning, Pastor Larry has been an excellent resource helping me to know the people of Open Arms, the potential you have, and the many ways you are already leading and serving selflessly.

After much prayer and consideration, we are ready to express our intentions regarding the call.

As wonderful as Open Arm's truly is, the burden of family and our kids being closer to grandparents continues to settle in our hearts as well. We also feel God pulling us to serve where we currently are serving, to the ministry of Good Shepherd in Fremont, Nebraska. Because of these considerations, I am declining the call to serve as pastor of Open Arms.

I pray that God continues to guide you on this journey to find a pastor, that he would bless you and align you quickly with that person he will use to lead and invigorate Christ's precious work at Open Arms. You will be in my prayers as you continue with the call process. From Keri, myself, and the girls, we wish you God's blessings!

Your Servant in Christ,



Pastor Ryan Ankensen