



# The Eternal Light

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

December 2025

1 PETER 5: 7

casting all  
your  
anxieties  
on Him,  
because He  
cares for  
you.

## WORD IS . . .

Volume 4/Issue 12 December  
**A WORD FROM PASTOR THORSON**

### Cast Away Your Cares

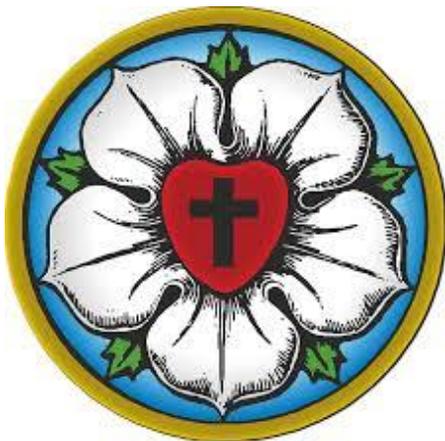
With the state of politics, the state of finances, and the state of society, people often worry about the future. Some of you may even wonder, “What should we do? Where do we go from here?” I certainly do not have any financial or business advice for you, but scripture tells us in 1 Peter 5 that we should give all our anxieties to the Lord. God cares about you in all aspects of your life. He wants you to have a good, peaceful life and therefore will gladly hear your anxieties and worries. Give those burdens to the Lord and He will care for you. In Christ, your salvation is assured. God even has your hairs numbered. So don’t worry. Instead, as the hymn says, take it to the Lord in prayer.

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*“[God] wants you to have a good, peaceful life and therefore will gladly hear your anxieties and worries.”*

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That takes care of your spiritual concerns, but you might also wonder about your physical and temporal needs as well. Our Lord has made provision for hard times within the church. That is another reason why we gather together – so that we can share the burdens of this life. Sin and the world will always make things difficult for us, but that is one of the reasons why God put us together– so that, through our fellowship we might remember that we are never alone. God is always with us and will always provide for us through Word, Sacrament and fellowship. This is what we celebrate in Advent: God being with us in the flesh in Christ who will also come again to take care of all these troubles we have in this life. I understand asking for help is hard and can be embarrassing, but Jesus came to save those who call on him. Likewise, He left His church to help one another and others while we await his second coming. Therefore, if you need help, ask, and the church will do what it can.



God has given us so much, we will be more than happy to share from our abundance.

It is my fervent prayer that this Christmas be a blessed season for you all. But, should you or your loved ones be struggling from all of the things that life has thrown at us recently, please don't remain silent. Ask your loving and caring God for help, and He who did not spare His own son will hear and help. Also, share your burdens with your pastor and the church that we may help how we can. You are not alone. You are God's beloved children, and the church and I will do what we can for you should you be struggling. God's peace to you and blessings throughout Advent, Christmas, and into the New Year.

In Christ,

*Pastor Ant O. Jr*

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### Upcoming Events

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> - Midweek Advent Services – 6:30p.m.

December 6<sup>th</sup> – Decorating the church for Christmas – 10:00a.m.

December 7<sup>th</sup> – Voter's Meeting – after service

December 7<sup>th</sup> – Provide dinner at ULC – 5:00.m.

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Children's/Candlelight Christmas Eve Service – 7:00p.m.

December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day Service w/ Communion – 10:00a.m.

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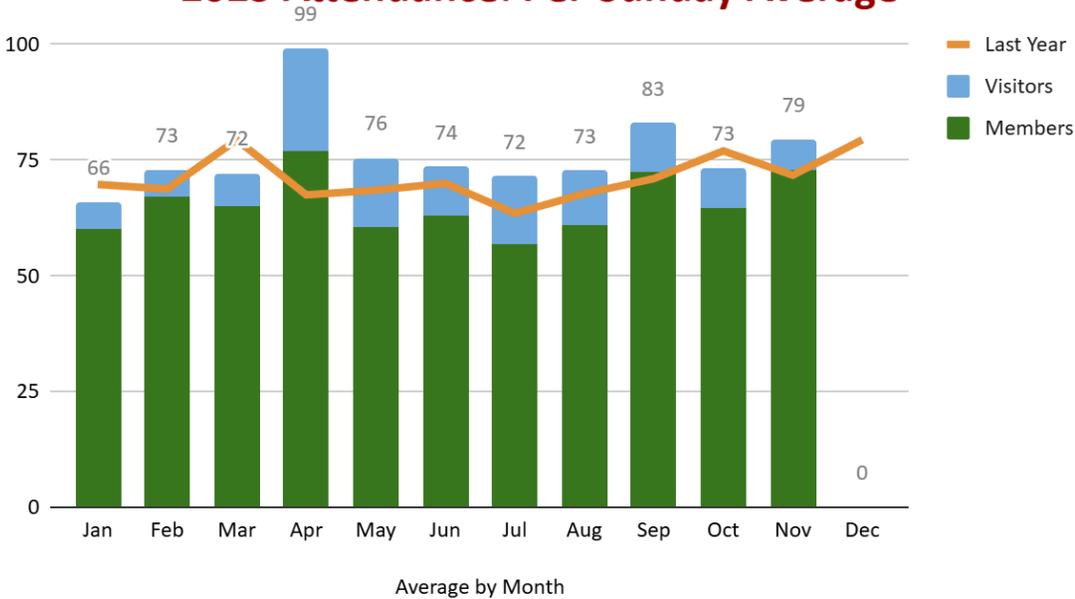


# Attendance Graphs!

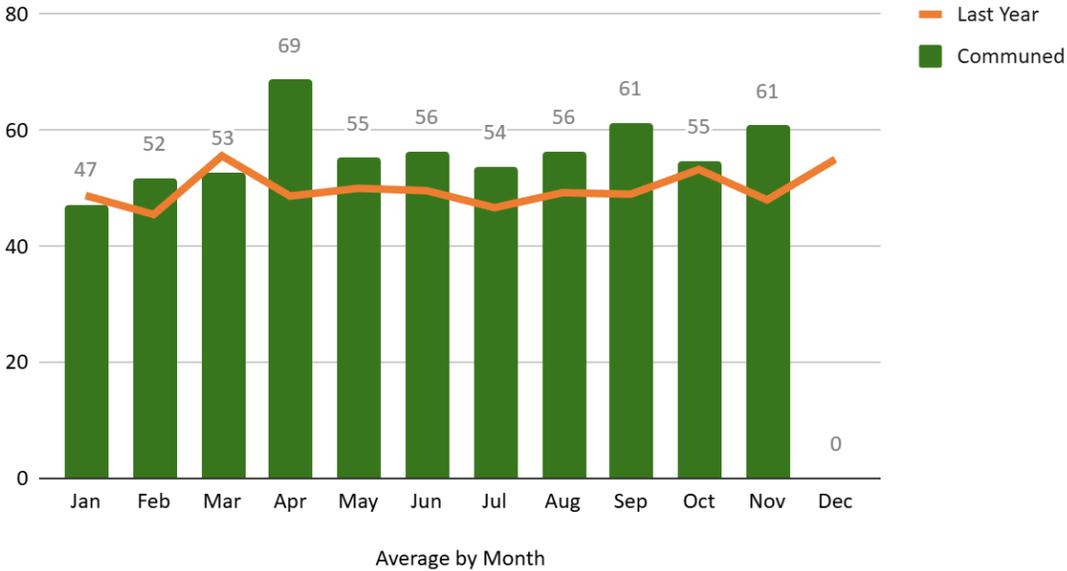
Members of Eternal Savior.

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 November were:

November 2	\$ 4,760
November 9	\$ 5,067
November 16	\$ 1,215
November 23	\$ 1,460
November 30	\$ 2,049
Online Offerings	\$14,699



This weekly average (\$5,850) compares to our 2025 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.

Dec. 7 Marc and Jan Ertle  
Dec. 14 Sam and Lynn Kelley  
Dec. 21 Sam and Lynn Kelley  
Dec. 28 Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly

January 4 Polly Cowley and Kristin Burkett  
January 11 Katherine Moore and Ron Bredehoff  
January 18 Katherine Moore and Ron Bredehoff  
January 25 Mark and Mary Bunge



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## Stained-Glass Window Update



The arched window representing Holy Communion has been completed. The second arched window representing Water and the Word design has been through several iterations and near completion. The window committee has a trip planned for Friday, December 5th to go to Scottish Stained Glass to hopefully finalize the design and select glass colors. We will get to view the Holy Communion window during this visit. Both windows will be installed the same day, maybe in January.

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## Items Available from our Trustees

Our Trustees have gone through the garage and found some items that are no longer needed. These are available for anyone. If you have any questions please see a Trustee.

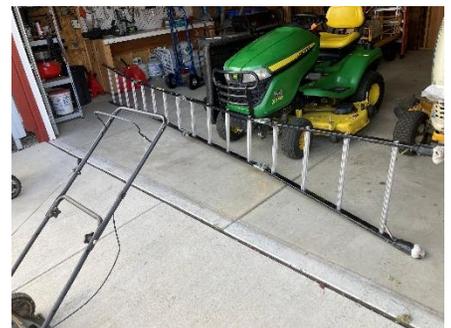


Pneumatic tires for small wagon of wheelbarrow



Push Lawnmower

Belt for Garage Door Opener



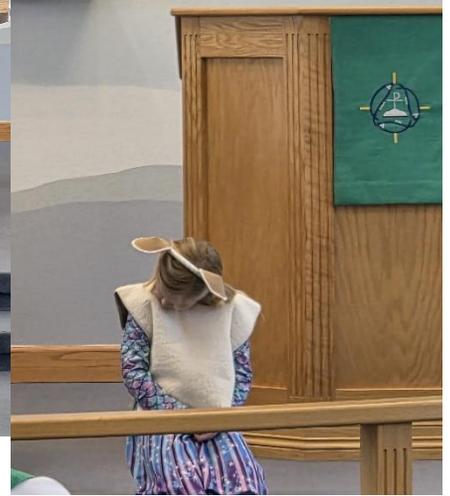
3-older multi-position ladder

# Trustees Take Care of Outside Projects



# Chancel Drama

Pastor talked about how people learn in different manners so some members decided to present the Old Testament reading of Exodus 3: 1-15 as a small play.



# Sunday School Children Sing



MAKE A  
*Joyful Noise*



## 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 2026 flower calendar is 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.

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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!

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

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## SERVING IN DECEMBER

### **Wednesday, December 3 - Mid-Week Advent Service**

Organist/Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley
A/V Booth	Keith Cowley

### **Sunday, December 7**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Dylan Mayer
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley and Katherine Moore
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Marc Ertle
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Andersons
Snow/Lawn	Tom Stahly
Flowers	Martz

### **Wednesday, December 10 – Mid- Week Advent Service**

Organist/Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley
A/V Booth	Keith Cowley

### **Sunday, December 14**

Organist /Pianist	Val Iglar
Cantor	Keith Cowley
Acolyte	Trinity Anderson
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley and Katherine Moore
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Kirk Anderson
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Tom Stahly and Micah Anderson
Snow/Lawn	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Innes

### **Wednesday, December 17 – Mid- Week Advent Service**

Organist/Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley
A/V Booth	Keith Cowley

### **Sunday, December 21**

Organist /Pianist	Val Iglar
Acolyte	Eva Lambrecht
Usher(s)	Tom and Cindy Stahly
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Elder(s)	Eric Olson, Marc Ertle
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Mayers
Snow/Lawn	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Thorson

### **Wednesday, December 24 – Candlelight Christmas Eve**

Organist/Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Acolyte	Aliyah Thorson
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson and Ryan Lambrecht
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow/Lawn	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	Raben

### **Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day Service**

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Aliyah Thorson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Keith Cowley
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	
Snow	Bob Vieyra

### **Sunday, December 28**

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Cindy Griffin
Acolyte	Aliyah Thorson
Usher(s)	Tom and Cindy Stahly
Greeter(s)	Cheryl and Ryan Lambrecht
Counter(s)	Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly
Elder(s)	Ryan Lambrecht (r), Eric Olson
Altar	Linda Thompson
A/V Booth	Pete and Levi Hinrichs
Snow/Lawn	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!

# **NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Decorating the church for Christmas is scheduled for Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m. Please join us for some fellowship while we make the church ready for Christmas.

Christmas caroling will take place on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00p.m. We will be visiting the Retreat at Church Ranch where our member, Carol Purfurst, lives.

A game night is being considered for February.

## **FOOD PANTRY: SISTER CARMEN**

Sister Carmen Food Pantry continues to appreciate our ongoing generosity. A list of needed items is on the donation bin and listed in the bulletin. Another 85 pounds of donations was delivered recently and greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach to the community.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS**

The Sunday School children are considering this school year's donation to benefit "Worship Anew" which is online worship services for aging adults.

## **UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL Mission**

Our second ULC meal is planned for December 7<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the narthex for items you can donate to the meal. This meal is focused on comfort food with casseroles. We thank you for your interest in providing food for these meals and extend an invitation to help us serve the dinners. Contact the Deacons with any interest you might have.

## **DEACONS FUND STATUS**

\$2,569.11

## **LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES SUPPORT**

Thank you to all who made the "Home for the Holidays" drive a great success. Many kitchen items and gift cards were delivered and gratefully received.

The annual Angel Tree Christmas giving project is up in the narthex. There are many items available to choose from. The LFS items must be delivered unwrapped by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Angel Tree will also have items for children in need from Soaring Heights K-8. These items will be on the Angel Tree shortly and need to be delivered wrapped.

## **EMERGENCY FAMILY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT**

Requested monthly supplies continue to be delivered to EFAA. In October and November combined, \$241 of requested supplies were purchased and delivered along with our many congregational donations. As with Sister Carmen, there is a donation bin in the narthex. We communicate with the social worker by email to determine ongoing needs for them as changes arise.

Current items requested include:

Baby Wipes	Bar Soaps
Adult Toothpaste	Adult Toothbrushes
Men/Woman deodorant	Paper towels (3pks)
Dishwasher Pods	Detergents
Fabric Softener	Clorox
Floor Cleaner	Body Lotion
Disinfecting Wipes	Trash Bags
Pads/ Tampons	

## **NEXT MEETING**

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 6:30 Midweek Advent Service	<b>4</b> 10:30 Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 Church Decorating
<b>7</b> 9:00 Worship and Communion <b>10:30 Voter's Meeting</b> 10:30 Sunday School 1:30 Confirmation <b>5:00 Provide meal at ULC</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 6:30 Midweek Advent Service	<b>11</b> 10:30 Bible Study  7:00 Elders	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 Worship and Communion 10:30 Sunday School/Bible Study 1:30 Confirmation	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:00 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 6:30 Midweek Advent Service	<b>18</b> 10:30 Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 Worship and Communion <b>10:10 Trustees</b> 10:30 Sunday School/Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:00 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 10:00 Christmas Day Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 Worship and Communion 10:30 Sunday School/Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

For livestreaming video, please go to church's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/EternalSaviorLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/EternalSaviorLutheran) or ESLC website <https://eternalsavior-lutheran.org/>

Scripture in my Language:

# A RICH MESSAGE

**I**n the quiet village of Ethsa 6, Botswana, the Wayeyi community is checking 2nd Corinthians. The hum of their voices grows softer as one man steps away to talk with LBT representatives about the work being done.

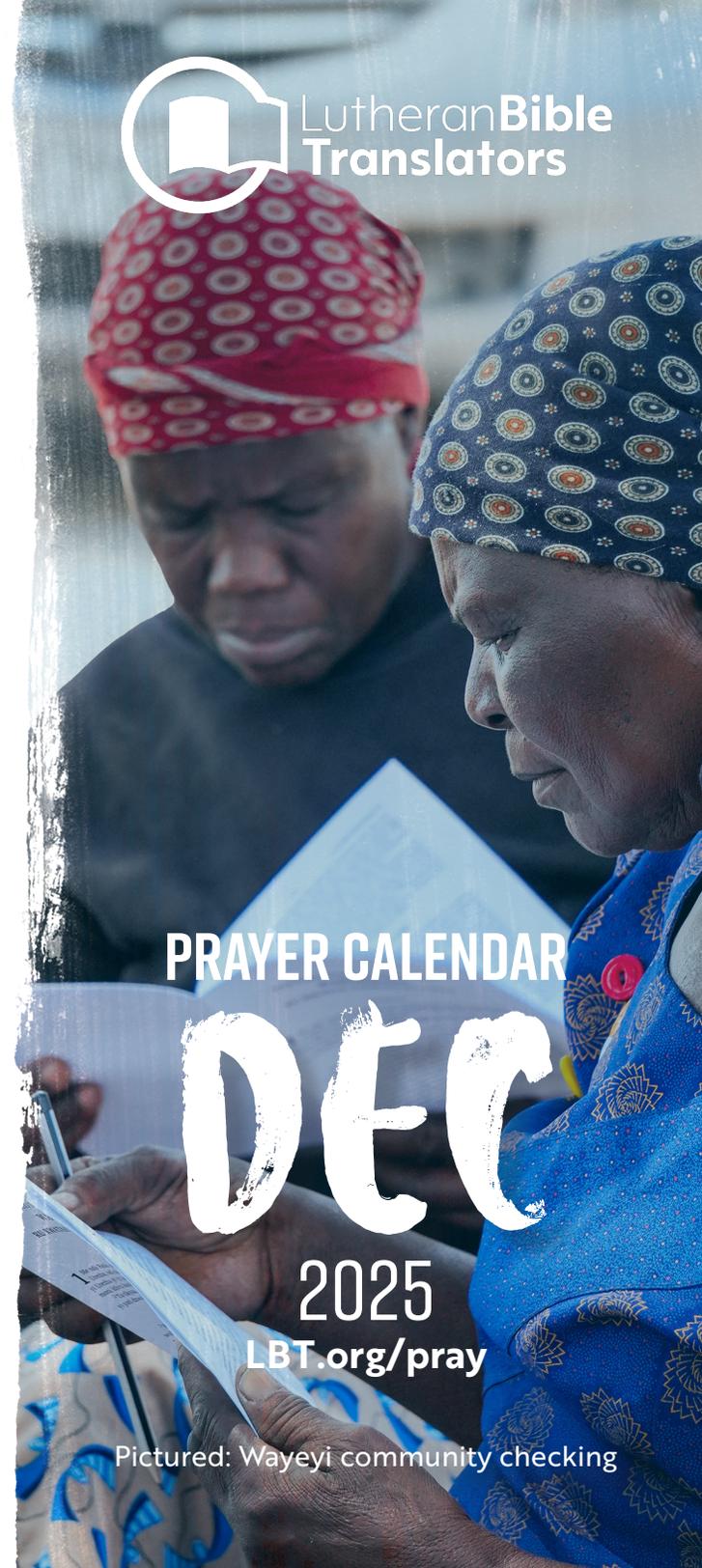
**“I like the rich message of John 3:16 very much, especially when I read it in my language!”**

He has participated six or seven times in these sessions, listening to the translation and providing feedback about any mistakes. Honored to be on the community checking team, he is fully embracing the joy of knowing God speaks his language. He exclaimed, “I like the rich message of John 3:16 very much, especially when I read it in my language!”

Pray for all Wayeyi people to experience the joy of hearing John 3:16 in their own language.



PO Box 789  
Concordia, MO 64020



PRAYER CALENDAR

DEC

2025

[LBT.org/pray](https://lbt.org/pray)

Pictured: Wayeyi community checking

- 1 Pray for Melissa Schweigert to be a vessel of peace in the workplace, especially as she celebrates her birthday today.
- 2 Pray God provides a great number of cheerful-hearted givers who recognize that their gifts are vital to continuous impact in the mission of Bible translation.
- 3 Pray for Board Chair Marlis Norton to be given Godly strength to lead with courage and discernment, especially as she celebrates her birthday this month.
- 4 Pray for the \*Shi grammar workshop to accomplish its purpose as a preparation for Bible translation in 2026. (SE Asia)
- 5 Pray for the Esala kids to experience God's love in new ways through Scripture and the community of believers.
- 6 Pray for the staff and students in the Linguistics and Bible Translation Department at TCNN as the students write exams. (Nigeria)
- 7 As the Joy candle is lit, pray for Christians who are facing persecution and death for their faith to be comforted by the everlasting joy set before them.
- 8 Pray the Lord provides energy and strength for Martin and Joan Weber to serve effectively during their travels back to Cameroon, especially as Joan celebrates her birthday this month.
- 9 On this Tanzanian Independence Day, pray for Tanzanian translation advisory committees to find creative ways to promote and support the work.
- 10 Pray for successful sessions with the Yala team as they prepare their Bible for typesetting. (Nigeria)
- 11 Pray for endurance and clarity of mind for the Kerewe translation team as they work on the book of Numbers. (Tanzania)
- 12 Pray God will continue to strengthen the Grulke family for service to the people of Botswana, a partnership they have held for over seven years.
- 13 Pray for Field Programs Director Paul Federwitz to rejoice in hope, patient in tribulation, and constant in prayer, especially as he celebrates his birthday tomorrow.
- 14 As the Peace candle is lit, pray God will help his people intentionally seek peace in preparation for Jesus' first and second comings despite the busyness of Advent.
- 15 Pray the Lord will provide wisdom and insight for Pastors Bakari and Touka as they as they help workers in many languages provide access to God's saving Word in their heart languages. (Cameroon)
- 16 Praise God for Rev. Linus' safe travels and meetings with partners in November and pray his family will be refreshed and renewed as they celebrate Jesus' birth.
- 17 Pray for a safe birth, wisdom, patience, and a smooth transition into parenthood for Matthew and Sarah Rudowske as they welcome their daughter later this month.
- 18 Pray for good health for Martin and Joan Weber's son Sammy, his wife Kelsey, and their four children Keturah, Caleb, Timothy, and Stephen. (Cameroon)
- 19 Pray for spiritual wisdom and supernatural energy for Serena Derricks as she coordinates literacy services for teams around the world, especially as she celebrates her birthday today.
- 20 Pray for Advent joy to fill the Wagner family home, especially as Josiah and Josh celebrate birthdays this month.
- 21 As the Love candle is lit, pray for the field leadership team to be re-energized for the new year through family time and true rest.
- 22 Pray for encouragement and blessing for Bishop Oscar Lema and Bishop Johannes Nzelu as they lead in the Lutheran Church of Tanzania.
- 23 Pray for Rev. Linus' daughter Joella to receive grace, wisdom, and growth in body and spirit, to experience the favor of God, and to walk with Jesus, especially on her birthday tomorrow.
- 24 On this Christmas Eve, pray for those who work in security sensitive situations, and that the Word of God may go forth in power to bring hope, life, and transformation.
- 25 On this Christmas Day, pray for opportunities for believers to share the Gospel with family members who are not committed to Jesus.
- 26 Please pray for the \*Shi team as they continue to work on an Oral Bible Story set from the book of Acts. (SE Asia)
- 27 **Answered Prayer:** Give thanks for productive checking sessions for the book of Numbers with the Kukele translation team in November. (Nigeria)
- 28 Pray for wisdom for the ELC-PNG as they discern steps for greater awareness about Bible translation throughout the Church.
- 29 Pray for God to fill Amy Formella with a sure sense of his presence and strengthen her for her work among the language communities of Sierra Leone.
- 30 Pray for generous donors to fully finance Michael and Naomi Ersland's vehicle and house set up fund as they prepare to serve in Tanzania.
- 31 Pray for LBT partners around the world as they reflect on 2025 and apply new insights to their work in 2026.

*\*Pseudonyms used due to a sensitive situation*



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

# Pray For Us Calendar

## ADVENT: THE SECOND COMING — DECEMBER 1-15

Advent means coming. We anticipate the promised return of Christ as the judge of the world. We look with hope to the day of the resurrection of all flesh, when those who believe in Christ will rise to everlasting life.

*The Church waits for the Second Coming in repentance, hope and faith. For the following, we pray “Lord, have mercy.”*

- 1.** For hearts that imitate the generosity and graciousness of Jesus. Pray that God’s people would be eager to show forth the love of God through their good works for their neighbor.

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- 2.** That the Lord would preserve His Word and Sacraments in our midst, so that we may be kept strong in the one, true faith until Christ’s return.

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- 3.** That the people of God would be faithful in their attendance of the Divine Service, where God

strengthens our faith toward Him and our steadfast love for one another.

- 4.** That all people would fear God and find hope in His gracious forgiveness through Christ.

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- 5.** For all who do not believe in Jesus, that they might hear the Gospel and believe.

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- 6.** For all Christians, that we might repent of our sins and prepare for Christ’s return.

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- 7.** For steadfast faith as the world writhes and groans in anticipation of the day of judgment.

**8.** For the ministers of the Word, that they would be faithful to their calling.

**9.** for the Church’s missionaries, that through them the Word would go forth into the world with power.

**10.** For our government, that we might live peaceable and quiet lives.

**11.** For parents, that they would see their role in raising children as a holy calling from God in these last days.

**12.** For patience, as we wait for Christ’s coming, that we might believe God is not slow in keeping promises, but patient.

**13.** For those who mourn the loss of loved ones, that the promise of the resurrection may be their hope.

**14.** For those who are dying, that they may entrust their whole lives unto God who keeps them.

**15.** For the coming of Christ. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



## ADVENT: THE INCARNATION — DECEMBER 16-31

During Advent we rejoice that God sent His Son to be the redeemer of the world. We gather with all Christians to celebrate this gracious gift from our heavenly Father. We trust in Christ alone as our Savior.

*The Church gathers to thank God and ask for faith to trust in His gift of a Savior. For the following, we pray “Lord, have mercy.”*

**16.** For faithful reading of Old Testament, that all who read may see Jesus as the promised Savior.

**17.** For opportunities to proclaim the Gospel in this season. When the world is open to hearing the story of Christmas, may we be unashamed in our witness.

**18.** That all Christians might see the needs of their neighbor and love with the love of Christ.

**19.** For those who only attend worship at Christmas, that the Spirit would work faith through the hearing of the Word.

**20.** That we may believe the truth of the two natures of Christ.

**21.** For St. Thomas, apostle. That with him we might believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and God.

**22.** For faithful readings of the New Testament. That all the words of the apostles and evangelists may result in faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**23.** For pastors who serve as Christ’s under-shepherds in our midst. That they might proclaim the truth of the Good News of Christmas.

**24.** Rejoice that Jesus is Immanuel. God is with us to save us.

**25.** Rejoice in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory — glory as the only-begotten of God.

**26.** Thank God for St. Stephen, the first Christian



Martyr. That we might also serve God with our lives — thoughts, words and deeds.

**27.** That God would grant us faith to believe that He comes to us in the Means of Grace.

**28.** For all those who face depression and desperation at this time of year. That God’s gift of love in Christ would gladden their hearts.

**29.** For all those who travel. That God would grant them safety.

**30.** That all would know and believe in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for the world’s salvation.

**31.** That the Lord would abundantly bless the efforts of the LCMS and its partners in the coming years. That the Gospel is the primary focus of all that is done and proclaimed.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at [lcms.org/prayforus](https://lcms.org/prayforus) or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

