



The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
2688 North Park Drive
Lafayette, CO 80026
303-655-6105



**From the Intentional Interim Pastor
December 2022**

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is an arrangement of four candles, originally used in home devotions to count the weeks of Advent and symbolize the approach of the Coming One. The traditional Advent wreath featured white candles, but the custom of using seasonally colored candles has become common. If the church's Advent paraments are blue, four blue candles should be used. If the paraments are violet/purple, then three violet/purple candles should be used, with a rose candle included as part of the set. The rose candle is placed in the Advent wreath at the three o'clock position, and the candles are then lit from week to week starting with the violet candle in the nine o'clock position. The rose candle is lit on Gaudete ("Rejoice"), the Third Sunday in Advent in the historic lectionary. With its colored candles, the Advent wreath is better displayed in the nave than in the chancel. "The use of the 'Christ Candle' . . . is definitely to be discouraged. First, it should be discouraged because it is an importation of the idea of the paschal candle; second, because the Advent wreath belongs to the season preparatory for Christmas, and on the festival of our Savior's birth the wreath should be removed from the chancel or nave." Removal of the Advent wreath for the services of Christmas allows the two seasons to be well-defined and distinct.

Midweek Advent Services

At the upcoming midweek Advent services, we will take a look at three different sons of men who were disappointments to their fathers. In the first week, we will be introduced to Cain, the son of Adam. No doubt Adam had higher hopes for Cain than for him to be known as the first murderer in history. But his murder of his brother reveals the murder lurking in all of our hearts. In the second week, we will be introduced to Ishmael, the son of Abraham. Though it was not his fault, Ishmael was a disappointment to Abraham because he was not the child of the promise. Abraham's efforts to take things into his own hands highlight our own tendency to do the same in our relationship with God. In the third week, we will be introduced to Absalom, the son of David. This rebellious son broke David's heart and exposed the rebellion we display against our heavenly Father. But each week, we will also be pointed to a different Son. This Son is the true Son of Adam. He is the true Son of Abraham. He is the true Son of David. He is the Son who never disappointed His Father. He is the Son who never did any wrong. He is the Son of whom the Father spoke: "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him" (Matthew 17:5). This true Man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, is also the Son of God, the very Son of God now living in our flesh and blood. This Son is Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, who fulfills the hope of salvation "that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:5). He is the One whom the psalmist spoke of in Psalm 146:5: "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God." During this series, entitled This Is My Son, you will hear

again that your heavenly Father is not disappointed in you. Rather, through Jesus, He considers you to be His beloved child, with whom He is well pleased. Come Join us!

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1 Sermon: This Is My Son: Cain

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2 Sermon: This Is My Son: Ishmael

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3 Sermon: This Is My Son: Absalom

CHRISTMAS DAY Sermon: This Is My Son: Jesus

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of November were:

November 6	\$3,275	
November 13	\$4,621	
November 20	\$1,281	
November 27	\$3,181	(This includes Thanksgiving)

This weekly average (\$3,090) compares to our 2022 weekly budget needs of **\$4,369**.

From our treasurer:

Unfortunately, our total contributions for the month of November did not cover the expenses for the month which were of normal amounts. In order to cover this shortfall, I have taken two actions:

- 1) While all bills were paid, I held back our monthly transfers into both the Future Pastor Fund and the Equipment Replacement Fund.
- 2) I also transferred \$1000 from both our Payroll Savings Fund and our Rainy-Day Fund for a total of \$2000.

Please keep our financial status in your daily prayers.

COUNTER SCHEDULE

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

December 4 – Mark Bunge and Polly Cowley
December 11 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
December 18 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
December 25 – Mark and Mary Bunge

January 1 – Mark and Mary Bunge
January 8 - Marc and Jan Ertle
January 15 - Marc and Jan Ertle
January 22 – Polly Cowley and Katherine Crane
January 29 - Polly Cowley and Katherine Crane

ESLC LWML/WinGS 🙏👼

Gratitude Gathering

The ladies group met for a “Gratitude Gathering” and prepared our hearts for Thanksgiving. We made a craft project of wooden bead garlands, had a short devotion and ate snacks.



October 30, 2022 Reformation Celebration

"...and the truth will set you free" John 8:32



Beautiful new banners proclaim the Reformation message.



God's Word proclaimed.



...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.



...given and shed for us...



In unity of faith and confession, we receive the sacrament.



"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

-Martin Luther

YOUTH GROUP

On November 20, the youth group bundled up and headed to the Gaylord Rockies Resort to check out the Ice exhibit. The theme for this year's exhibit is A Charlie Brown Christmas. The youth walked through different scenes from the movie, took a turn on the slide, and heard Linus share the account of Jesus' birth. The end of the exhibit is a room with a larger-than-life sized ice nativity. It was a fun, but cold (8 degrees inside) afternoon.

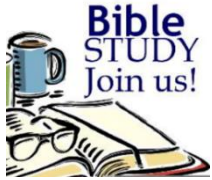


Intentional Interim Taskforce Team

Members of the team include: Laura Raben, Tom Stahly, Bob Vieyra, Melisa Anderson, Roger Landowski, Jan Ertle, Marc Ertle, Linda Thompson, Diane Oehlkers, Robin Warnken, Keith Cowley and Mary Bunge. Pastor Schultz is guiding us through this process.

The team met in November and further discussed our responses to the 5 realities of a challenging and difficult ministry. We are continuing to make progress on our current tasks of updating cosmetic issues, evaluating our mission and vision, and reviewing the church constitution.

We feel we are ready to move on to the next step of determining the characteristics we would like in our new pastor. We will be meeting next in January to begin this discussion. As always, if you have any questions regarding the taskforce team and their tasks please contact any member of the team.



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!

Reredos Committee – The Reredos committee has selected an artist and will be meeting with her on December 2 to discuss more details. Thank you to all who voiced concerns and questions at the Voters meeting, we will be considering these as we work with the artist. We are getting very excited for the changes to our reredos wall. If you have any questions or comments please contact a member of the reredos committee.

From our Treasurer:

Members of Eternal Savior,

I want to take this opportunity to tell you about new options for our members to make contributions electronically online. Before I go into the details, I want to be clear that we are not encouraging, pushing or hoping people will move toward giving in this manner. This is only an opportunity for those who desire to make this change. If you prefer your current giving method, continue to use that and the congregation appreciates your support of our mission.



We have two different options for giving electronically, VANCO and THRIVENT. Each has its own set of pros and cons (see next page). Both are very easy to use.

A couple of things to note - with VANCO I would strongly suggest you create an account. This will save your information, making your next contribution easier. It will also allow you to view your giving history.

NOTE: with THRIVENT you will be directed to a site that will show up as InFaith Community Foundation, this is just the corporation that Thrivent works with to handle their banking transactions. NOTE: with both options your contributions will NOT appear on your annual giving statement generated by our financial secretary. For your tax purposes you will need to track these electronic contributions yourself.

You can also take advantage by using both electronic options and if necessary, using your envelope contribution option as well.

The links to both options are now located on the front page of our website (just below the map of our location) under the title “GIVE ONLINE”. The links are also located at the bottom-right of the same page. You can use online giving at any time now.

ELECTRONIC GIVINGS – OPTION A

VANCO

PROS

- Easy to use
- Set up personal account for quick use
- Personal account allows you to view/print your giving record
- Use checking/savings account or credit card
- Set up recurring contribution (weekly, monthly, etc.)
- Deposits into church account within a few days
- Can divide contribution into several different funds (General, Deacons, Memorial, Reredos, etc.)

CONS

- There are processing fees associated with each contribution (1.5% from bank account, 3.5% from a credit card)
- Contributor can choose: To have their contribution reduced to cover this cost or To cover this cost by increasing their contribution

THRIVENT

PROS

- Not quite as easy, but not hard
- Use checking/savings account or credit card
- Currently all processing fees are paid by Thrivent Financial
- You do not need to be a member or associated with Thrivent to use



CONS

- One time giving only
- Recurring option not available
- Cannot split giving into separate funds, only allows gift to General Fund
- Takes about 7-10 days for the church to receive a printed check in the mail.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Mark P. Bunge, Treasurer

Restoration of the Lutheran Church in Russia Is Moving Forward

Even in this time of world conflict, the Lutheran seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, is still working to prepare future pastors to carry the Gospel to the Russian people and those in surrounding countries, including Ukraine. Although other confessional Lutheran seminaries have been operating in the area, the Novosibirsk seminary is one of just two remaining among those founded within the past 25 years.

Your gift to the *Save the Seminary Campaign* matters – not only for today, but also eternally – as pastors

graduating from the seminary carry the Gospel to people starved of God's Word and Sacrament for 70 repressive years. Will you help save the seminary with a gift of support today?

Please make your contribution through your church or the Rocky Mountain District Office at: <https://rm.lcms.org/siberian-lutheran-seminary/>.

Lutheran Chorale

Welcome Joyous Season!
Sunday, December 4, 2022 -- 2:30pm
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
11453 E Wesley Ave,
Aurora, CO 80014
and
Sunday, December 4, 2022 -- 6:30pm
St. Philip Lutheran Church
7531 S Kendall Blvd,
Littleton, CO 80128

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with favorite carols and anthems that are sure to delight!

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.

Christmas Poinsettias

We are looking for poinsettias to help decorate the church for Christmas. If you would like to donate a poinsettia, please have it to church on Sunday, December 18. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Thompson.

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.

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 the secretary at 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.

SERVING IN DECEMBER

Thursday, December 1

Organist/Pianist	Pam Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Roger Landowski
Snow	Tom Stahly

Sunday, December 4

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Ryan Lambrecht
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge and Polly Cowley
Elder(s)	Dave Sherrets, Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Marc Ertle
Snow	Tom Stahly
Flowers	OPEN

Thursday, December 8

Organist/Pianist	Pam Mayer
Cantor	Cindy Griffin
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Roger Landowski
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht

Sunday, December 11

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Tom Stahly
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Marc Ertle
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Jeff Reuer
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Ed Warnken
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	Nancy Hire

Thursday, December 15

Organist/Pianist	Pam Mayer
Cantor	Cindy Griffin
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Roger Landowski
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht

Sunday, December 18

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Levi Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Kirk Anderson
Greeter(s)	Larissa and Jeff Reuer
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Nick Mayer
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	OPEN

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Service

Organist/Pianist	Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson, Jeff Reuer
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	Laura Raben

Sunday, December 25, Christmas

Organist/Pianist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	Keith Cowley
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Kirk Anderson
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley (r), Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	Jaspers

Saturday, December 31, New Year's Eve Service

Organist/Pianist	Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
Snow	Kirk Anderson

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!