

The Eternal Light



Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
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MAY 2021 PASTOR'S PAGE – ESLC

“Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandments are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” [Romans 13:8-10]

Jesus taught the same thing about love, but perhaps even more forcefully. He simply stated: “As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love. . . . This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” [John 15:9,10,12] This is why Jesus forcefully made clear that the law of God remains in full force and is inviolable. He taught: “Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” [Matt. 5:17-19] He also taught: “It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.” [Luke 16:17]

This is the way it will be in reality – God's reality, and also within the church. Those who loosen or abolish the commandments of Jesus, the things taught in Holy Scripture, are not abiding in Christ's love and are not practicing love. And if they make wicked and derogatory comments about Jesus' commandments, His teachings, then they clearly declare themselves to be anti-Christian.

The government [Congress] has passed the “Equality Act,” fully justifying and providing protections for homosexuality and other sexual behaviors that God's Word declares grotesquely immoral, and also for any and all “gender identity” phenomenon even though the Bible also declares all such confusion to be immoral. It is now against the law to discriminate against people in these categories. The first step of discrimination is to “differentiate, or recognize a distinction.” The second step is “to make an unjust or prejudicial distinction in the treatment of people in different categories.”

Does God do this? Not at all. He declares in His Word that “all we like sheep have gone astray . . . and the Lord has laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquities of us all.” [Is. 53:6] Also, “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” [Rom. 3:23] He has also provided salvation for all people indiscriminately in Jesus, the “Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.” [Jn. 1:29] And God indiscriminately “wills all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” [1 Tim. 2:4] But this means that He calls all people to repentance, a prerequisite of faith that Jesus has taken away our sin and guilt. [Acts 17:30] The “discrimination” regarding supposed unfair treatment is left to each individual: “He that believes the Son has everlasting life; he that does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” [Jn. 3:36] All of this applies to all sin, but specifically including the sins now white-washed by the Equality Act.

This is terrible enough for the government to provide justification and protection of such unloving and immoral behaviors. When the church - synods, congregations, or other groups associating themselves with the church - also participate in supporting these perverse behaviors, then greater discrimination [discernment] is required from Christians who seek to “keep” the commandments of Christ, including every iota and dot of the Law of God. We do not discriminate in preaching both the Law of God and the Gospel to all people, regardless of the peculiarity of their particular sins. The Gospel, however, by the Word of God, is reserved for those confessing their sins in repentance. [1 Jn. 1:8-10]

Yes, we want to be truly and genuinely loving – as Jesus instructs, and as the Word of God, the Bible, instructs us. That is by keeping His commandments, not loosing them or abolishing them. Those who do loose and abolish God's Word are truly unloving and anti-Christian, because they deny that those involved in sin need to repent, and hence do not need God's forgiveness. They insulate people from God's gracious forgiveness by confirming them in impenitence. They violate Jesus' own Word, and invent their own definition of love. But that will never create a new “reality.” God is still fully in charge of that.

We will have to work harder now to retain true and genuine love, but it is well worth the effort.

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of April were:

April 4	\$5,951
April 11	\$2,924
April 18	\$2,625
April 25	\$3,828

This weekly average (\$3,832) 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.

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!

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.

LWML Mission Statement

***As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ,
support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.***

Each and every woman member of ESLC is a Woman in God's Service



Monthly Mite Collection - Your mites have paid in full the LWML Rocky Mountain District mission grant for \$3964.28 to provide LWML Global Bible Studies by Donna Snow, formerly Donna Pyle. If you have not read one of Donna's Bible studies, Colleen has several that you may borrow. **The next monthly mite collection will be on Mother's Day, May 9.** Thank you for your support with mites and prayers.

LWML Convention - The national convention will be held June 24-27, 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky. Hotel reservations can be made through the LWML website at lwml.org, by clicking on News and Events, and then Convention Central. All the information about the convention can be found there. Early discounted registration is available through April 14.

Safety is a Priority for the LWML Lexington Convention

The LWML Board of Directors (BOD) is aware of the seriousness of the COVID-19 virus and has taken steps to limit its impact on the upcoming convention, which is still planned as an in-person event. The official capacity of Rupp Arena in Lexington, Kentucky, is 20,500. Given the size of the arena, social distancing will not be an issue. The LWML has considered all aspects of the convention and has protocols for each event and every situation, should they be necessary at the time convention attendees meet. All guidelines issued by state and federal authorities will be followed.

Eternal Savior's 50th Anniversary: 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of Eternal Savior. We are forming a committee to plan our celebrations and create a photo/video history. If you would be interested in helping with this effort, please contact Laura Raben at lauraannraben@gmail.com or 720-984-8156.

Gather Your Photos: Do you have photos from past church events? We would love to include them in our 50th anniversary celebration. Please share them with Laura Raben. If you have prints, we can scan and return them.

The Board of Deacons is planning a church "**picnic**" or "**brunch**" for Sunday, **June 6th!** The plan is for each family to bring their own food, but for beverages to be provided by the Deacons. We will set up tables, and hopefully have great weather so that we sit outside. The event will be held shortly after church, at 10:30 or so. Hope you are able to give this consideration and can attend! We'll be sharing more later!

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!!!

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!!!!

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 MAY

Sunday, May 2

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Paul Reuer, Keith Cowley
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Roger Landowski, Keith Cowley
Altar	TBD
A/V Booth	TBD
Lawn/Snow	TBD
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, May 9

Organist	Marge Paugh
Cantor	Cindy Griffin
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Walt Oehlkers
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson, Keith Cowley (r)
Altar	TBD
A/V Booth	TBD
Lawn/Snow	TBD
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, May 16

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Walt Oehlkers
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Jeff Reuer, Roger Landowski
Altar	TBD
A/V Booth	TBD
Lawn/Snow	TBD
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, May 23

Organist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	Tom Stahly
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, John Reuer
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	W. Thomas (r), R. Lambrecht
Altar	TBD
A/V Booth	TBD
Lawn/Snow	TBD
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, May 30

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, John Reuer
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas, Kirk Anderson
Altar	TBD
A/V Booth	TBD
Lawn/Snow	TBD
Flowers	OPEN

Congregational Letter on Pastoral Transition

Dear Friends in Christ at Eternal Savior –

As we know, Pastor Rhode has shared his intent to retire at the end of this year. We have been richly blessed through his ministry these past 26 years and will forever cherish his love and care for all of us through Word and Sacrament as the shepherd of God’s people at Eternal Savior. Through his announcement in February of this year, Pastor Rhode has created a generous planning period for our congregation to prepare for and plan this transition. With this note, the Board of Elders and our Congregational Officers are writing to share the initial steps we have taken to prepare, and to give all our members a sense of the process, and expected timeline.

The process of calling a pastor is well-supported within our synod. Specifically, our District President, Pastor Roger Schlechte, and our Circuit Visitor, Pastor Keith Besel, are both actively guiding us; bringing with them great experience and expertise in this area. On April 8, we held an introductory meeting where the Elders and Officers met with Pastors Schlechte and Besel to learn about the process. A central point of the meeting is that patience and thoughtfulness should guide everything we do. We are strongly encouraged to fully enjoy and celebrate the remaining months Pastor Rhode is with us, and not start an official call process in 2021.

That said, we do need to prepare for a time of vacancy beginning in January of 2022. The Church Council has started discussing a general timeline for the rest of 2021. It was also discussed with and viewed favorably by our District President and Circuit Visitor at the April 8th meeting. We welcome everyone’s thoughts on this approach. Please reach out to your Elder or an officer.

May 16, 2021	Congregational Information and Voters meeting. Share information about the upcoming vacancy and call process. Gather viewpoints, and further understand options. Give folks time to think about this and provide feedback across the summer months. (The Voters portion of the meeting will act on distribution of excess 2020 funds.)
September 2021	Voters meeting to decide the way forward toward our period of vacancy.
October 2021	Elders and Council work with our District President to select and prepare for a pastor to serve during our period of vacancy.
November 2021	Annual Voter’s Meeting: Approve budget, elect 2022 leaders and update on the pastoral transition.
December 1, 2021	Pastor that will serve in January identified. Transition discussions begin with Pastor Rhode, Elders, Church Council, etc.
December 31, 2021	Pastor Rhode concludes his call at Eternal Savior with New Year’s Eve worship.
January 2, 2022	First Sunday of worship and ministry conducted by the pastor chosen to serve during our period of vacancy.

God has always richly blessed us at Eternal Savior and will continue to do so during this transition. We move forward in faith, knowing that He will continue to build us and strengthen us through change.

Yours in Christ, on behalf of the Eternal Savior Congregational Officers and Board of Elders,

Tom Stahly, President
Eternal Savior Lutheran Church

Keith Cowley, Chair
Eternal Savior Board of Elders

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Picnic / Brunch – June 6th 10:30am
Local Group Hike - TBD
Rockies Faith Day – August 8th

FUND STATUS

2021 To-Date Member Contributions

GENERAL FUND –	\$64,276.18
DEACON'S FUND –	\$ 600

ROCKIES FAITH DAY

Rockies Faith Day is happening this year on August 8th! The post-game musical guest is MercyMe. The Deacon's will be publishing a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those interested in attending. We will try to get tickets that cost approximately \$20 per ticket. More information will follow as we get closer to Rockies Faith Day. There is a minimum of 20 tickets required for group discounted rates.

Please sign up on the sign-up sheet at church or email the Deacon's if you are unable to make it to church in person.

DEACONS' FUND

Contributions: March \$600
Fund Balance \$ 3946.06
Year-to-Date Expenditures: \$703.01

NEXT MEETING

May 9th

CHURCH PICNIC / BRUNCH

The Deacon's are organizing a Church Picnic / Brunch on June 6th at 10:30am! We so look forward to gathering as a congregation in love and fellowship. Due to COVID-19 safety concerns, we will not be having a potluck meal as we have in previous years. Currently, we are asking that the congregation only bring food or snacks for themselves. Bottled and canned drinks will be available.

Outdoor activities are likely to include:

- Kids splash area and water balloons
- Cornhole
- Kids scooter, bike, skating fun in the parking lot

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES SUPPORT

The Deacons delivered 10 Spring into Spring baskets to LFS for caregivers in their lifework aging solutions program. Most of the items were purchased using approximately \$400 of your generous donations to the Deacon's Fund. The baskets were received with much gratitude by LFS! Our next activity in support of LFS is the backpack drive which will take place in the summer.

EMERGENCY FAMILY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT

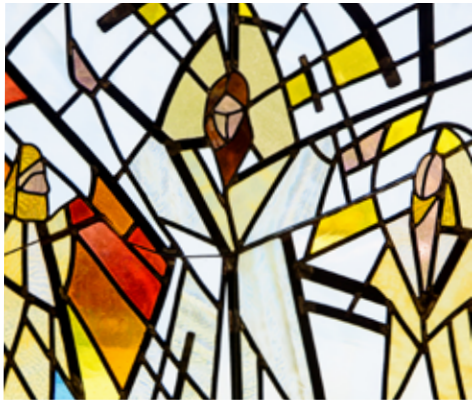
The Deacon's Fund continues support monthly donations of approximately \$100 to EFAA in the form of supplies and household goods. EFAA and the recipients of these donations continue to be very grateful.

God has given us two hands – one to receive with and one to give with

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 AM ESLC Workday
2 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:40 AM Church Council 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	3 7:00 PM Elders	4 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bells	5 11:00 AM Bible Study 1:00-4:00 PM Winkel 7:00 PM Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:40 AM Deacons 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	10	11 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bells	12 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Voters' Assembly 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt 3:00 PM ULC Mission Society	17	18 9:00 AM Bulletin /Newsletter Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bells	19 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	20 6:30 PM Trustees	21	22
23 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	24	25 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bells	26 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	27	28	29
30 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 1:30-2:30 PM Communion by Appt	31 Memorial Day – 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

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. 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.

