

ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, WI 53122
Phone: 262-797-2970 Fax: 262-797-2977 Website: www.egl.org
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 24, 2023 – Volume 75, Number 12.4
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

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| S Christmas Eve
9:00 a.m. Worship (DS3)
6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols
7:00 p.m. AA Mtg (FH) | T Office Open |
| M Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Worship (DS3)
Office Closed | W Office Closed
1:00 p.m. Sheepshead Players (BAAC)
7:00 p.m. Basketball Rental (Gym) |
| | T 9:30 a.m. Book Discussion (BAAC)
7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting (FL) |

THANKS! Your EGL community requires the diligent efforts of many volunteers, offering up their time, talents, and treasures. From those on the Altar Guild who set the table for the LORD each week, to those who serve on the various elected boards bearing the weight of the church's legal and fiduciary responsibilities, to those who take care of the property, to those who lend their efforts to enriching the musical life of our worship, to those who assist as ushers and chancel assistants and live-streamers, making sure that you have the best worship experience possible, to those who prepare the coffee and treats for us to enjoy after worship, to those who have prepared and led various studies, to those who quietly give and pray for the expansion of God's kingdom of grace -- a grateful church remembers you in thanksgiving!

IN THE LORD'S HOUSE: 231 attended services last week in person. **82** households streamed the services for a total of **313**. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

SPECIAL MISSION PROJECT: On the back credenza you'll find a three-page flyer on Bienfait Safari-Romeo, a recently graduated seminarian from the Lutheran Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa. He is slated for a two-year vicarage in Durban, South Africa, at a multi-point parish. Originally from a small village on the shores of

Tanganyika in the Democratic Republic of Congo, he has found his way to South Africa, to Lutheranism, and to successful completion of his seminary studies. The EGL Board of Evangelism has designated him as the recipient for the 2023 Thanksgiving and Christmas Day offerings. You are invited to add your support via the Christmas Day offering or even now. Simply write the check out to EGL, with a clear note that this gift is for Bienfait. Whatever is raised will be sent to support him through the St Phillip Lutheran Mission Society. Alternately, you can give directly to them now at <https://www.splms.org/>. This is being done in cooperation with the Bleckmar Mission of the SELK in Germany, our sister church body.

SAMSON STUDY: The next time we meet we will continue our brief study of the life and work of God's reluctant judge, Samson, by reviewing Judges 15 in which Samson slays a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jaw bone. The class meets in the nave shortly after the end of the Divine Service. We will resume the class on January 7.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: JOIN EXULTATE SINGERS: You are invited to sing with Exultate Singers, especially men. A Choir/chorus singer does not have to be a soloist. The main function of a chorus singer is to blend in, not stand out. Fullness of voice is not really a requirement. Share your time and talent by resolving to sing with the Exultate Singers in 2024. Rehearsals are

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Music Center. We sing for Sunday worship twice a month. For more information contact Rick Ewert: REwert@egl.org. Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! Psalm 47:6-7 ESV

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES: With a new calendar year just around the corner, why not resolve to study God's Word with greater intentionality? Here are some obvious options for you to consider, if you're high school and older: 1) Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the nave. Topics vary but currently we are looking at the life of Samson; 2) Tuesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in the conference room. This study is for the men of the congregation. We are currently looking closely at the history and details behind some of the psalms, as a springboard for prayer. 3) Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the BAAC. This Bible study is for the ladies. Currently we are looking at various hymns and psalms. (Be warned! This group knows how to laugh and joke!) 4) Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the BAAC. After reading through 1000 years of church history in recent years, this co-ed group is now making their way through the Book of Acts. (The first Wednesday of the month the LWML ladies meet at the same time and place.) 5) Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. online. This group called MOZ (the men of Zoom) weaves Bible study together with a study of contemporary events, with a healthy dose of apologetics whenever possible! Contact Tim Albers for more details or how to join. 6) Thursday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. at the Grelk home. They are studying the Gospel according to St Luke. 7) Thursday evenings (2x month) in the Bartelt Center 5:30-6:45 p.m. This "She Shed" ladies Bible study, led by Nancy Wolck, is reading through the book "Leaning on Jesus" by Deb Burma.

EGLS PRAYER CHAIN: The prayer chain at EGL is a group of "prayer warriors" who receive prayer requests. The prayer requests received are from EGL members, friends, relatives, or others who are asking for this team to pray for them. We offer prayers of: thanksgiving, comfort, praise, strength, peace, blessings, wisdom, and healing. If you wish to receive prayers from our prayer warriors please contact Mindy Aldinger at prayerchain@egl.org.

RECYCLED CARDS: LWML is looking for recycled cards to make crosses out of them. Place in church office or by Linda Hoffmann's mailbox. Thank you!

SOLES FOR JESUS: LWML will continue to collect gently used or new men's, women's, and children's shoes. These shoes will be sent to Sub-Saharan Africa, where many people are unable to work or attend school, because they do not have a pair of shoes. The collection box will be located in the church's upper entryway.

PTL FUNDRAISER: Please help support the Zion Lutheran School (Elm Grove Lutheran campus) by having dinner at Noodles & Co., (17000 W Bluemound Road, Unity H, Brookfield) on January 16 between 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. 25% of qualifying sales with directly benefit Zion Lutheran School (Elm Grove Campus).

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: The book to be read and discussed for December is *Love Comes Softly* by Janette Oke. The date of the meeting has been changed to Thurs, Dec 28, at 9:30 a.m. in the BAAC. We will also have our Christmas party at this time. Remember to bring what you signed up for or plan to bring cookies. If you like to read and discuss books, you may be interested in joining our group. Please call Barb Kurth if you have questions at 262-345-5083.

