



Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Pastors

Eric C. Skovgaard
Administrative Pastor
Carl J. Egloff
Pastor Emeritus

Church Staff

Karla Bessert
Music Director
Richard C. Ewert
Head Organist
Linda Haut
Secretary
Karen Clark
Youth Coordinator

School Staff

Heather A. Corn
Principal
Amy Stroh
Secretary
Child Care
Cathy Wolber
Director

21 May 2020

Dear Friends at EGLC,

Psalm 122 teaches us to say, "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Here we are outside the doors of Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church. As of the time of this recording, it's been nearly 10 weeks since we were able to gather for Divine Service in groups of more than 10. But now with the recent Wisconsin Supreme Court decision, we are free to once again gather together around God's Word and Sacrament, without restrictions.

Therefore, mark your calendars for Sunday, May 31! That's a little over a week from now. It just so happens that in the Church's calendar May 31 is also the Feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, so obviously this day is loaded with much symbolism for us this year. Out of the shadows of Covid-19 the Church is reemerging.

This turning of the corner is a day many of us have longed for. We will begin with two services, one at 8:00 and one at 10:00. Please note that we are reserving the 8:00 service for those who are 55 and older. So, we ask our younger families to attend the 10:00 service.

However, as we gather for worship, we will continue to balance two of God's Commandments, the 3rd and the 4th. You recall that the 3rd Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy," teaches us to treasure the preaching of God's Word.

And the 4th Commandment, "Honor your father and your mother," teaches us to respect those in authority over us, which includes the government.

Thus, as we exercise our religious liberty by heeding God's call to worship, we will do so in a manner that respects the government's concern for its citizens not getting sick. We will practice social distancing inside the church building. We will ensure the space is clean and wiped down after every service. Anyone who feels even slightly sick is encouraged to stay home and take care of himself or herself.

Keep washing your hands and praying for God to deliver us from this viral scourge!

Which raises an important point for us Christians. During these trying times, we want to go out of our way to NOT place a stumbling block in front of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our God-given and constitutional rights ought not to be used as a club against people for whom Christ died. We are free in Christ, but that means we are free to serve, both God and our neighbor.

Some of the things I and many others have learned during this lock down period are: there was a lot I could let go of and still be content; I am convinced that God was and is at work in all situations, including this Coronavirus time, teaching us to repent and to believe more firmly in Christ. But I also learned, how precious a gift it is for us as Christians to be able to gather together without fear. I suspect many of us have taken that gift for granted for a long time.

Those who have continued to gather for abbreviated Communion services in small groups over the last two and a half months have kept you in prayer, and we have longed for this day when we can be together again.

Be sure to look for an email from the Church Office in the next couple of days and for the June Seasons newsletter that will provide further details regarding worship. You'll find those same updates posted on our website soon too.

Welcome home! You were missed!

Sincerely,

Pastor Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor

Mark Ewert, Congregational President