



The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
2688 North Park Drive
Lafayette, CO 80026
303-655-6105



“The Five Solas of the Reformation” From the Intentional Interim Pastor October 2022

As we begin the Reformation month of October, it would be a good refresher course to reread or to read for the first time! the monumental work of Martin Luther, “The Bondage of the Will.” In the introduction of this book, we read of the Five Solas of Reformation. They are: “SOLA FIDE, SOLA GRATIA, SOLI DEO GLORIA, SOLA SCRIPTURA, SOLUS CHRISTUS! ”

For those less astute in Latin, the meanings of these Solas are as follows: Sola Fide means by faith alone. Sola gratia — means by grace alone. Soli Deo Gloria — means Glory to God alone. Sola Scriptura — means by Scripture alone, and Solus Christus — means by Christ alone. These are the principles that we as Lutherans live our lives by.

Since we often don’t consider these truths in depth at other times of the year, I thought it would be wise to bring them before you during this month, as we celebrate the Reformation and the courage and fortitude of Martin Luther who on October 31, nailed his 95 Theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

Sola Fide: Justification by Faith Alone

The “Central Teaching” of the Reformation was justification by faith alone. As the Lutheran Confessions says, “Our churches by common consent teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins.” Luther himself later explains, Faith is a gift from God, and “...a living, bold trust in God’s grace, so certain of God’s favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it.

Luther was not alone among the Protestant reformers. The Westminster Confession of Faith says, “Faith, thus receiving and resting on Christ and his righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification: yet it is not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, but worketh by love.” Likewise, the Genevan Confession pointed out the necessity of those justified living by faith saying, “We confess that the entrance which we have to the great treasures and riches of the goodness of God that is vouchsafed us is by faith; inasmuch as, in certain confidence and assurance of heart, we believe in the promises of the gospel, and receive Jesus Christ as he is offered to us by the Father and described to us by the Word of God.”

As the Scripture says: Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the nations

shall be blessed in you." So, then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them." Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "The righteous man shall live by faith." (Galatians 3:6-11)

Sola Gratia: Salvation by Grace Alone

Another central cry of the Reformation was salvation by grace. Though the Roman church taught that Mass is a "sacrifice [which] is truly propitiatory" and that by the Mass "God...grants us grace and the gift of penitence, remits our faults and even our enormous sins" -- the reformers returned to the biblical doctrine of salvation by grace through faith. Our righteous standing before God is imputed to us by grace because of the work of Christ Jesus our Lord. In contrast to the doctrines of self-merit taught by Rome, sola gratia and the accompanying doctrines of grace were preached by all the reformers throughout the Protestant movement. As the Baptist Confession of 1689 says, "Christ, by His obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are justified; and did, by the sacrifice of Himself in the blood of His cross, undergoing in their stead the penalty due unto them, make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice in their behalf;...their justification is only of free grace, that both the exact justice and rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners. "

As the Scripture says: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us. (Ephesians 1:3-8)

Soli Deo Gloria! For the Glory of God Alone

The Reformation reclaimed the Scriptural teaching of the sovereignty of God over every aspect of the believer's life. All of life is to be lived to the glory of God. As the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, "What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." This great and all-consuming purpose was emphasized by those in the 16th and 17th Centuries who sought to reform the church according to the Word of God. In contrast to the monastic division of life into sacred versus secular perpetuated by Roman Church, the reformers saw all of life to be lived under the Lordship of Christ. Every activity of the Christian is to be sanctified unto the glory of God.

As the Scripture says: Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God; Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (*I Cor 10:31; I Peter 4:11; Rev 1:6, 7:12; 2 Peter 3:1; Eph 3:21; Rom 11:36*)

Sola Scriptura! By Scripture Alone!

Sola scriptura is the teaching that the Bible is the only inspired and authoritative word of God. It is the only source for Christian doctrine, and is accessible to all—that is, it is self-interpreting. "Scripture interprets scripture" is a governing principle of many Protestant denominations. Sola scriptura is sometimes called the formal principle of the Reformation, since it is the source and norm of the material principle, the gospel of Jesus Christ that is received sola fide ("through faith alone") sola gratia (by God's favor or "grace alone"). The adjective (sola) and the noun (scriptura) are in the ablative case rather than the nominative case to indicate that the Bible does not stand alone apart from God, but rather that it is the instrument of God by which he reveals Himself for salvation through faith in Christ.

Solus Christus! By Christ Alone!

Solus Christus which means "Christ alone " or "through Christ alone". The Reformation was, more than anything else, an assault on faith in humanity, and a defense of the idea that God alone reveals Himself and saves us. We do not find Him; He finds us. That emphasis was the cause of the cry, "Christ alone!" Jesus was the only way of knowing what God is really like, the only way of entering into a relationship with Him as father instead of judge, and the only way of being saved from His wrath. Solus Christus is the teaching that Christ is the only mediator between God and man, and that there is salvation through no other, meaning that salvation is "by Christ alone". To say Solus Christus does not mean that we do not believe in the Father or the Spirit, but it does insist that Christ is the only incarnate self-revelation of God and Redeemer of humanity. The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to himself, but leads us to Christ, in whom we find our peace with God.

These are the principles in which the Christian ought to live their life by. For they are the truth. May we always hold fast to the blessed truth and that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Schultz

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of August were:

September 4	\$3,999
September 11	\$3,076
September 18	\$5,626
September 25	\$1,760

This weekly average (\$3,593) compares to our 2022 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.

Oct. 2 – Mary Bunge and Polly Cowley
Oct. 9 – Mark Bunge and Sam Kelley
Oct. 16 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
Oct. 23 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
Oct. 30 – Marc and Jan Ertle

November 6 – Marc and Jan Ertle
November 13 – Mark and Mary Bunge
November 20 – Mark and Mary Bunge
November 27 – Mary Bunge and Polly Cowley

Thank you so much for volunteering to count. If we gain more counters, we can spread the work.

ESLC LWML/WinGS 😊🙏

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 2:00

The ladies group will be getting together for a “Gratitude Gathering” and prepare our hearts for Thanksgiving. There will be a craft project to make wooden bead garlands along with a short devotion and light snack. Please bring along your daughter or grab a friend for a good time. Below are some examples of wooden bead garlands.



★★★★

Message from our Treasurer

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

ESLC MEMBERS ---

First I'll give a quick update on our financial status. In August our contributions fell short of covering all our expenses, so we had to dip into the reserves a bit. So far, September looks like we will be close to meeting our needs with maybe just a small dip. The good news is we have not had to reach into our rainy-day funds. Some of our financial challenges have been created by some unexpected increases in bills. While we have seen several, three of them really stick out. 1) Our monthly water bill has seemed to be higher than in the recent past --- the trustees have aggressively looked for and repaired some items that may have caused this, and it appears they have resolved this problem, 2) Our monthly power bill has also been consistently higher than the past, especially with electricity. Looking at the data it shows we are using less than we have in the past but the cost per unit has risen to higher levels. So, not much we can do about this, 3) The third, and the main reason for this message is our property insurance. In preparation for 2022 we budgeted \$9,500 for the annual insurance premium which even accounted for a possible increase in cost from the year before. However, when our policy was adjusted for risks like the Marshall Fire and a sharp increase in its replacement value, we received our bill totaling \$11, 900. We dipped into our reserves and covered the bill.

I do not believe that we can sustain a \$12,000 annual bill, so a small group containing two officers and two trustees have engaged in a conversation with our agent for options to reduce our premium. We also have engaged with another insurance company for a competitive estimate. In a nutshell, it appears that the only way to reduce our costs back to our previous budget amount is to increase our deductibles. Currently our deductibles are set at \$1,000 for glass, \$1,000 for general claims, and \$1,000 for wind/hail. In order to substantially reduce our premium, we would need to increase our deductible for general to something like \$5,000 and our wind/hail to \$15,000. If that is the case and we decide to make this change, we would want to begin to build a savings account to offset this cost in the unfortunate event that we would need to file a claim. We have been very blessed in that we have filed only a couple of claims while at our current location. Using the above example, we would keep the budget line item very close to what it was last year. Keep in mind that our roof is now 19 years old (a recent inspection stated that it appears to be in good condition). We guess that the replacement cost would be \$60-\$70,000. The workgroup is still collecting data and we should have a full report ready for the October council meeting. We are then requesting to have a short Voter's Assembly meeting the following week. At this meeting we would like to present our data to the congregation and allow for further discussion. We would like to have a congregational consensus to either move forward, gather more data, or look for a different solution.

If you have any questions or comments, you may contact me or send a note to the secretary, and she will forward on to me.

***** NOTE - When I penned the "Message From the Treasurer" I was hoping that the contributions for the remainder of the month would help keep us on track for covering our needs. Unfortunately, our September contributions fell far below our expenses. I needed to use all the remaining funds in our payroll savings account. I also needed to dip into our Rainy Day Funds account. I will provide more details at the October 9th Voter's meeting.**

Please keep ESLC's financial status in your thoughts and prayers.

Mark Bunge, ESLC Treasurer

Intentional Interim Taskforce Team

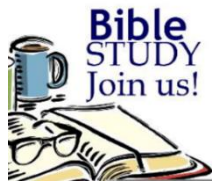
The Intentional Interim Taskforce Team met for the first time September 22. Members of the team include: Laura Raben, Tom Stahly, Bob Vieyra, Melisa Anderson, Roger Landowski, Jan Ertle, Marc Ertle, Linda Thompson, Diane Oehlkers, Robin Warnken, Keith Cowley and Mary Bunge. Pastor Schultz is guiding us through this process.

At this first meeting, the team learned the definition, purpose, goals and the work to be completed by the taskforce. The purpose of the taskforce is to lead, equip, and assist the congregation in its interim journey using effectively the 5 developmental tasks under the direction of the IIP.

What are the 5 developmental tasks you ask?

1. Coming to Terms with History – the committee is currently focused on this first with the following activities:
 - a. Cosmetic issues - These include updating the picture board, mailboxes, membership list, update time talents, and treasure, update website and media, and updating church history information.
 - b. Mission/Vision -This includes reviewing our identity, mission and vision statements, faith statement and goal setting.
 - c. Governance – This includes reviewing and updating our Constitution and By-Laws (if needed) and evaluating the decision-making structure of the church.
 - d. Financial Stability – This includes developing a realistic and balanced budget that is currently being completed by the Church Council.
 - e. Pastoral Search and Transitional Care – This includes determining the type of pastor we want to call and preparing turn over materials for the new pastor.
2. Discovering a New Identity
3. Leadership Changes During an Interim
4. Renewing Denominational Linkages
5. Commitment to New Directions in Ministry

We will be meeting monthly and will give updates on our progress. If you have any questions regarding this team and its tasks feel free to ask any team member.



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 - ** NOTE – There will not be Wednesday night Bible Study on 10/5 and 10/12. 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, 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!

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!!!

REMINDERS

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.

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 secretary at 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.

Reredos Committee – The Reredos committee met on Thursday, September 29 to review where we are and where we are headed. We all agree with the recent renderings we received from the Liturgical Art Center at Concordia University in Seward, NE. We now will be looking for local artists/painters to complete the design on the reredos wall. We are planning on moving the hymn boards off the reredos wall and moving the banners as well. We are planning on using 3” pillar candles on floating wooden shelves that will match the wood on the altar. The committee will meet again to discuss these most recent changes and we hope to bring final plans with details and pricing to the November Voters meeting for a vote. As always, if you have any questions, comments or ideas, please contact a member of the reredos committee.

SERVING IN OCTOBER

Sunday, October 2

Organist/Pianist	Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Kirk Anderson
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Mary Bunge and Polly Cowley
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Jeff Reuer
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Dave Sherrets
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Lawn	Sam Kelley and Bob Vieyra
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, October 9

Organist/Pianist	Pam Mayer
Cantor	Tom Stahly
Acolyte	Levi Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Larissa and Jeff Reuer
Counter(s)	Mark Bunge and Sam Kelley
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Roger Landowski
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Kirk Anderson
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Lawn	Sam Kelley and Bob Vieyra
Flowers	Oehlkers

Sunday, October 16

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Marc Ertle
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Dave Sherrets
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Larissa and Katie Reuer
Snow	Kirk Anderson
Lawn	Sam Kelley and Bob Vieyra
Flowers	Raben

Sunday, October 23

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson (r), Roger Landowski
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Marc Ertle
Snow	Kirk Anderson
Lawn	Sam Kelley and Bob Vieyra
Flowers	Bunge

Sunday, October 30

Organist/Pianist	Connie Howes
Acolyte	Levi Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Marc Ertle
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas, Kirk Anderson
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Ed Warnken
Snow	Kirk Anderson
Lawn	Sam Kelley and Bob Vieyra
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!