

# *The Eternal Light*



*Eternal Savior Lutheran Church  
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## **JANUARY 2021 PASTOR'S PAGE – ESLC**

**“My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all peoples; a light for revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.” [Luke 2:30-32]**

**How blessed we are to have seen the salvation of the Lord through faith in Jesus our Savior! Consider that only about one third of humanity belongs to the Christian Church. Of that one third, there are many who have yet to truly grasp the gracious forgiveness, mercy, and love of God in Christ Jesus, His free gift of eternal life and salvation. Some belong to denominations or congregations where the Gospel is obscured, and the people are being taught and driven to various forms of legalism and works righteousness. There may even be some within our own congregation whose hearts remain hardened and whose ears cannot hear, who simply have not grasped God's great and glorious love for us. It is hard for us to properly value and appreciate just how truly blessed we are to have received the clarity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.**

**The Gospel of Jesus Christ, through which God's salvation is revealed to mankind, is “a light of revelation to the nations.” The whole earth, every nation, is to some degree blessed by the coming of Jesus Christ and God's gift of salvation. Our own community and nation has been blessed in so many ways that it would be impossible to recount them all [schools, hospitals, missions to the poor, individual acts of kindness, good will and generosity, etc.]. What a shame that many people do not realize this history of Christian influence, and that some people actually think that any mention of God's gracious gift in Christ Jesus ought to be silenced in the public sphere. If they are able to accomplish this, eradicating the influence of the Gospel in our midst, then our culture, community, and nation will continue descending into ever greater darkness and barbarity.**

**The Gospel is also a “light of revelation” for us. Yes, we have faith in Jesus Christ. Yes, we have been blessed with the assurance of God's love. Yes, the Holy Spirit has begun a renewal of love for others in our hearts and minds. We also have difficulties and troubles. We also struggle against the sin which so easily besets us – envy, greed, jealousy, selfish ambition, lust, doubt, anger, gossip, and even malice toward others. It is also true that we “see dimly now,” and no one has completely mastered all of the light of revelation that God has given us in Jesus Christ and His Word. Still, the Gospel of Jesus Christ presented to us in Holy Scripture, continues to be a light that offers and empowers spiritual growth and renewal in our lives, as we look forward to the glories of heaven.**

**This Gospel is also the “glory” of God's people. Is there anything that we possess or know or have or are associated with that is of greater value? May we allow God to shine the light of His love in Christ Jesus into our hearts. May we rejoice in the blessings of that light! And may the light of Jesus Christ be our glory, so that we do all that we can to shine it upon others! We have at least the beginning of a new year – and hopefully the whole year - to participate in the spread of the light of the revelation of God's salvation in Christ Jesus to the people around us! May God richly bless each of us and our congregational life in 2021!**

## OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the months of November/December were:

November 29	\$5,530
December 6	\$4,328
December 13	\$9,538
December 20	\$1,325

This weekly average (\$5,180) 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](http://www.eternalsavior-lutheran.org).

**Mid-week Bible Study** 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](mailto:pastor@eternalsavior-lutheran.org) or secretary [secretary@eternalsavior-lutheran.org](mailto: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, 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!!!

**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!

**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:

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. I have heard 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 to 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 - The monthly mite collection will be **Sunday, January 10**. Your mites support Bringing Christ's Light to Those Living in Darkness --Lutheran Braille Workers for \$8,000.

For more information on this and other LWML Rocky Mountain District mission grants go to [lwmlrmd.org/missions/](http://lwmlrmd.org/missions/) **Thank you for supporting the grants with your mites and prayers.**

## 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 JANUARY

#### **Sunday, January 3**

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Paul Reuer
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas, Dave Sherrets
Altar	TBD
Sound System	Kirk Anderson
Lawn/Snow	David Sherrets
Flowers	OPEN

#### **Sunday, January 10**

Organist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	TBD
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Paul Reuer
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Keith Cowley (r)
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Kirk Anderson
Lawn/Snow	David Sherrets
Flowers	OPEN

#### **Sunday, January 17**

Organist	TBD
Usher(s)	John Reuer, Rod Sinner
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Jonathan Hurst, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	TBD
Sound System	Kevin Cowley
Lawn/Snow	David Sherrets
Flowers	OPEN

#### **Sunday, January 24**

Organist	TBD
Cantor	TBD
Usher(s)	John Reuer, Rod Sinner
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Dave Sherrets, Wayne Thomas (r)
Altar	TBD
Sound System	Kevin Cowley
Lawn/Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	OPEN

#### **Sunday, January 31**

Organist	TBD
Usher(s)	Tom Stahly, Bob Vieyra
Elders	Keith Cowley, Jonathan Hurst
Altar	TBD
Sound System	Keith Cowley
Lawn/Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	OPEN

# January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation	<b>6</b> 11:00 AM Bible Study 1:00-4:00 PM Winkel 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Worship with Communion <b>Installation of Officers</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:40 AM Church Council 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt 3:00 PM ULC Mission Society	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM Elders	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation	<b>13</b> 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:40 AM Deacons 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	<b>18</b> Martin Luther King Day  Office Closed	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Bulletin /Newsletter 4:00 PM Confirmation	<b>20</b> 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>21</b> 6:30 PM Trustees	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Church Workday	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation	<b>27</b> 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 2:00 PM Circuit Forum @ Rhythm Savior						

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



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

# Pray For Us Calendar

## EPIPHANY — JANUARY 1-31

Epiphany is from a Greek word meaning to “reveal” or “make manifest.” The season of Epiphany is our time to focus on the revelation of who Jesus is — both true God and true man — as we remember Christ’s revelation to the Gentiles in the visit of the Wise Men.

*Give thanks as you pray:*

**1.** *That God would make us bold witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ in this new year and always.*

**2.** *For opportunities to witness to friends, family members and strangers. Please send Your Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and faithful words to use during these encounters.*

**3.** *For our congregations, that God would strengthen them by fostering a faithful Lutheran approach to confessing Christ to neighbors and planting daughter congregations.*

**4.** *That our schools would be faithful mission outposts, reaching unchurched families with the Gospel and strengthening the faith of church families.*

**5.** *With thanksgiving for all the Synod’s faithful church workers, that they might be re-energized daily and find great joy in their service.*

**6.** *That just as You made known Your Son to the Gentiles through the leading of a star, You would continue to bring the light of Your Gospel to the hearts of all people.*

**7.** *For new church plants and mission starts, that the Lord would help faithful congregations sprout up in every corner of the United States.*

**8.** *That we would be effective in reaching out to people of different ethnicities who are living in our communities. Pray that the Lord would use us*

as His instruments to make the LCMS a reflection of the Church Triumphant.

**9.** *For those marching for life, whether at the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., or a pro-life event closer to home. Please pray that all those who attend might be a powerful witness to others.*

**10.** *For all children, that they would be brought to the saving waters of Baptism and raised in the love, nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

**11.** *That the Lord would help us raise our children and young people in the faith, always pointing them to the hope and salvation found only in Christ.*

**12.** *For college students, who are struggling with many different issues and challenges. Ask God to make them receptive to the peace and healing of the Gospel.*

**13.** *For the aged, that they would be godly examples to the young as they are patient in their tribulations, joyful in their hope, firm in their faith and humble in all they say and do.*

**14.** *That God would strengthen our hope and impact by encouraging partnerships in the Gospel that clearly confess Christ.*

**15.** *For the Synod’s 35 districts, that they might have the resources and wisdom to effectively reach out to their communities.*

**16.** *For strong districts, congregations and Recognized Service Organizations. When our Synod is strong at home, we can better reach out across the world.*

**17.** *For all missionaries around the world, who leave family and friends to travel to a foreign land to share the Gospel with those who have not heard. Pray that God would grant them safety, wisdom and strength.*

# JANUARY *Pray For Us Calendar*

**18.** *With thanksgiving for all the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who support the work of LCMS missionaries through their prayers and gifts.*

**19.** *That God would raise up indigenous pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders to reach out to their own communities and share His Word.*

**20.** *For the Synod's partner churches around the world, that they would continue to teach Christ's Word in all its truth and purity.*

**21.** *With thanksgiving for all past missionaries. Thanks be to God, the Gospel seeds they planted continue to bear much fruit.*

**22.** *That God would raise up more missionaries to serve at home and abroad, according to His will.*

**23.** *That the Lord would open up the hearts and minds of people around the world, so that His grace-filled message can be spread far and wide.*

**24.** *For discernment, that we might heed God's call to serve in His name, whether around the world or right here at home.*

**25.** *That God would bless mission work in urban areas and protect those He sends to work in these often-difficult situations.*

**26.** *For mission work in sub-urban areas, that we would not become complacent in the work God has called us to do in our own communities.*

**27.** *For mission work in rural areas, that congregations would be equipped to respond to the changing demographics around them.*

**28.** *That congregation members might be welcoming to every person the Lord brings to their church.*

**29.** *That God would strengthen our faith so that His Word has free course in our congregations and homes.*

**30.** *For all people who turn away from the loving arms of their Savior. Pray that the Holy Spirit would transform their hearts and minds.*

**31.** *With thanksgiving that God has called and equipped us to join in His mission to seek and save the lost. Ask God to give you courage to be His witness in your daily life.*



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