



The Eternal Light

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

April 2026

WORD IS . . .

Volume 4/Issue 4 April
A WORD FROM PASTOR THORSON

Service

A book that I once read spoke of leadership in terms of service. It's main thrust was that bureaucracies often fail because of the short-term and self-centered nature of those leading them. I think this rings true in churches as well. When a pastor or parishioner is in church only for themselves or their status, their heart is in the wrong place. Should they also only be looking for the "next big thing" for their "church life," whether that is the perfect contemporary service or the church with the best organist in town or the biggest youth group or the people with the nicest cars and homes as members, they are not only making "church" about themselves and their own desire, but their focus is only ever going to be set on short term goal fulfillments. This attitude, that is all too prevalent in American Churches today, eliminates the heart of service that the church was founded on. In this mindset we miss the poor, forget the weak, bully the downtrodden and silence the wounded. This type of behavior sabotages the church and her mission and forsakes her Lord and Savior's message and heritage. The fix? Of course it's Jesus, but it is specifically following His example of service.

Go, serve in peace and joy.

In a culture that demands perfect service ten minutes ago, Christians have the opportunity to be true "foot-washers." We have the means, the example and the Spirit of forgiveness to get down in the muck and the mire to truly serve those who hurt, have lost and need something different. Go back and read John 13 when you get the chance. Jesus washes his disciples' feet, even the betrayer's, right before he goes out to die for the sins of the world. What greater act of service is there than that? None, for there is no greater love than this, that one would lay down his life for another. That is what Christ did, and what we can aspire to do. No, we can't die for another's sins, that

JOHN 13: 3-5

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet.



was already accomplished. But, we can sacrifice our time, set aside our desires (even if only momentarily) and give of our own time, talents and treasures for the good of another. That is the heart of service, sacrifice and submission. Jesus knew this well and lived it all the way to the cross. He set this example for us and then defeated death that we might be able to follow it. Therefore, we have the opportunity to give God glory through our submission to him and our service to one another and the rest of our fellow man. Take up the mantle of service, then, and give your love to those around you, and follow the example of the greatest servant ever. Go, serve in peace and joy.

In Christ,

Pastor Paul D. Smith

Upcoming Events

April 5 – 7:45 Youth Prepared Easter Breakfast

April 5 – Easter Egg Hunt During Sunday School

April 26 - Confirmation

Holy Week Service Schedule

April 2 – 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service

April 3 – 12:00PM Good Friday Noon Service

April 3 – 7:00PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 5 – 9:00AM Easter Celebration



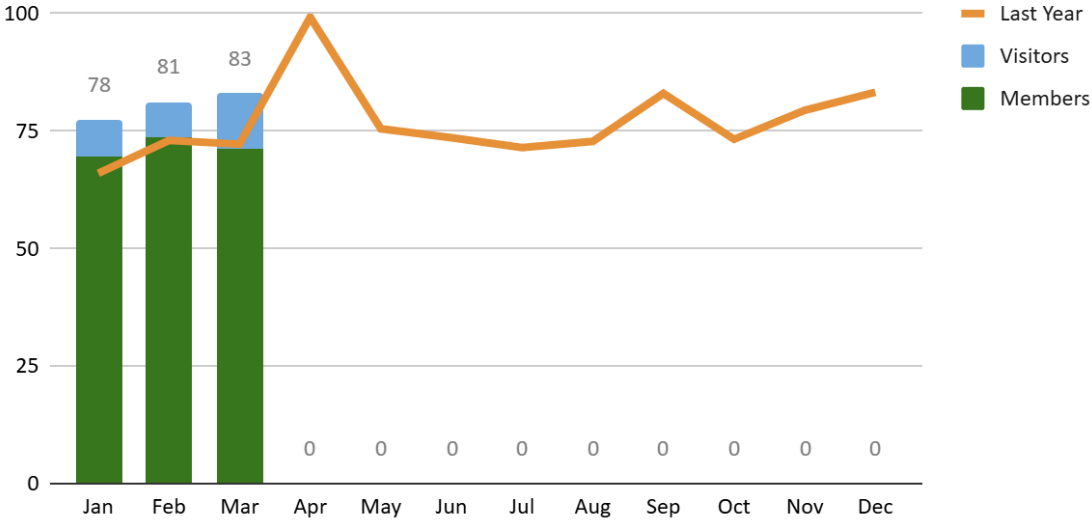
If you would like to attend our evening Holy Week services and need a ride, please contact the church office so we can make arrangements for you.

Attendance Graphs!

Members of Eternal Savior.

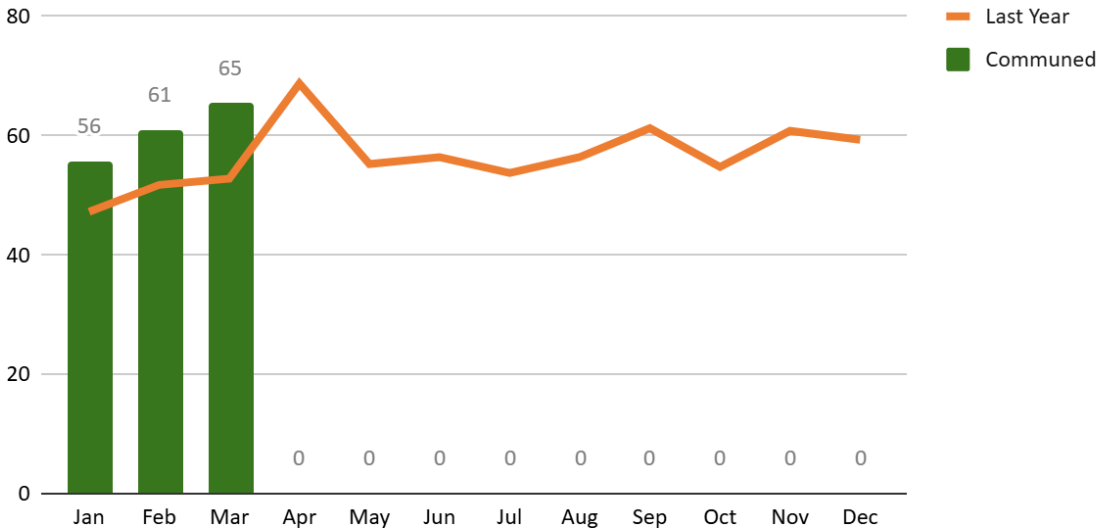
These are graphs showing our attendance and communion for 2026.

2026 Attendance: Per-Sunday Average



Average by Month

2026 Communed: Per-Sunday Average



Average by Month

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of March were:

March 1	\$23,887
March 8	\$ 2,915
March 15	\$ 1,839
March 22	\$ 910
March 29	\$ 4,905
Online Offerings	\$ 6,577



This weekly average (\$8,207) 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.

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

May 3 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
May 10 – Sam and Lynn Kelley
May 17 – Polly Cowley and Kristen Burkett
May 24 – Polly Cowley and Kristen Burkett
May 31 – Mark Bunge and Ron Bredehoft



From the Treasurer:

As of the first quarter we have been blessed with contributions that have remained above our budget and actual expenses. There is one thing that I am monitoring as we move further into the year. That is, we based our 2026 budget on the giving trends that we had in 2025. Although we are ahead of current expenses our contributions this year are less than last year's at this time.

I will continue to monitor the situation and keep you all informed. If you have any questions, please let me know.

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



Miscellaneous Items

Congregational Leaders' Workshop –

It is time for the next Congregational Leaders' Workshop. We started this two years ago with a focus upon the elected officers of the congregations but quickly made it available to the other leaders who serve on the various committees within the local congregation. This year's theme is, "Who's Your Cornelius?" and is taken from Acts chapter 10. With the decline of many congregations in the LCMS, it can be easy for us to give in to the idea that our congregation is dying. And even if our congregation is strong, we can overlook areas of ministry and growth because we are caught up in the way we have always done things. As members of the LCMS, we have the best message to share and the most solid doctrines upon which to stand.



Our goal is to create an atmosphere where we can challenge each other to find our Cornelius'. Please set aside and mark your calendars for April 25th as we gather at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Broomfield for our workshop. We will begin with food and fellowship at 9:30am, and then have an opening devotion at 10:00am. A detailed schedule will be sent out later but we plan to finish at 2:00pm. The cost of the workshop will again be \$20 per person which will cover lunch and refreshments. More information and a sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board.

THE TIME IS NOW!!

Do not miss out on saving Money! Do not miss out on meeting 14 ministry exhibitors, hearing 7 amazing guest speakers, and learning from the Bible studies by our 2 engaging pastoral counselors! Do not miss out on the opportunity to support missions through the gifts from the Heart ingathering, BINGO for Mites, and two active service projects! Do not miss out on spending a weekend with your sisters in Christ!

If you have any questions, contact us at registrar@lwmlrmd.org

The early registration deadline is April 1st. Hotel rooms must be reserved by May 12th. Go to <https://www.lwmlrmd.org/convention/>



A view of our beautiful stained glass window lit up in the evening hours.



Plan from the Trustees

The Trustees would like to propose that we transition the landscaping on the north side of our church property to a xeriscape (water-wise) design.

Why this matters – Our current landscaping requires a significant amount of water to maintain. With ongoing water restrictions and increasing costs, it has become more difficult to keep the lawn healthy and thriving. As a result, we are seeing declining plant health and inefficient use of resources.

What is Xeriscaping? Xeriscaping is a landscaping method that uses drought-tolerant plants, efficient irrigation, and natural ground coverings (such as mulch or rock) to significantly reduce water usage while maintaining a beautiful and welcoming outdoor space.

Benefits to Our Church:

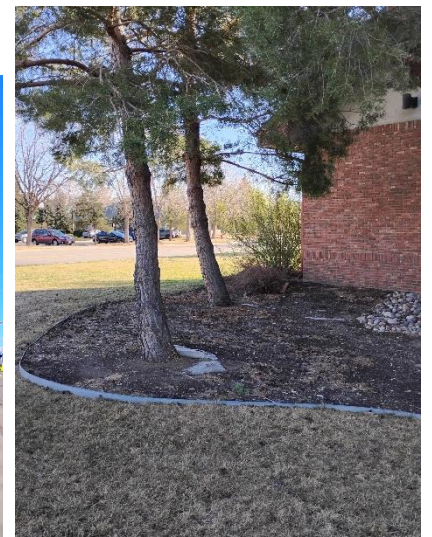
1. Water conservation – Reduces water usage by up to 50-75%. Supports community efforts during water restrictions. Demonstrates responsible stewardship of God's creation.
2. Cost Savings – Lower monthly water bills. Reduced maintenance and landscaping costs over time.
3. Sustainability and Stewardship – Aligns with our values of caring for the environment. Sets a positive example for our community.
4. Improved Appearance – Creates a clean, intentional and attractive landscape. Uses native plants that thrive in our climate.

Proposed Plan:

1. Gradual removal of high-water-use grass
2. Installation of drought-resistant plants and ground cover
3. Use of drip irrigation or minimal watering systems
4. Incorporation of decorative rock or mulch for a polished look

This transition is not just about landscaping – it is about wise stewardship, adapting to our environment, and caring for the resources we have been given. By making this change, we honor both our financial responsibility and our commitment to sustainability.

Thank you for your support. Please talk to any trustee with any questions or concerns.



Super Choir

We had our vocal and bell choir join together, along with previous choir members to present "Just As I Am" in service.



Bible in a Year Challenge

We completed our "Bible in a Year" Challenge with 38 members participating. Here pictured, are the top three youth (all Andersons!) and the top three adults. Robin provided an extra special gift to the adult winners. Congratulations to all who participated.



Memorial Project Update

The Memorial Project team has been working over the past few months with several companies to explore the best options for constructing a new pavilion for Eternal Savior Lutheran Church. The site for the Pavilion will be South of the church.

After submitting the final choices to the Church Council, they are in full agreement to continue moving forward on the Memorial Project.

Below are pictures that represent the vision for our new pavilion. With the Council's approval, we are now contacting contractors and builders to start the process. We will keep the congregation informed as timelines are established and contracts are finalized.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to a member of the committee

Memorial Project Committee Members: Mark Bunge, Bob Vieyra, Pam Mayer, Kyle Martz, Sam Kelley, Ed Warnken, Cindy Griffin, Jeanie Fink



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 (1 of 2)



Kaya and the clarinet section perform as part of the Soaring Heights Middle School band concert on February 26. Note how well they watch their director!



Aeson is poised for the first takedown in the 10U Division at the Colorado State Wrestling Tournament on February 28.



Cheryl and a colleague enjoy recognition as March Teachers of the Month for their dedication to students! All glory to God!



Aeson is all smiles as he captured first place as a 5th grader, wrestling in the 6th grade division of the Saint Vrain Valley School District State Tournament on March 6.



Kaya and her youth basketball teammates jump for joy on March 7th as they celebrate the end of a great season.

Sharing God's Gifts in Our Community (More!)

Recent Community Events (2 of 2)



Linda is a long-time member of the Lutheran Chorale. On March 8 at Mt. Olive, Aurora, the Chorale gave a beautiful performance of "The Passion of the Lord."



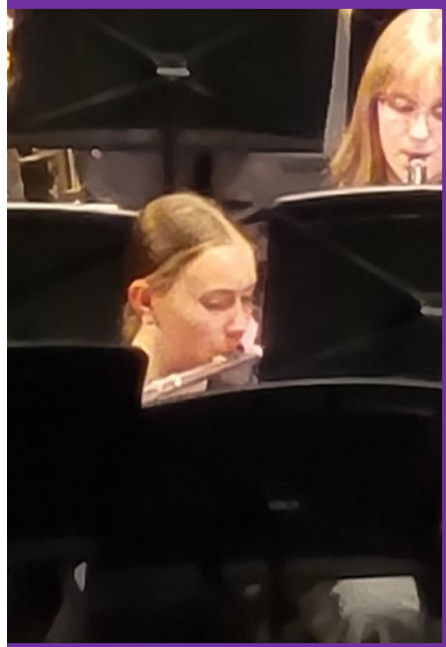
Levi gets a quick start out of the blocks at the Silver Creek High School meet on 3/11. Congratulations to Levi for qualifying for the state tournament in the 100m breaststroke!



Levi's strong swimming in the breast stroke earned him 2nd place in the 200m event at the Northern Colorado District meet on March 8.



Luke makes the 400m dash look easy as he competes in a Junior Varsity track meet on March 11.



The All-Bands concert at Erie High School on March 11 gave Anna a fun opportunity to play her flute along with numerous other talented young musicians at her school.



It was all about Irish and St. Patrick's Day songs for the Louisville Singing Seniors on March 18. Connie and Robin paused for a photo after singing a great concert at Sunrise Flatirons Assisted Living in Broomfield.

Sharing God's Gifts in Our Community

Upcoming Events

Date/Time		Event	Location	Participating Members
4/1	3:30PM	Track Meet	Frederick High School 5960 Tipple Parkway, Longmont	Luke H.
4/8	3:30PM	Track Meet	Greeley West High School 2401 35 th Avenue, Greeley	Luke H.
4/9	3:30PM	Swim Meet	Silver Creek High School 4901 Nelson Road, Longmont	Levi H.
4/11	9:00AM	Swim Meet	Veteran's Memorial Aquatic Ctr 5310 136 th Avenue, Thornton	Levi H.
4/15	3:30PM	Track Meet	Greeley West High School 2401 35 th Avenue, Greeley	Luke H.
4/15	3:30PM	Swim Meet	Silver Creek High School 4901 Nelson Road, Longmont	Levi H.
4/18	1:00PM	Youth Soccer	Arapahoe Ridge Park 1750 Powell Street, Erie	Eva L.
4/25	9:30AM	Youth Soccer	Lafayette Recreation Center Park 111 W. Baseline Road, Lafayette	Eva L.
4/25	8:00AM	Track Meet	Roosevelt High School 3349 Roosevelt Pkwy, Johnstown	Luke H.
4/25	9:00AM	Swim Meet	Broomfield Community Center 280 Spader Way, Broomfield	Levi H.
5/3	2:30PM	Lutheran Chorale Spring Family Concert	Mt. Zion Lutheran Church 500 Drake Street, Denver	Linda T.
5/3	6:30PM	Lutheran Chorale Spring Family Concert	Wheat Ridge Ev. Lutheran Church 8600 W 38 th Ave. Wheat Ridge	Linda T.
5/4	6:00PM	Spring Band Concert	Meadowlark School 2300 Meadow Sweet Lane	Dylan M.
5/4	7:00PM	Coal Creek Community Chorus Spring Concert	Ascent Community Church 550 S McCaslin, Unit A, Louisville	Connie H. Keith C.
5/5	6:00PM	Spring Orchestra Concert	Meadowlark School 2300 Meadow Sweet Lane	Cole M.
5/16	4:00PM	Centaurus High School Graduation	CU Events Center 950 Regent Drive	Noah M.
Monday's 6:30PM		Bowling	Coal Creek Bowling Center, 1455 Coal Creek Dr, Lafayette	Kirk A.

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.

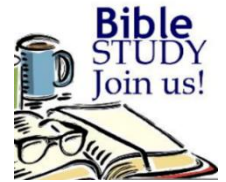
Sign Up to Receive Text Messages - Eternal Savior is building a text message list for urgent communications. i.e., Service is cancelled due to a blizzard. If you would like to receive notifications like that via text message, please text **ETERNALSAVIOR** (one word, no space) to 84576. Contact Laura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

**Keeping
Current**

SERVING IN APRIL

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday Service

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Dylan Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Altar	Terri Nagel
Elder(s)	Tom Stahly, Wayne Thomas
A/V Booth	Anderson

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday Noon Service

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Elder
Elder(s)	Marc Ertle
A/V Booth	Keith Cowley

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday Evening Service

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Cole Mayer
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas
A/V Booth	Anderson

Sunday, April 5 - Easter

Organist /Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Acolyte	Aliyah Thorson
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson & Katherine Moore
Greeter(s)	Cindy Griffin
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Tom Stahly & Eric Olson
Altar	Terri Nagel
A/V Booth	Laura Raben & Micah Anderson
Snow/Lawn	Max Schrader
Flowers	Youth Group

Sunday, April 12

Organist /Pianist	Valerie Iglar
Cantor	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Eva Lambrecht
Usher(s)	Roger Landowski & Katherine Moore
Greeter(s)	Nick and Kristin Burkett
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Ron Bredehoft
Altar	Terri Nagel
A/V Booth	Hinrichs
Snow/Lawn	Max Schrader
Flowers	Lambrecht

Sunday, April 19

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Trinity Anderson
Usher(s)	Tom and Cindy Stahly
Greeter(s)	Fernando Espinoza-Ramirez and Dyani Dussault
Counter(s)	Marc and Jan Ertle
Elder(s)	Marc Ertle and Tom Stahly
Altar	Terri Nagel
A/V Booth	Mayers
Snow/Lawn	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Innes

Sunday, April 26

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Mark Bunge
Acolyte	Aliyah Thorson
Usher(s)	Tom and Cindy Stahly
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Katherine Moore & Ron Bredehoft
Elder(s)	Marc Ertle (r), Bob Hartwig
Altar	Terri Nagel
A/V Booth	Keith Cowley
Snow/Lawn	Kirk Anderson
Flowers	Mayers - Confirmation

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

No upcoming events are planned for April.

FOOD PANTRY: SISTER CARMEN

Sister Carmen Food Pantry continues to appreciate our ongoing generosity. 3 deliveries of congregational donations were made in March. Thank you to all who donated so generously. A list of needed items is on the donation bin in the narthex. We 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. Currently, there is \$79.65 available in the Sunday School fund for this project.

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES SUPPORT

There are currently no drives organized for LFS but we are in regular communication with them and will make you aware as their needs arise.

LUTHERAN VALLEY RETREAT SUPPORT

The board of deacons is helping to collecting hygiene kits, Art kits, and wish list items for LVR.. Items can be placed in the labeled bin in the narthex anytime between now and the end of May. For more information see the flyer on the bulletin board or reach out to Melisa with questions.

Hygiene Kits: bath towel, wash cloth, bar of soap, plastic soap box holder, toothbrush, sturdy comb, band-aids, small package facial tissues, and a nail clipper.

Art Kits: Watercolors with brushes, fine tip markers, colored pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, molding clay or play dough, unlined sketch pad, and a plastic container w/ top, drawstring backpack, or tote bag for all items.

Lutheran Valley Retreat Wish List items: New or gently used Sleeping bags (20 degrees), climbing shoes (new or gently used), Ziplock bags (gallon or sandwich size), board/card games, large tarps (16x20), and tape.

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN

CHAPEL Mission

A ULC meal is being planned for April 26th. As in the past, sign-up sheets for any dishes you wish to donate will be posted in the narthex prior to the meal. There is an ongoing need for these meals and anyone from the congregation is welcome to provide a meal. If you are interested, contact a Deacon and we can provide you the necessary details to plan, deliver and serve the meals.

We thank you for your interest in providing food for these meals and extend an invitation for you to help serve dinners at ULC. The dinners are planned for 6pm on the scheduled dates. Contact the Deacons with any interest you might have.

EMERGENCY FAMILY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT

Requested monthly supplies continue to be delivered to EFAA. February and March requested supplies were purchased and delivered in March along with congregational donations. The EFAA is grateful for our donations and look forward to receiving them monthly. 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	

DEACONS FUND STATUS

\$3,706.62

NEXT MEETING

April 19th, 2026

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 Quilting 6:30 Elders	2 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	3 12:00 Good Friday Noon Service 7:00 Good Friday Tenebrae Service	4
5 Easter 7:45 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Worship and Communion 10:30 Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt	6	7	8 9:30 Quilting	9 10:30 Bible Study	10	11
12 9:00 Worship and Communion 10:30 Sunday School/Bible Study 11:30 Church Council 1:30 Confirmation	13	14 6:00 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	15 9:30 Quilting	16 10:30 Bible Study	17	18
19 9:00 Worship and Communion 10:30 Sunday School/Bible Study 11:40 Deacons 1:30 Confirmation	20	21 6:00 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	22 9:30 Quilting	23 10:30 Bible Study	24	25
26 Confirmation 9:00 Worship and Communion 10:15 Confirmation Reception 10:10 Trustees 10:30 Sunday School/Bible Study	27	28 6:00 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	29	30 10:30 Bible Study		

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

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant

Praising God for Mary Donkeh

Before Mary Donkeh was chosen for the Maan Old Testament translation team, she served as a deaconess and high school math teacher. She instilled a love for God's Word in her children through family devotions, and helped women in her community start an agricultural coop to support their families, bringing many to faith through her deep love for God.

"Her legacy lives on in every verse of the Maan Bible..."

Mary served the Maan translation from the beginning (she translated Genesis!) and just weeks before she died, she supervised the read-through of the Maan Bible, tirelessly working with reviewers to ensure accuracy and naturalness.

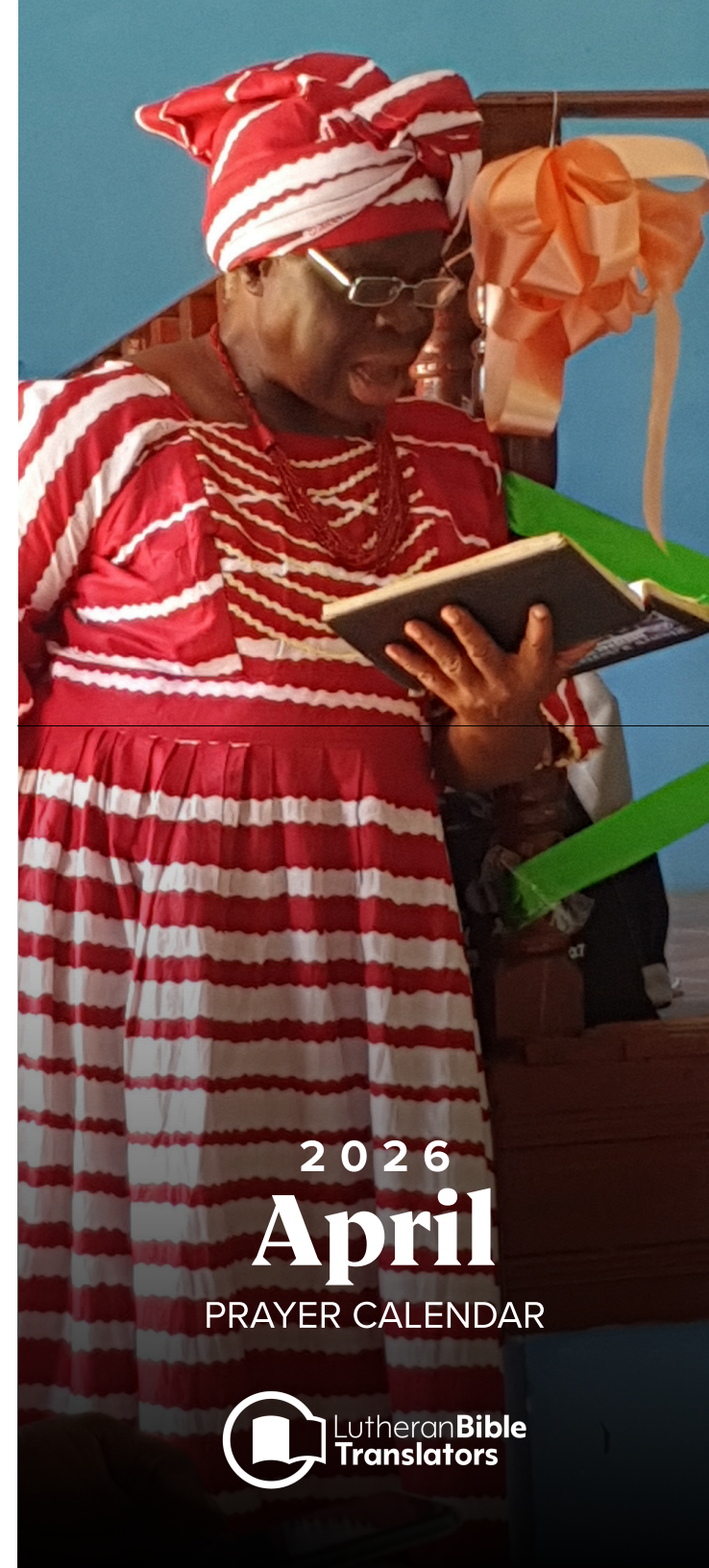
"Her legacy lives on in every verse of the Maan Bible, in every word that will be read by her people, and in every life that will be transformed through the Scriptures she helped translate."

- Becky Grossmann, Maan Consultant



Lutheran Bible
Translators

PO Box 789
Concordia, MO 64020



2026

April

PRAYER CALENDAR



1. Give thanks that Chuck and Karen Tessaro's daughter Karla refreshed and brought joy to them during her visit to Nigeria.
2. On this Maundy Thursday, pray for the global church to remember, reflect on, and receive the body and blood of Christ.
3. On this Good Friday, pray for all who have not yet heard that while we were still sinners, Christ died for the ungodly.
4. Pray for final preparations, appointments, planning, and goodbyes to go smoothly for the Federwitz and Erslund families leaving for missionary service.
5. On this Easter Sunday, praise God that death no longer has victory because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
6. Pray that those with a heart for translation will be identified and engaged in projects, especially those in the younger generations.
7. Pray for Ruthie Wagner's research and emerging method testing to determine if and how AI might be leveraged to improve translation quality.
8. Praise God community member Eware cried, "The Lord will use this Bible in our language" during Zia community testing for Leviticus. *(Papua New Guinea)*
9. Pray for Dr. Magomba as he engages in competency development activities to help him become a translation consultant. *(Tanzania)*
10. Pray for godly discernment as decisions are made for the best way forward with the Grebo people in Liberia.
11. Pray Glenn Fluegge establishes a good rapport with the students at Mekane Yesus Seminary in his first months of teaching. *(Ethiopia)*

12. Pray for safe travels and fruitful conversations during strategy training with Lutheran Bible Translators and partners LIBTRALO and TISLL.
13. Pray Tim Beckendorf will be strengthened for endurance and patience with joy, especially as he celebrates his birthday today. *(Botswana)*
14. Pray the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea will have time and passion to move ahead translation work in 2026.
15. Praise that both the Maan and Dan manuscripts are being typeset, pray all doors open for printing and dedications this year. *(Liberia)*
16. Pray for Bible storytellers from six Tanzania languages to have opportunities to share stories in their community and to train others.
17. Praise that Nathan Federwitz received his work permit and visa!
18. Pray for the Waria project Sunday school, youth, and women who are being trained to help translators conduct community testing. *(Papua New Guinea)*
19. Pray Ruthie Wagner will be strengthened as she reads, researches, and writes for her Doctorate of Ministry in Bible Translation.
20. Pray for the Federwitz and Erslund families' transition, especially learning new languages and cultural norms for communication, relationships, and survival.
21. Praise God the Waria team plans to use their new solar printer to print four books of Scripture by December 2026. *(Papua New Guinea)*

22. Pray for Bible Translation staff and students at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria preparing for end of year exams.
23. Pray the *Khon team will continue to make good progress on community and consultant checking of Romans, Corinthians, and Hebrews. *(Southeast Asia)*
24. Pray the Zia project team may discern how best to bring Job, who has proven faithful with finances and support, into more leadership. *(Papua New Guinea)*
25. Pray the words and heart of Jessica Albers will be pleasing to the Lord, especially as she celebrates her birthday today.
26. Praise God for Martin and Joan Weber's successful and safe trip to Cameroon supporting translator training and a literacy project.
27. On this Independence Day in Sierra Leone, pray for all people to hear and embrace the freedom they have in Christ.
28. Pray for all Concordia seminary families in St. Louis and Fort Wayne receiving their vicarage placements, especially Matthew and Sarah Rudowske.
29. Pray Ruthie Wagner may develop resources that can be used by others to train translators remotely and to support self-organization and community engagement.
30. Pray for wisdom, clarity, and unity as the ELC-Papua New Guinea develops policy around Bible translation in their Church body.



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

TEACHING THE FAITH — APRIL 1-15

This month, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod celebrates the many ways that God’s children are instructed, encouraged and strengthened in the faith. By teaching the faith, we nurture the faithful and reach the lost.

Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray:

- 1.** *with thanksgiving for the gift of faith received at Baptism.* Ask the Lord to continue to strengthen that faith — and the budding faith of our children — until we depart this life and are united with the Lord.
- 2.** *with thanksgiving to God for the gift of His holy and inspired Word, the Sacred Scriptures; and for the Book of Concord and the many teaching aids that help us understand that Word aright and rejoice in its consolation.*

- 3.** *for Christian families, that the Lord would provide the assistance and tools necessary to overcome every challenge — big or small — that might drive them apart.*

- 4.** *for strong Christian marriages, that husbands and wives would cling to each other in the Lord, despite life’s challenges, and raise their children to walk in the way of the Lord.*

- 5.** *for Christian parents, that they would make teaching the faith to their children a priority. Pray that they set aside time to worship together, talk about faith issues, study the Bible and have family devotions.*

- 6.** *that family members would treat each other with kindness and patience, so that each member might be built up in the family of God.*

- 7.** *for our children and young people, who face daily assaults on their Christian beliefs, that God would strengthen and encourage them to stand firm while sharing the Gospel.*

- 8.** *for our churches, that they would provide useful education and programs to help equip people at every stage of life — teens, husbands and wives, parents, caretakers of aging parents and more.*

- 9.** *that God would continue to provide faithful church workers to serve as role models and teach people about their identity as a baptized child of God.*

- 10.** *that church members would eagerly volunteer their time and talents to support the congregation’s educational programs, such as vacation Bible school, Sunday school and groups for young families.*

- 11.** *that LCMS members would eagerly participate in Bible studies, small-group discussions and private study.*

- 12.** *with thanksgiving for faithful parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers and other role models who help to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Prov. 22:6).*

- 13.** *for the Concordia University System and the Synod’s two seminaries, that the Lord would bless their work in training new generations of workers to serve the Church.*

- 14.** *for the Synod’s directors of Family Life Ministry, that God would bless their efforts to support healthy relationships in the families of our congregations.*

- 15.** *that we might have hearts that are willing and eager to serve the Lord in every way.*

MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES — APRIL 16-30

Since the Civil War, LCMS pastors have served as military chaplains. Today, the Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) supports active duty, reserves, National Guard and Civil Air Patrol chaplains. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains and supports them throughout their careers. MAF also provides a network of care for our nation's military members, families and veterans through Operation Barnabas.

Remember God's work through LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) as you pray:

16. *that God would bless and guide the work of the MAF director and assistant director.*

17. *for the President of the United States. Ask God to guide our commander in chief to lead with wisdom for the protection of the innocent against evil.*

18. *for LCMS military chaplains serving on active duty for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.*

19. *for our LCMS Reserve and National Guard chaplains, especially those who have been mobilized stateside or overseas and taken from their parishes to extended active duty assignments, for those deployed, their families and their home parishes.*

20. *for Operation Barnabas, which is designed to meet the needs of congregations in the event their pastor/chaplain is mobilized. Operation Barnabas also seeks to assist veterans and military families during and after deployment.*

21. *for all congregations that reach out to members of our military through Operation Barnabas, that they would uphold them in prayer as they help to meet their physical, psychological and spiritual needs through the training they have received and the Lord's provision.*

22. *for increasing opportunities for LCMS chaplains to spread Christ's message of salvation, hope and restoration to those they serve.*

23. *for all chaplains returning home, that they would receive a hero's welcome for their*

sacrifice to this country so that in freedom we can continue to openly worship the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

24. *for those who suffer from battle stress and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pray that God would bring healing and renewal to those who have served or who are currently serving.*

25. *for all chaplains who are sick or have sick family members, that the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort would look with favor upon them, and as it pleases Him, restore them to health or give them the grace to accept this tribulation with courage and hope.*

26. *for all chaplains in harm's way, that God would not let their hearts despair nor their faith fail them, but sustain, guide and comfort them.*

27. *for all members of the military who were disabled during their duty, that our heavenly Father would mercifully guide, aid and strengthen all*

those with physical disabilities, enabling them to find fulfillment in their lives and encouragement for all their endeavors.

28. *with thanksgiving to God for providing LCMS chaplains to serve members of the armed forces. Please pray that military chaplains would have every opportunity to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with members of the military and anyone with whom they work and live.*

29. *for all military chaplains upon their return, that they would be reunited with their families, find gainful employment and receive all the care they need to heal their minds, bodies and souls. Grant that they would always look to Christ as their rock and their redeemer.*

30. *for those who minister to the armed forces, that by God's gracious working, they may honor Christ and advance the good of those committed to their care, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

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