

The Eternal Light



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

“All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” [Matt. 24:8-13]

The reality of sin in the world, in the hearts and minds of every human being, and the expressed and overt hatred of unbelievers toward believers, has an erosive effect on love. This erosive dynamic is cumulative; it continues to wear away at our eagerness to love, then our willingness to love, and finally our ability to love. In the end, it may create the kind of cold lovelessness that Jesus is warning us about.

We see the same dynamic in the whole of society – when lawlessness increases, and we have surely seen a dramatic increase of such “lawlessness” over the past few decades. Whether the increase of evil involves human greed, sexual lust of every variety, envy, pride, the desire for power over others, gluttony, drunkenness, or any of the other sinful impulses, what results is a corresponding erosion of decency, kindness, compassion, understanding, and love. The reality of this is evident all around us, and we experience it virtually every day. It appears to be getting worse, not better.

Note carefully, however, what Jesus says. He says, “the love of **MANY** will grow cold.” The critical thing is that He did **NOT** say “the love of **EVERYONE**” will grow cold. This indicates that there is the possibility that our own love might not “grow cold” – neither as the result of our own personal “lawlessness,” nor the specific lawlessness that is inflicted upon us by others, nor because of a general increase of societal lawlessness.

So what makes the difference? What determines whether we will be among the “many” whose love grows cold [and this is a lamentable condition, not a good one], or whether we will retain the ability to have a fervent, warm, and strong love for others? This is a critical consideration – unless we have already gotten to a point where we no longer even want to retain and exercise love [which is the lamentable condition that Jesus is warning against].

The Word of God is clear: “We love because He first loved us.” [1 Jn. 4:19] It is the experience of God's love – through faith in Jesus Christ – that gives birth to our love and that continues to empower and renew our love. The vision and experience of God's love by faith is renewing, so that our love actually grows and increases. “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.” [2 Cor. 3:18]

Where is this glory of God's love presented to us, so that we may view and grasp it by faith? In the Gospel Word of God, and in the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion [the “visible” containers of God's gracious and loving forgiveness]! Here God presents to us the glory of His love, so that we are transformed, and our love does not grow cold but increases. This is the blessed purpose of our “congregating” for worship and for maintaining the church [and also, during this pandemic, of participating in live-stream worship]! Let us gratefully participate in this transformational work of God, by which He is delivering us from the eroding effects of increasing lawlessness! Jesus has warned us. Lovelessness must surely be a terribly morose and deplorable condition! Lord, have mercy!

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of January were:

January 3	\$19,810
January 10	\$1,590
January 17	\$6,134
January 24	\$2,712

This weekly average (\$7,562) compares to our 2021 weekly budget needs of \$4,819.

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 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.

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!!!

Thank you for donating “Clorox” wipes to our church. We have enough for a while now. But we still 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

WinGS Christmas Charity - Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas charity for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. We were able to send them \$95.00.



Monthly Mite Collection - We will collect mites on **February 14**. Your mites have paid off the mission grant to KFUE, our LCMS radio station, for a total of \$60,000. Go to kfuo.org to see their thank you to LWML at the top of the webpage. Click on the headline to find out how that money is being used. **Thank you for supporting the mission grants with your mites and prayers.**

LWML Rocky Mountain District Northern Zone Spring Rally has been canceled for 2021. The ladies of Immanuel Loveland hope to host this event in 2022.

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 FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 7

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Tom Stahly, Bob Vieyra
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson, Roger Landowski
Altar	Cindy Stahly
Sound System	Keith Cowley
Lawn/Snow	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, February 14

Organist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	TBD
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Ryan Lambrecht
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Jeff Reuer, Ryan Lambrecht (r)
Altar	Cindy Stahly
Sound System	Marc Ertle
Lawn/Snow	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	OPEN

Wednesday, February 17 - Ash Wednesday

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley
Altar	Cindy Stahly
Sound System	Marc Ertle
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, February 21

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Ryan Lambrecht
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas, Roger Landowski
Altar	Cindy Stahly
Sound System	Nick Mayer
Lawn/Snow	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	OPEN

Thursday, February 25 – Midweek Lent 1

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley
Altar	Cindy Stahly
Sound System	Nick Mayer

Sunday, February 28

Organist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	TBD
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle, Walt Oehlkers
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elders	Wayne Thomas (r), Kirk Anderson
Altar	Cindy Stahly
Sound System	Paul Reuer
Lawn/Snow	Tom Stahly
Flowers	Griffin

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bells	3 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	4	5	6
7 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:40 AM Church Council 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	8 7:00 PM Elders	9 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bells	10 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	11	12	13
14 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:40 AM Deacons 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	15	16 9:00 AM Bulletin /Newsletter Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bells	17 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Ash Wednesday	18 6:30 PM Trustees	19 9:00 AM Church Workday	20
21 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	22	23 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bells	24 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	25 7:00 PM Midweek Lent 1 Worship	26	27
28 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt						

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

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES — FEBRUARY 1-29

“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God,” Jesus says in Luke 18:16. God wants all His children to have faith in Him, yet sin and brokenness permeate the lives of His people. Children are orphaned, and families are ripped apart. Over the years, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has reached out to care for God’s precious children through the mercy ministries of congregations, missionaries and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs).

Remember God’s love and will for children and families as you pray:

- 1.** *for all Christians*, that they would help and defend the orphan and widow, the poor and lonely, the helpless and oppressed.
- 2.** The purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord: *for mothers*, that they might rejoice in their vocation and raise their children in the Lord.
- 3.** *for adoption and foster-care agency workers*, that they would make good and right decisions concerning what is best for all involved — enabling them to find proper families and resources to

meet the needs of the children they serve.

- 4.** *for all children*, that they might be brought to the waters of Baptism and taught God’s Word.
- 5.** Jacob (Israel), Patriarch, thank God for Jacob, through whom came the promise of the Messiah and the 12 tribes of Israel: *for fathers*, that they might raise their children in the Word.
- 6.** *for men as they grow up*, that they may be godly in their youth and their adult years.
- 7.** *for orphanages around the world*, that they might receive

proper funding, food, resources and godly caregivers so that they can provide the best care possible to the children entrusted to them.

- 8.** *for orphanage workers*, that they might be refreshed by Your Word and be good role models and teachers as they provide loving care to those in their charge.
- 9.** *for all orphans*, that they might find Christian families who will nurture them with the love and knowledge of Christ.
- 10.** Silas, Fellow Worker of St. Peter and St. Paul, thank God for Silas, lesser known, but essential to the work of the Kingdom: *for all church workers*, that all might work as God calls them to serve Him.
- 11.** *for all foster children*, that they might find peace among the chaos as they wait for a proper family to be established.

12. *for all who suffer from domestic violence*, that the Lord would deliver them from danger and comfort them with His peace and forgiveness.

13. Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos, thank God for these examples of earnest learning and meditation in the Word of God.

14. Valentine, Martyr, pray that the love of Christ might be the love celebrated above all loves.

15. Philemon and Onesimus: *for all Christian workers and those in authority*, that all might serve God in their vocations.

16. Philipp Melanchthon (birth), Confessor: thank God for the Augsburg Confession and the other writings of Melanchthon that proclaim the truth of the Gospel.

17. *for all caregivers*, that they might raise children in the truth faith.

FEBRUARY *Pray For Us Calendar*

18. Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor: thank God for Luther's proclamation of salvation by grace through faith for Christ's sake.

19. *for children and parents who are deaf*, that they might know Jesus's voice and be filled with His peace.

20. *for widows*, that they might know Christ as their faithful bridegroom who will supply for their needs as they live their lives in prayer and purity.

21. *for the homeless*, that they might find a warm and safe place to lay their head, food for their bellies, hope for the future and rest in the love of Christ.

22. *for the unemployed*, that they might find suitable and fulfilling employment, fair wages and encouraging support.

23. Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr: thank God for those who continued the teachings of Jesus and gave their lives for the Gospel.

24. St. Matthias, Apostle: thank God for his quiet witness and those who gave their lives for the Gospel without any recognition.

25. *for the poor*, that they might find true riches in the Word of God and be blessed by the generosity of others.

26. *for children who are missing*, that the Lord would keep them from danger, restore them to their families and give them His peace and protection.

27. *for peace among siblings*, that the Lord would help them love and support each other throughout their lives, instead of being divided by bickering and jealousy.

28. *for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*, that they might be treated with respect and love as beloved children of God.

29. *for families*, that they might attend worship to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments.



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.

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