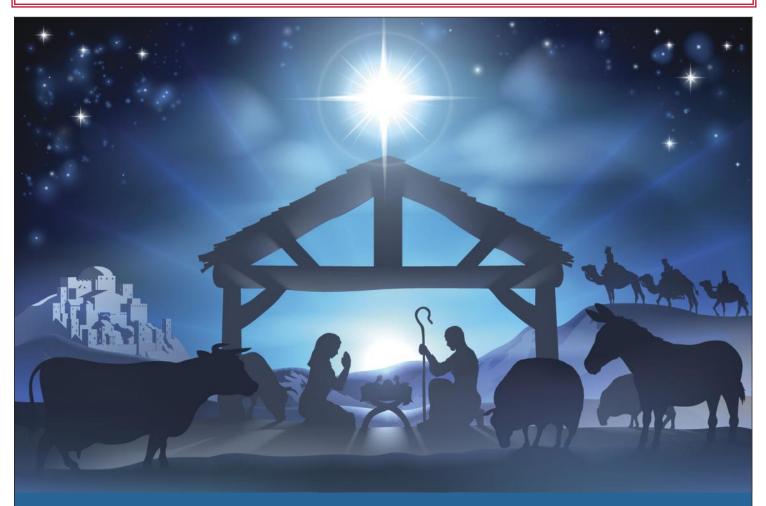


Volume 21, Issue 12 December 2023



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Luke 2: 7-14

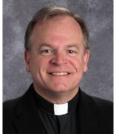
From Your Pastor

On Saturday morning, Nov 11, EGL hosted the anticipated WHY Discovery event with South Wisconsin District's Rev Nathan Meador. Billed as an opportunity to (re)discover why EGL is here in this place and at this time, by the end of the gathering we had drafted a statement for the congregation to mull over and consider adopting as its own. It reads: "God has placed Elm Grove Lutheran here to proclaim Christ so that all may receive God's gifts in Word and Sacrament to have life now and forever.

To get to that point where we had a draft statement to share, the roughly 50 attendees shared stories of those times when they had felt the most joy in being at EGL. It only took scratching the surface to unleash countless stories including but not limited to the following: meeting future spouses through the young adult group; discovering that EGL was Scripturally faithful and reverent in worship; finding friends and a family environment where gifts in teaching were encouraged in Sunday School; and being surrounded by others who shared a common Lutheran identity and a desire to promote that in our school.

There was specific joy expressed in our worship, music programs, congregational singing, generations of school kids raised and catechized; VBS, Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs, golf outing fundraisers, Good Neighbor Fests, craft fairs, Italian dinners for youth fundraisers, school musicals, 10 years of co-ed pick-up soccer games, Church in the Glen, Advent by Candlelight, the successful completion of 3 vicarage programs, most recently SMP Vicar Sam Lee, efforts to support our inner-city congregations with Bread & Fish and the food ingathering, Carol Fest, the

church buddy program with the school, the birth and support of Doxology: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, the planting of Christ the Life LC in Waukesha, participation in 12x different Higher Things youth gatherings, Golden Friends, the Christmas tree decorations, Easter flowers and breakfasts, the capital campaigns for building projects, the 75th anniversary



Pastor Skovgaard

celebration in 2015, opportunities to get involved as volunteers on boards and the care of the facilities and the grounds, all the while providing in-depth and varied Bible studies and not neglecting the homebound.

All of these activities gave us time and opportunity to deepen the Baptismal bonds God created among us by His grace. They represent venues for exercising the gifts and talents God has poured out on us. They also opened doors for those on the outside to connect with the heart and soul of a faithful Lutheran congregation - God's Word and Sacraments. The impact we've had on generations is seen in God's justifying and sanctifying thousands, providing hope to many in a troubled world, uniting disparate individuals in a larger family, strengthening the faithful in Christ's promises, supplying comraderie and friendship, and opening doors for the exercise of God-given talents.

I personally have experienced almost all of those events listed above. And frankly, what pulled me to EGL after you extended the call to me in the summer of 2003 was knowing that I and my family would be surrounded by intentional Lutherans who wanted to live life together and celebrate the gift of God's joy in worship. After a difficult spell, it was truly encouraging on Nov 11 to focus for a few hours on those things that have brought us joy and to hear again the stories that bind us together.

WHY Discovery Event Proves to be a Productive and Positive Experience for EGL Attendees



Stewardship: "Working Together — Celebrating God's Good Gifts"

year was entitled **Working Together-Celebrating** unit that is currently contributing would give an additional reads "For we are God's fellow workers".

If you were in church November 2 or 5, you saw my I also encourage you to turn in your Be An Active Member presentation at the beginning of each service that looked (BAAM) form if you haven't already done so. There is at some financial data from 2022. Note that one of the much work to do at Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran headings in the Sunday spreadsheet was incorrectly Church and many hands make for quick work. We have a labeled. The column that was second from the right number of boards with vacancies. The choir could use should have read "Additional \$2.50 per Week" instead of more singers. Servers and bakers are needed for Sunday "2022 Average Annual Offering". A corrected spreadsheet morning coffee hour. I could go on and on, but you get is included with this article.

husband and wife, or any individual that is confirmed. A were out of town on pledge weekend, pledge cards and high school or college student would be considered BAAM forms can be turned through December 15. God a giving unit. Note that 44% of our giving units gave has richly blessed us. Remember that everything we nothing in 2022. On the other end, 11% of our giving have is really a gift from God. units gave 61% of our offerings. The two columns at the

Our recently completed annual stewardship emphasis this right show how our giving would increase if every giving God's Good Gifts based on 1 Corinthians 3:9, which \$2.50 or \$5.00 per week. That amounts to an additional \$130 or \$260 per year per envelope.

the idea.

Each envelope represents a giving unit which can be a Thank you to those that have already pledged. If you

Sue Wilcox, Board of Stewardship

2022 Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Financial Information

	# 2022 Envelopes	Percent of Envelopes	2022 Offerings	Percent of Offerings	2022 Average Annual Offering	Additional \$2.50 per Week	Additional \$5.00 per Week			
No Offerings	199	44%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					
Between \$0 and \$1 Per Week	15	3%	\$450	0%	\$30	\$2,399.90	\$4,349.90			
Between \$1 and \$5 Per Week	39	9%	\$5,602	1%	\$144	\$10,672.22	\$15,742.22			
Between \$5 and \$10 Per Week	18	4%	\$7,208	1%	\$400	\$9,548.00	\$11.888.00			
Between \$10 and \$20 Per Week	29	6%	\$23,988	3%	\$827	\$27,757.94	\$31,527.94			
Between \$20 and \$50 Per Week	60	13%	\$101,599	13%	\$1,693	\$109,398.67	\$117,198.67			
Between \$50 and \$100 Per Week	45	10%	\$172,131	22%	\$3,825	\$177,980.58	\$183,830.58			
Greater than \$100 Per Week	49	11%	\$477,463	61%	\$9,744	\$483,832.50	\$490,202.50			
Total	454	100%	\$788,440	100%		\$821,589.81	\$854,739.81			

Voters' Assembly Meeting - Sunday, December 17 Immediately following the 9 a.m. service.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

Bv Transfer:

Jared and Katherine Duncan Transferring to Christ the King LC in Orlando, FL

Charlie and Christiana Ewert ISAIAH and GABRIELLE Transferring to St. Paul's LC in Manawa, WI

Rev. Aaron and Martha Reseburg **EDEN and OLIVE**

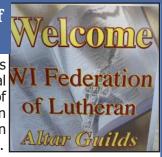
Transferring to Good Shepherd LC in Watertown, WI



EGL Altar Guild Representatives attend the Wisconsin Federation of Lutheran Altar Guilds Annual Meeting in Neenah.



On Saturday, November 4, three members of our Altar Guild attended the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Federation of Lutheran Altar Guilds, at Peace Lutheran in Neenah. Members attending were Jean Kruse, Luanne Schaefer, and Irma Witzke.



The day began with a continental breakfast, followed by tours of their sacristy, and their banner storage closet. The Holy Communion service observed All Saint's Day. Dr. Charles Cortwright gave a presentation on our Christian Liturgy - Beginnings to the Reformation.

After lunch, Rev. Jim Schulz and Dr. Cortwright gave a Q & A program including decorating Do's and Dont's, rites and rituals, and funerals, A short business meeting and the installation of new officers followed. Our members returned with fresh ideas and newfound friendships with other Altar Guild members.



will be celebrating Christmas with a special Christmas devotion of singing Christmas songs, reading scripture, and narration of what Christmas means to each of us on Wednesday, December 6

in the BAAC at 10:00 a.m. Following the special devo-

tion, we look forward to fellowship with a luncheon. Each lady is asked to bring a sandwich and six cookies for the luncheon. Plan to attend. We extend an invitation to all ladies of our congregation. You are most welcome.

Recently \$8,000 was given to Mission Grant #10 for **DOXOLOGY** for full payment to implement a new program in Wisconsin for Clergy Wives. Now, we are working to fund Mission Grant #11 SOS Center For Success, to help children and youth with an

after school program. With this grant of \$20,000, SOS hopes to add additional programs, all based on the foundation of Jesus. SOS stands for and Strength Of Savior.

Thank you to congregation members who contribute their mites, which funds these worthy Mission Grants. You may put your mites in our treasurer Sherri Bond's church mail box.

Congratulations to Paula Keefer from our EGL LWML, who was recently appointed Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Manager for our district LWML.

The LWML SWD Winter Getaway is scheduled for

The morning group of LWML February 2-3, 2024 at the Marriott West Hotel located at W231N1600 Corporate Court in Waukesha. The deadline for registering for the retreat is January 19, 2024. If you plan to stay at the hotel, the deadline for making reservations is January 14. Information about the retreat can be found on the website lwml-swd.org. The theme for the retreat is **Growing Together Mentoring Workshop.** Darcy Paape, author and Executive Director of the Women's Leadership Institute will be the keynote speaker.



The social service agency, SOS-Designed for Success, is located at 4620 North Ave. in Milwaukee. Since it opened in 1982, it has served youth and their families. That makes 40 years of sharing the love of Christ with those who come through their doors. The after school program helps with homework and provides a safe and loving environment, and the Born to Lead because

Christ Leads Us group works with high school and young adults in leadership training. The LWML mission grant money reassures the staff and volunteers that what they do is important. They wish to expand and add a focused group for young ladies, Irreplaceable Gems, through which they will learn to love and respect themselves because they are children of God. A grief support group for children and youth is also a need they wish to address.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

Barbara Kurth



Ever since kindergarten, Abby Ward attended Lutheran schools. "Going into my undergraduate was my first experience at a public school — the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo. That was a culture shock," she said.

Feeling the absence of fellowship and worship in her life, she jumped into campus ministry and got involved with CRU, formerly known as Campus Crusade.

Ward decided to lead a Bible study in the group for her

fellow college students. The Bible study was an intentional way for "Being a theologian of the cross puts Christ on to teach at Calvary Lutheran Ward to grow in her faith and to serve others. She was constantthe Bible studies, and she

the throne and that means Christ ... impact[s] High School in Jefferson City, ly in God's Word to prepare for everything you think, say and do." - Abby Ward Mo., where she had served her

enjoyed discussing the Scripture and theology with others, some from different Christian traditions. The theological differences underscored and strengthened her commitment to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) doctrine and the Lutheran Confessions. "That was a really spiritually enriching time for me," Ward said.

As her college graduation approached, she began to consider vocational ministry with the LCMS. She asked herself, "What can a woman do in Lutheran ministry?"

She Googled it, and "deaconess" rose to the top of her search. Ward says this seems to be a common experience for women who enroll at Concordia Seminary.

Intrigued, she decided to learn more about the Seminary's residential Deaconess Studies Program, and in the fall of 2020, she began the program — right in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One course she particularly appreciated was "Spiritual Care of Women." Geared toward teaching how to spiritually care for women, the class provides basic training that emphasizes visitation, ministry to the elderly, ministry to people with mental health issues, addiction, ministry to women who have suffered miscarriage or infertility, and many other issues. The course also covers developing Bible studies and devotions specific to women's concerns.

"We read a lot of good books and had constructive conversations about spiritual care, wellness and practical ways to care for people and share the Gospel with

them," Ward said.

It was the fellowship with classmates that most influenced her ministerial formation. "The bonds that I made with the other deaconess students were so essential to everything," she said. "Community is especially essential to ministry; having people with whom you can lament."

Sharing Seminary life together included having deep discussions about the theological concepts they were learning. Understanding the theology of the cross and being a theologian of the cross was especially impactful for her. "I use the imagery that there is a throne of your life and whatever sits on that throne is what is ruling your life," she said. "It's what you value most, and all of your thoughts and all of your actions really flow from the source on that throne. Being a theologian of the cross puts Christ on the throne and that means Christ is going to impact everything you think, say and do."

On Call Day 2023, Ward graduated with a Master of Arts (M.A.), Spiritual Care Major with Deaconess Certification. This program forms and equips students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills required for service within congregations and other institutions of the LCMS.

> She was elated to receive a call internship the previous year.

Calvary also was where she went to high school, and some of her new work colleagues taught her when she was a high school student.

At Calvary, she teaches classes in English, Old and New Testament and creative writing. In addition, she soon will begin teaching a journalism class and directing school plays. "That's all me," she said.

Her greatest teaching moment so far? During a lesson with students on the theology of the cross, in the context of an English class, the high schoolers debated a story they were reading. They had to decide whether the characters and themes in that story represented a theology of

glory (striving to become righteous from one's works) or a theology of the cross (righteous because of Christ's work on the cross).

"I was just so happy," she said.

Source: Concordia Seminary Magazine, September 2023, csl.edu

Our church was blessed to have a gifted deaconess who served in our congregation. We bid farewell to Charlie, Christiana, Isaiah, and Gabrielle Ewert as they depart for Manawa, Christiana accepted a call to serve as deaconess at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. May God bless her work there.





The First Sunday in Advent on December 3, marks the beginning of the new church year. Advent, a season of repentance, waiting and watching, looks forward in hope. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in the flesh in history to accomplish our salvation, will also return in the same way to be our judge on the last day and bring us into eternal life.

Our Middle School Members Get Involved to Serve Others

God Speed to the Reseburg Family





Participants in the 34th Annual Life Chain on October 1 were Linda Hoffman, Sue Wilcox, Bruce Wilcox, Jean Kruse, Sue Schmalzer, Meg Grelk and Sharon Boudro.



To honor and commemorate the Reformation, our church hosted a movie night featuring the film, Luther. On Saturday evening, October 21, EGL members gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a casual supper of brats and mac n' cheese, and then got comfortable to watch the story of Martin Luther's early career as a reformer. Pastor Skovgaard prepared a quiz on Martin Luther, which Sonia Neuberger and Shelly Skovgaard tied in the highest number of correct answers.





Help support us! Elm Grove Lutheran School

25%
OF SALES
WILL BE
DONATED

December 12, 2023 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm CDT 15040 West Greenfield Avenue, Brookfield, WI

Use code <u>FUND4U</u> at online checkout, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe or enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.**

Learn more at fundraising.panerabread.com

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*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-contitions/. **Services vary by café.



December Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries ("A")

If your birth date or wedding anniversary is not included, please be sure to contact the church office.

Thanks!



December 1

Dawn Widas

December 2

Sarah McNeely Kathy Rutley

December 4

Ben Mueller Rachael Tischer

December 5

Kyle Higgins Paula Ky Alexandra Thompson

December 6

Sue Mickol

December 7

Benjamin Nelson

December 8

Mattias Goldenstein Michael Rentmaster

December 9

Mattias Goldenstein Cathy Tuttrup Emma Wollak

December 10

A-Bob & Nancy Genack James Drabiszczak

December 11

A-Arik & Becky Ruhnau-Gee Cate Heup

December 12

Lynn Crowell Benjamin Garcia Michael Gibbons

December 15

Jean Bennett Nancy Ewert Joan Knuteson

December 16

Noah Schulz

December 17

Jennifer Rentmaster

December 18

Judy Hogan Emma Mitchell

December 19

Jeff Schulz Amy Stroh

December 20

A-Lisa & Al Savaglio

December 21

Mindy Aldinger Karlie Bellante Catherine Goldenstein

December 22

Chuck Ewert Linda Stiloski

December 23

A-John & Luanne Schaefer Delores Rische

December 24

Dana Vilar

December 25

Hannah Margrett

December 26

Susie Radke

December 27

A-Jeff & Carol Jagusch A-Woody & E'lem Lindblom Carol Ewert Joanne Kowach

December 28

A-Forrest & Barb Schumacher Heidi Anderson Paul Haut Carol Jagusch

December 29

Angela Holmes

December 30

Roland Colucci

December 31

A-David & Christa Neill Anthony D'Agostino Benjamin Krueger Robert Tesch Jack Widas



December

Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church Calendar—2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Nov 2023 S M T W T 1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 36	3 4 10 11 7 8 5 17 18 14 15 3 24 25 21 22	Jan 2024 T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 30 31		1	2
9:00 AM Worship (C) 10:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School 12:00 PM Evangelism Meeting (228) 12:00 PM Youth Confirmation (BAAC) 3:30 PM Advent by Candielight (FH)	5:00 PM Intrada Ringers (MC) 7:00 PM Barbershop Group (FH) 7:00 PM Church Council (228)	5 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study (BAAC) 5:15 PM Exultate Ringers (MC)	10:00 AM LWML (BAAC) 1:00 PM Sheepshead (BAAC) 6:30 PM Worship 7:00 PM AA Meeting (FH) 7:00 PM Gym Rental 7:30 PM Exultate Singers (MC)	7	8	9
9:00 AM Worship (C) 10:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School 12:00 PM Youth Confirmation (BAAC) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (FH)	5:00 PM Intrada Ringers (MC) 7:00 PM Barbershop Group (FH)	12 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study (BAAC) 4:00 PM PTL Fundraiser (Panera Bread) 5:15 PM Exultate Ringers (MC)	13 10.00 AM Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 PM Sheepshead (BAAC) 5:15 PM She Shed Bible Study (BAAC) 6:30 PM Worship 7:00 PM Gym Rental	14	15	16
9:00 AM Worship (C) 10:30 AM Voters' Assembly 12:00 PM Youth Confirmation (BAAC) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (FH)	18 5:00 PM Board of Finance Meeting (229) 5:00 PM Intrada Ringers (MC) 7:00 PM Barbershop Group (FH)	19 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study (BAAC) 5:15 PM Exultate Ringers (MC)	20 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 PM Sheepshead (BAAC) 6:30 PM Worship 7:00 PM Gym Rental 7:30 PM Exultate Singers (MC)	9:30 AM Book Discussion Group (BAAC) 7:30 PM Stammtisch (Biloba)	22	23
9:00 AM Worship (C) 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 PM AA Meeting (FH) Christmas Eve	25 10:00 AM Worship (C) Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27 1:00 PM Sheepshead (BAAC) 7:00 PM Elders Meeting (228) 7:00 PM Gym Rental	28 6:30 PM Worship	29	30
9:00 AM Worship (C) 6:30 PM New Years Eve Worship (C) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (FH) New Years Eve						

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

(Luke 1: 35-38)



Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod 945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, WI 53122 - 2035 Phone (262) 797 - 2970 • Fax (262) 797 - 2977 Web Site: www.egl.org • E-mail: ElmGrove@egl.org



Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor Dr. Samuel Lee, Vicar

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The deadline for articles and photos to be submitted for the next *Seasons* is:

Friday, December 15

Submissions can be sent to

seasons@egl.org



Follow Elm Grove
Evangelical Lutheran
Church and School
on Facebook!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday

See holiday schedule for worship service times at right.

Bible Study 10:30-11:30

(Bible Study and Sunday School will <u>not</u> meet December 24, 31)

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. on December 6, 13, 20.

There will **not** be a <u>Thursday evening service</u> until December 28, 2023.

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24 9 a.m. (Communion) and 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 25 10:00 a.m. (Communion)

New Year's Eve Service

Sunday, December 31 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.(Communion at both services)





Prayer Warriors at Elm Grove Lutheran Church are ready to pray for you.

Prayers of:

Thanksgiving Comfort Praise Healing Strength Peace Blessings Wisdom

If you have a prayer request or wish to become a part of this great mission, please contact:

Mindy Aldinger – prayerchain@egl.org or 414-698-8774

Linda Hoffmann – 262-786-1203