



# *The Eternal Light*

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church  
2688 North Park Drive  
Lafayette, CO 80026  
303-665-6105



**From the Intentional Interim Pastor  
February 2023**

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## **What is the significance of Lent?**

Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension. As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation. During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well.

By not using the alleluia — a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" — until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year. Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday. This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Rom. 6:1-11). This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

## **The Theme for this Lenten Season**

The theme of this series is the seven words of Christ that He spoke from the cross as He offered up His life for the life of the world. Each word imparts a blessing and is a word of Gospel. The sermons and devotions in this series will expound on these words of Christ, linking them to Jesus' words and works recorded in the Gospel as well as the Old Testament prophecies that pointed to Him. Each word of Christ proclaims and delivers something about Him, the Word Incarnate, and delivers His saving death to us that we would trust Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. The penitential season of Lent is also a catechetical (teaching) season. Lenten catechesis may sometimes include a special focus on one or more of the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism, but it seeks a broader context. Lent is catechetical because it is pointing toward Baptism into the cross and resurrection of Christ.

Historically, Lent developed as a season of preparation for Holy Baptism; liturgically and theologically. Lent is the Church's refocus on the significance of Holy Baptism. The daily drowning of contrition and repentance, which characterizes the entire Christian life of discipleship, is deliberately intensified during Lent as a renewal of faith and life in Christ. This repentance is never the product of human wisdom, reason, strength, or effort. Rather, it is always the divine work of the Holy Spirit through the Law and the Gospel. The Law crucifies the old Adam, and the Gospel raises up the new man in us. Thus, a Lenten focus on the cross and Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ is not aimed at an emotional response, nor is it an appeal for greater effort or heroic self-sacrifice on the part of sinners. Rather, Lent is a pointed proclamation and confession of the Law and the Gospel, a preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Lent is properly penitential and most surely catechetical when it brings the cross to sinners and sinners to the cross of Christ as the fountain and source of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Here is the schedule for our Lenten Services

<b>Ash Wednesday:</b>	The Pardoning Word	Luke 23:34
<b>Midweek 2:</b>	The Promising Word	Luke 23:43
<b>Midweek 3:</b>	The Faithful Word	Matthew 27:46
<b>Midweek 4:</b>	The Compassionate Word	John 19:26–27
<b>Midweek 5:</b>	The Suffering Word	John 19:28
<b>Midweek 6:</b>	The Dying Word	Luke 23:46
<b>Maundy Thursday:</b>	The Remembering Word	1 Cor. 11:23–26
<b>Good Friday:</b>	The Fulfilled Word	John 19:30
<b>Easter Sunday:</b>	The Vindicated Word	Luke 24:1–12

**Stewardship: Don't Replace "And" with "Or"**

*(This Article taken from LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship))*

We've all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. As we confess in the Small Catechism's explanation of the First Article of the Apostle's Creed, God gives us everything we have and enjoy. First we confess that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses" (SC II). Then we confess that He gives us material things. The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word 'and' with the word 'or'. It is always written with the and, but when we read it, we read it with the or. Thus, this quite helpful trinity, which extols that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, to be given back in service of His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents and treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents or treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents AND treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents and treasure to our families, our society, our church and our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything — His time, His talents and His treasure — to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God.

Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love — time, talents and treasure together.

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## Thank You!



To the wonderful members of Eternal Savior Lutheran Church, I just want to say thank you. Thank you for the wonderful Christmas gift that you gave to me. It was so thoughtful and generous! Again, Thank You!

Pastor Schultz

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### OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of January were:

January 1	\$3,700
January 8	\$2,158
January 15	\$32,654
January 22	\$3,413
January 29	\$1,400

This weekly average (\$8,665) compares to our 2023 weekly budget needs of **\$4,369**.

We have received the 2023 envelopes and they are in member mailboxes.

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### COUNTER SCHEDULE

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

February 5 – Mark and Mary Bunge  
February 12 - Mark and Mary Bunge  
February 19 - Sam and Lynn Kelley  
February 26 - Sam and Lynn Kelley

March 5 – Marc and Jan Ertle  
March 12 – Marc and Jan Ertle  
March 19 – Polly Cowley and Katherine Crane  
March 26 – Polly Cowley and Katherine Crane

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

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**Notice:** Service on February 12 will be in the lower level in the Fellowship Hall due to the reredos project in the sanctuary.

Pastor Dave Ahlman, Senior Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, in Arvada, Colorado, for 25 years, and Proclaimer of the Word for almost 40 years (LCMS), has started a new audio and video podcast ministry called Daily Truths with Dave Ahlman. This is a five minute daily devotional that walks people through the New Testament a verse or two at a time, found on various platforms (Spotify, Podcast, YouTube, etc...). If you would like to learn more about DailyTruths With Dave Ahlman and become a subscriber to their daily ministry, go to [mydailytruths.com](http://mydailytruths.com). There you will find ample information to learn more about this fledgling new ministry.

Rev. Dave Ahlman  
[daveahlman77@gmail.com](mailto:daveahlman77@gmail.com)

# Member Picture Board Updated



Take a look at our new updated member picture board. If you would like to have a new picture taken, please contact Pam Mayer to set up a time.

ESLC Members,

In the interest of open communications and transparency I want to give you a summary of our 2022 End-of-Year financial report. Throughout this year we have been able to pay all bills and payroll in full, and on time. In both September and November, we had to delay our internal commitments to the Future Pastor and Equipment Replacement Funds. In addition to not making these transfers we needed to borrow funds from both our Payroll and Rainy-Day savings funds totaling \$5000.



Increased contributions in October and December have allowed us to catch-up with our annual commitments to our internal funds. December contributions also gave us the ability to return all the funds borrowed from our savings accounts.

We did have a few occasions where high bills were received. We (the council and boards) took action to ensure that our costs are kept as low as possible, and we have lowered costs wherever possible. However, like all of us we are being stretched and challenged by our current inflation situation.

The bottom line shows that we spent 96% of our 2022 budget. While in past years we have ended the year with a surplus, it appears that will not be the case this year.

Even though our total contributions from 2022 were much lower than years past we can be thankful that we ended with a solid financial status. Historically our congregation starts each year with substantial donations to our General Fund and we can be comforted in the fact that this is taking place again in 2023.

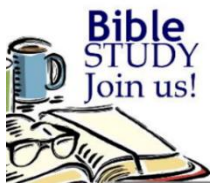
We are hoping to have our contribution envelopes soon. If you have any questions about giving options (check, standard envelope, electronic, etc.) get in contact with Mary and she will be happy to help.

Please keep the ongoing financial status of our congregation in your thoughts and prayers and give thanks and praise to God for our stable 2022 EOY status.

Mark Bunge,

Treasurer

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**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](mailto: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!

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**Reredos Committee** – The artist will begin working on the mural on the Reredos wall February 6. We are looking for help on **Sunday, February 5** after service to help move furniture of the chancel and help cover areas to enable the artist to begin work. If you are available please help, the more hands we have the easier the work will be.

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.

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## **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.

- Pastor led an opening devotion about Matthew 7:24-27 and Psalm 40:1-5 which focused on a solid rock foundation.
- Each of the committees gave a status report of the work they have accomplished since the last meeting:

- Team 1 - Cosmetic Issues - Have completed the majority of their tasks including the update of the picture board. A few small projects will be completed (i.e. member mail boxes) after the roster updates are finalized in February.



- Team 2 - Mission & Vision - Shared a document with our congregation's mission and vision on it from 1990. Many of the components are timeless and will still work for the congregation today. This group is working through updating congregational goals for evangelism, membership, etc.. They have reviewed the faith statement in the congregational brochure and have added notations to which scripture passages are being referenced.

- Group 3 - Constitutional Review - Is working through our Constitution and will share its recommendations in the future. The section of our Constitution that

pertains to the call process isn't changing, so there is no need to submit it to the Rocky Mountain District for approval before the call process can begin. They are currently working through portions that pertain to the Board of Deacons and LWML.

The remainder of the meeting was spent in discussion about potential timelines to call a pastor to Eternal Savior. The IIT team hopes to have a new pastor installed at Eternal Savior this summer. We also want to be helpful to Pastor Schultz by providing a firm end date so he and Marlys can make arrangements with their apartment lease and best prepare for their next chapter.

We will soon be looking for members of the congregation to serve on the call committee. There will be another congregational survey conducted about what qualities we will be looking for in our future pastor.

Lastly, the IIT Team, Elders, and Officers will be meeting with the Rocky Mountain District President, Rev. James Maxwell on January 31 to discuss our call process.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the taskforce team and their tasks please contact any member of the team.

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## 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.

**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](mailto: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.

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## SERVING IN FEBRUARY

### **Sunday, February 5**

Organist /Pianist	Pam Mayer
Cantor	Keith Cowley
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Marc Ertle
Greeter(s)	Larissa and Jeff Reuer
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Dave Sherrets, Keith Cowley
Altar	Jan Ertle
A/V Booth	Ed Warnken
Snow	Tom Stahly
Flowers	OPEN

### **Sunday, February 12 (in Fellowship Hall)**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	Dave Sherrets
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Ryan Lambrecht
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Dave Sherrets
Altar	Jan Ertle
A/V Booth	Kirk Anderson
Snow	Tom Stahly
Flowers	OPEN

### **Sunday, February 19**

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Roger Landowski
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson, Keith Cowley
Altar	Jan Ertle
A/V Booth	Nick Mayer
Snow	Tom Stahly
Flowers	OPEN

### **Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday)**

Organist/Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Levi Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Marc Ertle
Elder(s)	Jeff Reuer, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Jan Ertle
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht

### **Sunday, February 26**

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Mark Bunge
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Kirk Anderson
Altar	Jan Ertle
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
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!