



# The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church  
2688 North Park Drive  
Lafayette, CO 80026  
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December 2023

## Word Is . . .

Volume 1/Issue 12

Happy New Year!!!

A voice cries:  
“In the  
wilderness  
prepare the way  
of the Lord;  
make straight in  
the desert a  
highway for our  
God.”

– Isaiah 40: 3

### A WORD FROM PASTOR THORSON

“Wait, what? It isn’t the New Year yet. We haven’t even done Christmas, Pastor!” That might be something that you’re thinking after reading “Happy New Year” off to the side of the *December “Word Is”* cover letter. And if you are thinking that or any number of similar things, you’re right. We haven’t gotten through Christmas yet, and January first is still a little way off. But, I’m not talking about the calendar year. I’m talking about the church year. The new church year begins with advent a full month, or there about, before the calendar year switches over. During this time of “new” we celebrate the advent of our King and use the first time He came in a lowly manger to prepare for the time when He will come again in glory.

Ah-ha! Now all of that end times stuff at the end of the church year begins to make a little more sense. At the end of the church year we hear about Jesus coming again like a thief. We hear how no one knows the day or the hour. We hear the lament of the foolish women who weren’t prepared for their groom. We hear of glory and clouds and thundering trumpets and Jesus coming back to finalize his victory by taking all his faithful to be with him forever. Then now at the beginning of the year we start our preparation for these events anew by hearing the familiar stories of his first arrival, and preparing our hearts and minds for his second. The two events are a little different but in many ways they’re similar too.

In the first advent, the messiah Jesus was born not of high stature but in a manger. In the second advent, no one will know when he is coming which is unusual for a king on a victory tour. In the first advent God’s own people were caught asleep and unaware of what God was doing. In the second, the faithless will be caught off guard. Now, to my point. Notice the church year in its ebbs and flows. It is doing something. Even the way the church year is set up prepares, shapes and forms us into better Christians, or at least it is supposed to. In the beginning of the year, we learn to prepare, in Lent we learn that preparation involves and revolves around repentance. At



Easter, we learn that we are forgiven and made new by Christ through our faith in Him and faith-filled repentance. Then at the common time of the year, we learn that because of our faith in Jesus and his work for us we have a story to tell the world so that in the end everyone has the chance to be prepared for Christ's second Advent. So, you see even the church year prepares us for Christ. Now celebrate Jesus' birth and be good students of the church year.

In Christ,



Pastor Clint O. Thorson

### Upcoming Events

**Saturday December 2** – 10:00a.m. church decorating. Come help us decorate the church in anticipation of Jesus' birth.

**Thursday, December 7, 14, 21** – 6:30p.m. Advent Service. We will have a potluck starting at 5:30p.m. Please see sign-up on bulletin board.



service.

**Sunday, December 10** - Voter's Meeting. At this meeting we will approved the 2024 Budget and Slate of Officers. The Voter's Meeting will follow

**Sunday, December 24** – Christmas Eve Childrens/Candlelight Service at 7:00p.m.



### OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of November were:

November 5	\$7,240
November 12	\$1,991
November 12	\$1,031 (Installation Service)
November 19	\$2,326
November 23	\$ 430 (Thanksgiving Day Service)
November 26	\$1,175
Online Offerings	\$2,130



This weekly average (\$ 2.332 ) 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.



Dec. 3 – Cindy Stahly & Katherine Crane  
Dec. 10 – Sam and Lynn Kelley  
Dec. 17 – Sam and Lynn Kelley  
Dec. 24 – Mark and Mary Bunge  
Dec. 31 – Mark and Mary Bunge

Jan. 7 - Marc and Jan Ertle  
Jan. 14 - Marc and Jan Ertle  
Jan. 21 - Polly Cowley and Katherine Crane  
Jan. 28 - Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly

Feb. 4 – Cindy Stahly and Katherine Crane  
Feb. 11 – Sam and Lynn Kelley  
Feb. 18 – Sam and Lynn Kelley  
Feb. 25 – Mark and Mary Bunge

\*\*\*\* 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.

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## **Installation of Pastor Thorson – What a Wonderful Celebration!**











# Thank You!

Dear members of Eternal Savior Lutheran Church,

Pastor Thorson here with a word of thanks. Thank you! The joyful generosity that you have shown to my family and me since I accepted the call (and even before that time!) has been absolutely awe-inspiring. You have all taken time out of your days to check on us, help us, and make sure we have everything that we need as we settle into our new home and positions here in Colorado. Thank you. Also, you have used your abilities and skills to help us accomplish the things that we have needed to get done, and with those same talents you have partnered with me in the Gospel to make our first few services Christ-centered and welcoming. Thank you! As for your treasure, you have shared that with me, my family, and the church so generously that I have no words for the gratitude that I have, especially when I consider the gifts you gave to us in the gift card basket. THANK YOU! You have all made great efforts to make the transition for my family a good one and to make my transition to be your pastor a joy-filled one! I am so very excited to see where the Lord leads us in this partnership, and I look forward to seeing Christ act through you all. It is my hope and prayer that I may continue to strengthen you with the life-giving Word of God that we may all continue serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus, joyfully and faithfully. Once again, **thank you** for all your generosity and help! God's richest blessings to you all!

Your Servants in Christ,

Pastor 

Pastor Clint O. Thorson and family (Amber, Aliyah, Anja, Ariana and Adwyn)



## What is Going on Outside the Church?

Those darn woodpeckers! We are getting new stucco on the East and South sides of the building to take care of the woodpecker damage our building has received. Parts of the front entrance may be blocked but we will still have access. Just be aware of the caution tape. They should be done shortly, just need to have enough warm days!



## 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.

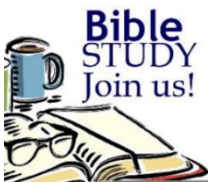
**We ask that all members of the congregation please be conscious of protecting their valuables while at church. Many times, the doors are left unlocked, and people are downstairs. This gives easy access to someone who may not be a member. We will try to remember to lock the doors after service.**

**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 **2024 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.



**Sunday Morning Bible Study** – Please join us after service downstairs for Sunday morning Bible Study.

**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!

**Wednesday Night Bible Study** - Wednesday night Bible Study has resumed. Please join us each Wednesday at 7:00p.m.

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## SERVING IN DECEMBER

### **Sunday, December 3**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Luke Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Roger Landowski
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Cindy Stahly and Katherine Crane
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Wayne Thomas
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Kirk Anderson
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	OPEN

### **Thursday, December 7**

Organist /Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Anna Lambrecht
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley
A/V Booth	
Snow	

### **Sunday, December 10**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Tom Stahly
Acolyte	Lydia Hurst
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Marc Ertle
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht (r), Wayne Thomas
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Dave Sherrets
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	OPEN

### **Thursday, December 14**

Organist /Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley
A/V Booth	
Snow	

### **Sunday, December 17**

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Katie Reuer
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Marc Ertle
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Dave Sherrets, Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Larissa and Katie Reuer
Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	OPEN

### **Thursday, December 21**

Organist /Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Katie Reuer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley
A/V Booth	
Snow	

### **Sunday, December 24**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	Mark Bunge
Acolyte	Anna Lambrecht
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson (r), Jeff Reuer
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Hire/Raben

### **Sunday, December 24 (Childrens Candlelight Service)**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Thompson
Acolyte	
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Marc Ertle
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Dave Sherrets
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Laura Raben

### **Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day)**

Organist /Pianist	Connie Howes
Acolyte	Lydia Hurst
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Larissa and Jeff Reuer
Elder(s)	Dave Sherrets, Wayne Thomas
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Marc Ertle

### **Sunday, December 31**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Anna Lambrecht
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Roger Landowski
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Nick Mayer
Snow	Dave Sherrets
Flowers	OPEN

### **Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve Service)**

Look at the Servant Schedule for Assignments as many responsibilities are yet to be determined.

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!