

The Eternal Light



*Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
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2020 MAY PASTOR'S PAGE – ESLC

“Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous. The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever; they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance.”

Psalm 37:16-19

Dear friends in the Savior:

There are many things in life that impact the whole population. Wars, natural disasters, pandemics, the flu, colds, economic catastrophes, and other problems. At such times we may wonder, as God's people of old did, why God doesn't protect and uphold His dear people of faith. Likewise, God's people have often observed that those who lack moral qualms are able to capitalize on opportunities with little regard for the effect their actions may have on the poor and the weak. The psalmist references it - “the abundance of many wicked.”

This psalm begins with the instruction: “Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!” The “abundance of many wicked” is not as valuable as it might appear to be. It will not last. Further, in the end, the “wicked” will suffer the loss of all things. It may take time but it will be apparent in the end.

On the other hand, dear friends, even as the righteous suffer along with the wicked, God promises to uphold the righteous, to sustain their heritage forever, to keep them from suffering shame, and to provide them with more than enough to weather “days of famine.” We may suffer loss along with others around us, but we will not be forsaken or become destitute.

So the psalmist, writing by inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God, notes that though the righteous have “little,” their little is better than the wealth of the wicked. That statement, that principle, should cause us to pause and take careful thought in regard to our ambitions and goals. To seek an abundance – unless it is to be used to give generously – is to seek something of lesser value! The old adage is true: “The measure of a man's wealth is not in what he has accumulated, but rather in what he has been able to afford to give away.”

As we continue in the economic and social downturn of these troubling times, let us rejoice that God continues to uphold and keep us. Let us rejoice in the fact that what God has given to us as His dear children is far better than what others around us have been able to accumulate. And let us rejoice that God has promised never to leave us or forsake us, but rather to shelter us and take care of us. All of this enables us to remain of good cheer, in good hopes, of good courage, and in the peace and joy of the Lord!

V. Poor Stewardship: The Dark Side Of Idolatry

God is intangible. His gifts to us are tangible. We can touch them, feel them, enjoy them. God is beyond our touch or even sight. So the temptation to worship and adore the gifts rather than the Giver is great! This is idolatry.

Idolatry, loving the gifts more than the Giver – creates some very damaging dynamics. Idolatry is the root and source of all kinds of other sins.

“But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot ... was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.” [John 12:4-6]

“Then Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and asked, 'What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?' So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.” [Matt. 26:14-16]

“People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. . . . Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, Who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” [1 Tim. 6:9-10, 17]

Sadly, idolatry and all the other sins that accompany it can actually lead people to lose faith in Jesus!

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith.” [1 Tim. 6:10]

“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.” [Luke 8:14]

“But the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the Word, making it unfruitful.” [Mark 4:19]

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.’” [Matt 19:23, 24]

Again, the gifts are good! However, the misuse and abuse of these gifts can lead people away from faith in Jesus. We can come to love and trust in ourselves and our riches rather than in God.

Horribly, such lack of faith brings condemnation and damnation. Apart from faith no one can please God, for His wrath and anger abides on unbelievers.

“He that believes the Son has everlasting life; but he that does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” [John 3:36]

This is not God's will for anyone, and is a gross perversion of His generous love and giving!

May God give us wisdom to understand these things, and to flee this dangerous and destructive idolatry!

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the months of March/April were:

March 29	\$ 2,225
April 5	\$ 7,620
April 12	\$ 2,750
April 19	\$ 3,410

This weekly average (\$4,008) 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 and **Midweek Thursday services** have 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. At our meeting on April 19th, the Board of Deacons approved sending \$500 to Lutheran Family Services, \$200 in funds to Emergency Family Assistance Assoc., plus \$200 in monthly supplies, \$100 in Target gift cards for Redeemer Lutheran Church in Denver, plus an additional gift of \$500. All of these funds will be used to alleviate the needs of people who are in very vulnerable circumstances. The agencies have expressed great gratitude. We are only able to do this because of the generous and faithful contributions of you, our dear members, to the Deacon's Fund! 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!!!!**

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

Upcoming Events:

A letter was just sent out from our Rocky Mountain District that the convention scheduled for June 5 - 7 in Keystone will be held, but in a virtual format yet to be determined. Since you will be able to attend from the comfort of your home, I will keep everyone updated as to the format and timing of the activities. While many have not attended a convention and seen the business side of the LWML (known to us as the ESLC WinGS) this will be an opportunity to witness how grants are chosen to receive funding. Usually there are speakers from former grant recipients who let the group know how the money helped their mission work. Again the format is yet to be determined.

To each of you during this time of isolation, let us remember to stay in touch and support each other with prayers, emails and phone calls. Stay well, Stay safe and best of all, Stay in the Lord.



Monthly Mite Collection - Yes, we did meet the LWML Rocky Mountain District mite goal, but we still have the national LWML mite goal to meet for 2019-2021. Soon there will be a new district goal and mission grants. Keep saving those mites and we will start the collections when we again meet in our building. Continue to pray for the mission grants. THANK YOU!

Women's Bible Study – due to COVID-19 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 that ESLC Weekly Servant Schedule may not be up to date. Please check with Pastor if you have questions.

SERVING IN MAY

Sunday May 3

Organist Marge Paugh
Usher(s) Ryan Lambrecht, Rod Sinner
Counter(s) Roger Landowski, Caryn Landowski
Elder(s)
Altar Mary Bunge
Sound System Bob Vieyra
Flowers Cathy Dillon

Sunday, May 10, Confirmation Sunday

Organist Marge Paugh
Cantor Keith Cowley
Usher(s) Ryan Lambrecht, Rod Sinner
Counter(s) Roger Landowski, Caryn Landowski
Elder(s)
Altar Mary Bunge
Sound System Kirk Anderson
Flowers Schelles

Sunday, May 17

Organist Marge Paugh
Usher(s) Keith Cowley, John Reuer
Counter(s) Mark Bunge, Mary Bunge
Elders(s)
Altar Mary Bunge
Sound System Kirk Anderson
Flowers OPEN

Sunday, May 24

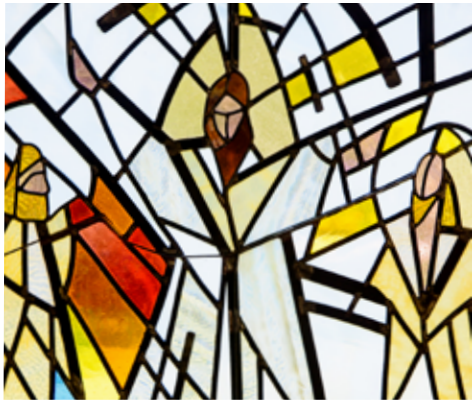
Organist Marge Paugh
Cantor Cindy Griffin
Usher(s) Mark Bunge, John Reuer
Counter(s) Mark Bunge, Mary Bunge
Elder(s)
Altar Mary Bunge
Sound System Keith Cowley
Flowers OPEN

Sunday, May 31, Pentecost

Organist Linda Thompson
Usher(s) Mark Bunge, Paul Reuer
Counter(s) Marge Paugh, Jayne Rhode
Elder(s)
Altar Mary Bunge
Sound System Keith Cowley
Flowers OPEN

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 11:40 AM Church Council	4 7:00 PM Elders	5 4:00 PM Confirmation	6 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Questioning of the Confirmands	7	8	9
10 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class Confirmation Sunday Mother's Day	11	12	13 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	14	15	16
17 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 11:40 AM Deacons	18	19	20 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	21 6:00 PM Trustees	22 9:00 AM Church Workday	23
24 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class	25 Church Office Closed Memorial Day	26	27 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class						



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

LCMS MISSIONARIES ON HOME SERVICE — MAY 1-15

Every other year, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s (LCMS) international missionaries spend approximately two months in the United States on “home service.” During this time, they reconnect with the individuals, congregations and groups who support their mission work. Home service also gives them a period of rest and renewal and the chance to spend time with their families.

Remember God’s work through missionaries on home service as you pray:

- 1.** for the LCMS missionary families who will be on home service in 2018. Ask the Lord to keep them safe during their travels.
- 2.** for God’s hand to guide and bless the details and logistical arrangements that are a necessary part of missionary home service, such as transportation and housing.
- 3.** for missionary families to be able to visit as many congregations and other groups as possible, while managing their limited time in the United States.

- 4.** for the Lord to guide missionaries as they prepare their presentations. Ask Him to help them to share their stories and ministry news with those who have so faithfully supported their ministry.
- 5.** for missionary families. Pray that God would give emotional, physical and spiritual strength as they travel, share with supporters and meet new friends.
- 6.** for missionary children. Pray that God would provide them with the opportunity to know that they are a vital part of their family’s ministry.
- 7.** that many congregations all over the United States would

welcome missionaries into their churches for mission presentations, Sunday school, children’s messages, celebration luncheons, Bible studies and other activities.

- 8.** that congregations and other groups would experience a revitalized interest in praying for missionaries and supporting their work, especially after visiting with them face-to-face and hearing about what God is accomplishing through them.
- 9.** that as missionaries share their experiences, the listeners would consider serving as a missionary themselves — in a short-term, long-term or career capacity.
- 10.** for the families of visiting missionaries, that they would enjoy their time together and mutually encourage one another.
- 11.** for God to comfort and sustain the missionaries who are not able to see family and friends in the United States this year. May the

Holy Spirit comfort them with His presence and assurance of God’s calling to serve far from home.

- 12.** that missionaries would have an easy transition back to life in the United States — even for a short time during home service — with minimal effects of reverse culture shock.
- 13.** that the Lord would raise up supporters for missionaries who are struggling to finding the resources necessary for their ministry.
- 14.** with thanksgiving for the many forms of support and the joys the Lord provides to missionary families as they serve Him.
- 15.** that the conversations started during home service would continue long after the missionary has returned to the mission field. Pray that through ongoing communication, missionaries and supporters would encourage one another.

PARTNER CHURCHES — MAY 16-31

The LCMS has 38 partner churches around the world. A partner church is a church body with which the LCMS has full altar and pulpit fellowship. Many LCMS partner churches also are members of the International Lutheran Council, a worldwide association of confessional Lutheran church bodies. Some LCMS partner churches came into existence through LCMS-supported mission efforts, while others have historic roots that pre-date the LCMS or that are sourced in the mission efforts of other Lutheran church bodies.

Remember God's work in His Church as you pray:

16. *for all LCMS partner churches, some of which only have a handful of congregations.* Pray that they would never feel alone in their service to Christ and His Church.

17. *for LCMS partner churches in Latin America and the Caribbean.* Pray that God's Word would continue to spread throughout these countries to bring the Body of Christ together in fellowship and to be witnesses to His love.

18. *for LCMS partner churches in Africa.* Pray that God would strengthen Lutheran Christians in this region to carry out their work for His name's sake.

19. *for LCMS partner churches in Asia,* that God would guide and strengthen Lutheran Christians

in this region, especially in areas where it is difficult or dangerous to do His work.

20. *for LCMS partner churches in Eurasia.* Pray that God would continue to use His Word as a light to those in darkness and as a stronghold for the life of His Church.

21. *with thanksgiving for all the missionaries who serve partner churches,* that they would remain faithful in their tasks and be witnesses to the Gospel through acts of mercy.

22. *for those who serve in leadership positions in LCMS partner churches around the world,* as they guide, nurture and shepherd their people.

23. *for the laypeople of LCMS partner churches around the world,* that they would be fulfilled by God's Word and Sacraments.



24. *that God would continue to raise up faithful servants for His Church in locations around the world.*

25. *for the Lutheran church bodies around the world interested in fellowship with the LCMS.* Pray that God would guide the consideration process according to His will.

26. *in thanksgiving for those who pray continually for those who serve where spreading God's Word is difficult or dangerous.*

27. *for Lutheran churches around the world that are dealing with strife between their members.* Pray that the Lord would guide them to a peaceful resolution that would strengthen their witness to the community.

28. *for the Lutheran churches in Eurasia as they seek to minister*

to the refugees in their midst. Pray for safety for both the church workers and the refugees.

29. *for all projects currently going on in LCMS partner church bodies,* that each one would have the volunteers and resources necessary to carry out the work of the church as it shows mercy and provides physical and spiritual care for people around the world.

30. *for safe travel between and within countries in each world region.* Pray that pastors, missionaries, medical teams and all who travel to assist partner churches would be kept safe and healthy, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to the far corners of creation.

31. *for all those still living in darkness,* that the Gospel will be their light and life.

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.

