



The Eternal Light

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

May 2025

WORD IS . . .

Volume 2/Issue 5 May
A WORD FROM PASTOR THORSON

Your Cosmically Caring God

ISAIAH 40:20



He who is too
impoverished for an
offering chooses wood
that will not rot; he seeks
out a skillful craftsman
to set up an idol that will
not move.

Think about the stars in the sky. How many are there? Too many? Okay, how many are there in just our galaxy? Google it to see the answer. You won't get a unified answer, but the answers I saw ranged from 100 billion to 400 billion. I didn't search for very long, so I am sure that there is a larger pool of answers.

Now take a second to read Isaiah 40: 25-31. Consider verse 26 where the Lord addresses the host by their names (it's talking about the stars there). All of those stars that we can't even count, God calls out by name. Can you imagine? "Bob, Evan, Kyle, Jimmy, Sarah, Tammy, Christa . . ." over 100 billion times just for our galaxy and that doesn't even begin to get at the other billions of galaxies there are.

Our God is that cosmically amazing! But, Isaiah doesn't just leave God at that cosmic level. Instead, he uses the cosmic to demonstrate the intimate nature of our God. If God can keep track of the stars in the heavens, how could you even think that he couldn't keep track of you and your life or the problems therein. The unstated promise here in verse 27 and following is that there will never be anything that you encounter that the Lord will overlook. Nothing in all of creation is either too big or too small to escape the notice or be outside the control of our God. No disease, no death, no joy triumph. The Lord knows, numbers and holds all



of it in the palm of his hand. Knowing this we fast forward to verse 31. The same God who calls on the stars as if they were friends is watching and waiting and sustaining and caring for his creation and you as well. In the midst of whatever it is that you face right now, he is there. Though we may not see him, those who trust that he is there, those who believe God is going to do what he says, those that “wait” on the Lord, they shall rise up on wings like eagles. It doesn’t matter if a hurricane, a tornado or an earthquake has just shaken them and theirs. The Lord will raise them up on eagle’s wings both to get past the problem, and also to face it with faith and strength for the sake of others.

It doesn’t matter what you face, you have the Lord of Hosts, God of angel armies, creator and sustainer of stars at your back and in front of you promising to bring you through it. With the God who can name the stars at our side protecting and sustaining us, what can little things like disasters do to us?

With the God of life, Jesus our Savior who rose from the grave, sustaining us, what can even death do to us? The answer? Nothing. So next time you wonder how you’re going to get through such pain or live after knowing such joy, consider the stars, consider they’re maker, consider YOUR God.

In Christ,

Pastor Ant O. Jh

Upcoming Events

May 17th – Church Work Day



THANK YOU TO OUR MIDWEEK DRIVERS

We were blessed to enable folks that don’t typically drive after dark to attend our midweek Lenten services this year. Through the generosity of Mark and Mary Bunge, Keith Cowley, Ryan and Cheryl Lambrecht, and Kyle Martz, several of our members were able to be with us in midweek worship throughout Lent. To God be the glory for the many opportunities He provides for us to serve others. Thank you to all our Lenten drivers.

www.itsybitfun.com

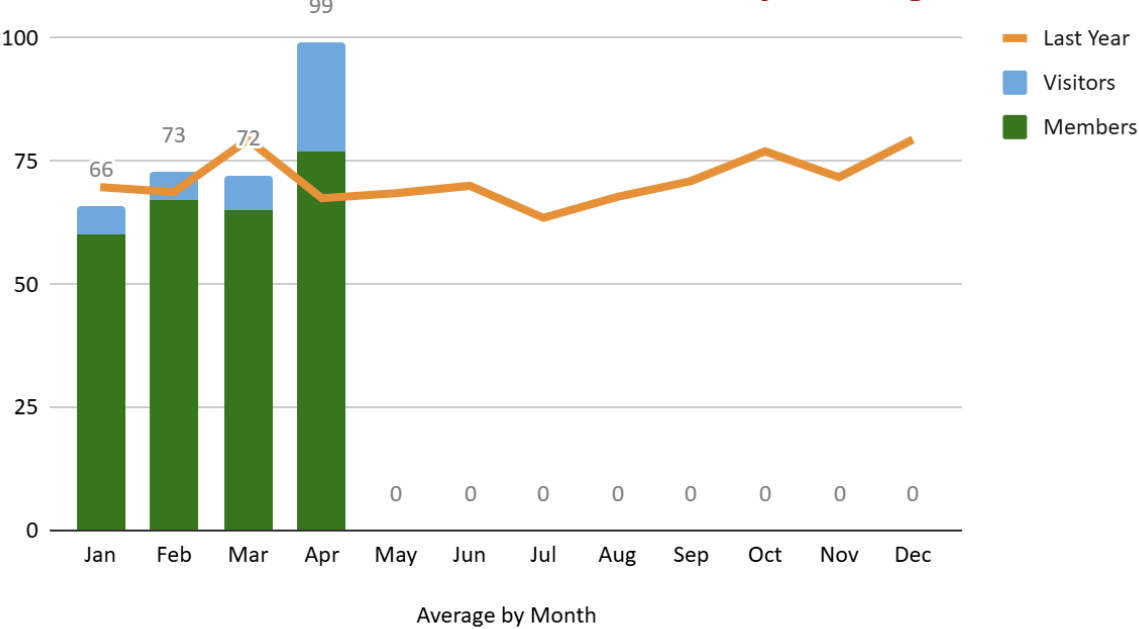


Attendance Graphs!

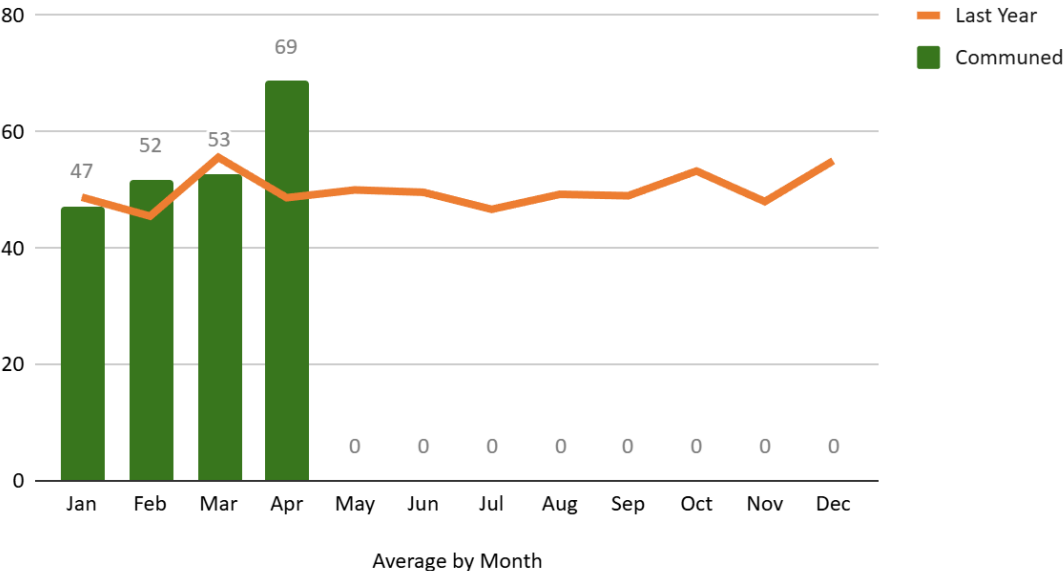
Members of Eternal Savior.

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 April were:

April 6	\$4,309
April 13	\$5,514
April 20	\$2,173
April 27	\$1,518
Online Offerings	\$4,114



This weekly average (\$3,526) compares to our 2024 weekly budget needs of **\$5,018**.

COUNTER SCHEDULE

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

May 4 – Cindy Stahly and Mary Bunge
May 11 – Mark and Mary Bunge
May 18 – Mark and Mary Bunge
May 25 – Marc and Jan Ertle

June 1 – Marc and Jan Ertle
June 8 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
June 15 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
June 22 – Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly
June 29 – Katherine Moore and Polly Cowley



MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER – First Quarter Update

Looking at the information that is provided in the bulletin you can see that our current contributions for the General Fund are above the current needs of our budget and expenses. Historically, we have been in the same position at this time of year, and that gap usually reduces in the summer. However, this year our General Fund contributions are above those at the same time as last year by 16%, or \$14,700. We have been able to repair the parking lot and a few other areas, also soon a group of our youth will be attending the National Youth Gathering.



In addition to the General Fund contributions, funds have been received in support of the stained-glass windows, Deacon's, ULC, and Wildfire relief. Let me know if you have any questions about giving options or if you wish more detail on our current status.

Keep the financial status of our congregation in your thoughts and prayers.

New Banners

Thank you to Ed and Robin Warnken for their donations of new banners for Palm Sunday and Easter. They added extra beauty to the celebrations.



Stained Glass Window Update

The committee is meeting and moving forward with plans. Additional funds were provided by an anonymous donor to provide strained-glass in the center arched windows of the north and south sides of the sanctuary. Themes for those windows are “Water and Word” and “Body and Blood”. Initial thoughts for the “Water and Word” design are an open Bible, and a baptismal shell with flowing water. Design ideas for “Body and Blood” window are a chalice, host, wheat and grapes to represent holy communion. The background design will be the same design as behind the dove in the large round window.



The committee has reviewed the first round of designs from the Scottish Stained-Glass Window company and provided requested changes. Martin, the owner of the window company, has suggested that we have a design plan for all the windows on the north and south sides of the church. He wants there to be a well-thought-out theme to avoid future windows looking hodgepodge. Plans are to have liturgical symbols only in the center vertical windows. Ideas for the “Water and Word” are Noah’s ark and the baptism of Jesus. “Body and Blood” ideas are Ten Commandment Tablets and Paschal Lamb. Remaining windows will be left with clear glass at this time. A phone call on Monday, April 28 explained all our suggested changes to Martin. Work has begun on the round dove window and estimated production time is 6 weeks.

Stoles to Africa

Cindy Stahly and Robin Warnken made stoles for Pastor David Ahlman to take with him on his trip to Sudan. Pastor Ahlman is from Mt. Hope and preached at Eternal Savior for the last Lenten Service. Three reversible stoles were made using liturgical symbols and colors. Bold colors and animals were also included to represent African culture. Hopes are that the kids like the animals. Pastor Ahlman's plans have changed, and he is no longer going to Sudan, but his replacement will deliver the stoles to pastors in Sudan.



Easter Celebration

We had a wonderful Easter Celebration filled with good food, music and fun for the children with an Easter Egg Hunt!



Christ
is
Risen!



WinGS LWML Workshop

ESLC WinGS group along with the LWML group from Mt. Calvary in Estes Park hosted an LWML Workshop. We had a devotional and a presentation from Mountain States Children's Home. Around 40 women from church's within the Rocky Mountain district attended.



Congratulations to our Confirmands

Congratulations to our three confirmands this year. Luke Hinrichs, Lydia Hurst and Anna Lambrecht. Instead of the usual questioning of confirmands that has taken place in previous years, Pastor had each confirmand read to the congregation an essay on "What Does Jesus Mean to Me". All three confirmands did a wonderful job in presenting their thoughtful essays. Each had a different message and were presented extremely well. Confirmation Sunday was an exciting time to see all three get confirmed!



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.

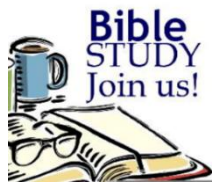
Sign Up to Receive Text Messages - Eternal Savior is building a text message list for urgent communications. i.e., Service is cancelled due to a blizzard. If you would like to receive notifications like that via text message, please text **ETERNALSAVIOR** (one word, no space) to 84576. Contact Laura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

Sunday, May 4

Organist /Pianist
Acolyte
Usher(s)
Greeter(s)
Counter(s)
Elder(s)
Altar
A/V Booth
Snow/Lawn
Flowers

Connie Howes
Luke Hinrichs
Roger Landowski, Michael Scott
Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Cindy Stahly and Mary Bunge
Kirk Anderson, Eric Olson
Mary Bunge
Pete and Levi Hinrichs
Ryan Lambrecht
Mya Francis

Sunday, May 11

Organist /Pianist
Cantor
Acolyte
Usher(s)
Greeter(s)
Counter(s)
Elder(s)
Altar
A/V Booth
Snow/Lawn
Flowers

Connie Howes
Cindy Griffin
Dylan Mayer
Kirk and Micah Anderson
Cindy Griffin
Mark and Mary Bunge
Marc Ertle (r), Ryan Lambrecht
Mary Bunge
Kirk and Micah Anderson
Ryan Lambrecht
Griffin

Sunday, May 18

Organist /Pianist
Acolyte
Usher(s)
Greeter(s)
Counter(s)
Elder(s)
Altar
A/V Booth
Snow/Lawn
Flowers

Valerie Igler
Lydia Hurst
Kirk and Micah Anderson
Michael Scott
Mark and Mary Bunge
Wayne Thomas, Keith Cowley
Mary Bunge
Tom Stahly and Micah Anderson
Noah Mayer
OPEN

Sunday, May 25

Organist/Pianist
Cantor
Acolyte
Usher(s)
Greeter(s)
Counter(s)
Elder(s)
Altar
A/V Booth
Snow/Lawn
Flowers

Valerie Igler
Mark Bunge
Anna Lambrecht
Keith Cowley and Katherine Moore
Sam and Lynn Kelley
Marc and Jan Ertle
Wayne Thomas (r), Eric Olson
Mary Bunge
Laura Raben
Noah Mayer
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!