



The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
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Lafayette, CO 80026
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**From the Intentional Interim Pastor
June 2023**

“What Do You Want?”

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (*in violation of the First and Third Commandments*). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (*even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters*).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

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

Come Join us for Bible Class

Come join us for an exciting new study on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. We are currently studying the Augsburg Confession from the Book of Concord. Also, on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. we are studying the church pericopes for each week of the church calendar year. Also, on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. we are studying the Time Between the Testaments and the Apocrypha.

Joy in Sharing the Good News of Jesus

Did you know? 82% of people who do not attend church say that they would be somewhat likely or very likely to attend a service or other church events if they were personally invited.

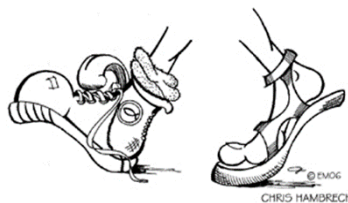
Perhaps you hesitate to invite other people to your church because you are afraid they will turn you down or will fail to follow through, but the probability is very good that the person you invited will actually come. Inviting people is a great way to get started in personal witnessing because it is so simple. No training or special knowledge is required, but it is highly effective. Your church is the place where Jesus comes to speak to sinners with His Word, and your invitation could bring them to hear our Lord's great message of Salvation. It is our task to plant the seed, God's Word to water it and the Holy Spirit's to make it grow. You see, bringing others to Christ and into His Church will plant the seed, so that all may come to know Jesus as Lord and that by believing in Him, one may have life in His Name. We need you. Please help! Together by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can build the kingdom and share God's message of Salvation with others.

Pastor Schultz

"Rebuilding My Engine"

Saint Paul tells the Christians at Ephesus to put on the full armor of God so that they may stand firm against the devil's schemes. This is indeed good advice for us today too. In this day and age, we need to have our "engine rebuilt." So how do we go about doing that? First of all, we need to be jump started by the word of God. We need to be in the word (Bible) daily. Once we do that, we'll see how God, our heavenly Father wants us as His children to live. After that we can "adjust our lights so others may see our good works and our faith." Secondly we need to set our brakes firmly; this will enable us to control our tongue so that we may be eager and willing to share in witnessing. Our Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit will "tune up our heart" and give to us the peace that passes all understanding. Accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior will allow us to align ourselves in the direction that He wants and wills so that we will be able to travel up the straight and narrow road of life! Attending worship and Bible Class will tune our mind so as to think on pure, noble, and holy things. All this will assure us, and for a quick start and a sure victory, always being able and willing and ready to do the Lord's will. Finally, all this will enable us to Re-tire with the full assurance of eternal life. Praise be to God for rebuilding our engines.

Pastor Schultz



LORD, PLEASE WALK WITH ME!!

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of May were:

May 7	\$4,687
May 14	\$2,120
May 21	\$2,313
May 28	\$2,011

This weekly average (\$ 2,783) 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.

June 4 – Mark and Mary Bunge
June 11 – Mark and Mary Bunge
June 18 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
June 25 – Sam and Lynn Kelley

July 2 – Marc and Jan Ertle
July 9 – Marc and Jan Ertle
July 16 – Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly
July 23 – Polly Cowley and Katherine Crane
July 30 – Katherine Crane and Cindy Stahly

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.

News Items

- **Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 2023–2026 National Offering** - The LCMS reaches out to individuals from non-English speaking cultures every day. So we can share the life-giving Gospel message across cultural and language lines, the 2023-2026 National Offering will make possible the translation of carefully selected Lutheran outreach resources into languages other than English. The National Offering coincides with the 2023 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on July 29-Aug. 3 in Milwaukee. Connected to the theme of the convention, this triennium's National Offering — “We Preach Christ Crucified for All People” — will focus on translating introductory Christian resources into as many as five major languages. Congregations, schools, and other groups will be able to utilize these evangelism, educational, and catechetical resources to help non-English speakers clearly hear and read the Good News. A gracious friend of the Synod has offered to match National Offering gifts dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000, or until the opening worship service of the 2023 Convention. ESLC will place special emphasis on and encourage our members to give in support of the LCMS National Offering. In order to take advantage of the matching gift we will combine all contributions received on or before July 9th and send our contribution soon after.

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.**

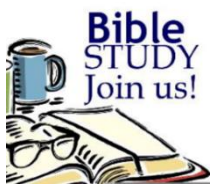
We will continue to accept contributions after the July 9th date. These will be forwarded at the end of each month.

- **Handbell Concert** - Ascension Lutheran Church at 1701 W. Caley Avenue, Littleton, is excited to host the Forté Handbell Quartet (<https://fortehandbells.org>) in a free performance **Saturday, June 3rd** at 7:00 pm! Based out of Colorado Springs, Forté is an advanced handbell quartet that uses artistry and energy to glorify God through music. They perform sacred and secular pieces, both classical and modern. Not only do they produce beautiful music, but they are truly innovative and exciting to watch. Tickets are not required. There will be a free will offering taken at the door, with proceeds going to the group to cover travel expenses, pay for equipment maintenance, etc.

Reminder! Outside Work Day on June 3rd!



Bob and Pastor mowing looked like Zamboni drivers on the ice!



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!

Note from our Treasurer!

Members of ESLC,

Just wanted to give a quick update on the status of our finances.

At this time, we are in a very stable and strong status, with 2023 contributions outpacing those of last year. At our last voters'/congregational meeting a few issues were brought to the attention of all present. At this time the second parking lot repair and replacement of the fascia board has been placed in limbo as we work on a few of the other issues. We filed an insurance claim on the damage caused by the woodpeckers, unfortunately that claim was denied. So, the council will discuss and formulate a plan to move forward with the necessary repairs. We did have some water damage from the last rainstorm, but we were able to take care of that in-house. However, some work needs to be done to keep this from recurring. The electrical issue to the garage has been diagnosed and we hope that the necessary repairs can be kept to a minimum.



The month of May is our most challenging since we receive bills on property insurance, workman's comp, fire suppression and alarm system test, and backflow tests on our building and sprinkler systems. We have placed funds in escrow to cover these if no surprises show up. Unfortunately, one has hit us again. If you recall last year, we received an unexpected increase in our property insurance requiring us to make some substantial adjustments to lower our annual premium back to \$9,400. A few weeks ago, we received our 2023-2024 bill totaling \$11,014. We were also informed to expect similar increases next year, so the council will need to begin a plan to address this and future increases.

Again, for now our escrow and balance in the General Fund has allowed us to pay all these bills in full and will need to amend our escrow projections for the future.

We give thanks that we had the funds needed to stay current with all our bills and payroll. We all know that historically we have become challenged in the summer months and I will try to keep you all informed on our financial status if it is foreseen.

Keep the financial status of our congregation in your thoughts and prayers.

Mark Bunge, Treasurer

Faithful Leaders Serving Our Seminaries

It is with joy and praise to God that we congratulate **Dr. Jeffrey Reuer** on his elected appointment to serve a six-year term as a member of the Board of Regents for Concordia Theology Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana (CTSFW). Each of our Synod's two seminaries (Fort Wayne, and St. Louis) is governed by a Board of Regents. The Board is entrusted with important spiritual care and administrative responsibilities; including fiscal oversight, institutional planning, and assuring the seminary remains true to the mission given it by the Synod.



God has richly blessed Jeff to serve as a seminary Regent. As the Guggenheim Endowed Chair and Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at the University of Colorado, his strategic business acumen and leadership experience equip him well to support CTSFW in strategy and planning toward a bright future; acknowledging and engaging today's society and culture. Additionally, Jeff's mature faith and his deep foundation in the doctrine and theology of the LCMS affords him a leadership lens to bring a strong voice of understanding and unwavering resolve toward assuring our seminaries thrive in training up capable pastoral and deaconess candidates that boldly proclaim Christ to our broken world. Jeff's complete professional biography (www.jeffreyreuer.com) is a strong example of how God gives us talents and abilities to compel us to a vocation that serves His good purpose in all we do!

Here at Eternal Savior, Jeff and his family have been members since 2015. He is an Elder in our congregation and has served in that role for many years. In other LCMS congregations Jeff has served as President, Vice President, and Elder. Jeff and his family are also committed leaders in campus ministry, and continue to cultivate strong bonds between Eternal Savior and University Lutheran Chapel on the University of Colorado campus in Boulder.

It is with great thanks and praise to God that we heartily congratulate Dr. Reuer (or simply, "Jeff" to all of us!) on his appointment to the CTSFW Board of Regents and wish him every success and blessing as he begins his work in September of this year.



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.

SERVING IN JUNE

Sunday, June 4

Organist /Pianist	Connie Howes
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Larissa and Jeff Reuer
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Dave Sherrets, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Lambrechts
A/V Booth	Marc Ertle
Lawn	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	Hire

Sunday, June 11

Organist /Pianist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	Tom Stahly
Acolyte	Levi Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Keith Cowley
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley (r), Kirk Anderson
Altar	Lambrechts
A/V Booth	Larissa and Katie Reuer
Lawn	Dave Sherrets
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, June 18

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Roger Landowski
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Jeff Reuer, Wayne Thomas
Altar	Lambrechts
A/V Booth	Ed Warnken
Lawn	Sam Kelley
Flowers	Raben

Sunday, June 25

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Mark Bunge
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Marc Ertle
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Jeff Reuer
Altar	Lambrechts
A/V Booth	Nick Mayer
Lawn	Pete Hinrichs
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!