

The Eternal Light



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

“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.” 2 Thess. 2:13-15

These verses come after the apostle has warned the church about the coming of the antichrist and the peril that will come into the church through him. Of course, the antichrist has already been made manifest in the papacy, and his evil continues to distort Christianity in the world to this day. Other antichrists have come as well, as the apostle John noted back in the first century. [1 John 2:18ff]

The contrast between what the external and “visible” church will become and those who are true believers is stark. Those in the true church, the “invisible” church, the fellowship of all believers in Christ, are those who are saved “through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” That is, they conform to the Word of God, are aligned with the truth, speak the truth, are of the truth, and are sanctified by the Spirit of Truth. Here is a good test as to where you stand, whether in the church or outside of it. If inside the true church you are repenting your sins, you are submitting to Holy Scripture, and you are luxuriating in the glorious forgiveness of Jesus. If you are refusing to confess your sins, clinging to lies and falsehood, you are rejecting God's grace and mercy. You are on the outside – no longer part of “the truth of God.”

None of this is merely “subjective,” how we personally feel about a thing, or think about it. Rather, all is by the Gospel, the apostolic Gospel, that contained in Holy Scripture, the apostolic “letters.” This includes the Old Testament properly understood, the Gospels, and the Epistles, the Old and New Testaments. Traditions are not evil if they are in conformity with Holy Scripture, the Word of God. Traditions contrary to the Word of God are worthless and evil.

We are encouraged to stand firm in the face of the evils that are to come, and that infiltrate the church as “angels of light” but are of the devil. We are to hold to the traditions – the Words and teaching of Holy Scripture, no matter how our feelings or logic may dictate. This is what we do as “brothers beloved by God,” those chosen to be saved. And we look forward to obtaining “the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Not some earthly glory, not some earthly office or elevation or praise, but the very glory of Jesus!

I pray that all our members at ESLC may be described as the apostle identified these Thessalonians. He was certain of their status because, as he wrote earlier: **“And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the Word of God, which is at work in you believers. [1 Thess. 2:13]**

The same is true for all today who submit to the Word of God, who recognize it for what it is even though spoken and delivered through men. They have this same blessed assurance of the apostle. Those who choose to believe and think otherwise, who reject the Word of God, have not this assurance, but the assurance that they remain under the wrath of God. O Lord Jesus, preserve us from this.

It is the latter days. Let us all take care and beware to hold to the “traditions” provided for us, the Holy Scriptures!

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of August were:

August 1	\$2,626
August 8	\$2,834
August 15	\$4,446
August 22	\$2,301
August 29	\$6,586

This weekly average (\$3,759) 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 Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. To join, email Pastor for the invitation link.

We are studying new **Sunday School curriculum (H2Oh!)**. It is about different uses of water (like the Flood, Red Sea and Jonah and etc). The introductions can be found on our Facebook page.

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.

Dear friends in the Savior: The materials emailed out to you regarding the pastoral transition process are stored on the Google drive at this location: <https://bit.ly/ESLC-Pastoral-Transition> This is also where you will be able to access any updates! Tom and Keith

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.

Reredos Committee - The Reredos Committee has had its third meeting with more discussion on the wall design. A spreadsheet has been posted on google drive for committee members to note their preferences for different design elements We plan to meet once per month. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Robin Warnken.

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.

Quilting. The quilters have started up again after the COVID-19 break. Most of us kept busy at home during Covid time. Orphan Grain Train picked up 111 baby quilts and 26 full quilts in 2020 and picked up another 21 boxes early this June, which included 36 full and 29 baby quilts. Added to the previous years this gives a grand total of 1,356 quilts delivered to Orphan Grain Train. We meet every **Thursday** morning at church from **9:30 till 11:30 am**. We always welcome new people. We tie our quilts so you don't have to know how to "quilt". Come and play with fabric and make some new friends! See Diane Oehlkers 303-666-9627 for more information.

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!!!!

Dear friends in the Savior:

This is a reminder that we have an upcoming Voters Meeting in September to make a decision on whether we would like to engage an Intentional Interim Pastor [IIP] or a Vacancy Pastor [VP] to serve us after Pastor Rhode's retirement at the end of 2021. The Church Council has set **Sunday September 26th at 10:30** for this meeting! How we'll do this – live, Zoom, or both – will be forthcoming as the date gets nearer. **It will take some time to pursue implementation of this decision, so we will need to make it at this meeting.**

There is excellent analysis of the differences on the Google drive document page for Pastoral Transition. <https://bit.ly/ESLC-Pastoral-Transition>

Double-click on the document entitled “**Pastoral Transition – Congregational Meeting 2021-05-16**” and scroll down to the descriptions of Vacancy Pastor and Intentional Interim Pastor. Toward the end of this section is an excellent side by side comparison.

Here is a brief review of those differences:

Vacancy Pastor	Intentional Interim Pastor
Part-time, fulfilling duties as contracted by the congregation, no benefits package expense.	Full-time, called to fulfill all pastoral duties at ESLC, full benefits package.
Likely local, so no housing issues	May be local or from a distance, which would require housing arrangements, moving costs
Shorter congregational self-study, will be pastor until a new pastor is called. Will not participate in transition process or calling	Much lengthier and in-depth self-study, conducted with expertise by the IIP. He helps guide the transition process, but does not participate in the process. calling process.
Length of vacancy typically nine to twelve months. Call committee is formed right away, but utilizes the results of the self-study.	Length of the IIP call is 12 to 24 months. The call process begins typically after 12 months. IIP typically serves until the new pastor is installed.

There are many pros and cons to both of these two courses of action. There will have to be room for disagreement. Hopefully, through thorough forethought and preparation, and fraternal discussion, a fair amount of consensus can be reached. The decision will be made by simple majority of the voters present, assuming a quorum is achieved.

Please feel free to discuss these options among yourselves, with your elder or any elder. Please keep this decision and our congregation in your prayers as we move toward this exciting time of change and newness! Remember, the Lord is in charge of providing pastors for His church. He will continue to watch over us and bless us!

Blessings,

ESLC Board of Elders

SERVANT SCHEDULE

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 5

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Sam & Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Roger Landowski, Kirk Anderson
Altar	Stacy Jundt
A/V Booth	Laura Raben, Ed Warnken
Lawn/Snow	Sam Kelley
Flowers	Jasper

Sunday, September 12

Organist	Marge Paugh
Cantor	OPEN
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Kirk Anderson
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melissa Anderson
Counter(s)	Cindy Stahly & Karen Sherrets
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Ryan Lambrecht (r)
Altar	Stacy Jundt
A/V Booth	OPEN
Lawn/Snow	Kevin Cowley
Flowers	Griffin

Sunday, September 19

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Kirk Anderson
Greeter(s)	Jeff and Larissa Reuer
Counter(s)	Marge Paugh & Jayne Rhode
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Stacy Jundt
A/V Booth	OPEN
Lawn/Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, September 26

Organist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	OPEN
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Paul Reuer
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Mark & Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), R. Landowski
Altar	Stacy Jundt
A/V Booth	OPEN
Lawn/Snow	Rod and Paula Sinner
Flowers	Thompson

As we move toward re-normalizing worship in the next few weeks, this is a great time to begin thinking about your participation in the various servant roles. We would like to begin utilizing Greeters again, and Ushers, as well as Sound Booth operators! **We are in desperate need of Counters and Greeters!** If you are on the servant list, and are comfortable with being present at worship, please give consideration to taking up these tasks again! There are other roles that are not signed up for, like altar, flowers, and snow removal. Also, please consider that we are entering the growing season and will need to have volunteers taking care of lawn and property! Thanks, in advance, for your willingness to serve!

Here is a message from Jayne Rhode:

Our current counters include:

September 5th- Sam & Lynn Kelley
September 12th- Cindy Stahly & Karen Sherrets
September 19th- Marge Paugh & Jayne Rhode
September 26th- Mark & Mary Bunge

Bunge- 303-466-6172 (home)
Kelley-720-425-3388 (home)
Cindy Stahly- 303-664-0450 (home), 303-921-9163 (cell)
Karen Sherrets- 303-665-7509 (home), 720-862-7509 (cell)
Marge Paugh- 303-430-5633 (home)
Jayne- 303-776-9817 (home), 303-775-7058 (cell)

If for any reason you're unable to serve on the dates you are scheduled please arrange coverage by calling someone else on this list. Generally speaking I'm able to help even last minute. (except for the 5th & 12th of September).

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00-4:00 PM Winkel @ Mt. Hope 7:00 PM Bible Study	2	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class	6 Office Closed	7 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline	8 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	9 4:30-6:00 PM Confirmation	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:40 AM Church Council SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY!	13	14 9:00 AM Bulletin /Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Elders	15 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	16 4:30-6:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Trustees	17 9:00 AM Church Workday	18
19 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:40 AM Deacons	20	21 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline	22 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	23 4:30-6:00 PM Confirmation	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Voters Meeting	27	28 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline	29 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	30 4:30-6:00 PM Confirmation		

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

THE CREED — SEPTEMBER 1-15

We confess the three ecumenical Creeds, the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian. We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, three persons. Luther's explanation of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism teaches important truths about God as our creator, redeemer and sanctifier.

Rejoice in God's goodness in Christ as you pray:

1. Thank God that He is our loving heavenly Father.
2. Thank God for His creation.
3. Thank God for daily bread. Pray that all would be fed and clothed this day.
4. Thank God for family. Pray that God would guide all families love each other with the love of God in Christ Jesus.
5. Thank God for shelter. Pray for those who are without homes this day.
6. Thank God for reason. Pray that learning and intellect

are always in service of God's Kingdom.

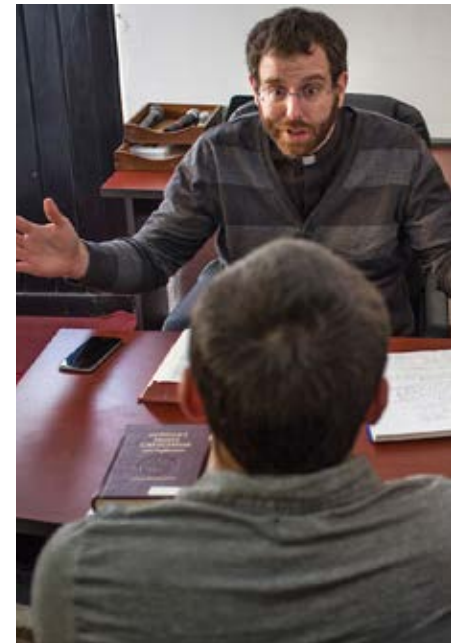
7. Thank God for Jesus. He is our only Savior from sin, death and the power of the devil.
8. Rejoice that Jesus is true man, that He can sympathize with our weaknesses.
9. Rejoice that Jesus is true God, that our Savior is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
10. Repent of all your sins and trust that God forgives your sins through the blood of Jesus.
11. Pray that God would empower you, by His Spirit, to live in righteousness, innocence and blessedness.

12. Thank God that He freely gives faith and salvation through His Spirit. Pray that all would hear the Word and be Baptized according to His will.

13. Thank God for the Holy Spirit. Pray that He would keep all in the true faith.

14. Thank God for the Church. Pray that she would remain faithful to her Savior.

15. Rejoice that God gives and sustains faith in the Holy Trinity. Rejoice that God is love.



OFFICE OF THE KEYS/CONFESSION — SEPTEMBER 16-30

Jesus gave the office of the keys to the Church through His Apostles. Confession has two parts. First that we confess our sins, and second that we receive the forgiveness of our sins.

Rejoice in the gifts of Confession and Absolution as you pray:

16. *That God would lead all sinners to repentance.*

17. *Confess your sins before God. Trust that God forgives your sins through Christ Jesus.*

18. *Thank God for your pastor and all pastors. Pray that God would grant them faith and strength in their Word and Sacrament ministry.*

19. *Thank God for corporate confession and absolution each Sunday.*

20. *Thank God for the opportunity for individual confession and absolution with your pastor.*

21. *Thank God for the vocations He has given to you. Pray that you serve Him and your neighbor faithfully each day.*

22. *Pray for all unbelievers, that they would repent and trust in Christ.*

23. *Pray for all who are caught in unrepentant sin, that they would humbly confess their sins and receive holy Absolution.*

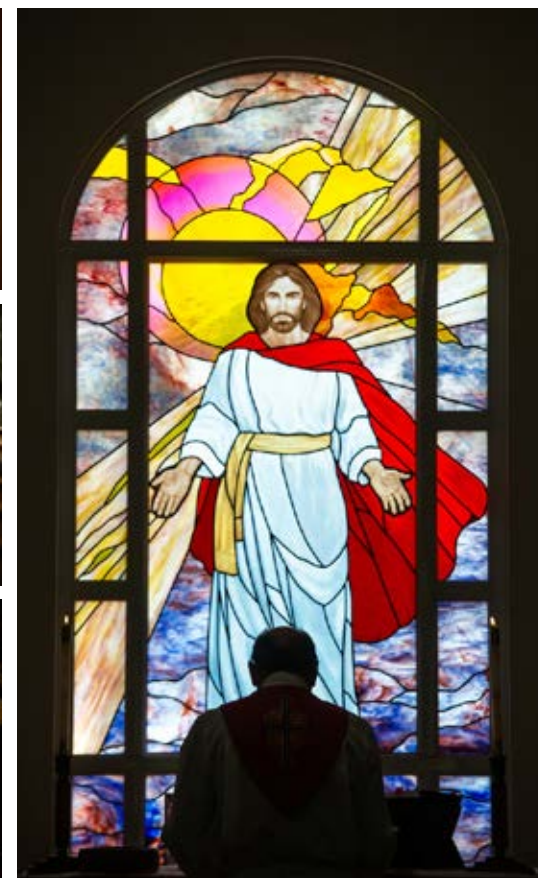
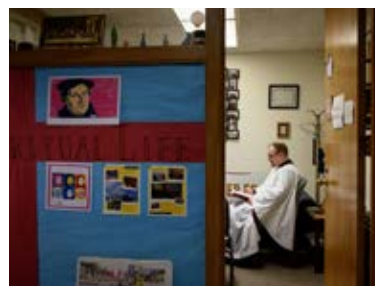
24. *Pray for the Spirit to empower you to amend your sinful life, that all you think, say and do would please God.*

25. *Thank God for the Church. Pray that the Church remain faithful to the preaching and teaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments according to God's will.*

26. *Pray for those who have stopped attending church. Ask God to provide someone to share Christ with them and bring them back.*

27. *Pray for Christian parents, that they would model forgiveness and raise their children in the Christian faith.*

28. *Pray for the strength to forgive people in your life. Ask God to give the faith necessary to forgive as He forgives.*



29. *Thank God that He always answers our confession with words of forgiveness and life.*

30. *Pray that Jesus would return quickly, that sin and death will soon be finally defeated, and God's people will dwell with Him forever.*

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.