



The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
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**From the Intentional Interim Pastor
July 2023**

Go ... Sell All You Have?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Do not let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

This article is taken from LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of June were:

June 4	\$3,761
June 11	\$2,637
June 18	\$1,720
June 25	\$2,001

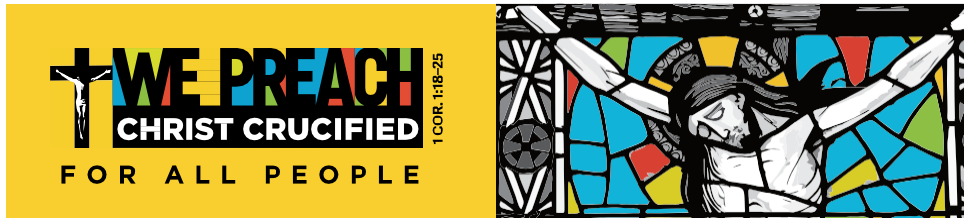
This weekly average (\$ 2,530) compares to our 2023 weekly budget needs of **\$4,369**.

COUNTER SCHEDULE

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

July 2 – Marc and Jan Ertle	August 6 – Mark and Mary Bunge
July 9 – Marc and Jan Ertle	August 13 – Mark and Mary Bunge
July 16 – Cindy Stahly and Katherine Crane	August 20 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
July 23 – Cindy Stahly and Katherine Crane	August 27 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
July 30 – 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.



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 2023–2026 National Offering –

“We preach Christ crucified” (1 COR. 1:23). We chose this simple statement as the theme for our upcoming LCMS convention in Milwaukee. As I have prepared for the convention, these words have resonated in my mind. These words describe our church. We, the LCMS, preach Christ crucified along with the apostles and the whole Christian church throughout the world.

Not only do we enjoy fellowship with every Christian of every time and place, but we also seek to reach all people with the Gospel, for not all have heard. One thing that diminishes our ability to share the Good News with all people is language. Since the tower of Babel in Genesis 11, people have spoken different languages. Yet as we learned in Acts 2, the message of the Gospel unites people into the one Body of Christ.

Therefore, we have designated our 2023–2026 LCMS National Offering, “We Preach Christ Crucified for All People,” for the translation of solid biblical Lutheran resources into languages that lack such materials. Whatever you generously contribute to this offering will enable this vital work. We thank God for all those who have labored to translate the Scriptures. You will help provide instructional and doctrinal resources LCMS congregations can use to reach and instruct non-English speakers in His Word.

Our 2019 convention theme verses included Paul’s words, “Pray without ceasing” (1 THESS. 5:17). I have made it my habit to pray before I start my day, praying for individuals, members of my congregation, international church leaders, people I have met and, of course, the Synod at large. Many times, the Psalms of David provide the words for my prayers.

I invite you to pray for those who translate Lutheran resources, that their labor would produce faithful and beneficial materials for those who use them. Pray for those who receive their work. Pray for our international church partners. Pray for all those who do not know Jesus. Join me in daily prayers, for our Lord has graciously invited us to bring before Him all our concerns, all through Jesus Christ crucified and risen. We preach Christ crucified — for all people.

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

HOW CAN I GIVE?

There are several options!

- 1) You may give directly at – lcms.org/givenow/national-offering
- 2) Using your giving envelope or a standard mailing envelope indicate the portion you wish to designate for the “national offering”.
- 3) From our website, select the VANCO electronic giving option. Then select the National Offering option to designate your contributions.

We will continue to accept contributions after the July 9th date. These will be forwarded at the end of each month.

- **Game Night** – The Board of Deacons has planned another game night for July 22, at 5:30p.m. Please bring game boards, snacks and drinks to share. There is a signup on the bulletin board.
 - **Survey** – This is a reminder to please complete the survey that was emailed to the congregation regarding the start time of service and Sunday School. Here is a link to the survey: <https://eternalsavior.wufoo.com/forms/worship-time-survey/>
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Note from our Treasurer!

Members of ESLC,

Just wanted to give all the members an update on our current financial status.

At the moment we have a healthy balance in the General Fund. Historically this is the time that we see giving drop for the summer months, which can raise the level of concern over our operating expenses. Actually, we have seen that begin with the May and June giving.

We have an expensive repair on our fire monitoring system that we will have to complete soon. We are blessed that the funds to cover this are currently available in our Equipment Replacement Fund. However, that fund will be depleted, and we will continue to add to that fund in the coming months.

We also brought to the congregation's attention the needed repairs from the woodpecker damage. That is still on the burner and has not been acted on yet. This will probably require a loan to cover the expense and we will keep the congregation up to date on the status of this repair.

We can be thankful that our current status is stable as we continue to keep the financial status of ESLC in our thoughts and prayers.

Mark Bunge, Treasurer



We had a wonderful outside workday June 3rd even though the weather did not really cooperate!



Vacation Bible School – June 19-23.
We had a small group, but all
enjoyed the week.



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.

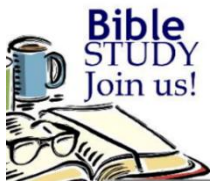
We ask that all members of the congregation please be conscious of protecting their valuables while at church. Many times, the doors are left unlocked, and people are downstairs. This gives easy access to someone who may not be a member. We will try to remember to lock the doors after service.

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.



Sunday Morning Bible Study! – Grab a cup of coffee and please join us each Sunday at 10:40AM in the Fellowship Hall! We are currently studying the Augsburg Confession from the Book of Concord.

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 - At the Wednesday night Bible study we are studying how we got the Bible and how the Bible is on Trial. 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.

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!

SERVING IN JULY

Sunday, July 2

Organist /Pianist	Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Levi Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Marc Ertle
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Lawn	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	Hire

Sunday, July 9

Organist /Pianist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	Dave Sherrets
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Dave Sherrets
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Lawn	Tom Stahly
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, July 16

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Larissa and Jeff Reuer
Counter(s)	Cindy Stahly and Katherine Crane
Elder(s)	Jeff Reuer, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Dave Sherrets
Lawn	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, July 23

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Karen Sherrets
Acolyte	Levi Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Roger Landowski
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Cindy Stahly and Katherine Crane
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Dave Sherrets
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Mar Ertle
Lawn	Pete Hinrichs
Flowers	Bunge

Sunday, July 30

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Roger Landowski
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Cindy Stahly and Katherine Crane
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson, Jeff Reuer
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Larissa and Katie Reuer
Lawn	Sam Kelley
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!