



# The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church  
2688 North Park Drive  
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January 2025

## WORD IS . . .

Volume 3/Issue 1 January

A WORD FROM PASTOR THORSON

### After the Resolutions Fail

I'm not a big fan of resolutions. There is nothing particularly wrong with them and certainly nothing theologically wrong with them when done appropriately. So, if you make them that's fine. I personally don't think a (possibly spur-of-the-moment) declaration is exactly the right way of going about setting goals or determining the course of one's life. Even if it is well thought out for a long period of time, the peer pressure and hype of the moment of New Year's Eve and Day make the declarations challenging to stick to.

I'm more of the mindset that we should simply let our "yes" be yes and our "no" be no, and that we shouldn't make a big show of what we're going to do. Rather, we should just go do it. Besides all of this, several studies show that New Year's resolutions almost always fail. At some point or another, most people fail or quit on their resolutions before February starts. And of the percentage that remains only a dismal amount of them stick with their resolutions through the first quarter of the year.

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*"[T]he Word is Christ. Those who dwell on Christ and his teaching have something that will never fail."*

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But, consider Psalm 1. There we see a man who meditates on the unchanging, unerring teaching (often translated Law) of God. God's Word never fails. Righteousness flows from the Word into the hearts and minds of those who dwell on it. Consider that carefully. What is the Word? Yes Scripture. Yes Preaching. And, importantly the Word is Christ. Those who

PSALM 1: 2



BUT HIS DELIGHT IS  
IN THE LAW  
(TEACHING) OF  
THE LORD,  
AND ON HIS LAW  
(TEACHING) HE  
MEDITATES DAY AND



dwell on Christ and his teaching have something that will never fail. In fact, they are grounded in that which will make them succeed in life eternal. This year instead of just resolutions about specific body images or specific schemes, look to the one thing that will never fail you. Commit yourself to the word. Steep yourself in God's love through his Word and Sacrament. Turn to the Almighty God who never sleeps and whose plans always succeed and commit your success to him. Certainly, make goals to improve yourself if you wish, but know that your ultimate success lies with Jesus who will never fail you; who will plant you as a tree next to living waters and give you forgiveness and eternity. Trust in the Lord Jesus and trust your plans to him and you will succeed. God bless you this wonderful New Year.

In Christ,



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### Upcoming Events

January 5<sup>th</sup> – Installation of Officers

January 11<sup>th</sup> – De-Decorating the Church

January 14<sup>th</sup> – Pastor hosts Winkel at ESLC

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

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### OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of December were:

December 1	\$2,419
December 8	\$2,741
December 15	\$4,161
December 22	\$2,035
December 29	\$7,702
Online Offerings	\$7,465



This weekly average (\$ 4,421) compares to our 2024 weekly budget needs of **\$4,674**.

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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.

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

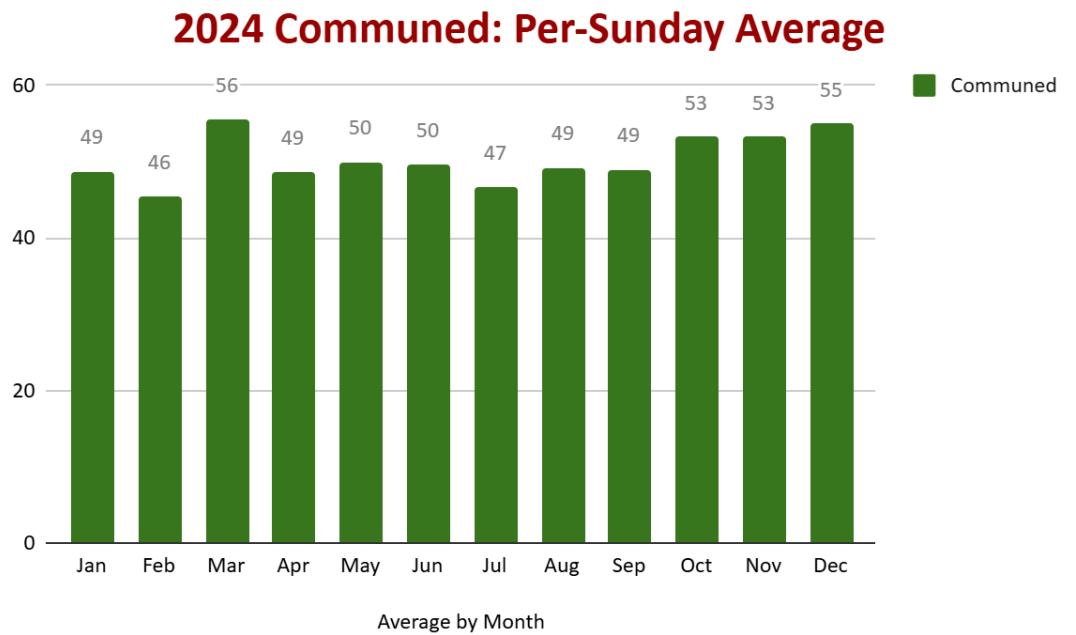
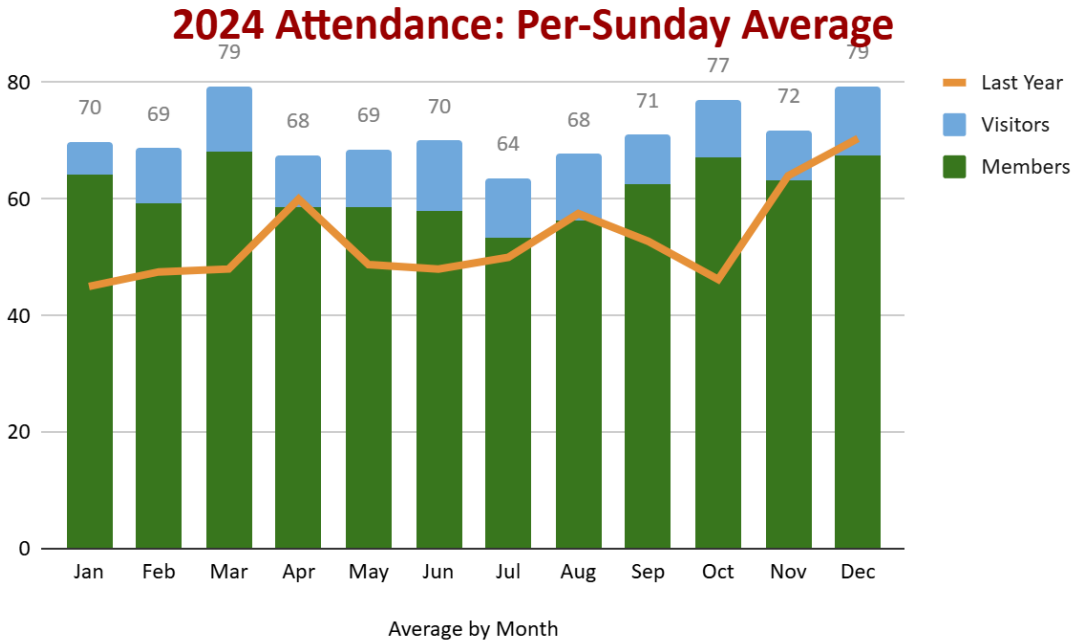
Feb. 2 – Sam and Lynn Kelley  
Feb. 9 – Sam and Lynn Kelley  
Feb. 16 – Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly  
Feb. 23 – Katherine Moore and Polly Cowley



# Attendance Graphs!

Members of Eternal Savior.

These are graphs showing our attendance and communion for 2024.



## Decorating the Church for Christmas!

We had a few members come help to decorate the church for Christmas. We hope to have more members participate in the future.





## Christmas Time Celebrations

Before Christmas we were blessed with hearing Pastor play during service, Christmas caroling, Pastor Jarvis was a guest preacher, celebrated Ron and VeeAnn Jasper's 68<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and the Youth Group had a wonderful Christmas celebration!









# Christmas Eve Service







## Christmas Eve Service





## Stained Glass Window News

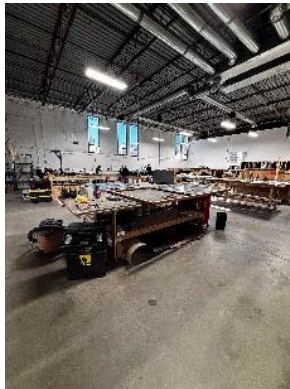
Just a reminder that the plan for the stained-glass window is to have a descending dove representing the Holy Spirit. The painted mountain scene on the Reredos represents creation and God the Father while the cross represents Jesus. Adding the dove will complete the Trinity in the altar area.

On December 20th, five members from the stained-glass window committee drove to Scottish Stained Glass Company in Centennial to meet with owner, Martin Faith. We spent over an hour touring the facility, walking around their work room, seeing artists refurbish windows, and viewing the beautiful, completed work. The company is currently repairing windows from 2 churches in Yuma County that were damaged by the May 2024 hail storm. Martin explained the process of refurbishing and making windows to get the desired end product. Martin shared with us the endless colors and textures of glass and talked about how the design process would flow. By the end of our time there, we all wanted to sign up to be interns in their shop.

Later that afternoon, Martin was able to stop by our church and view our window in person. Tom met us there and was able to answer Martin's questions. We talked about film covers for the window to protect the stained glass. Martin explained the importance and the pros and cons of having the film on the outside of the window vs the inside. We also looked at access to the window from the outside.

Next steps will include several price quotes with different film options and painting options on the glass. Hand painting the glass pieces and then firing them in a kiln is labor intensive and expensive. We hope to have hand painting kept to a minimum with some work done on the dove wings/feathers.

Below are pictures of our window access from the outside, Scottish Stained Glass Window workroom, some of their current projects and a small sample of the glass choices. The current balance of the window fund is \$22,504. We hope to raise \$25,000 for the project.



## Worship in 2024

- ▶ 66 Regularly Scheduled Services
- ▶ Sunday Worship Services with Special Emphases
  - ▶ Graduate Recognition
  - ▶ Baptisms
  - ▶ Adult Confirmations
  - ▶ New Member Receptions
  - ▶ LWML Sunday
  - ▶ Lutheran Bible Translators with Dr. Tilahun Menedo
  - ▶ Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Saints)
- ▶ Music
  - ▶ Organists/Pianists
    - ▶ Continue to appreciate the faithful service of Linda Innes, Pam Mayer, Connie Howes
    - ▶ Welcomed Val Igler as a new organist this year!
  - ▶ Vocal and Bell Choirs, along with numerous musicians shared talent to the glory of God – Intergenerational!

## Worship: Behind the Scenes

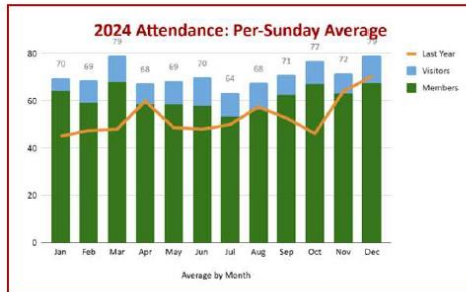
- ▶ Lutheran Service Builder for greater ease in service creation
  - ▶ Full-Service Bulletins
  - ▶ A very special thank you to our Church Secretary, Mary Bunge, for the unwavering attention to assuring every worship service is well-prepared and ready: print, e-mail, announcements, special inserts, etc.
- ▶ Worship Planning Committee
  - ▶ Members: Mary Bunge, Keith Cowley, Connie Howes, Val Igler, Linda Innes, Pam Mayer, Pastor Thorson, Robin Warnken,
  - ▶ Meets quarterly to organize and encourage all music activities for worship.
  - ▶ Keith attended LCMS Worship Institute, with appreciation for congregational support.
- ▶ Technology
  - ▶ Online Document Repository: <https://bit.ly/ESLC-Documents>
  - ▶ Our music database is now in the online repository:
    - ▶ All titles recorded, PDF scores, etc.
    - ▶ Special thanks to Robin Warnken, our Music Librarian.
- ▶ Live Streaming
  - ▶ Continues as an appreciated resource for joining worship.
  - ▶ Continue to listen to feedback and make improvements
  - ▶ Audio adjustments, much faster internet service
  - ▶ Coming next year: Order of worship streamed with service



## Eternal Savior: By the numbers

Baptized Members	162
Communicant Members	130
Per-Sunday Worship Attendance	71
Per-Sunday Visitors	10
Per-Sunday Communed	51

Sunday School Students	16
"2 and Under" Children	2
High School Youth (3 HS + 3 8 <sup>th</sup> graders)	6
Sunday School Teachers (Melisa, Faith, Cheryl, Laura, Amber)	5



## 2024 Membership Changes

- ▶ Baptisms
  - ▶ Kyle Martz
  - ▶ Micah Munro
  - ▶ Hayes Olson
  - ▶ Audrey Phelps

- ▶ Confirmations
  - ▶ Harris Hafeez
  - ▶ Kyle Martz
  - ▶ Michael Scott

- ▶ Members at Home with Christ
  - ▶ Walt Oehlkers

- ▶ Members Received
  - ▶ Ron Bredehoft
  - ▶ Jeanie Fink
  - ▶ Kyle Martz
  - ▶ Micah Munro
  - ▶ Hayes Olson
  - ▶ Karla Olson
  - ▶ Patrick Olson
  - ▶ Carla Thorson
  - ▶ Amy Weaver
  - ▶ David Weaver

- ▶ Members Transferred/Released
  - ▶ Melissa Chapman
  - ▶ Cathy Dillon
  - ▶ Joan Grunzweig

## From the Board of Elders

- ▶ A Year of Transitions
  - ▶ Welcoming and getting to know Pastor Thorson
  - ▶ Felt the departure of Jeff Reuer and Dave Sherrets as they relocated
  - ▶ Joyously welcomed Marc Ertle, Mel Koeller, and Eric Olson
- ▶ A Peek at an Elders Meeting
  - ▶ Devotion or Prayer
  - ▶ Check in on worship feedback (what's going well, what needs adjustment)
  - ▶ Check in on our members: special concerns/care
    - ▶ Special emphasis on our shut-in's:
      - ▶ Max Fanning
      - ▶ Lorena Fink
      - ▶ Darleen Harnapp
      - ▶ Pat Iannucci
      - ▶ Scott Jasper
      - ▶ Carol Purfurst
  - ▶ Check-in on our Pastor
  - ▶ Administrative Topics: Scheduling, Council Updates
  - ▶ Prayer

## Looking Forward to 2025

- ▶ Stronger faith, love and service in all of us through Word and Sacrament
- ▶ Continued blessings of strong stewardship and financial stability
- ▶ Continued growth in membership and visitors
- ▶ Greater growth in Education (Sunday School, Youth, Adults)
- ▶ Continued strengthening ties to the Community
  - ▶ Facility usage (Girl Scouts, Al Anon, TRU, Montessori, etc)
- ▶ Stained Glass Window to God's Glory
- ▶ Continued technology improvements (security, communication, etc)

### Homework Assignments:

**Reach out to your Elder with any questions/concerns/feedback!**

Join the Prayer Chain Text List:

- ▶ **Text: "ESLC PRAYERCHAIN" to 84576**
- ▶ Currently 23 members.

Winter is almost here! Join the Urgent Communications Text List:

- ▶ **Text: "ETERNALSAVIOR" to 84576**
- ▶ Currently 26 members.



## 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.

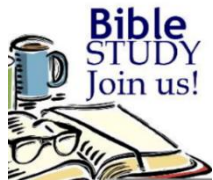
**Parking spaces** in front of the church should be reserved for those members and visitors that need to park close to the building due to health concerns or weather. Please be considerate and leave these spaces to those who need them most.

**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 JANUARY**

### **Sunday, January 5**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Anna Lambrecht
Usher(s)	Michael Scott, Ryan Lambrecht
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Marc Ertle, Eric Olson
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Tom Stahly
Snow	Kyle Martz
Flowers	OPEN

### **Sunday, January 12**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Tom Stahly
Acolyte	Luke Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Katherine Moore
Greeter(s)	Cheryl and Ryan Lambrecht
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow	Kyle Martz
Flowers	Bunge

### **Sunday, January 19**

Organist /Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Acolyte	Dylan Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski, Katherine Moore
Greeter(s)	Cindy Griffin
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Wayne Thomas
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Kirk and Micah Anderson
Snow	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	Fink

### **Sunday, January 26**

Organist/Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Cantor	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Cole Mayer
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle, Levi Hinrichs
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson (r), Eric Olson
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Nick and Noah Mayer
Snow	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	Hire

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!