



The Eternal Light

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

February 2026

WORD IS . . .

Volume 4/Issue 2 February
A WORD FROM PASTOR THORSON

JOHN 3: 16

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE
WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY SON, THAT
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN
HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.**

Loved

Read John 3: 16. February is a month marked by love. Sure Valentine's Day is always there, but that isn't what I am talking about. This year on February 18th we will celebrate Ash Wednesday and begin Lent. Now, I know that you have probably never really thought about Lent as a season of love, but it really is. And, that is how I want you to approach it this year. Lent is all about love and loving so much that it hurts, because that is how much God loved us, enough to give up his only Son so that we could receive a gift far greater than chocolates and roses. Because of God's love for us, we receive eternal life. That is what Lent is all about, watching Jesus live the love that God has for us. In fact, Jesus loved us so much that he was willing to endure abandonment, torture, death and even hell for your sake.

*"Jesus endured what our sin accomplished so that
we would be restored"*



The journey to the cross is one we make every year. We dress in black and stop singing or saying "Halleluiah." We ponder our sins and shortcomings alongside the Christ's perfection. We will cover our forehead in ashes and grieve for the pain that we made Jesus to suffer. That doesn't sound like there is much love in Lent, but that is because we keep looking at it from our own point of view. So right now, take a step back and look at it from God's eyes. His world that he created has been in rebellion for thousands of years. His people are lost and can't help themselves. God has watched his creation languish in their struggles. And now, at just the right time, God is sending his own Son to fix it. It isn't going to be an easy road, but it is a necessary one, because God has had enough of sin and death. It is

time for His plan to be fulfilled. So, He sends Jesus as a man to walk among us for a relatively short time, so that by his suffering our sufferings would end.

Jesus endured what our sin accomplished so that we would be restored to a relationship with God. Why? Because he loved and still loves us and because His Heavenly Father loved and continues to love us. That is why we celebrate Lent, and why Lent is a *celebration*. Not in order to bring about the self-loathing that we Lutherans are so good at, but because God loved us enough to send His Son to endure death and hell so that we wouldn't have to. So, this Lent I want you to be sober minded, and I do want you to ponder all of the usual Lenten ponderings, but this year I want you remember that we do this all because of God's love for us.

In Christ,

Pastor Ant O. Jr

Upcoming Events

February 15 – WinGS Valentine Tea 3:00p.m.

February 18 – Ash Wednesday Service 6:30p.m.

February 25 – Mid-Week Lenten Service 6:30p.m.

February 28 – Game Night 5:30p.m. (If you would like to attend game night and need a ride, please contact the office so we can arrange a ride for you.)



Lenten Service Schedule

February 18 – 6:30 Ash Wednesday

February 25 – 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 4 – 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 11 – 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 18 – 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 25 – 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 29 – 9:00 Palm Sunday Service



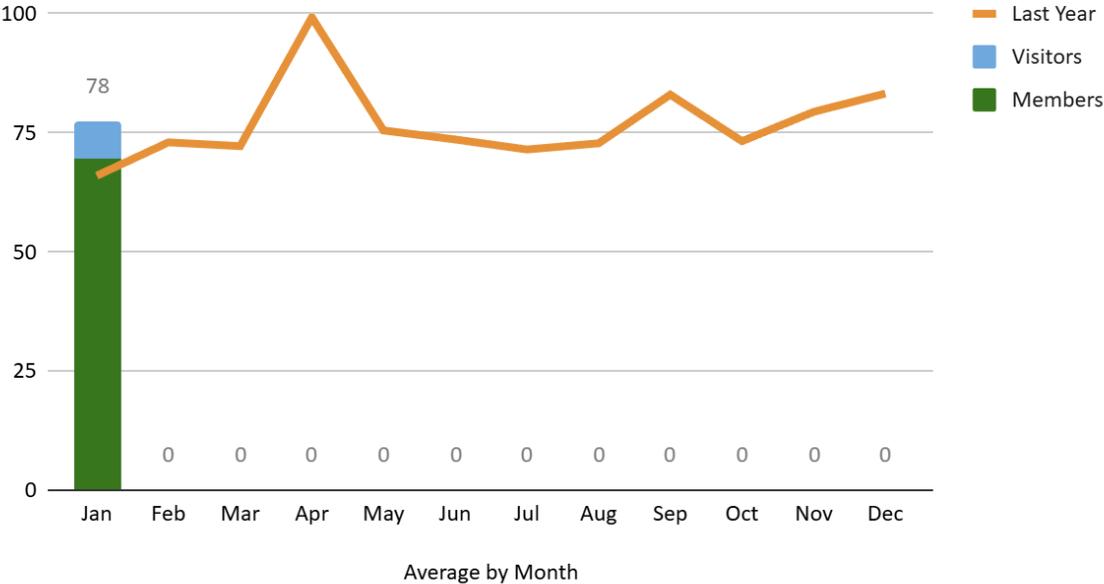
If you would like to attend our evening Lenten services and need a ride, please contact the church office so we can make arrangements for you.

Attendance Graphs!

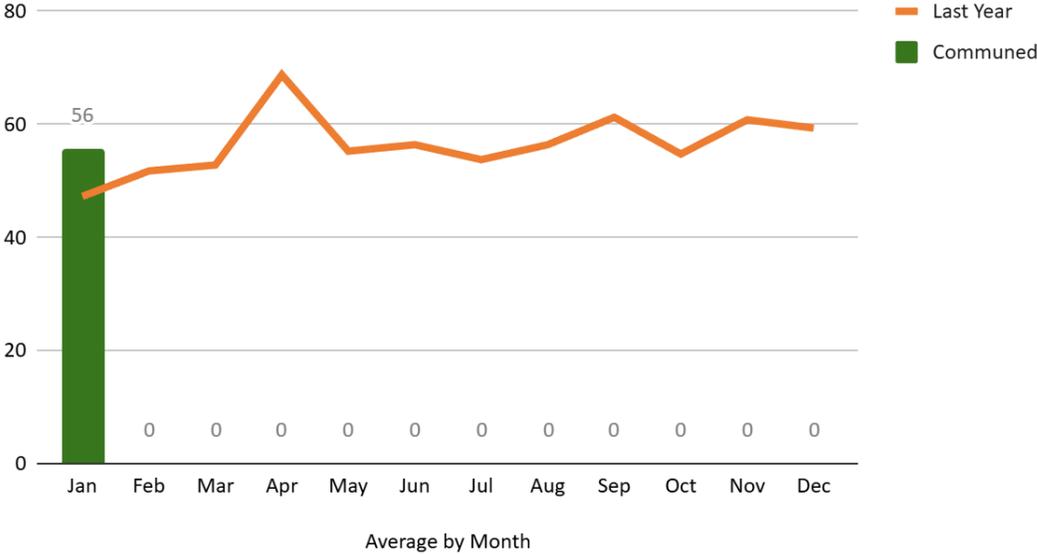
Members of Eternal Savior.

These are graphs showing our attendance and communion for 2026.

2026 Attendance: Per-Sunday Average



2026 Communed: Per-Sunday Average



OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of January were:

January 4	\$ 2,486
January 11	\$ 1,860
January 18	\$ 8,810
January 26	\$ 1,747
Online Offerings	\$14,897



This weekly average (\$7,450) compares to our 2026 weekly budget needs of **\$5,349**.

COUNTER SCHEDULE

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

February 1 Mark and Mary Bunge
February 8 Marc and Jan Ertle
February 15 Marc and Jan Ertle
February 22 Polly Cowley & Kristin Burkett

March 1 Sam and Lynn Kelley
March 8 Sam and Lynn Kelley
March 15 Polly Cowley and Kristin Burkett
March 22 Katherine Moore and Ron Bredehoft
March 29 Katherine Moore and Ron Bredehoft



We're Fixin' to Rustle Up a Melodrama! **Saturday, May 2, 2026**



THE TREASURE OF SHIVER RIVER By Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus

Or
**It's Hard to Drive
Cattle when their
Horns are Frozen**

**We are looking for fun-loving adults and youth
to be part of this memorably zany show!**

CAST MEMBERS

**The Hero and Heroine
The Villain and Villainess
The Zany Auctioneer
The Treasure Hunters
'Ze Not-So-German Doctor
Several others!**

SUPPORTING ROLES

**Set Decorators
Lighting
Audio & Sound Effects
Piano
Props
Costumes**

**Let Us Know You're
Interested by Feb. 15!**

<https://bit.ly/eslcmelodrama>



**More Info?
See Cindy Griffin or Keith Cowley**

Produced by special arrangement with
Pioneer Drama Service, Inc. Englewood, Colorado

Nursery Clean Up

Our Youth Group took on a service project to clean up the nursery. They did a wonderful job and the room looks wonderful.

Before

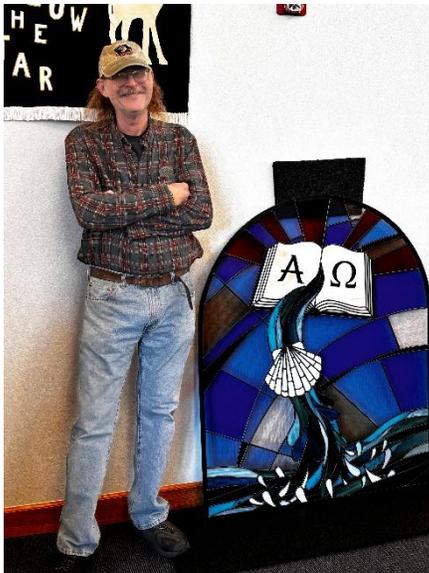
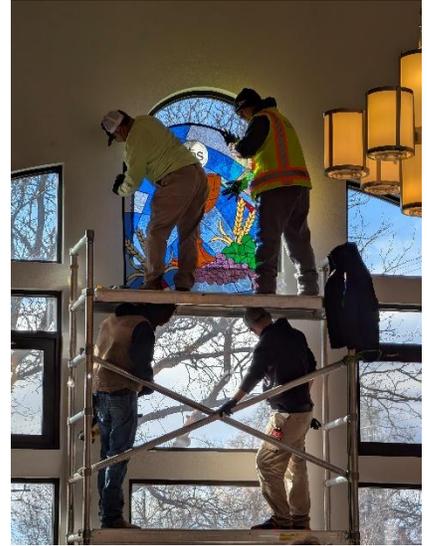


After

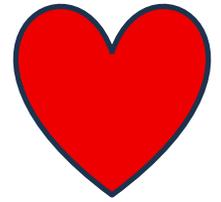


Installation of New Stained Glass Windows

We had our new stained glass windows installed the last week of January. They are a beautiful addition to the sanctuary. Thank you to all the members of the Stained Glass committee that helped make this happen.



FEBRUARY WinGS News



Women in God's Service at ESLC

Upcoming events:

February 6-7 LWML RMD BOD meeting in CO Springs

February 15th, 2026- Valentine Tea 3:00 pm SAVE THE DATE! See next page!

June 5-7, 2026 LWML RMD Convention



June 5-7, 2026 in Colorado Springs

At **The Antlers, A Wyndham Hotel**, 4 S Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Registration is open NOW! Please consider attending! [LWML Rocky Mountain District Convention](#)

[More updates next month! Please Contact Cindy Stahly for more info!](#)

Mission Grants remaining for the 2023-2025 Biennium:

Mites & Mission Goals - SO FAR WE HAVE RAISED

\$63,000

TOWARD OUR \$80,000 MITES GOAL

[Fill your mite boxes and bring them in to complete the Goal!](#)

We are looking for [Activity ideas for the group to do together!](#) They can be fellowship, food, fun, servant oriented etc. Please share your ideas in the mite box when you drop off [your mighty mites!](#)

Valentine's Tea Party

Join us for an elegant affair filled with delightful conversations, exquisite teas, and a delectable assortment of sweet and savory treats.

Sunday, February 15th at 3pm

***RSVP by Sunday, February 1st
on the bulletin board***

 FEBRUARY 15TH AT 3PM

 ETERNAL SAVIOR LUTHERAN



Sharing God's Gifts in Our Community

We thank God for the talents and abilities He gives us! Below we share news of recent events involving our members, as well as upcoming public events that the congregation is invited to join as your interest and calendar guides.

Recent Community Events



Connie, director and accompanist of the Louisville Singing Seniors, along with Robin, share Christmas tunes at the 12/17/25 Louisville Seniors Brunch.



It's all about that bow for Cole as he plays in the Winter Concert at Meadowlark School on 12/11/25.



Kaya and teammates talk it over before taking the court at her 1/24/26 basketball game.



Dylan and his trombone section show how cool trombones really are at his 12/9/25 Winter Concert at Meadowlark School.



Anna and a friend show off their flutes during the Pep Band performance at the 1/23/26 Erie HS basketball game.



Eva (2nd from left) gathers with other students at one of her January Jiu-Jitsu sessions in Lafayette.

Upcoming Community Events

Date/Time		Event	Location	Participating Members
2/7, 14, 21, 28	11AM	Youth Basketball	Erie Recreation Center	Kaya
2/25	6PM	Orchestra Concert	Soaring Heights PK-8 School	Eva
2/26	6PM	Band Concert	Soaring Heights PK-8 School	Kaya
2/3, 5, 20	5:30PM	Boys/Girls Basketball+ Pep Band	Erie High School	Anna

Have photos from a recent event, or have an upcoming event you'd like to share with others?

Send email with photos or event logistics to eslc.walther@gmail.com or text to Keith Cowley (720-480-3594)

*Please obtain permission from participants (or parents) before sharing photos.

*Please share only events/activities where the public is invited to attend.

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. 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!

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.

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.

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 Book of John.

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 1

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Aliyah Thorson
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski & Levi Hinrichs
Greeter(s)	Fernando Espinoza & Dyani Dussault
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Marc Ertle, Wayne Thomas
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Tom Stahly & Micah Anderson
Snow/Lawn	Nick Burkett
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, February 8

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Cole Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski & Levi Hinrichs
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Tom Stahly (r), Eric Olson
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Snow/Lawn	Nick Burkett
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, February 15

Organist /Pianist	Val Iglar
Acolyte	Dylan Mayer
Usher(s)	Tom and Cindy Stahly
Greeter(s)	Nancy Hire
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Ron Bredehoft and Wayne Thomas
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Hinrichs
Snow/Lawn	Max Schrader
Flowers	OPEN

Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday

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

Sunday, February 22

Organist /Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Cantor	Keith Cowley
Acolyte	Trinity Anderson
Usher(s)	Tom and Cindy Stahly
Greeter(s)	Cheryl and Ryan Lambrecht
Counter(s)	Polly Cowley and Kristin Burkett
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Eric Olson
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Mayers
Snow/Lawn	Max Schrader
Flowers	OPEN

Wednesday, February 25 – Mid Week Lenten Service

Guest Pastor	
Organist /Pianist	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Cole Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Marc Ertle
A/V Booth	Keith Cowley

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!