



The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
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From the Intentional Interim Pastor
April 2023

A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course, Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?” Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7). But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry. It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So,

we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Emergency Numbers to Remember

1. When in Sorrow call..... John 14
2. When you have sinned call..... Psalm 51
3. When you Worry call..... Matthew 6:19-34
4. When you are in Danger call..... Psalm 91
5. When your faith needs stirring call..... Hebrews 11
6. When you feel down and out call..... Romans 8:31
7. When you want peace and rest call..... Matthew 11:25-30
8. When the world seems bigger than God call..... Psalm 90
9. If your pockets are empty call..... Psalm 37
10. When you are lonely and fearful call..... Psalm 23
11. When you grow bitter and critical call..... 1 Corinthians 13
12. For how to get along with others call..... Romans 12
13. For when you are depressed call..... Psalm 27
14. For when people are unkind to you call..... John 15

“And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things, says the Lord Almighty.”
Malachi 4:2, 3

AWAITING THE DAY OF VICTORY

If you've ever lived on a farm or visited one at the right time, you probably have seen one of the most amusing things that can happen there. In the winter, the young cattle are put in barns to protect them from the bitter cold outside. They stay there until spring comes when they are let loose into the pasture. The moment the doors and gates are opened, those young calves take off for the wide-open spaces like a bunch of clowns. They kick their heels high in the air and dance in circles. They act as if they were the happiest creatures God ever made. In our passage for today, Malachi compares the joy of those who believe in Christ as their personal Savior from sin, death and hell to the joy of those released calves. Even while living here on earth, we have already experienced that joy. It's the deep happiness that comes from knowing that our souls are secure for eternity—safe in the hands of Jesus our Lord.

But that joy has only just begun. Everything is not perfect yet. Being a believer and follower of Jesus is not all sunshine and roses. We find that we are continually plagued by enemies—there is that unbelieving person who regularly pokes fun at our faithfulness to the Lord. There is the old evil Foe himself, Satan, who is always trying to tempt us to sin, and succeeding far too often. And there is one final enemy—death. These enemies are terrifying—and powerful. Who are we to cope with them? But God promises us in this passage that these enemies shall one day be totally put down. They will be as powerless on the great day of the Lord as the dirt we walk on. The Lord has already won the victory. It began with the birth of the Christ Child and His work on the cross and concluded when Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning. He gave us visible proof that He had the power to conquer all our enemies—even death. We have a share in that victory through faith in Christ

as our Savior. For us it's only a matter of time until we sit at the victory table with our Lord in heaven. When judgment day comes, we will experience firsthand what it means to have absolutely perfect happiness and joy forevermore.

Your Servant in The Word,

Pastor Schultz

“Living for Jesus!”

It's hard to believe that our time together is winding down. Time has sure flown by. It is hard to believe that I have been here almost a year. During our time together, we have accomplished many things, to the glory of God. My prayer for you is that you will live for Jesus and you will continue to move forward in the Intentional Interim process, always looking ahead and not dwelling in the past, or focusing on “that's the way we have always done it.” Truth be told no pastor wants to hear that and besides that is not healthy for the congregation in transition. Eternal Savior Lutheran Church has moved on from that and has focused in on its future, a bright and promising future. There is so much potential here as you strive to outreach to people in the community. As you know, this is indeed an exciting time here at Eternal Savior, as we start our journey on calling the next pastor. For me, Eternal Savior has been a joy and a pleasure to serve. You have refreshed my heart and my passion for ministry, and I thank you for that. The board of Elders (if needed) have graciously extended my stay here as your Intentional Interim Minister until August of 2023, giving us more time to continue our work as we call the next pastor.

Here's something to think about as we move forward. Martin Luther once said, “If someone would knock on my heart and ask, ‘Who lives here?’ I would say, ‘Martin Luther once lived here, but he has moved out and Jesus has moved in.’” Martin Luther lived for Jesus just as we should do too. In Galatians 2:20 the apostle Paul wrote that he, too, lived for Jesus. “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God.” Who or what do you live for? If we live for ourselves and the things of the world, we will focus our attention and energy on amassing more and more things. It is easy for money and possessions to become overly important because our society tells us that more is better and that happiness and success can only be achieved by having the newest and best things. To find happiness and success, we work long and hard. King Solomon, who was wealthy and wise, tried almost everything and found no satisfaction with things of the world. In Ecclesiastes, he tells us that he tried wine and women; he built houses, gardens, and parks; he bought slaves, herds and flocks, and amassed silver and gold. “I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure . . . Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.” (Ecc. 2:10-11). Regarding money, Solomon wrote, “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless” (vs. 5:10).

In closing the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon wrote, “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment...” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). The only thing that finally gave Solomon's life purpose was living for God. Likewise, we as Christians understand that Jesus is the only person who can give us lasting peace, comfort, and security. He alone meets our needs. Jesus' tremendous sacrifice showed us His love for us and His love compels us to love Him and live for Him. Filled with Jesus' presence in our lives, we are empowered to overcome the pull of the world. So let's continue moving forward, seeing what we can be, and let us live for Jesus! Using wisely our time, talents, and treasures in service to the Lord.

Pastor Schultz

Upcoming Events

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 2, 9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7, Noon and 7:00 p.m.



Easter Sunday

Youth Group Easter Breakfast – 7:40 – 8:40 a.m.

Easter Celebration Service – 9:00 a.m.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt – 10:30 a.m. during Sunday School



Congregational Dinner – Saturday, April 15, 5:30p.m. We will reflect on our 20 years serving God in this building.



Spring Workday - Please come one, come all for church workday on April 22, 2023, at 9:30am. We will be concentrating our efforts on the outside of our church – washing the windows, cleaning up the landscaping, etc. Many hands make light work. Please help prepare our church outdoors for spring/summer. Thank you. If you have any questions, please contact Polly Cowley at – pollycowley@comcast.net or (303) 513-8179

District President's Visit Assures the Light of Christ Will Guide

March 19 was a special day at Eternal Savior. Rocky Mountain District President James Maxwell joined us to preach and meet with us to share the foundations and expectations for our upcoming Call process, whereby the Holy Spirit will guide us in selecting Eternal Savior's next pastor.



The Gospel text from John 9 (Jesus gives the blind man sight on the Sabbath) served as a very fitting basis for President Maxwell's sermon. Just as the Pharisees did, how often we question Jesus' love and power in our lives. Yet in His great love, Jesus guides, protects and gives us light to see even in times of uncertainty. His light will guide our seeing clearly in our Call process, and give us vision and direction to know the right man to serve as our shepherd at Eternal Savior. Praise God! In addition to President Maxwell's sermon, several other elements of the service highlighted the Light of Christ in our lives. Pastor Schultz, in his children's message, shared the importance of light in taking away the darkness, and removing fear, and especially highlighted that Jesus is the light of the world that guides us every day, through all things.



A special musical duet by Mark Bunge and Jan Ertle reinforced Psalm 119:105, telling us that there is never need to worry or fear; that Christ is always beside us. His Word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path.

through the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Praise God for all He does in giving us light and strength in our lives!

During distribution of the Lord's Supper, Katie Reuer's piano offering of "Come Thou, Almighty King" prayed that God would always come to us and be near us



Following worship, we gathered in the Fellowship Hall over coffee and delicious fruit breads as President Maxwell took us through a short Bible study.

We considered "why" we need a pastor, the mission of the church, and the ministry of the Word. Several Bible passages reinforced answers to these topics, including Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 4:11-12, and Matthew

16:19. Regarding the Call process, President Maxwell noted that our Call Committee must be formed in accordance with the version of our Constitution on file at the RMD office. We've completed this step with our Call Committee already in place. Next, the Self Study is important. This document gives our District President a profile of our congregation, and an aggregate view from our members of the priorities for Eternal Savior, and the most important qualities/strengths we desire of our next pastor. A congregational survey is now available for every member to fill out, to assure all voices are heard. Our District President will use this input to create a list of candidates that best match our stated needs. Additionally, members of the congregation are encouraged to submit candidates for our next pastor as well.



Our meeting with President Maxwell was very helpful in connecting all of us with the Biblical underpinnings of pastoral ministry, and with the specifics of the process. We closed with prayer before enjoying a beautiful and delicious charcuterie table. A hearty thank you goes to Cindy Stahly and many ladies in the congregation for preparing and serving these special refreshments!



Much lies ahead. Some uncertainty? For sure! Will God, the Holy Spirit guide us? Unquestionably, yes! Do we each have work to do? Absolutely! Here is a homework list for each of us, to assure the best possible outcome for our Call process:

Your Homework!

1. Complete the Congregational Survey by April 2, 2023. It's available in paper form and as an online survey. Copies are available on the coffee bar in the Narthex.

2. Prayerfully consider if you want to nominate a pastoral candidate for consideration. What qualities would make him a good fit at Eternal Savior?
3. Attend our next Congregational meeting at 10:30AM on April 30. We will review the results of the Self Study and Survey, prior to submitting to President Maxwell.
4. Pray! For the Call Process, for the Call Committee, for our congregation!

A closing quote from President Maxwell:

“Know that God is already preparing Eternal Savior’s next Pastor to receive, and accept our Call!”

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of March were:

March 5	\$5,821
March 12	\$1,791
March 19	\$3,205
March 26	\$2,505

This weekly average (\$ 3,330) compares to our 2023 weekly budget needs of **\$4,369**.

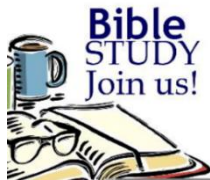
COUNTER SCHEDULE

If you have a conflict on a day you are scheduled, please arrange with another counter to cover that day.

April 2 – Mark and Mary Bunge
April 9 – Mark and Mary Bunge
April 16 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
April 23 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
April 30 – Marc and Jan Erle

May 7 - Marc and Jan Erle
May 14 - Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly
May 21 - Polly Cowley and Katherine Crane
May 28 - Cindy Stahly and Katherine Crane

We have a handful of members successfully using both of our electronic giving options. If you are interested in trying it out but need a refresher please let Mary know and she will have someone get in contact with you.



Sunday Morning Bible Study! – Grab a cup of coffee and please join us each Sunday at 10:40AM in the Fellowship Hall!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study! – Please join us for Wednesday Morning Bible Class – we will study the pericopes (*readings*) for the upcoming Sunday. Please join us.

Wednesday Night Bible Study - The Wednesday night Bible study hears from Prof. Joel Biermann (Concordia Theological Seminary) cover and unpack the Book of Philippians, and there will be time for brief discussion after his presentation. Who knows, there might even be light refreshments. Please consider joining us Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the Fireside Room, and a Zoom link will be available to anyone who would prefer to attend remotely (please email Jeff Reuer, jeff.reuer@gmail.com, or call 720-600-5997).

Sunday School! We are studying the “Enduring Faith” curriculum, Unit 8. Sunday School opening is at 10:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. All children are encouraged to join us!

REMINDERS

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!!!

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.

We ask that all members of the congregation please be conscious of protecting their valuables while at church. Many times, the doors are left unlocked, and people are downstairs. This gives easy access to someone who may not be a member. We will try to remember to lock the doors after service.

Sign Up to Receive Text Messages - Eternal Savior is building a text message list for urgent communications. i.e. Service is cancelled due to a blizzard. If you would like to receive notifications like that via text message, please text **ETERNALSAVIOR** (one word, no space) to 84576. Contact Laura Raben if you need help signing up.

The **2023 Flower Chart** is now available on the bulletin board. Please look to see if there is a service you would like to provide flowers. Also include if the flowers are for a special occasion.

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.

SERVING IN APRIL

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

Organist /Pianist	Connie Howes
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas, Kirk Anderson
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Kirk Anderson
Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Hire

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday Service

Organist /Pianist	Pam Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
Snow	Dave Sherrets

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday noon Service

Organist /Pianist	Linda Thompson
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Friday, April 7 – Good Friday Evening Service

Organist /Pianist	Linda Thompson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas
Snow	Dave Sherrets

Sunday, April 9 - Easter

Organist /Pianist	Connie Howes
Cantor	Karen Sherrets
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Tom Stahly, Kirk Anderson
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brendy Vieyra
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Jeff Reuer
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Dave Sherrets
Snow	Dave Sherrets
Flowers	Raben

Sunday, April 16

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Levi Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Marc Ertle
Snow	Dave Sherrets
Flowers	Griffin

Sunday, April 23

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Larissa and Jeff Reuer
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht (r), Jeff Reuer
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Larissa and Katie Reuer
Snow	Dave Sherrets
Flowers	Confirmation Parents

Sunday, April 30

Organist/Pianist	Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Roger Landowski
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Dave Sherrets
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Ed Warnken
Snow	Tom Stahly
Flowers	OPEN

We have many ways in which our members can share their gifts with others each Sunday. Some of those are Greeters, Offering Counters, Ushers, Livestream and Audio Engineers, Lawn Mowing/Snow Removal. These are all listed on the Servant Calendar on our web site. Please reach out to Mary at the church office if you can serve. We so appreciate and thank God for your service!