



The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
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Word Is . . .

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BLESSED 2024!!

A WORD FROM PASTOR THORSON

Happy New Year!!!

God's Richest blessings to you in 2024! It is with great excitement that I wish you a happy New Year! I say this because God through Christ promises his believers in Revelation 21 that, "Behold, I am making all things new." So, at the start of the year it is always exciting to see what new thing God will have in store for us. In many ways, things won't change. There will still be ministry to carry out. People will still need food, clothes and Jesus. While we won't be able to help everybody, I am excited to see who God puts before us and how we can help spread the life-giving story of Christ who has come to make all things new. This message will be so important for so many, in fact it is the most important message for everyone, but especially in the midst of all the New Year, New You stuff that the world pushes on us every January. There is nothing wrong with getting your health under control, nor is there anything wrong with making plans to travel the world or live in a more exciting way (within reason on that last one). But, none of that would mean anything if Christ hadn't given us the gift of forgiveness and life everlasting. That means the message we have to share is the single most important thing that anyone can ever have, but especially when they are trying to make a "new start." Because of this I am very excited to see what's in store for us



in 2024. I know that God will provide abounding opportunities to serve Him and help others make that new beginning that they've always wanted and needed! As we prepare for these new opportunities and continue to tell of Jesus love, please know that I am always ready to help you remember that it isn't just at the start of the year that Jesus makes us new, but everyday his mercies are new for us (go read Lamentations 3: 22-23 for that one). Even though we know Jesus' story doesn't mean that we don't need reminded of his forgiveness or love for us. So, as you encounter the rough spots and the hard days of 2024, remember that Christ has come, conquered, and enacted change for you that you may know his love, joy and peace even in the midst of hardship. Jesus has come to make all things, including you and me, new. God bless you all in 2024.

In Christ,

Pastor Clint O. Thorson

Upcoming Events

Saturday January 6 – 10:00a.m. take down Christmas decorations. Come help us take down and store all the beautiful Christmas decorations.



Saturday, January 13 – 5:30p.m. Pizza/Game Night. The board of Deacons is planning a game night and serving pizza. There will be a sign-up so enough pizza will be ordered. Come and share a great time of fellowship and fun!

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of November were:

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| December 3 | \$2,801 |
| December 10 | \$4,506 |
| December 17 | \$6,746 |
| December 24 | \$3,363 |
| Christmas Eve | \$4,049 |
| Christmas Day | \$ 663 |
| December 31 | \$1,666 |
| Online Offerings | \$1,989 |



This weekly average (\$ 3.223) 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.

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.



Decorating the Church for the Christmas Celebration!

We had a great group of people come together to decorate the church for the Christmas season. Thank you to all you came to help!



Youth Group and Confirmand Christmas Party

We played some fun games and enjoyed a devotion from Pastor Thorson.





Christmas Caroling

A large group of members went caroling to the facilities where some of our shut-ins lived. Everyone enjoyed a great day of spreading Christmas joy!



More improvements to the Church

We have new HVAC units installed for the offices and Fireside room. We received new thermostat controllers and highly efficient AC/Furnace units. The stucco company also caulked all of our windows; thank goodness they could get to those high places.



Excel Energy came and replaced all our fluorescent bulbs with LED fluorescent bulbs free of charge. Our trustees have been working hard at replacing the bulbs in the sanctuary with LED bulbs. It's amazing how much brighter everything is.





Christmas Eve Celebration

Here are some pictures from the wonderful Christmas Eve Children's Candlelight Service



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.

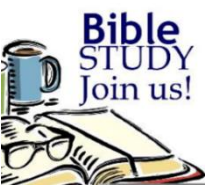
We ask that all members of the congregation please be conscious of protecting their valuables while at church. Many times, the doors are left unlocked, and people are downstairs. This gives easy access to someone who may not be a member. We will try to remember to lock the doors after service.

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 Morning Bible Study - Pastor Thorson will be resuming Wednesday morning Bible Study beginning Wednesday, January 10 at 10:30a.m. Please join us.

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

SERVING IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 7

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Organist/Pianist | Linda Innes |
| Acolyte | Lydia Hurst |
| Usher(s) | Ryan Lambrecht, Roger Landowski |
| Greeter(s) | Keith and Polly Cowley |
| Counter(s) | Marc and Jan Ertle |
| Elder(s) | Kirk Anderson, Keith Cowley |
| Altar | Mary Bunge |
| A/V Booth | Ed Warnken |
| Snow | Ryan Lambrecht |
| Flowers | Oehlkers |

Sunday, January 14

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Organist/Pianist | Linda Innes |
| Cantor | Pam Mayer |
| Acolyte | Katie Reuer |
| Usher(s) | Ryan Lambrecht, Roger Landowski |
| Greeter(s) | Kirk and Melisa Anderson |
| Counter(s) | Marc and Jan Ertle |
| Elder(s) | Wayne Thomas (r), Dave Sherrets |
| Altar | Mary Bunge |
| A/V Booth | Kirk Anderson |
| Snow | Ryan Lambrecht |
| Flowers | Bunge |

Sunday, January 21

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Organist/Pianist | Linda Thompson |
| Acolyte | Luke Hinrichs |
| Usher(s) | Kirk Anderson, Micah Anderson |
| Greeter(s) | Sam and Lynn Kelley |
| Counter(s) | Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly |
| Elder(s) | Dave Sherrets, Ryan Lambrecht |
| Altar | Mary Bunge |
| A/V Booth | Tom Stahly |
| Snow | Kirk Anderson |
| Flowers | OPEN |

Sunday, January 28

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Organist/Pianist | Linda Thompson |
| Cantor | Cindy Griffin |
| Acolyte | Anna Lambrecht |
| Usher(s) | Kirk Anderson, Micah Anderson |
| Greeter(s) | Larissa and Jeff Reuer |
| Counter(s) | Polly Cowley and Katherine Moore |
| Elder(s) | Keith Cowley (r), Jeff Reuer |
| Altar | Mary Bunge |
| A/V Booth | Dave Sherrets |
| 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!