



The Eternal Light

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

December 2024

WORD IS . . .

Volume 2/Issue 12 December

LUKE 1: 38

And Mary said,
“Behold, I am the
servant of the
Lord; let it be to
me according to
your word.”

A WORD FROM PASTOR THORSON

Christmas is Coming

Here we are in advent! Already! If you’re like me you’re kind of wondering where the year has gone. It is now the busy time of year where we try to get those Christmas preparations finished. And, sometimes that is a daunting task. The other day on the way home, I started thinking about all of the many things that I had to get done before Christmas could happen. I realized that I was in way over my head and gave a short prayer, “Please God get me through all of this.”

*“Christ came once, not to burden us with worry or
work but to give us pardon and peace.”*

Thinking back, I realize that I had a problem in my thinking. Christmas doesn’t depend on me to come. I know I’m not the only one who feels stressed about getting everything done before Christmas. Unless I’m quite mistaken, that is a pretty normal feeling among most people during this time of year. We know Christmas is coming and that means planning for family, gifts, meals and travel, just to name a few things. Always and ever present in the back of our minds is the almost scary thought that Christmas is coming faster than we would like it to.

But, the message that Christmas is coming and Christ with it is not one that should cause us to rush and scurry around. Take a minute to think about Mary when the angel Gabriel told her that she was going to be the mother of the Christ. What did she do? In Luke she said this, “I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” For her, it wasn’t a call to



rush to wrangle a holiday under control. To Mary, the message that Christ was coming was an opportunity to sit back and let God work through her.

So instead of hearing Christmas is coming as a call to scurry around to get everything done, hear that Christmas is coming as a good, low-pressure thing. Christ came once, not to burden us with worry or work but to give us pardon and peace. That is what we celebrate. Thank God that Christ and Christmas are coming. And, thank God it doesn't depend the things that we get done . . . *especially me*. Blessed Christmas.

In Christ,



Upcoming Events

December 1st - Provide Meal at ULC

December 7th - Church Decorating 10:00 a.m.

December 8th – Annual Voter’s Meeting

December 15th - Christmas Caroling, 1-4p.m.

December 4th, 11th and 18th – Mid-week Advent Services 6:30p.m., preceded by a pot-luck at 5:30p.m.

December 24th – Candlelight/Children’s Christmas Eve Service 7:00p.m.

December 25th – Christmas Day Service with Communion – 10:00a.m.

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of November were:

November 3	\$3,778
November 10	\$7,487
November 17	\$4,640
November 24	\$2,018
Thanksgiving	\$ 190
Online Offerings	\$6,208



This weekly average (\$ 4,826) compares to our 2024 weekly budget needs of **\$4,674**.

COUNTER SCHEDULE

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

Dec. 1 - Sam and Lynn Kelley
Dec. 8 - Sam and Lynn Kelley
Dec. 15 – Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly
Dec. 22 - Katherine Moore and Polly Cowley
Dec. 29 - Katherine Moore and Cindy Stahly

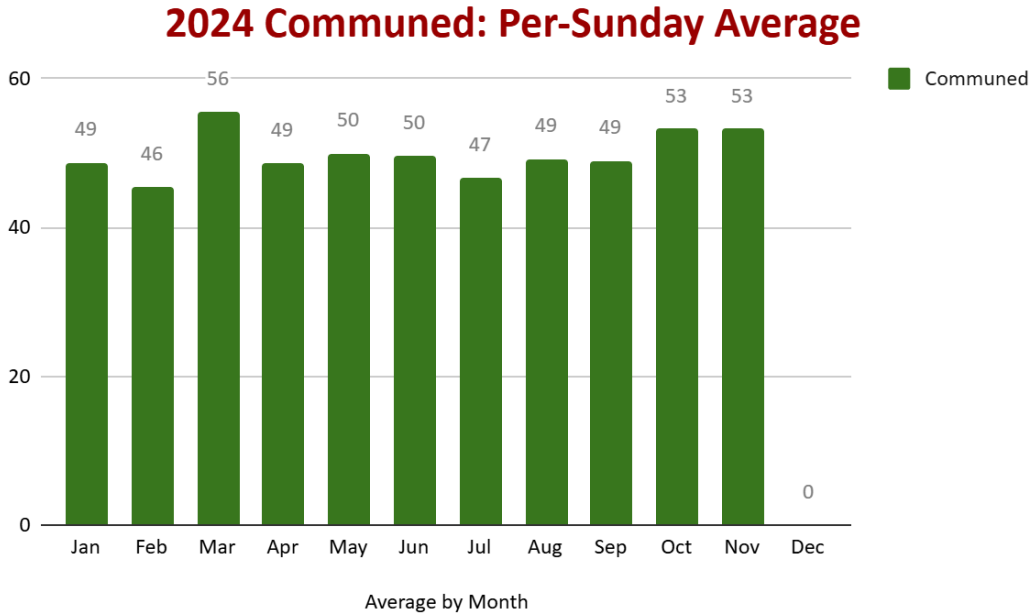
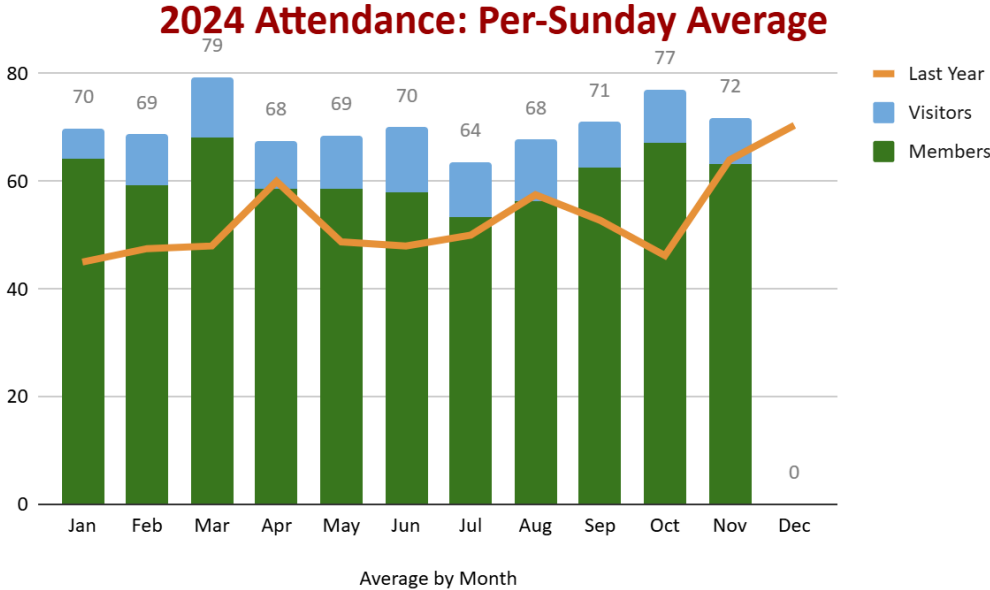
Jan. 5 – Mark and Mary Bunge
Jan. 12 – Mark and Mary Bunge
Jan. 19 - Marc and Jan Ertle
Jan. 26 - Marc and Jan Ertle



Attendance Graphs!

Members of Eternal Savior.

These are graphs showing our attendance and communion for 2024.



Update on Stained-Glass Window

The committee has learned a lot about doves while researching designs for the window.

As a reminder, the church was working on the reredos and having the mountain mural painted while Pastor Schultz was with us. We discussed that the mountain mural represented the beautiful creation by God, the Father. Our cross represents God, the Son and we discussed that a stained-glass image of a dove in the round window would represent God, the Holy Spirit. Our representation of the Holy Trinity would then be complete.

Pastor Schultz recommended that the dove should be descending and Pastor Thorson agrees. The descending dove is the best representation of the Holy Spirit in the Bible as described during the baptism of Jesus. Other doves that are not representing the Holy Spirit and not descending would be the peace dove and the dove that Noah released at the end of the flood.

While looking for images of descending doves online, we noticed images of doves that have their heads in a circle of color. Pastor Thorson explained that the circle of color denotes a halo of light. It is given only to God and the Saints (Mary included) in traditional Christian art, and it symbolizes holiness and purity. It can most certainly be considered for our window. It also denotes divine authority or blessing. For the Holy Spirit specifically shown as a dove, the halo can often encompass the whole bird or just the head.

The committee continues to pursue local stained-glass companies in the Denver area. We have plans to visit studios, learn more about the process, and view first hand examples of their work. The Scottish Stained Glass Company is in our price range including installation. They have quoted us a price of \$20,000, but would like a little cushion to work with. The committee hopes to reach \$23,000 - \$25,000 with our fund-raising effort. Thank you to all for the donations for the window. We are almost there.

New Members and Confirmation!

On Sunday, November 17 we welcomed three new members and celebrated the confirmation of one.



The Sunday School children sing "If I Were A Butterfly" during 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.

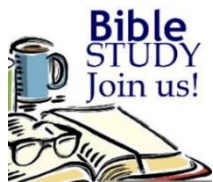
Sign Up to Receive Text Messages - Eternal Savior is building a text message list for urgent communications. i.e., Service is cancelled due to a blizzard. If you would like to receive notifications like that via text message, please text **ETERNALSAVIOR** (one word, no space) to 84576. Contact Laura Raben if you need help signing up.

The **2025 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. This Bible Study is covering the Book of Ezekiel.



Sunday School! We are studying the "Enduring Faith" curriculum. Sunday School opening is at 10:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. All children are encouraged to join us!

Wednesday Night Bible Study - Please join us for Wednesday night Bible Study at 6:00p.m. We will be studying the book of Romans.

Thursday Morning Bible Study - Please join us for Thursday morning Bible Study at 10:30a.m. We will be studying the book of Romans.

SERVING IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1

Organist /Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Acolyte	Anna Lambrecht
Usher(s)	Tom and Cindy Stahly
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas, Marc Ertle
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Kirk and Micah Anderson
Snow	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	OPEN

Wednesday, December 4

Organist /Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Anna Lambrecht
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
A/V Booth	

Sunday, December 8

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Cindy Griffin
Acolyte	Dylan Mayer
Usher(s)	Tom and Cindy Stahly
Greeter(s)	Cindy Griffin
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Eric Olson
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Nick and Noah Mayer
Snow	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	OPEN

Wednesday, December 11

Organist /Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Dylan Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
A/V Booth	

Sunday, December 15

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Luke Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Michael Scott
Greeter(s)	Michael Scott
Counter(s)	Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Kirk Anderson
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Tom Stahly
Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	OPEN

Wednesday, December 18

Organist /Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Cole Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
A/V Booth	

Sunday, December 22

Organist/Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Cantor	Mark Bunge
Acolyte	Lydia Hurst
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Micah Anderson
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Katherine Moore and Polly Cowley
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley (r), Eric Olson
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Jaspers

Tuesday, December 24, Candlelight/Children's Christmas Eve

Organist/Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Acolyte	Lydia Hurst
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle, Levi Hinrichs
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht
A/V Booth	Kirk and Micah Anderson
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	OPEN

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day

Organist/Pianist	Connie Howes
Acolyte	Dylan Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Eric Olson
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Keith Cowley
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	Scott

Sunday, December 29

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Cole Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Ryan Lambrecht
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Katherine Moore and Cindy Stahly
Elder(s)	Marc Ertle, Kirk Anderson
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Nick and Noah Mayer
Snow	Tom Stahly
Flowers	Anderson

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!