



# The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church  
2688 North Park Drive  
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March 2025

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## WORD IS . . .

Volume 3/Issue 3 February  
A WORD FROM PASTOR THORSON

ECCLESIASTES 3: 12-13  
I PERCEIVED THAT THERE  
IS NOTHING BETTER FOR  
THEM THAN TO BE JOYFUL  
AND TO DO GOOD AS LONG  
AS THEY LIVE; ALSO THAT  
EVERYONE SHOULD EAT AND  
DRINK AND TAKE PLEASURE  
IN ALL HIS TOIL—THIS  
IS GOD'S GIFT TO MAN

### Lint in my pocket, Lent on my heart.

As a pastor, I get included in all kinds of corny jokes. One of my favorites (hear the sarcasm there) is whenever I or one of my colleagues brings up Lent, some smart guy (I have never heard a woman make this joke) and often enough another pastor says, "Lint? Why are we talking about lint? I have some in my pocket if you need some." Cue the polite laughter and mandatory follow up belly button jokes. After those are done, we move on to the serious discussion of Lent.

As I sit here, the dichotomy of that joke and the somber season of Lent paired with one another strikes me as revealing of the Christian Life. Read Ecclesiastes 3. There we find that there is a place for everything under the sun. When we come to verses 12 and 13 we find that a gift from God is for us to *be happy* and to *do good*. We can eat, drink and find satisfaction in our toil, and this is a gift from God. If we were to stop reading Ecclesiastes and all of the rest of scripture, we might come away thinking like the Sadducees of old thought, that we receive our blessings here in this world because there is no afterlife.

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*"So even in our suffering, even in our sin, God is at work for our salvation . . ."*

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*IF* that was the case lets break out the lint in our pockets and joke it up, so that we find a shred of happiness and peace in this life. But, I hope that you know scripture and the book of Ecclesiastes has more to tell us. The book goes on to tell us that without God all things are vanity. But, on the other side of that, with God all our toil, all our strife, all our suffering and all our mourning has meaning.



In Romans, Paul assures us that God works in all things for the good of those who love him. So even in our suffering, even in our sin, God is at work for our salvation, for justice and for righteousness even though we may not understand how. So as we go through Lent this year, know that it is okay to find fun ways to joke throughout the season, but it is also okay to confront those dark sins and those painful moments from our life. We can do both because God is with us, and He brings joy and healing in his wings for the bad times and blesses us with laughter and light hearts in other times. With him there is truly a time and a place for everything, and through it all he will work for your good. Knowing this, please feel free to bring a little lint in your pocket to Lent . . . But, tell the Elders about it not me. God bless.

In Christ,



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### Upcoming Events

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Congregational Dinner

March 5<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30p.m.

March 9<sup>th</sup> – WINGS planning meeting after service for the LWML Spring Workshop on April 26.

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Fashion Show and Luncheon for Orphan Grain Train at Risen Savior 11:30-1:00

March 16<sup>th</sup> – Provide meal at ULC

Confirmation during Lent will meet on Sundays at 2:00 via zoom.

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### Lenten Season

We will be having Lenten services on March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and April 9.

We will not be having pot-lucks before services this year.

We will be following a sermon series entitled: ***You Meant It For Evil, But God Meant It For Good***

We will be having a round robin of pastors from the circuit for each Lenten service:

Ash Wednesday, March 5 – Pastor Clint Thorson sermon “You Meant It For Evil, But God Meant It For Good”

March 12 – Pastor Paul Jackson sermon “ The Real Battle”

March 19 – Pastor Victor Young sermon “ That Day, and Today”

March 26 – Pastor Rick Langness sermon “ When You See Such Blind Ignorance, What Do You Think?”

April 2 – Pastor Rob Jarvis sermon “Faith for a Complicated World”

April 9 – Pastor Dave Ahlman sermon “He Was Numbered Among the Transgressors”

Please join us and experience Pastors from around our circuit.

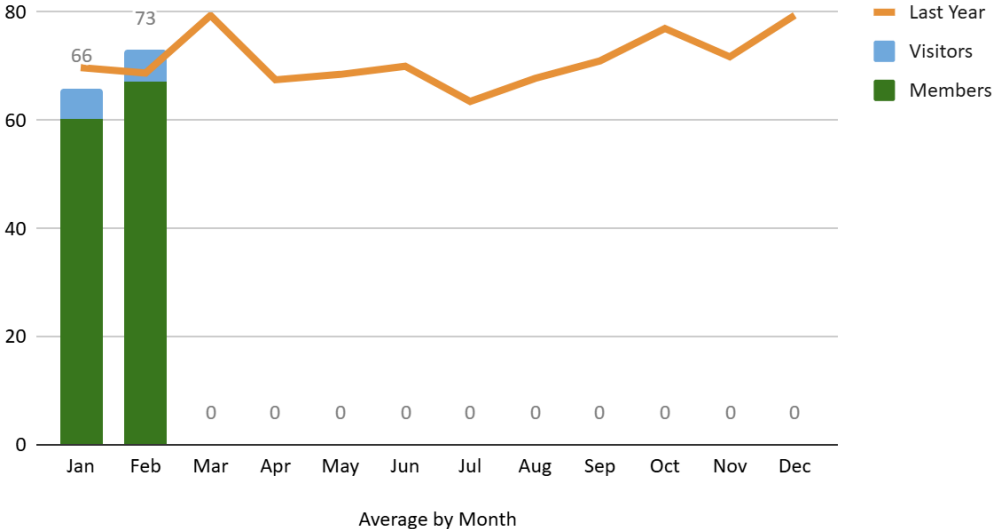
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# Attendance Graphs!

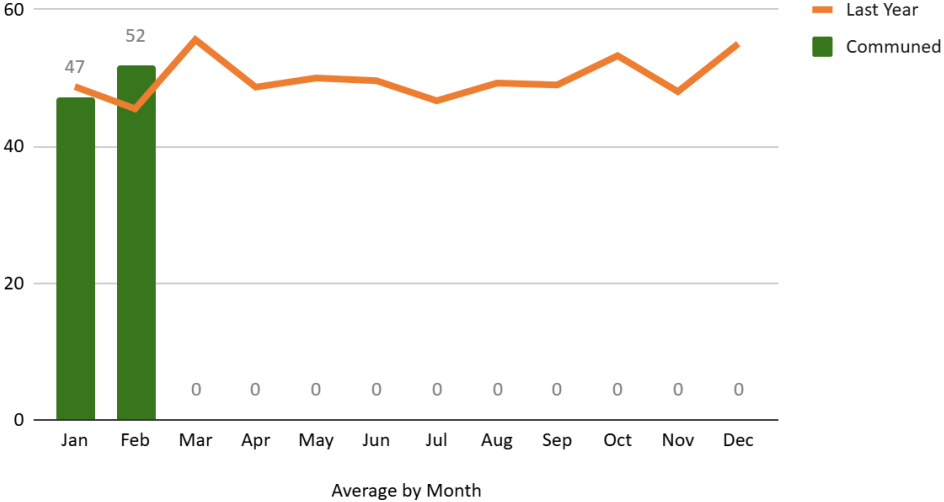
Members of Eternal Savior.

These are graphs showing our attendance and communion for 2025.

## 2025 Attendance: Per-Sunday Average



## 2025 Communed: Per-Sunday Average



## OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of February were:

February 2	\$3,913
February 9	\$ 965
February 16	\$1,370
February 23	\$2,591
Online Offerings	\$4,428



This weekly average (\$2,653) compares to our 2024 weekly budget needs of **\$5,018**.

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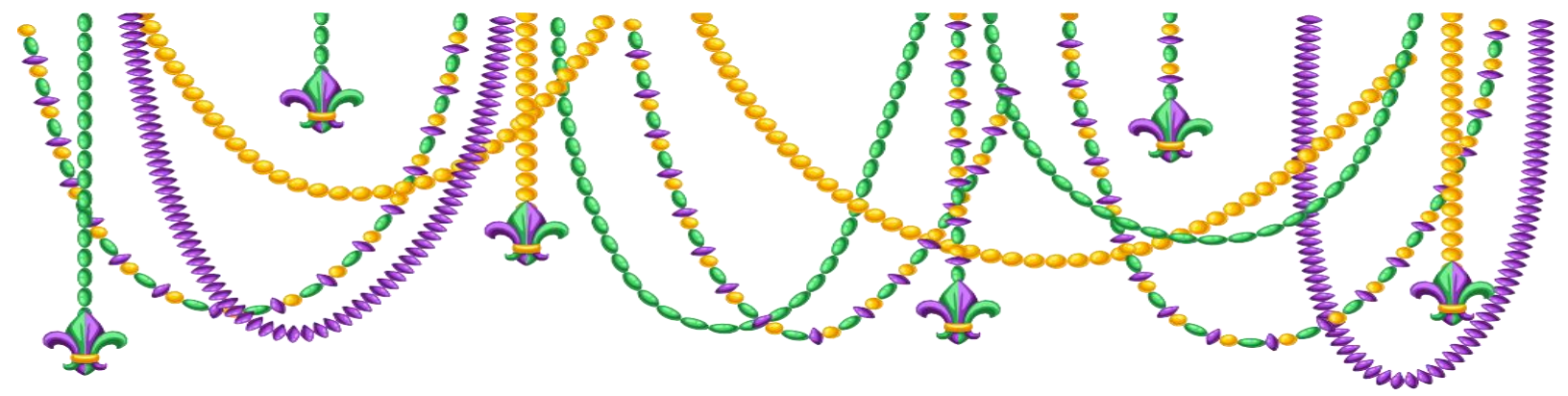
### COUNTER SCHEDULE

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

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

April 6 – Sam and Lynn Kelley  
April 13 – Sam and Lynn Kelley  
April 20 – Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly  
April 27 – Katherine Moore and Polly Cowley

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## **CONGREGATIONAL DINNER**

**Saturday, March 1**

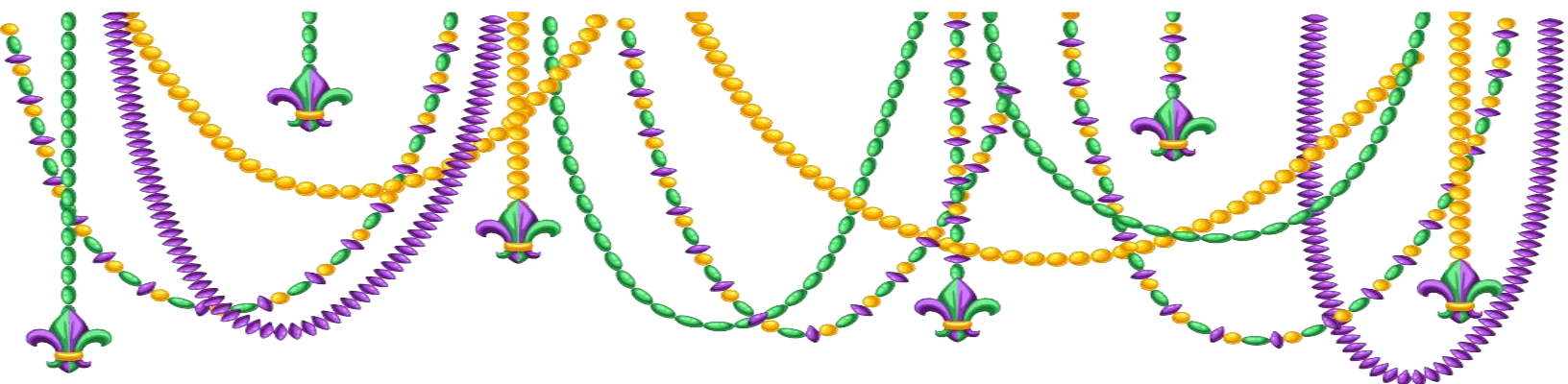
**5:00 PM**

**Hosted by the Youth Group**

The youth will be preparing a New Orleans inspired dinner for the congregation on Saturday March 1.

Please sign up on the sheet on the narthex. Members of all ages are encouraged to attend. Don't like to drive at night? Please contact Laura and we'll arrange a ride.

Have a project and need some extra hands? Need a babysitter? Each youth will be auctioning four hours of their time at the dinner. Funds raised from the auction will go towards the expenses of attending the National Youth Gathering.





**Bible**  
**In a Year**  
**Challenge**

Pastor is introducing a Bible in a Year Challenge. There is a poster board in the narthex where individuals can place their name and mark their progress toward completing this challenge,

There will be prizes for the member and youth that have completed the most at the end of the year.

The challenge begins on March 9 and will complete on March 8, 2026.

We have sheets available that split the Bible into sections for easier completion.

Challenge yourself to see if you can complete it.



## Godspeed to the Sherrets



We had a wonderful send-off for Dave and Karen Sherrets. We have loved having them as members and wish them God's blessings at their new home.

## Stained-Glass News

During February the Church council voted to replace the 5.5' circular window. This will provide more protection for the stained-glass window and will be easier and less expensive to do now rather than replace once the stained-glass is in place. Scottish Stained Glass Company will also replace the round window on the same day they install the stained-glass window. Specifications for the window are: the glass is 3/16"; tempered on both sides so it's virtually unbreakable. It has a Cardinal 366 Low E coating so it will reflect 73% of the heat away from the stained glass which means we can put a slightly lighter film on the exterior and get the desired effect of removing 85%-90% of the heat from the stained-glass. We will need to rent a lift to move the window into place from the outside. Arrangements have been made with SunBelt Rentals for the lift rental.

We have received the first round of designs from Scottish Stained-Glass. The committee will meet on February 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss what we like, what we don't like and how to move forward. Our agreement with Scottish Stained-Glass allows for several rounds of designs. Thanks to all who have contributed to this effort. Our total now stands at \$23,474 with a goal of \$25,000.

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## 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.**

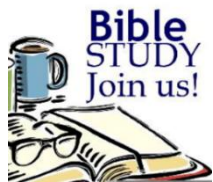
**Sign Up to Receive Text Messages** - Eternal Savior is building a text message list for urgent communications. i.e., Service is cancelled due to a blizzard. If you would like to receive notifications like that via text message, please text **ETERNALSAVIOR** (one word, no space) to 84576. Contact Laura 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. \*\*\* **During Lent this Bible Study we not be meeting.**

**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 MARCH

### **Sunday, March 2**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Luke Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Kirk and Micah Anderson
Greeter(s)	Ryan and Cheryl Lambrecht
Counter(s)	Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley, Marc Ertle
Altar	Keith and Polly Cowley
A/V Booth	Nick and Noah Mayer
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	Griffin

### **Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday**

Preacher	Pastor Clint Thorson
Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Cole Mayer
Usher	Roger Landowski
Elder	Keith Cowley

### **Sunday, March 9**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Lydia Hurst
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley and Katherine Moore
Greeter(s)	Cindy Griffin
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson (r), Eric Olson
Altar	Keith and Polly Cowley
A/V Booth	Tom Stahly
Snow	Ryan Lambrecht
Flowers	Oehlkers

### **Wednesday, March 12 – Lenten Service**

Preacher	Pastor Paul Jackson
Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Lydia Hurst
Usher	Roger Landowski
Elder	Keith Cowley

### **Sunday, March 16**

Organist /Pianist	Connie Howes
Cantor	Mark Bunge
Acolyte	Luke Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley and Katherine Moore
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Marc Ertle, Eric Olson
Altar	Keith and Polly Cowley
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow	Kyle Martz
Flowers	OPEN

### **Wednesday, March 19 – Lenten Service**

Preacher	Pastor Victor Young
Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Luke Hinrichs
Usher	Roger Landowski
Elder	Keith Cowley

### **Sunday, March 23**

Organist/Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Acolyte	Anna Lambrecht
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle and Levi Hinrichs
Greeter(s)	Michael Scott
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Keith and Polly Cowley
A/V Booth	Kirk and Micah Anderson
Snow	Kyle Martz
Flowers	Ertle

### **Wednesday, March 26 – Lenten Service**

Preacher	Pastor Rick Langness
Pianist	Connie Howes
Acolyte	Anna Lambrecht
Usher	Roger Landowski
Elder	Keith Cowley

### **Sunday, March 30**

Organist/Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Cantor	Tom Stahly
Acolyte	Dylan Mayer
Usher(s)	Marc Ertle and Levi Hinrichs
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Eric Olson, Kirk Anderson
Altar	Keith and Polly Cowley
A/V Booth	Nick and Noah Mayer
Snow	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!