



# The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church  
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## WORD IS . . .

Volume 3/Issue 2 February

A WORD FROM PASTOR THORSON

Straight Shot

Things can be extraordinarily complicated in today's world. In fact, there are countless books and motivational speakers that have *the* map for you to find your way in life. Whether it is success or love or your own identity that you're looking for, there is someone that is willing to help you. Some of these things outline oversimplified ways of getting where you're going, others make things way too complicated. Almost all of them want to use you to make their own success.

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*"For your sake and mine [Christ] stayed the course  
even when it got difficult . . ."*

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The truth is, there isn't really a secret to figuring life today out. Success takes hard work. Love takes hard work. Even just knowing yourself takes being honest with yourself, and that is hard work. Even if there are shortcuts to get where you want to go, many, if not most, are not worth it, as they often cost us our reputation or principles. That is one reason why the Psalmist prays his prayer in Psalm 5: 8. There he asks that the Lord lead him down the straight path of righteousness. He wants God's protection from all the enemies that would lead him off the path to real success, salvation. God has laid out what this path looks like for us in scripture. Salvation for God's people really is a straight shot, and it is only found through Jesus. In Him, we see perfect obedience, and from Him we receive true faith to follow on this narrow way.

Christ leads us down this straight and narrow way. He took on flesh and came to earth in part to show us how to navigate through life without falling into the traps of our enemies (which are in fact sin and Satan, rather

PSALM 5: 8

Lead me, O  
Lord, in your  
righteousness  
because of my  
enemies; make  
your way  
straight before  
me.



than other flesh and blood people. See Ephesians 6 for more on that). Christ was tempted in every way that we are but did not sin. He never strayed from the straight path before Him, even when it led to the cross. For your sake and mine, He stayed the course even when it got difficult, so that you and I could see the path and see the victory Christ has won for us at its end.

When life gets complex with its choices and makes your goals difficult to map out, cry out with the Psalmist, "Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness" and He is sure to make your paths straight. The path might not be the one you want to take. It may even lead to suffering, but you can trust that the Lord Jesus will see you through it all straight to eternity, because that is why he came. Christ came to give you eternity through forgiveness of sins and to lead you through your enemies unscathed to heaven.

In Christ,



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### Upcoming Events

**February 16th** – Provide meal at ULC

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Elders Workshop at Beautiful Savior

We will be hosting an LWML Workshop in April, planning will begin in February and a lot of help is needed.

Confirmation during Lent will meet on Sundays via zoom in the afternoon or evening. Pastor will let the confirmands know exact times.

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### OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of January were:

January 5	\$3,234
January 12	\$31,966
January 19	\$4,810
January 26	\$1,337
Online Offerings	\$25,765



This weekly average (\$13,422) compares to our 2024 weekly budget needs of **\$5,018**.

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### COUNTER SCHEDULE

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

Feb. 2 – Sam and Lynn Kelley

Feb. 9 – Sam and Lynn Kelley

Feb. 16 – Katherine Moore and Cindy Stahly

Feb. 23 – Katherine Moore and Polly Cowley

Mar. 2 – Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly

Mar. 9 – Mark and Mary Bunge

Mar. 16 – Mark and Mary Bunge

Mar. 23 – Marc and Jan Ertle

Mar. 30 – Marc and Jan Ertle

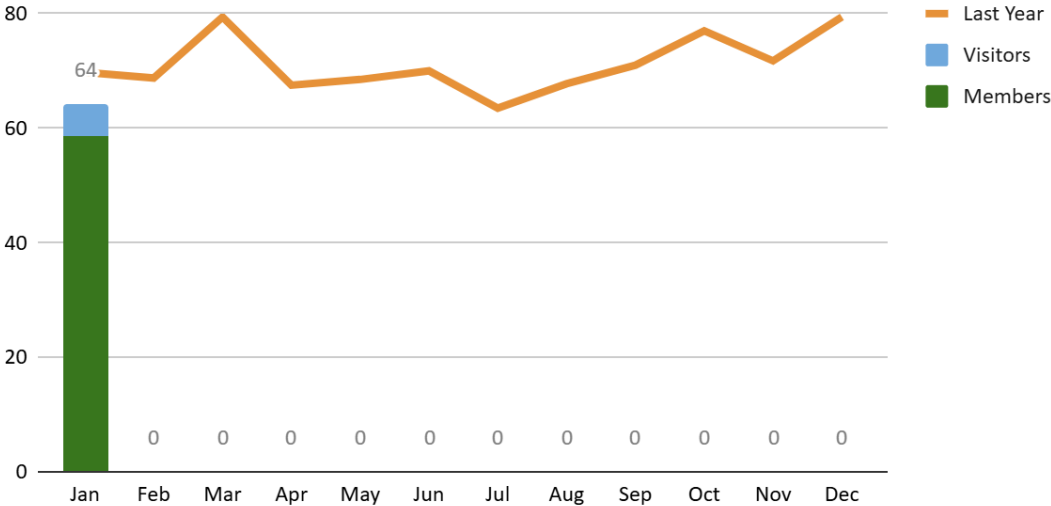


# Attendance Graphs!

Members of Eternal Savior.

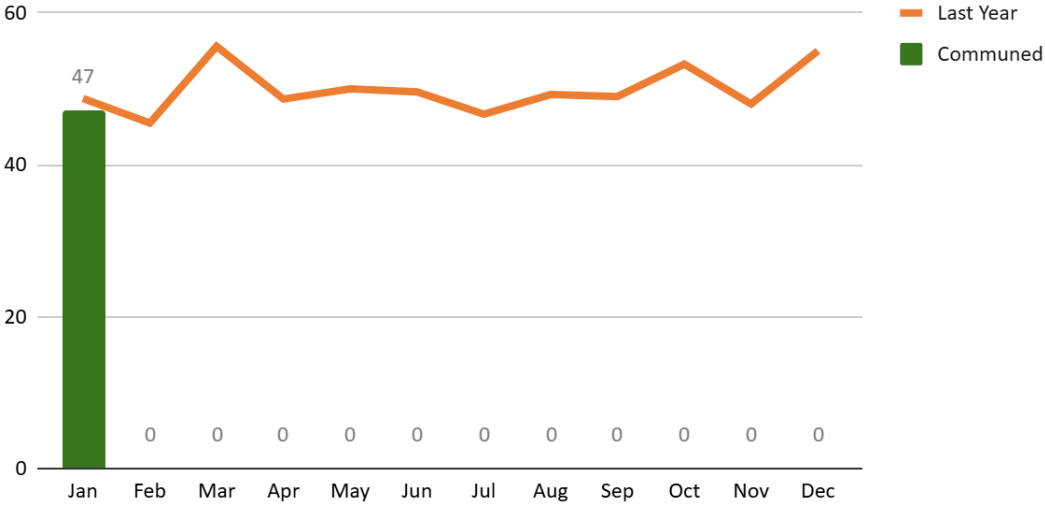
These are graphs showing our attendance and communion for 2025.

## 2025 Attendance: Per-Sunday Average



Average by Month

## 2025 Communed: Per-Sunday Average



Average by Month

## 2024 End-of-Year Treasurer's Report

2024 Budget \$243,071 Expenses \$246,746

2024 Giving \$245,930 2023 Giving \$222,936

2025 Budget - \$260,967

We did have a couple expenses that were covered by other than General Funds, so we ended the year with \$1,485 more than what we started 2024 with. This amount will be set aside for use by the Church Council and the Voter's Assembly.

Throughout the year all expenses were paid in full and on time. A few months ago, I had to pull some funds from our "Rainy Day" reserves, but our donations in November and December have allowed us to return all of the borrowed funds and our reserves are now back at our normal \$7,000 balance.

Again this year we will support several internal funds, i.e. Equipment Replacement, Insurance Deductible, Parking Lot Repair, WinGs, and our Youth. We will be making a slight adjustment to ensure that the Youth Group has access to all their funds by the time they attend the National Youth Gathering.

The amounts above only pertain to our General Fund. In addition to the General Fund contributions, in 2024 the following figures outline most of the contributions given toward other funds: Deacon's - \$2,670, ULC - \$1,200, Sunday School - \$154, Future Projects - \$20,103 and Stained Glass Window - \$9,520 (in addition to this amount we added \$12,934 from our Memorial fund and the money received from the sale of our water right shares).

Again, I thank you for your support for me and if this, or any other financial information raises a question feel free to ask.

Please keep the financial situation of our congregation in your thoughts and prayers.

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## Help for the California Wildfires



The wildfires in Los Angeles County, California, continue to inflict widespread damage and suffering throughout the Los Angeles area. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is in close communication with the LCMS Pacific Southwest District (PSD) regarding our Synod's response. LCMS Disaster Response Director Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson has been on the ground in Los Angeles, and the PSD and the congregations there are providing aid for critical needs. Many LCMS people have lost their homes, including long-time elderly residents.

As long as it takes, LCMS Disaster Response will walk alongside the PSD and its congregations in this response. Our shared response includes the entire Synod's prayers, along with spiritual resources to assist church workers as they care for their congregations. In addition, we are here to offer practical support in the form of ongoing counsel and advice and material support in the form of supplies, recovery grants and volunteer coordination.

If you are able financially to support the church's response to wildfires in California, please prayerfully consider a contribution to:

- **The LCMS Wildfire Relief (only) fund.** Your gift will only be utilized to help those impacted by wildfires. Visit [lcms.org/disaster](https://lcms.org/disaster) and select the "Disaster Response – Wildfires" option in the "Giving opportunities" or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write "Wildfire Relief Only."

**You can also include in your offering, just indicate if an amount is to go to the Wildfire Relief Fund in the memo.**

For answers to questions or help with other donation options, please contact LCMS Mission Advancement by calling [800-930-4438](tel:800-930-4438) or emailing [mission.advancement@lcms.org](mailto:mission.advancement@lcms.org).

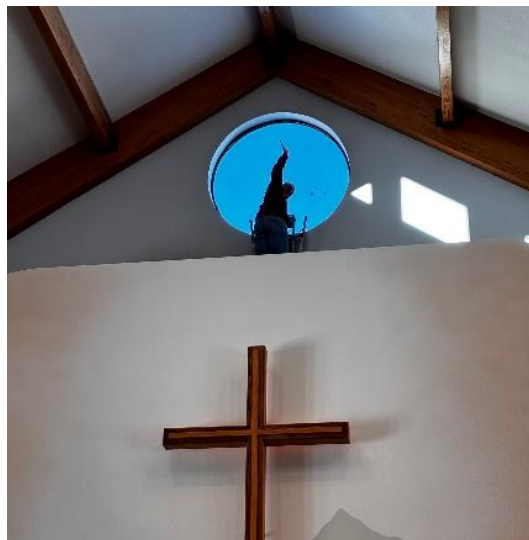


## Stained-Glass News

Paperwork has been signed and a deposit of \$5,000 transferred to the Scottish Stained Glass Company to begin design work for our window. The committee joined a zoom meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> with the company and met their designer, Maria. Discussion of the dove included position, shape, feathers, and wing detail. Maria will do several different designs for us to review with background glass pieces in a starburst pattern or a circular swirling pattern. Colors might include blues, gray blues to match our overall sanctuary look with a bit of peach sprinkled in to pick up the color of the reredos. We discussed that the front area of our church will be representing the Trinity through the mountain mural, the cross and the stained-glass window. No one piece should stick out or attract more attention, but all complement each other.

On Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Martin and his crew of 3 came to the church to get window measurements and discuss how to get a heavy stained-glass window to that location. They also looked closely at the window discovering 3 small spots where condensation has begun to form from the window seal being broken. Pastor climbed up the ladder to view the window and took some pictures to share with the Trustees. Moving forward, the church can get estimates to have the window replaced or proceed and consider stained glass that will help conceal condensation if the seal worsens.

Please consider donating to the stained-glass window fund. This project is moving forward quickly, which is very exciting. Pictures below show Martin and his team strategizing, carrying the ladder up the ladder, taking measurements, Pastor viewing the condensation spots, and Pastor waving.



## 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.

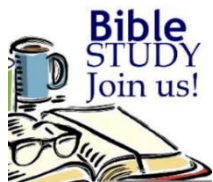
The **2025 Flower Chart** is now available on the bulletin board. Please look to see if there is a service you would like to provide flowers. Also include if the flowers are for a special occasion.

**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.

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**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.

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## SERVING IN FEBRUARY

### **Sunday, February 2**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Lydia Hurst
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle, Levi Hinrichs
Greeter(s)	Michael Scott
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Eric Olson
Altar	Cindy Stahly
A/V Booth	Tom Stahly
Snow	Tom Stahly
Flowers	OPEN

### **Sunday, February 9**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Keith Cowley
Acolyte	Luke Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Tom and Cindy Stahly
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Kirk Anderson
Altar	Cindy Stahly
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow	Tom Stahly
Flowers	Innes

### **Sunday, February 16**

Organist /Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Acolyte	Anna Lambrecht
Usher(s)	Tom and Cindy Stahly
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Katherine Moore and Cindy Stahly
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Marc Ertle
Altar	Cindy Stahly
A/V Booth	Kirk and Micah Anderson
Snow	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	OPEN

### **Sunday, February 23**

Organist/Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Cantor	Cindy Griffin
Acolyte	Dylan Mayer
Usher(s)	Kirk and Micah Anderson
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Katherine Moore and Polly Cowley
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht (r), Eric Olson
Altar	Cindy Stahly
A/V Booth	Nick and Noah Mayer
Snow	Kirk Anderson
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!