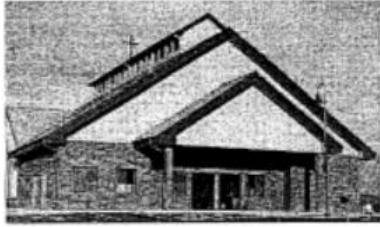


The Eternal Light



Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
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DECEMBER 2020 PASTOR'S PAGE – ESLC

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”
Eph. 1:7-11

Christmas is a big deal! In our childhood memories it was almost bigger than life – a fantastic celebration of peace and joy, and of course the family gatherings, the glorious worship services, and best of all the presents. We could scarce have taken in all of the aspects of God’s “plan for the fullness of time” when we were children, and we still have difficulty getting the right perspective. What was important when we were children has faded with familiarity – so that Christmas may not be all that fantastic to us today. However, if we can even begin to fathom the import of Christ’s coming then the joy of Christmas will grow every year we are blessed to celebrate it! Sadly, our celebration of Christmas will be diminished by the separation imposed by the pandemic.

It is critical that we remember that the coming of Christ that first Christmas initiated God’s great plan for the final culmination of all things in heaven and earth – the “uniting” of “all things in Him.” With Christ’s coming we have received “redemption,” “the forgiveness of our trespasses.” He has “lavished” grace upon us, the riches of His grace. This revelation of His grace in Christ is filled with “all wisdom and insight,” clarifying the “mystery of His will.” It includes the revelation of His purpose “set forth in Christ.” That purpose is to “unite all things in Him” – to settle all of the dissonance and disparity, to deal with human sin and all evil, to take His rightful place in the hearts, minds, and lives of those who know and believe His great love for us. He will also remove all that causes death – including illnesses and injuries!

We are blessed to live in this peace with God through faith during the course of our earthly lives – the first-fruits of all the blessedness that is to come. For we have been “predestined” to an eternal inheritance in the life to come – the perfect bliss and fulfillment of human being in Christ’s glorious heavenly kingdom. We need have no fears of the future, not of anything that we will experience in this life, not death, and not the new aeon to come – as we rejoice in the blessings lavished upon us in Christ Jesus. We know the mystery of His will and His blessed purpose – our redemption and our unification with God forever. And so this current pandemic and all the heartache it has brought does not cause us undo fear either. God loves us and God is with us no matter what.

All of this is sure and certain – for He “works all things according to the counsel of His will.” He is God Almighty, and God is love. All of this is inexorable – it has been pronounced by His Word. We are part of the wonder of Christmas; we exist as evidence and praise of His glorious grace. It all began with the incarnation, and the wondrous birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, our dear Savior and Lord. The immensity of His blessedness and love is hard to fathom – but everything has changed. And our love for the Lord, and our Christmas joy, will not diminish as we grow older, but continue to grow and astonish us – if we are able to keep in mind what God has accomplished and is still bringing to pass with the gift of His Son in the fullness of time. Christmas is a big deal – a very big deal! Nothing can change that! A most blessed Christmas to all!

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of November were:

November 1	\$ 5,509
November 8	\$ 3,738
November 15	\$ 1,697
November 22	\$ 2,780

This weekly average (\$ 3,431) 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 archived sermons. Please check it out at www.eternalsavior-lutheran.org.

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.

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. 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!!!

The Deacon's annual Angel Tree sponsoring various individuals through Lutheran Family Services is again happening this year but like most things these days it will be looking a little different due to COVID and the limitations on live attendance at church. Instead of putting up our typical angel tree in the narthex, we have created a sign up genius for individuals to sign up on. Just click on the link below and pick a slot to sign up for. There are both \$25 and \$50 options available. Each slot will have suggested gift ideas listed in the description. Pick 1 or 2 items from the list so that the total amount of gifts purchased adds up the approximate dollar amount that you signed up for. All gifts should be returned unwrapped to the church no later than December 7th. Please label all gifts with the category that you signed up for when you drop them off. Thank you for helping the Deacons support this great cause. If you have any questions feel free to contact Melisa Anderson 303-304-6532. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040849A8A728A75-angel>

Mission Emphasis Update: Campus Ministry Even though restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a bit of a slow start to the CU fall semester, it has not deterred the ULC members from continuing their participation in ULC activities.

The ULC members produced a welcome video for the annual "Be Involved" forum that CU hosts to introduce new students to the many organizations and groups available to them. This video can be accessed at ULC's website: www.universitylutheranchapel.com. From the top menu bar, select "About Us" and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the YouTube link.

As health regulations allow, the weekly worship service is held at 5 p.m. on Sundays. Bible Study takes place on Tuesday evenings. The church council meets monthly or more often if necessary.

Pastor Jared Melius, Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Denver, is serving as the vacancy pastor. Candidates identified in the call process have been interviewed. The call meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2020.

The deconstruction of the house is to begin the last week of November or first week of December. A Property Update is also available from the website's top menu bar's "Support" menu.

Of concern is the additional loss of parking revenue for football games since fans are restricted from attending games. Donations can also be made at the website.

The next ULC Mission Society meeting is set for 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 10, 2021.

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 WinGS Events:

We are looking for ideas to replace the annual **Christmas Party**. Last year an ingathering offering went to Bethesda Christian Life Services so gifts could be provided to residents that had no family. Since Bethesda no longer has a Christian Life Services department, our ingathering for this year will be directed to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

There will be a new **online Bible Study** from the RMD starting **January 4th**. The study will consist of 6 sessions on the book of Colossians and be held on the first and third Mondays. There are good comments regarding the Facedown Bible Study that just finished. This is a wonderful way to stay connected with LWML ladies from around the district as we read and study God's Word together. In these times of isolation it is a way for us to stay connected. Watch for further details in the Sunday Bulletin.

June 2021 seems far away at the moment, and given the very interesting, as well as restrictive and uncertain times we now live in, thinking of traveling to the National Convention in Lexington, KY is still an uncertainty. However, the Rocky Mountain District will be selecting 2 candidates as a Young Woman Representative to attend the convention. These young ladies are chosen from all of the applicants as submitted by any society in any of the RMD Zones. Please see the information below and note the deadlines as listed. If you are interested, now is the time to ask for an application. Also, all ladies (and spouses) interested in attending, need to be making plans soon. Registration and room reservations typically open up in January and the best accommodations go quickly. Convention dates are June 24 – 27, 2020.

If you are an LCMS woman who is between the ages of 22–35 who has always wanted to visit the serene rolling hills of Kentucky, look no further than the 2021 LWML National Convention!

Two young women applicants can join in this exciting gathering of Lutheran Women—practically for free. Convention registration, meals, room, and travel will be covered by your District LWML Board. And how will you get to the Bluegrass State? Arrangements for flying with other representatives from the District may be an option, just ask your Society or Zone LWML Presidents, they would be happy to help.

Young Women Representatives will get a chance to bond with other young women from around the country! Share memorable experiences, meet new friends, and praise our Lord together!

All you have to do is fill out the application and send it to Lisa Weber, Committee on Young Women Chairman no later than January 15, 2021.



Monthly Mite Collection - Monthly Mite Collection - The next mite collection will be **Sunday, December 13**. Your mites support the national mission grant. **Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities at Concordia Seminary St. Louis** for a total of \$100,000. For more information about this grant and other national grants go to lwml.org and click on the Missions tab. **Thank you for your support.**

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. We are not currently using the sound system. If you are unconfident serving in your role – please just let us know.

SERVING IN DECEMBER

Thursday, December 3 – Midweek Advent 1

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Ed Warnken

Sunday, December 6

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Walt Oehlkers, Keith Cowley
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Jonathan Hurst, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Bob Vieyra
Lawn/Snow	Kevin Cowley
Flowers	OPEN

Thursday, December 10 – Midweek Advent 2

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Bob Vieyra

Sunday, December 13

Organist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	Tom Stahly
Usher(s)	Mark Bunge, Roger Landowski
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Marc Ertle, Wayne Thomas (r)
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Nick Mayer
Lawn/Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	OPEN

Thursday, December 17 – Midweek Advent 3

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Nick Mayer

Sunday, December 20

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Mark Bunge, Roger Landowski
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Dave Sherrets
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Paul Reuer
Lawn/Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Paugh

Thursday, December 24 – Children’s Christmas Eve

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Keith Cowley
Elder(s)	Jonathan Hurst
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Paul Reuer
Lawn/Snow	OPEN
Flowers	Raben

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Walt Oehlkers, Rod Sinner
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Wayne Thomas
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	David Sherrets

Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Mark Bunge, Bob Vieyra
Elder(s)	Marc Ertle, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	David Sherrets
Flowers	Raben

Sunday, December 27

Organist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	Keith Cowley
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle, John Reuer
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Jonathan Hurst, Keith Cowley (r)
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Tom Stahly
Lawn/Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Lambrecht

Thursday, December 31 - New Year’s Eve

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle
Elders	Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Tom Stahly
Flowers	OPEN

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline	2 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	3 9:00-12:00 Winkel Mt. Hope 7:00 PM Midweek Advent 1 Worship	4	5 3:00 PM Christmas church decorating
6 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:40 AM Church Council 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	7 7:00 PM Elders	8 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline	9 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	10 7:00 PM Midweek Advent 2 Worship	11	12
13 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Voter's Assembly 11:40 AM Deacons 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	14	15 9:00 AM Bulletin /Newsletter Deadline	16 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	17 6:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM Midweek Advent 3 Worship	18 9:00 AM Church Workday	19
20 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	21	22 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline	23 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	24 7:00 PM Children's Christmas Eve Service 9:00 PM Candlelight Service	25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service <u>Christmas</u> Office closed	26
27 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	28	29 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline	30	31 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Worship	Office closed	

For livestreaming video, please go to church's Facebook page www.facebook.com/EternalSaviorLutheran or ESLC website <https://eternalsavior-lutheran.org/>



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

ADVENT: THE SECOND COMING — DECEMBER 1-15

Advent means coming. We anticipate the promised return of Christ as the judge of the world. We look with hope to the day of the resurrection of all flesh, when those who believe in Christ will rise to everlasting life.

The Church waits for the Second Coming in repentance, hope and faith. For the following, we pray “Lord, have mercy.”

- 1.** For hearts that imitate the generosity and graciousness of Jesus. Pray that God’s people would be eager to show forth the love of God through their good works for their neighbor.
- 2.** That the Lord would preserve His Word and Sacraments in our midst, so that we may be kept strong in the one, true faith until Christ’s return.
- 3.** That the people of God would be faithful in their attendance of the Divine Service, where God

strengthens our faith toward Him and our steadfast love for one another.

- 4.** That all people would fear God and find hope in His gracious forgiveness through Christ.
- 5.** For all who do not believe in Jesus, that they might hear the Gospel and believe.
- 6.** For all Christians, that we might repent of our sins and prepare for Christ’s return.
- 7.** For steadfast faith as the world writhes and groans in anticipation of the day of judgment.

8. For the ministers of the Word, that they would be faithful to their calling.

9. for the Church’s missionaries, that through them the Word would go forth into the world with power.

10. For our government, that we might live peaceable and quiet lives.

11. For parents, that they would see their role in raising children as a holy calling from God in these last days.

12. For patience, as we wait for Christ’s coming, that we might believe God is not slow in keeping promises, but patient.

13. For those who mourn the loss of loved ones, that the promise of the resurrection may be their hope.

14. For those who are dying, that they may entrust their whole lives unto God who keeps them.

15. For the coming of Christ. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



ADVENT: THE INCARNATION — DECEMBER 16-31

During Advent we rejoice that God sent His Son to be the redeemer of the world. We gather with all Christians to celebrate this gracious gift from our heavenly Father. We trust in Christ alone as our Savior.

The Church gathers to thank God and ask for faith to trust in His gift of a Savior. For the following, we pray “Lord, have mercy.”

16. *For faithful reading of Old Testament, that all who read may see Jesus as the promised Savior.*

17. *For opportunities to proclaim the Gospel in this season. When the world is open to hearing the story of Christmas, may we be unashamed in our witness.*

18. *That all Christians might see the needs of their neighbor and love with the love of Christ.*

19. *For those who only attend worship at Christmas, that the Spirit would work faith through the hearing of the Word.*

20. *That we may believe the truth of the two natures of Christ.*

21. *For St. Thomas, apostle. That with him we might believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and God.*

22. *For faithful readings of the New Testament. That all the words of the apostles and evangelists may result in faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

23. *For pastors who serve as Christ’s under-shepherds in our midst. That they might proclaim the truth of the Good News of Christmas.*

24. *Rejoice that Jesus is Immanuel. God is with us to save us.*

25. *Rejoice in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory — glory as the only-begotten of God.*

26. *Thank God for St. Stephen, the first Christian*



Martyr. That we might also serve God with our lives — thoughts, words and deeds.

27. *That God would grant us faith to believe that He comes to us in the Means of Grace.*

28. *For all those who face depression and desperation at this time of year. That God’s gift of love in Christ would gladden their hearts.*

29. *For all those who travel. That God would grant them safety.*

30. *That all would know and believe in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for the world’s salvation.*

31. *That the Lord would abundantly bless the efforts of the LCMS and its partners in the coming years. That the Gospel is the primary focus of all that is done and proclaimed.*

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.

