

The Eternal Light



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

“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” [Gal. 4:4,5]

Christmas is nearly upon us again! During the next few weeks we will celebrate the season of Advent, in preparation for Christmas. It is a great thing to acknowledge the first coming of Christ, and to remember that He continues to come to us today in His Word and Sacrament, and to dwell on His promise to come again on the Last Day. But it is especially important to recall the blessings that have become ours in His first coming, at the first Christmas!

What did He come for? “To redeem them that were under the law.” That is, He came to redeem us. We were under Law, under God’s just condemnation. We were subject to the punishment that Jesus endured on the cross. Yet in our place, for our sins, Jesus sacrificed Himself and redeemed us. We are no longer under the condemnation of the Law, though the Law continues to condemn our sin. Through faith in Jesus, we are forgiven, free, reborn, renewed, and blessed now to be children of God. We are now members of God’s family, adopted as His sons and daughters in Christ Jesus, in His gift of redemption, through faith in Jesus our Savior.

There is no freedom, no peace, no consolation, no relief from delusion and self-justification, no abiding hope apart from God’s redemption in Christ Jesus. There can be no membership in God’s family apart from this liberating salvation that Christ earned for us on the cross. There is no genuine optimism, no real joy for the future, no proper anticipation of the wonders of heaven apart from God’s redemption in Christ Jesus. When Jesus came in “the fullness of time,” this is what He came to provide for us. It is sure and certain, based on the Word of God. We have redemption, and are part of His family by faith in Jesus!

The many busy activities of the Christmas season - shopping, buying, giving, and receiving earthly gifts, parties, family activities – these can all distract our attention from the greatest gift, that of Christ’s coming. Even at church, the decorations, the music, the ambiance of the worship services, memories of Christmases past – these too can divert our attention away from the real gift of Christ’s first coming and the great blessings of redemption that He has provided for us in His suffering, death, and resurrection!

May God bless each of us with a clear vision of the wondrous redemption that came to us at that first Christmas. May this blessed gift be front and center in our thinking every day of our earthly lives! May we truly grasp and properly appreciate God’s gift of redemption in the gift of His Son Jesus. May this Christmas season be filled with thanks and praise to God!

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the months of October/November were:

October 24	\$2,830
October 31	\$2,676
November 7	\$5,872
November 14	\$2,275
November 21	\$1,890

This weekly average (\$3,109) 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.

Adult Bible Class is now online and live each Sunday at **10:40 AM**. We are currently studying **2nd Timothy**. To join, email Pastor for the invitation link or join us in the fireside room.

In **Sunday School** we are now studying **Enduring Faith curriculum**, Unit 7, "**Jesus Comes For Us**". We are now having Sunday School live. Opening is in the Narthex, classes are outdoors so long as the weather stays good. If we go back into the building, we will follow the Boulder County mask policy.

Mid-week Bible Study are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM and Thursday mornings at 11 am. To join, email Pastor for the invitation link. In the evening class we are studying the Book of **Joel**. On Thursday mornings at 11 am we are studying the Book of **Habakkuk**.

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.

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!!!!

Thank you all for your willingness to serve Eternal Savior as offering counters.
If for any reason you're unable to serve on the dates that you are scheduled for please arrange coverage by calling someone else on this list.

December 5th - Jayne Rhode & Marge Paugh
December 12th - Jayne Rhode & Marge Paugh
December 19th - Mark & Mary Bunge
December 26th - Mark & Mary Bunge

Mark Bunge 303-517-3892 (cell)
Kelley's 720-425-3388 (home)
Marge Paugh 303-430-5533 (home)
Jayne Rhode 303-775-7058 (cell)

SERVING IN DECEMBER

Thursday, December 2 – Midweek Advent 1

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Roger Landowski
Altar	Linda Thompson

Sunday, December 5

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle, Ryan Lambrecht
Counter(s)	Jayne Rhode & Marge Paugh
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson, Wayne Thomas
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	Laura Raben
Lawn/Snow	Kevin Cowley
Flowers	Bonner

Thursday, December 9 – Midweek Advent 2

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Roger Landowski
Altar	Linda Thompson

Sunday, December 12

Organist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	OPEN
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle, Ryan Lambrecht
Counter(s)	Jayne Rhode & Marge Paugh
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson (r), Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	OPEN
Lawn/Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	OPEN

Thursday, December 16 – Midweek Advent 3

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Roger Landowski
Altar	Linda Thompson

Sunday, December 19

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Tom Stahly
Counter(s)	Mark & Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Jeff Reuer, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	OPEN
Lawn/Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Nagel

Friday, December 24 – Children's Christmas Eve

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	OPEN
Lawn/Snow	OPEN
Flowers	Raben

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight

Organist	Marge Paugh
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Tom Stahly
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Jeff Reuer
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	OPEN

Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Roger Landowski, Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	OPEN
Flowers	Raben

Sunday, December 26

Organist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	OPEN
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Keith Cowley
Counter(s)	Mark & Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), R. Lambrecht
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	OPEN
Lawn/Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Jasper

Friday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

Organist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	OPEN
Elders	Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
Sound System	OPEN
Flowers	Lambrecht

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 need of Counters and Greeters!** If you are interested in being either a Counter or a Greeter, please contact the church office. 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!

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00-4:00 PM Winkel @ ESLC 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM ULC Baroque Concert	2 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Midweek Advent 1 Worship	3	4 9:00 AM Church Decorating
5 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Worship and Communion 10:30 Voters Meeting 11:40 AM Church Council	6 7:00 PM Elders	7 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline	8 7:00 PM Bible Study	9 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Midweek Advent 2 Worship	10	11
12 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Worship and Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 12:00 PM Deacons	13	14 9:00 AM Bulletin /Newsletter Deadline	15 7:00 PM Bible Study	16 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Trustees 7:00 PM Midweek Advent 3 Worship	17 9:00 AM Church Workday	18
19 4th Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class	20	21 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline	22 7:00 PM Bible Study	23 11:00 AM 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>
26 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class	27	28 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline	29 7:00 PM Bible Study	30 11:00 AM Bible Study	31 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Worship	

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.

