

The Eternal Light



*Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
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JULY 2020 PASTOR'S PAGE

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13

Americans, perhaps more than any other people in history, love freedom. Near the beginning of the history of our nation, people came to believe that they were being treated unjustly by the king of England – taxation without representation. They viewed this as a form of enslavement – hence the demand for freedom and the Revolutionary War. Our constitution was carefully crafted to guarantee the highest degree of personal freedom in check against governmental power and policy for the “common good.”

Ironically, in the early history of our nation it was legal and permissible to enslave other human beings for the financial benefit of individuals and the economic interests of the nation. Many saw this as immoral and un-American. Another war was engaged – the Civil War – over the principle of human freedom. Certainly there were other issues involved in this conflict, but the value of human freedom was at the core of this epic struggle. We have been struggling ever since in actualizing freedom for every human being in America, and even in other countries.

Freedom is a central and essential aspect of Christianity. Not political freedom, nor economic freedom, nor the freedom to do as we please. God certainly does not will that we be “free” to do what our sinful nature desires and compels. In fact, God’s Word describes this “freedom” to do as our sinful nature pleases as “enslavement to sin.” The dynamics of God’s love actually free us from this enslavement to sin; God’s love frees us to “serve one another in love” rather than to act from our sinful and selfish impulses. This is the freedom to which we were called, and in which we are to “stand firm.” [Gal. 5:1]

While many of our fellow citizens are confused about freedom, believing that civil and political freedom is the “freedom” to become enslaved in evil, we must understand and cautiously guard true and genuine freedom. Whether the form of enslavement to sin is selfishness and greed, or some form of sexual sin, or gossip and acrimony toward others, or pride and self-determination, we must remember that these things negate the freedom that God wills for us to have. Certainly engaging in sinful behaviors – like sexual immorality, homosexuality, abortion, gambling, etc. - are enslaving and demeaning of human beings.

Christ’s suffering and death on the cross for our redemption has removed the guilt and punishment for our sin, and His resurrection for our justification frees us to once again be children of God. Thank God for this wondrous, eternal freedom! He also wills to bless us even here and now with a foretaste and preview of the complete freedom from sin that we will experience in the life to come. He wants us to live in genuine freedom!

The life, existence, mission, and health of the church is dependent upon disciples of Jesus living in God’s freedom, serving one another in love. The relative health of a congregation is clearly seen in where its members are on the continuum of true and genuine freedom – to what degree we are living for self or living in love for others. Likewise, our national health is seen in our management of the freedoms God wants us to have, and those guaranteed in our Constitution. Preserving these inviolate is a duty of citizenship in this country.

May God grant each of us continued growth in real freedom, as we live under His gracious love and mercy, so that our love for and service to others also grows – to His glory, and for the benefit of the church and world!

**VI. PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP TIPS
[THE FIRST FIVE]**

1. Give off the top – first-fruits giving

Prov. 3:9 “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops.”

1 Cor. 16:1,2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.”

2. Give as your first priority in life

Matt. 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

3. Give in proportion to God's blessings

Lev. 27:30 “A tenth of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”

1 Cor. 16:2 “Each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper.”

4. Give, believing God will continue to supply all your needs

Matt. 6:31-33 “So, do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

5. Give generously

2 Cor. 9:6 “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the months of May/June were:

May 31	\$ 3,757
June 7	\$ 5,165
June 14	\$ 645
June 21	\$ 4,000

This weekly average (\$3,392) 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 11:00 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. If you would like to include a prayer request in Sunday'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.

A message from Trustees: We are in dire need for people to sign up for lawn mowing. In addition, we are setting up on the servant schedule trimming the outlying property. This is somewhat physical labor, so some of the younger folks are encouraged to help out with this! If you need instruction, please contact pastor! Thanks, in advance.

We are still in need of "Clorox" wipes at church. If you can donate a container please help us out! Thanks, in advance! We also need volunteers to help us wipe down surfaces at church after worship services!

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 and 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

WinGS: The “virtual” convention has come and gone. Not the usual experience and much different than anyone expected. On Saturday June 6th, from 1- 3:30 LWML members from all around the district joined in for the opening devotion, remarks from our district president and the LWML national president. During the devotion a new hymn written by Tanya Hall from Colorado Springs was introduced. The title is Be Still, which was the theme of the convention.

After the devotion and remarks, there was a break before the business meeting. While delegates were allowed to vote for only 8 of the proposed 20 grants, 13 of the 20 were funded. The grants are posted on the WinGS table. Which brings us to the large mite box. Sunday, June 14th, was the first mites Sunday since March. As more of you return to worship, bring your mite boxes to add to the big mite box. Since we now have many grants to be funded in the district as well as nationally, it will be a good chance to hit the ground running. Equipping God’s servants to do his work is part of the LWML and WinGS mission.



Monthly Mite Collection - The next collection is Sunday, July 12. The delegates to the LWML Rocky Mountain District Virtual Convention again chose to support the The Table at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakewood, CO. This grant ministers to the working poor and homeless in Lakewood, Colorado through the serving of a weekly meal, then followed with church services and Christian fellowship. The amount of the grant is \$5000. To learn about the other 12 grants go to www.lwmlrmd.org and click on the Missions tab. **Thank you for your continued support with your mites and prayers.**

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.

SERVANT SCHEDULE

As things are still uncertain 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 JULY

Sunday, July 5

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Tom Stahly
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Marc Ertle
Altar	Polly Cowley
Sound System	Paul Reuer
Lawn	Kevin Cowley
Property trimming	Kevin Cowley
Flowers	Breitweiser

Sunday, July 12

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Kirk Anderson
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Polly Cowley
Sound System	Paul Reuer
Lawn	Kevin Cowley
Property trimming	OPEN
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, July 19

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Kirk Anderson
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elders(s)	Jon Hurst, Keith Cowley
Altar	Stacy Jundt
Sound System	David Sherrets
Lawn	Ryan Lambrecht
Property trimming	OPEN
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, July 26

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Rod Sinner
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Dave Sherrets (r), Wayne Thomas
Altar	Stacy Jundt
Sound System	David Sherrets
Lawn	OPEN
Property trimming	OPEN
Flowers	OPEN

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	2	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 1:30-3:30 PM Communion by Appt	6	7	8 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 1:30-3:30 PM Communion by Appt	13	14	15 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	16	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 1:30-3:30 PM Communion by Appt Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	23	24 9:00 AM Church Workday	25
26 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 1:30-3:30 PM Communion by Appt	27	28	29 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	30	31	

For livestreaming video, please go to church's Facebook page or ESLC website <https://eternalsavior-lutheran.org/>
 Communion signup link <https://bit.ly/ESLC-communion-signup>



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS — JULY 1-15

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) School Ministry serves as a national voice for Lutheran schools, upholding the standards of Christ-centered schools that are academically strong and respectfully operated. Nationwide, there are 1,992 LCMS schools, which include 1,127 early childhood centers, 778 elementary schools and 87 high schools.

Remember God's work in Lutheran schools as you pray:

- 1.** *for the children attending Lutheran schools, that their eyes, ears, hearts and minds would be open to God's Word.*

- 2.** *for Lutheran school teachers, that they would correctly divide and deliver Law and Gospel to students through real-life applications each day.*

- 3.** *for Lutheran school principals, who lead people to passionately embrace the witness our schools provide to the community. Pray that pastors, principals, directors and teachers would work together in God-pleasing unity.*

- 4.** *for pastors, who champion the Kingdom work happening in our schools. Pray that pastors would be excited to be an integral part of their school's ministry and the teaching of the children.*

- 5.** *for the ability of Lutheran schools to serve every child in their care. Ask that the Lord would provide the means to help schools serve children who have disabilities, who have experienced trauma or who come from families with limited resources.*

- 6.** *for Lutheran schools that are struggling to fill empty seats. Pray that God would revitalize their ministries, energize their staff members and bring more children through their doors.*

7. *for parents who support our Lutheran schools with their time, talents and treasures. Give thanks for their dedication to the mission of the school.*

8. *for daily opportunities for our teachers and staff to show God's mercy, love and forgiveness both inside and outside of the classroom. Pray that God would maintain our ability to practice our faith in Lutheran schools.*

9. *for church members who tell the story of their Lutheran school, that their recommendation might lead more students through the school's doors.*

10. *for the many non-Christians and exchange students who are coming to our schools. Pray that God would work through the Gospel that they will have faith in Jesus.*

11. *for first-year teachers, that they may apply their gifts to demonstrate grace and mercy. Pray that God would give them strength and patience.*

12. *for our early childhood centers that introduce young families to the saving love of Jesus. Pray that they are a faithful witness to the littlest of God's children and their families.*

13. *for courageous Lutheran schools willing to take calculated risks that will result in significant rewards for students. Give the leaders of these schools wisdom in their decisions.*

14. *for comfort and healing for school faculty and students during times of injury, illness and loss.*

15. *for God to raise up wise and gifted leaders who are willing to serve in administrative roles at Lutheran schools.*

CAMPUS MINISTRY — JULY 16-31

The challenges to Christians on our nation's college campuses are increasing exponentially. On practically every campus, objections are increasing to the biblical worldview, Christian doctrine, traditional ethics and moral practices. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) campus-ministry arm, LCMS U, aims to encourage, support and help students, faculty and staff in their response to these challenges so they can boldly bear witness to Christ.

Remember God's work through LCMS U as you pray:

16. for the 200-plus LCMS U chapters around the country, that they would receive the support they need to effectively reach out to America's college students.

17. that more congregations and individuals would become involved with their local LCMS U chapters or start new ones.

18. for the growth of LCMS U on urban campuses and at community colleges, two fertile mission fields. Pray that the Lord would open doors to the spread of His Word in these places.

19. for all the dedicated staff and volunteers involved in campus ministry, that God would energize them for their work and use them to plant seeds of faith that will continue to grow.

20. for students starting their first year of college, that they would find a church to attend,

Christian friends and make good decisions while living away from home for the first time.

21. for the parents of college students, especially those who have an empty nest for the first time. Pray that they would find joy and contentment in the midst of life's changes.

22. that Lutheran college students would be bold witnesses to their faith in Jesus Christ, even when faced with pressure from peers and professors.

23. that young people would hunger for the certain truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and not be deceived by the half-truths and lies of Satan.

24. for the 800,000-plus foreign students studying at American colleges and universities. Many come from countries where the Gospel is not freely preached. Pray that their time in the U.S. would provide the opportunity for them to learn about Jesus.



25. for the international students who came to faith while studying abroad. Ask the Lord to provide support so that they can continue to grow in their faith after they return home.

26. for busy college students, who are pulled in many directions with the demands of school, work, friends, family and other activities. Pray that they would make God a priority by setting aside time for worship, Bible study and Christian service.

27. for the development of campus-ministry programs at institutions of higher education around the world.

28. that God would bless and guide the work of all students

involved in mission work and volunteer opportunities both at home and abroad. Pray that this time would be a blessing to them and others.

29. with thanksgiving for a new school year. Pray that students and campus-ministry workers would return refreshed and with renewed dedication.

30. for recent college graduates, that they would find gainful employment as well as a church home where they can learn about God's holy Word in all of its truth and purity.

31. for all students, that God would protect them and provide people to share with them the Word of God.

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.

