

The Eternal Light



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2020 APRIL PASTOR'S PAGE – ESLC

Dear friends in the Savior, I cannot do better for a newsletter article than what I wrote last year. It applies even more poignantly to those who fear their physical demise and death, possibly because of the corona virus. Our hope is not for this life only, but for the glory of God's eternal heavenly kingdom – with new, glorified, immortal bodies. Keep the faith, remain hopeful, and be of good courage. God remains God forever!

“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.” Luke 24:39

A few years ago it was announced via the media that the tomb of Jesus and His family had been discovered. That kind of makes one wonder whose flesh and bones Jesus had when He appeared to His disciples! If His flesh was decaying and His bones were still lying in some tomb in Jerusalem, in what sense could Jesus truthfully say to His disciples “behold MY hands and MY feet, that is I MYSELF.” He was obviously referring to something the disciples were familiar with and could recognize – “that it is I Myself.” Further, after His resurrection, His hands and feet and side still bore the wounds inflicted upon Him while He was on the cross [John 20:27]. The disciples were willing to suffer even death rather than deny what they had seen with their own eyes. They would hardly have risked death propagating what they knew to be a myth of their own invention.

Unfortunately, this “discovery” of Jesus’ tomb is all a huge myth and fable, perpetrated upon an intellectually lazy and gullible audience. No reputable archeologists or scientists give it any credence whatsoever. It is also a myth and fable that actually began infiltrating the church many years ago with theological liberals who have long considered the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ to be unfathomable and impossible, and have reinterpreted the resurrection as some kind of a “spiritual” event. But the Scripture is clear that resurrection has to do with the reuniting of our soul to our own body. Read the assertion of Job, in one of the oldest books of the Bible: “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.” [Job 19:25-27] It was Jesus’ own flesh and bones that were presented to the disciples for their inspection.

The apostles preached the bodily, physical resurrection to Greek thinking people who despised their own physical existence as being weakness [Greek dualism]. The resurrection is part of the scandal of Christ’s crucifixion [1 Cor. 1:23]. This “scandal” is being ceded away by many within the visible Christian Church, and the popular media likes helping this along with “docu-fictional” programs. For some Christians, this may serve to weaken their faith, even though the apostle asserts: “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yes, and we are found to be false witnesses of God.” [1 Cor. 15:14,15] We must not let this happen to us!

Perhaps we should not be so concerned about this weakening of loyalty to the resurrected Savior and Lord Jesus, since so many have already all but lost their loyalty to Jesus. But if your own disloyalty to

Jesus is somehow abetted by this kind of fictional lying and slander against Jesus and the disciples, then I would suggest that you wake up and do some serious thinking, reading, and research! It is neither anti-intellectual nor unscholarly to hold to the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus. His literal, physical resurrection is not only an article of faith, but has the preponderance of historical evidence in its favor. A denial of His resurrection is a denial of faith in Jesus.

Once again, this month, we celebrate the resurrection victory of Jesus Christ over sin, death, and the devil. I hope and pray that you will join us in affirming the Deity of Jesus Christ, and all that He did to accomplish our salvation and give us eternal life, including His literal, physical resurrection. And I would encourage you to consider as well that each Sunday is a celebration of Christ's resurrection, Whose body and blood - the same body and blood that was "given and shed for you" on the cross - is given to you in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of your sins. I know that I will not have to explain my faith to God when I see Him face to face; it will be pitiful for anyone who will have to explain their unbelief to Him and their refusal to fellowship with Him and worship Him.

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of March were:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| March 1 | \$ 2,671 |
| March 8 | \$ 4,423 |
| March 15 | \$ 1,837 |
| March 22 | \$ 3,115 |

This weekly average (\$3,012) compares to our 2020 weekly budget needs of \$4,540.

REMINDERS

Please be responsible!!! For everyone who has access to the church building, it is your responsibility when you leave to make sure that all lights are off, the heat/air-conditioning/fans are turned back or off and all of the **doors are locked and secure!!** Please do double checks before you leave.

Have you checked out the newly revised and **updated ESLC website**? It contains lots of important information including the Eternal Savior church calendar and who will be serving each week. You can also find Pastor Rhode's daily devotion and archived sermons. Please check it out at www.eternalsavior-lutheran.org.

Sunday School has been temporarily suspended. **Adult Bible Class** is now **online** each Sunday at 10:30 AM. To join, email Pastor for the invitation link.

Mid-week Bible Study also meets **online** on Wednesday mornings at 11:30 AM and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. To join, email Pastor for the invitation link.

Children's bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for a copy.

Prayer request cards are available on a table in the narthex. During the month of April if you would like to include a prayer request in today's prayers, please email Pastor pastor@eternalsavior-lutheran.org or secretary secretary@eternalsavior-lutheran.org

Parking spaces in front of the church should be reserved for those members and visitors that need to park close to the building due to health concerns or weather. Please be considerate and leave these spaces to those who need them most.

Large print worship service folders and assisted listening devices are available. Please ask an usher if needed.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Reredos Committee

What is a reredos? It's an ornamental wall or screen behind the altar. When we built this church (already 15 years ago!) we had planned that at some point we would do something more with the wall behind the altar - the reredos. We do have some funding available for this project in the form of memorial funds specifically designated for this purpose.

At present we have no definite plans for what we will do with the reredos. We need ideas, we need a plan. So we have a wonderful opportunity for those who might be interested to help determine just what we want to do here. **A few people have already expressed an interest in serving on this committee. We still need more on this committee.** If interested, please speak to Robin Warnken or Pastor Rhode.

The Deacon's Fund supports Emergency Family Assistance, Redeemer Lutheran in Denver, ULC, and other charities as well. Please consider contributing via your offering envelopes or in the Deacons' Fund collector in the Narthex! Thanks!!!

King Soopers has changed their system for charitable donations. We are now enrolled in the King Soopers Community Rewards program! To register for the program go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>. Click on the "create an account" button or the "sign in" on the right hand side of the page. If you are creating an account, you will fill in your information, including a valid email address and a King Soopers loyalty card. Once you have created an account click on the "save" link in the upper left, and then on King Soopers Community Rewards link. Then click on "enroll" and you will be able to search for groups. Use Eternal Savior Lutheran Church or SL909 to link your card to Eternal Savior. **Once enrolled, a percentage of all your purchases will go to our Youth Group every time you use in your loyalty card! Thanks!!!!**

The **Orphan Grain Train Clothing Drive** was a huge success. We filled a pickup truck and two cars. The Orphan Grain Train volunteers were very appreciative and thankful. They were able to take almost everything except a few items which were taken to ARC. They were also able to take 11 boxes of quilts which contained 18 full quilts and 19 baby quilts.

WinGS – LWML NEWS

Women In God's Service (WinGS) is a part of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). If you are a member of an LCMS church, you are a member of LWML. All WinGS events are open to each and every woman of Eternal Savior Lutheran Church. Your individual participation, ideas, and interaction are a blessing to everyone in attendance.

ENGAGING

ENCOURAGING

EQUIPPING

ENJOYING

Each and every woman member of ESLC is a Woman in God's Service

The ladies of ESLC serve in many capacities; Sunday School Teachers, Altar Guild, Playing Bells, Singing in Choir, Serving as Deacons, Serving as a member of WinGS, and in other ways. April is the month to elect new officers each year. Positions and their duties will be posted on the bulletin board for your consideration.

There were no Activities in February or March. Also, there seems to be very little interest in a Spring Tea Party. I am open for suggestions from the ladies. Maybe it is time for another Bunco night or a Ladies Night Out. It helps to have input from the members, and of course that means you.

Upcoming Events:

There is a notice on the bulletin board and the WinGS table regarding the LWML District Convention being held in Keystone June 5 - 7. The planners have decided to wave the late registration. At this point, we will have one delegate attending.



Monthly Mite Collection - The next mite collection will be on **Sunday, April 19**. Your mites have completed the funding of the Dominican Republic Disability Ministry for \$3,514. Children with intellectual and development disabilities (IDD) in the Dominican Republic have little government support to assist their families to care for them and often end up in orphanages in sub-human conditions. The same happens with adults who are mentally disabled. **Thank you for supporting this and other mission grants with your prayers and mites.**

Women's Bible Study – due to COVID19 Women's Bible Study is cancelled until further notice. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Spahr.

As things keep changing fast due to COVID-19, please be advised to check ESLC Weekly Servant Schedule online for most recent information.

SERVING IN APRIL

Thursday April 2, Midweek Lent 5

Organist Marge Paugh
Usher(s) Roger Landowski
Elder(s) Keith Cowley
Altar Linda Thompson
Sound System Steve Thompson

Sunday April 5, Palm Sunday

Organist Marge Paugh
Usher(s) Bob Vieyra, Tom Stahly
Counter(s) Marge Paugh, Cindy Stahly
Elder(s) Ryan Lambrecht, Wayne Thomas
Altar Linda Thompson
Sound System Steve Thompson
Snow/Lawn Ryan Lambrecht

Thursday, April 9, Maundy Thursday

Organist Marge Paugh
Usher(s) Roger Landowski
Elder(s) Graham Schelle, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar Linda Thompson
Sound System Ed Warnken

Friday April 10, Good Friday - Noon

Organist Linda Thompson
Elder(s) N/A
Altar Linda Thompson

Friday April 10, Good Friday - Evening

Organist Linda Thompson
Usher(s) Marc Ertle, Roger Landowski
Elder(s) Marc Ertle
Altar Linda Thompson
Sound System Ed Warnken

Sunday, April 12, Easter Sunrise

Cantor Katie Schelle
Usher(s) Tom Stahly
Elder(s) Keith Cowley (r), Dave Sherrets
Altar Linda Thompson
Lawn/Snow Bob Vieyra

Sunday, April 12, Easter Festival

Organist Marge Paugh
Usher(s) Bob Vieyra, Marc Ertle
Counter(s) Roger Landowski, Caryn Landowski
Elders(s) Graham Schelle, Jon Hurst, Keith Cowley (r)
Altar Linda Thompson
Sound System Kevin Cowley
Flowers Raben family

Sunday April 19

Organist Linda Thompson
Usher(s) Roger Landowski, Kirk Anderson
Counter(s) Marge Paugh, Jayne Rhode
Elder(s) Marc Ertle, Graham Schelle
Altar Linda Thompson
Sound System Bob Vieyra
Snow/Lawn Bob Vieyra
Flowers Griffin

Sunday, April 26

Organist Linda Thompson
Cantor Tom Stahly
Usher(s) Roger Landowski, Kirk Anderson
Counter(s) Marge Paugh, Jayne Rhode
Elder(s) Wayne Thomas (r), Jon Hurst
Altar Linda Thompson
Sound System Kevin Cowley
Lawn/Snow Bob Vieyra
Flowers Hurst family

April 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|-----------|
| | | | 1 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> 7:00 PM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> | 2 7:00 PM Midweek Lent Worship Livestreaming* | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Worship Livestreaming* 10:30 AM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> 11:40 AM Church Council – ZOOM meeting <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> | 6 | 7 4:00 – 5:30 PM Confirmation | 8 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> 7:00 PM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> | 9 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Livestreaming* | 10 Good Friday 12:00 PM Worship Livestreaming* 7:00 PM Worship Livestreaming* | 11 |
| 12 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service Livestreaming* (weather permitting) 9:00 AM Easter Festival Service | 13 7:00 PM Elders Newsletter Deadline | 14 4:00 – 5:30 PM Confirmation | 15 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> 7:00 PM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> | 16 6:00 PM Trustees – ZOOM meeting 7:00 PM Worship Livestreaming* | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:00 AM Worship Livestreaming* 10:30 AM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> 11:40 AM Deacons | 20 | 21 4:30 – 6:00 PM Confirmation | 22 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> 7:00 PM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> | 23 7:00 PM Worship | 24 9:00 AM Church Workday | 25 |
| 26 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class | 27 | 28 4:30 PM Confirmation | 29 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> 7:00 PM Online Bible Study <i>(ask Pastor for link)</i> | 30 7:00 PM Worship | | |

Livestreaming* - To watch livestreaming video, please go to church's Facebook page or ESLC website <https://eternalsavior-lutheran.org/>



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

TEACHING THE FAITH — APRIL 1-15

This month, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod celebrates the many ways that God’s children are instructed, encouraged and strengthened in the faith. By teaching the faith, we nurture the faithful and reach the lost.

Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray:

- 1.** *with thanksgiving for the gift of faith received at Baptism.* Ask the Lord to continue to strengthen that faith — and the budding faith of our children — until we depart this life and are united with the Lord.
- 2.** *with thanksgiving to God for the gift of His holy and inspired Word, the Sacred Scriptures; and for the Book of Concord and the many teaching aids that help us understand that Word aright and rejoice in its consolation.*

- 3.** *for Christian families, that the Lord would provide the assistance and tools necessary to overcome every challenge — big or small — that might drive them apart.*

- 4.** *for strong Christian marriages, that husbands and wives would cling to each other in the Lord, despite life’s challenges, and raise their children to walk in the way of the Lord.*

- 5.** *for Christian parents, that they would make teaching the faith to their children a priority. Pray that they set aside time to worship together, talk about faith issues, study the Bible and have family devotions.*

- 6.** *that family members would treat each other with kindness and patience, so that each member might be built up in the family of God.*

- 7.** *for our children and young people, who face daily assaults on their Christian beliefs, that God would strengthen and encourage them to stand firm while sharing the Gospel.*

- 8.** *for our churches, that they would provide useful education and programs to help equip people at every stage of life — teens, husbands and wives, parents, caretakers of aging parents and more.*

- 9.** *that God would continue to provide faithful church workers to serve as role models and teach people about their identity as a baptized child of God.*

- 10.** *that church members would eagerly volunteer their time and talents to support the congregation’s educational programs, such as vacation Bible school, Sunday school and groups for young families.*

- 11.** *that LCMS members would eagerly participate in Bible studies, small-group discussions and private study.*

- 12.** *with thanksgiving for faithful parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers and other role models who help to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Prov. 22:6).*

- 13.** *for the Concordia University System and the Synod’s two seminaries, that the Lord would bless their work in training new generations of workers to serve the Church.*

- 14.** *for the Synod’s directors of Family Life Ministry, that God would bless their efforts to support healthy relationships in the families of our congregations.*

- 15.** *that we might have hearts that are willing and eager to serve the Lord in every way.*

MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES — APRIL 16-30

Since the Civil War, LCMS pastors have served as military chaplains. Today, the Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) supports active duty, reserves, National Guard and Civil Air Patrol chaplains. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains and supports them throughout their careers. MAF also provides a network of care for our nation's military members, families and veterans through Operation Barnabas.

Remember God's work through LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) as you pray:

16. *that God would bless and guide the work of the MAF director and assistant director.*

17. *for the President of the United States. Ask God to guide our commander in chief to lead with wisdom for the protection of the innocent against evil.*

18. *for LCMS military chaplains serving on active duty for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.*

19. *for our LCMS Reserve and National Guard chaplains, especially those who have been mobilized stateside or overseas and taken from their parishes to extended active duty assignments, for those deployed, their families and their home parishes.*

20. *for Operation Barnabas, which is designed to meet the needs of congregations in the event their pastor/chaplain is mobilized. Operation Barnabas also seeks to assist veterans and military families during and after deployment.*

21. *for all congregations that reach out to members of our military through Operation Barnabas, that they would uphold them in prayer as they help to meet their physical, psychological and spiritual needs through the training they have received and the Lord's provision.*

22. *for increasing opportunities for LCMS chaplains to spread Christ's message of salvation, hope and restoration to those they serve.*

23. *for all chaplains returning home, that they would receive a hero's welcome for their*

sacrifice to this country so that in freedom we can continue to openly worship the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

24. *for those who suffer from battle stress and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pray that God would bring healing and renewal to those who have served or who are currently serving.*

25. *for all chaplains who are sick or have sick family members, that the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort would look with favor upon them, and as it pleases Him, restore them to health or give them the grace to accept this tribulation with courage and hope.*

26. *for all chaplains in harm's way, that God would not let their hearts despair nor their faith fail them, but sustain, guide and comfort them.*

27. *for all members of the military who were disabled during their duty, that our heavenly Father would mercifully guide, aid and strengthen all*

those with physical disabilities, enabling them to find fulfillment in their lives and encouragement for all their endeavors.

28. *with thanksgiving to God for providing LCMS chaplains to serve members of the armed forces. Please pray that military chaplains would have every opportunity to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with members of the military and anyone with whom they work and live.*

29. *for all military chaplains upon their return, that they would be reunited with their families, find gainful employment and receive all the care they need to heal their minds, bodies and souls. Grant that they would always look to Christ as their rock and their redeemer.*

30. *for those who minister to the armed forces, that by God's gracious working, they may honor Christ and advance the good of those committed to their care, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

