

SEASONS

Be prepared in season and out of season
2 Timothy 4:2



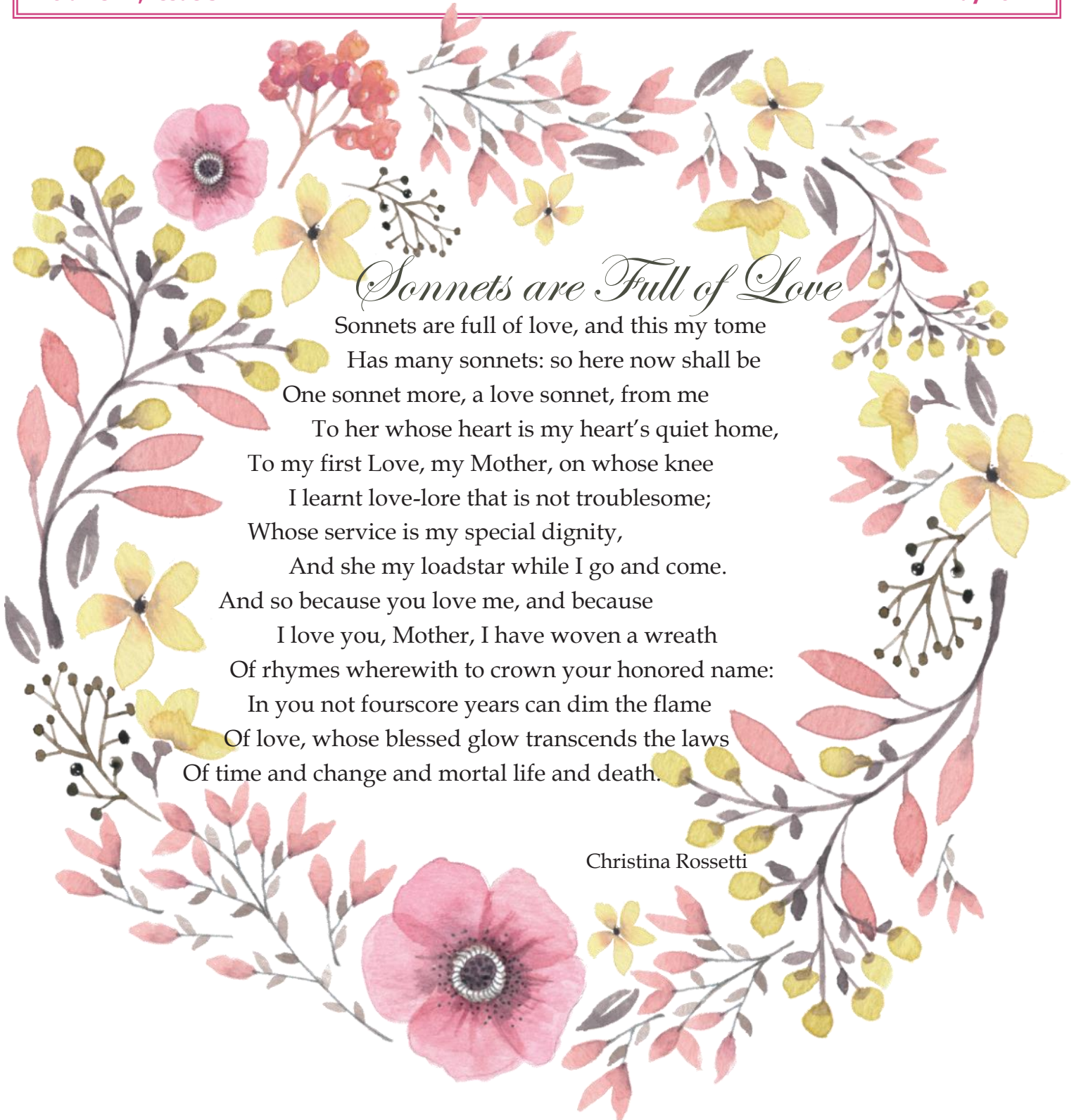
Volume 22, Issue 5

May 2024

Sonnets are Full of Love

Sonnets are full of love, and this my tome
Has many sonnets: so here now shall be
One sonnet more, a love sonnet, from me
To her whose heart is my heart's quiet home,
To my first Love, my Mother, on whose knee
I learnt love-lore that is not troublesome;
Whose service is my special dignity,
And she my loadstar while I go and come.
And so because you love me, and because
I love you, Mother, I have woven a wreath
Of rhymes wherewith to crown your honored name:
In you not fourscore years can dim the flame
Of love, whose blessed glow transcends the laws
Of time and change and mortal life and death.

Christina Rossetti



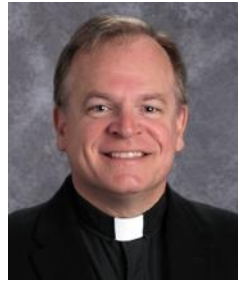
From Your Pastor

In the central lobby of the frozen custard mecca you will find a bill board listing the "100 Reasons To Buy a Kopp's Gift Card." Under the assumption that there are many reasons for attending worship, here my top 37 reasons for being in church, in no particular order. Perhaps you can add a few of your own ideas? As you think about it, you'll quickly realize that gathering around God's Word and Sacrament is the center of our Christian lives, and rightly so.

1. To receive the gifts of God that flow freely and lavishly from His grace.
2. Because you love the habitation of the Lord's house, the place where His glory dwells.
3. To give thanks to the God of heaven and earth because you can't imagine not doing so.
4. For the sake of evangelism, to bear witness to your family and neighbors that regular worship of the Triune God is important, even when you'd rather sleep in!
5. Because we want to have a front-row seat in hearing God's Word proclaimed in all its truth and beauty.
6. Because you want to instill in your kids the habit of regular worship attendance.
7. Because you want your children and family members to know that your Pastors love them. (It's true!)
8. To joyfully give your first fruits offering in person.
9. To get a hug from someone who loves you in Christ when you're grieving the death of a loved one.
10. To thank God for another year of married life to your favorite person.
11. To find hope in the midst of a troubled marriage or relationship.
12. To sing the songs of the Church that proclaim Christ and Him crucified.
13. To hear the unique gift of Mr Ewert's virtuosity on the organ.
14. To revel in the talent God has given to our choir, handbells, and musicians of all stripes.
15. To look for ways to volunteer on boards or in teaching Sunday School.
16. Because it gladdens your heart to see the school-age children in worship, learning the language of the faith and contributing to our life together as choir members, Altar Guild volunteers, ushers, crucifers and torch bearers.
17. Because you desire to listen attentively to God's Word for direction in life.

18. To learn by word and example from older Christian men and women what it means to be a godly adult.
19. To look for ways to build up of the Kingdom of God in this place.
20. To catch up with friends around coffee and donuts after a week's work.
21. To thank God for a new job or a successful year at college.
22. Because God's expects you not to forsake the gathering of the baptized on a weekly basis, and you can't imagine disobeying God.
23. Because you want to intentionally be an ambassador of reconciliation in a world of conflict, knowing that God has richly forgiven you so that you might forgive others.
24. To draw encouragement from the fellowship of believers during times of persecution.
25. Because your heart aches for loved ones who have wandered from the Church and you want to lay their names down before God's throne of grace.
26. To witness the Baptism of a child or grandchild.
27. To join the young and old in confessing the ancient creeds of the Christian faith.
28. To receive the Body and Blood of the Lord again on your lips for the assurance that the Lord is always with you.
29. To hear the words of absolution spoken into your ears when there's a sin that troubles you.
30. Because you understand that worship allows you to join angels, archangels, and the whole host of heaven in God's presence, including the faithful who have gone before us.
31. To sit next to that elderly Christian who is all alone and needs your encouragement.
32. To see young children giggling and squirming in church because it's a reminder that a new generation will grow up to grasp the baton of faith from you.
33. Because you have a compulsion to be in the Word, studying it with your Pastor.
34. To pray that God will remember our nation in mercy and give us wise leaders.
35. Because you want to be around people who share the same Biblical values at a time when so much seems up for grabs in society.
36. To thank God with a special offering because He answered an extraordinary prayer request or blessed you financially in a way you didn't anticipate.
37. Because you know that it encourages your Pastor to see you in worship. :0)

(This list of the many reasons to attend worship is reprinted in part from the July 2022 issue of *Seasons*.)



Pastor Skougaard

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

ADMISSION INTO MEMBERSHIP:

By Baptism

Heinrich William Goldenstein

By Transfer

Cindy Buss

Transferring from Hales Corners LC

Jennifer Tromp

Transferring from Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine

Cover Text: About the Poet, Christina Rossetti, 1830–1894

Sonnets are full of love, by Christina Rossetti, appears in her collection *A Pageant and Other Poems*.

The poem, like the collection, is dedicated to her mother. **Rossetti** was educated at home by her parents, and her mother in particular had a strong role to play in her development as a writer. It's said that before she had even learned to write, **Rossetti** had dictated her first story to her mother. Thereader.org.uk



Stewardship Message: More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of



our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship



The morning group of LWML will meet on Wednesday, May 1 in the BAAC at 10:00 a.m. Since our April meeting was cancelled because of the weather, the Bible study will be the one scheduled for April. **"Baptized. Equipped. Serving."** This study is found on

page 16 of the spring issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. We are **baptized** in Christ. We are **equipped** in Christ. We are **serving** in Christ. Also to be discussed at this meeting will be the upcoming LWML-SWD Convention on June 14-15, 2024.

We thank the Lord that all of the 2020 – 2024 Mission Grants of the LWML-SWD have been fully funded. Our contributions of mites from the 21 zones in the district are truly working to spread the Gospel message.

The LWML South Wisconsin District 40th Biennial Convention will take place on June 14 to June 15 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 300 Broadway Drive in Sun Prairie. If you wish Friday night housing, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Madison at a group rate for LWML. (608-249-4220) Deadline for hotel reservations is May 23. Registration for the convention is \$35, including Saturday lunch, with the deadline being May 15.

To find information on details of the schedule, registration forms, proposed Mission Grants for the biennium of 2024-2026, go to [LWML-SWD Convention](#) and scroll down to click on the information you want.

LWML South Wisconsin District

40th Biennial Convention

Fri., June 14—Sat., June 15, 2024



Speaker: Carolyn Blum



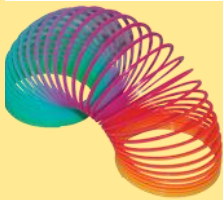
Historian, Author, Past LWML Vice President of Organizational Resources, Associate Editor and News Editor of the LWML Quarterly, Past LWML SWD President

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience
Colossians 3:12 (ESV)

"Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2

Barbara Kurth

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Colossians 3:12



Thanks to DOXOLOGY, Shelly was able to attend a recent retreat for Pastors' wives at Green Lake. This was a very timely and helpful retreat. Birthed here at EGL, DOXOLOGY continues to enrich the lives of God's people with pastoral care and Christian counseling. Coincidentally, one of the sessions dovetailed nicely with a work related professional article she'd recently read. Taking that coincidence as an invitation from God, Shelly pulled together her notes from both sources for the benefit of the congregation as a whole. As we go through difficult times ourselves, perhaps you will find some helpful, practical advice here. -- Pastor

Resilience Definitions:

- Resilience is the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, and significant sources of stress such as family and relationship problems, serious health problems, workplace stressors, financial stressors.
- It means "bouncing back" from difficult experiences.
- Resilience is one's ability to adapt to stressors of all sorts, to be able to rebound after suffering through adversity, setbacks, and a wide array of stressful circumstances.
- Resilience is a trait rooted in thoughts, choices, and behaviors.

Factors that people can develop in themselves:

- The capacity to make realistic plans and take steps to carry them out
- A positive view of yourself and confidence in your strengths and abilities
- Skills in communication and problem solving
- The capacity to manage strong feelings and impulses

Common characteristics of resilient people:

- Persistence in the presence of a "can do" attitude. They keep trying after failures.
- Motivation to accomplish meaningful goals that are satisfying. Set reasonable goals.
- Ability to consider change and explore novelty is helpful. Look beyond what could be. Don't cling to what doesn't work. Don't fall into "learned helplessness" = where you feel nothing you do makes a difference so you just give up.
- Honest appraisal of oneself regarding one's strengths and weaknesses.
- Reasonable expectations of others.
- Reasonable problem-solving skills (slowdown, think, be analytical, enact your best choices).
- Good interpersonal skills / interacting effectively with others.

Ways to Build Resilience:

- **Make connections:** Good relationships with close family members, friends, or others are important. Accepting help and support from those who are around you and will listen to you strengthens resilience. Assisting others in their time of need also can benefit the helper.
- **Avoid seeing crises as insurmountable problems:** You cannot change the fact that highly stressful events happen, but you can change how you interpret and respond to these events. Try looking beyond the present to how future circumstances may be a little better.
- **Move toward your goals:** Develop some realistic goals. Do something regularly - even if it seems like a small accomplishment - that enables you to move

toward your goals. Instead of focusing on tasks that seem unachievable, ask yourself, "What's one thing I know I can accomplish today that helps me move in the direction I want to go?"

- **Take decisive actions:** Act on adverse situations as much as you can. Take decisive actions, rather than detaching completely from problems and stresses and wishing they would just go away.
- **Look for opportunities for self-discovery:** People often learn something about themselves and may find that they have grown in some respect as a result of their struggle with loss.
- **Nurture a positive view of yourself:** Developing confidence in your ability to solve problems and trusting your instincts helps build resilience.
- **Keep things in perspective:** Even when facing very painful events, try to consider the stressful situation in a broader context and keep a long-term perspective.
- **Maintain a hopeful outlook:** An optimistic outlook enables you to focus on the good and positive elements of a situation rather than worrying about what you fear.
 - When you encounter problems, think, "This is a problem, I need a plan." You then choose to pivot and not go down the negative rant. You choose to be thankful about something instead -- our brains actually begin to slowly change and gratitude begins to shape what we look for to think about. These cognitive changes can occur in about a month. A study in 2005 revealed that the average person has 12K to 60K thoughts / day. Results were that 80% of them were negative and 95% were identical to thoughts from the previous day = maintenance thoughts. We can work to change and what we think about.
- **Take care of yourself:** Engage in activities that you enjoy and find relaxing. Exercise regularly. Taking care of yourself helps to keep your mind, body, and spirit primed to deal with situations that require resilience.

Threats to resilience:

- Negative self talk - shuts us down and discourages us. It only makes us more anxious.
- Catastrophizing - this reduces confidence and security.
- Perfectionism - striving always for this can be costly. The perfectionist is often the enemy of good and often means no one can help you. Ask yourself instead: "is this reasonable for now?"
- Avoidance or withdrawal.

Realize that we already have some excellent skills to be resilient, yet all of us also have vulnerabilities and some great opportunities for personal growth. Life is a journey....we are always growing - choose to grow in a healthy and positive direction.

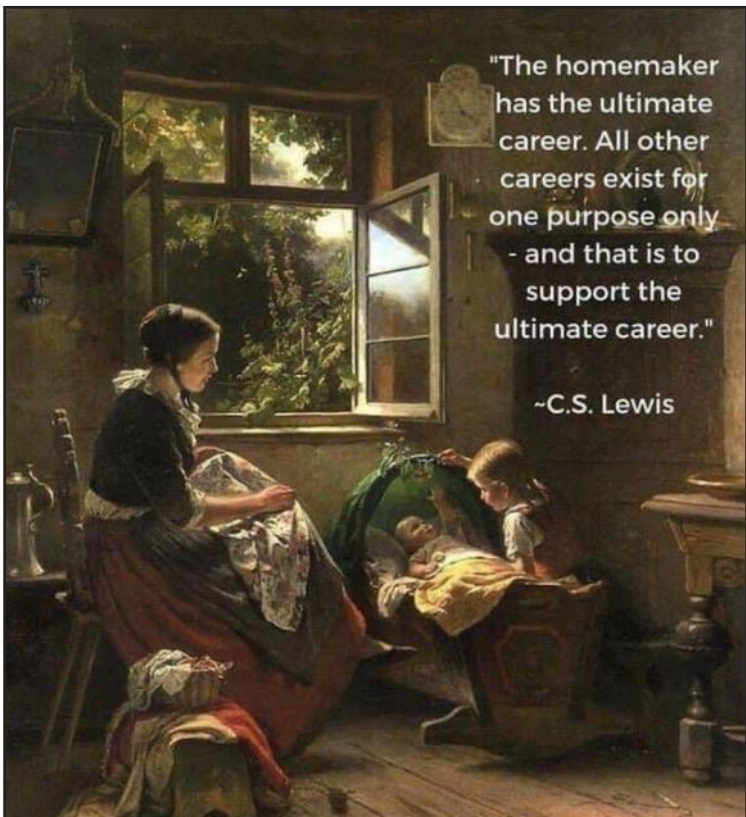
EGL Member Matt Ewert Led a Group of Young People on a Mission Trip to New York

At the end of March, Matt Ewert led a mission trip of 17 college students to New York City through Peace Lutheran Campus Center, the LCMS campus ministry in Stevens Point, WI. The team was hosted by Pastor Johnson Rethinasamy and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Queens, NY. The group painted the parsonage, led chapel at a local Lutheran school, volunteered at a conference for the Atlantic District, and more. If you are interested, Matt is eager to share stories and the trip newsletter with you.



VOTERS' ASSEMBLY Monday, May 20, 7 p.m. in the Nave

Governance Committee Listening Session to review draft of Constitution and By-Laws
After worship services on Sunday, April 28 & Thursday, May 2.



"The homemaker has the ultimate career. All other careers exist for one purpose only - and that is to support the ultimate career."

-C.S. Lewis

Fellowship Hall Kitchen Cleaning Efforts



Cleaning crew included Irma Witzke, Luanne Schaefer, Sharon Boudro, Helen Moore and Donna Corder (not pictured).

For well over a year, a few members have been lamenting the condition of the FH kitchen. It was long overdue for cleaning, sorting, and organizing. So, this spring a small group of women rolled up their sleeves on two Saturday mornings to get 'er done!

Excess pots, pans, and outdated items were moved to Room 108 for storage. Two boxes of items were filled and proposed for charity. Three large bins of plastic containers were recycled. Cupboards and drawers were vacuumed and washed. The tile behind the stove was scrubbed and washed. Many items were washed, then reorganized, sorted and grouped. Some were then put in new plastic containers. Several of the drawers and cupboards got new shelf liner.



For those who use the kitchen, please maintain the good effect of these efforts. The work is mostly done, although there are a few items on the "to do" list.



EGL Golf Outing & Dinner Friday, May 10

Deadline to sign up is Wed., May 1

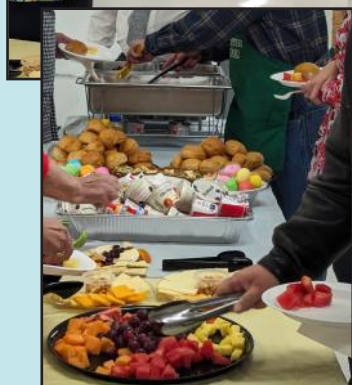
Join for golfing and/or the dinner and auction.
Help raise funds for the EGL Foundation.

We could use bottles of wine and gift cards to use in our various raffles and games prior to dinner. If you are interested in helping us out, please email us at golfouting@egl.org. Thank you!

Easter at Elm Grove Lutheran Church



Danke schoen! Takk skal de ha! Merci beaucoup! Ngiyabonga! Baie Dankie! Gracias! Arigato! Xiexie!
In every language God's people offer up thanksgiving to the LORD for His gracious gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation won for us in the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ! But on Easter Sunday as the body of Christ in this place, we give thanks also to those who have given much to enrich our life together during Holy Week – from the chancel flowers to the Altar Guild's setting of the table for the Lord's services; from the cleaning to the counting and greeting; from the abundant music to the lavish giving of time, talent, and treasures; from the giving of homebound Easter baskets to the smorgasbord of Easter breakfast, we are richly blessed. On behalf of a grateful church, thank you for all you do! May God continue to move among us to strengthen the ties that bind us together!



Multigenerational Easter Celebrations

Family Easter Egg Hunt

Hosted by the Board of Evangelism on March 23



The smiling faces of our homebound members say it all!

They appreciate the cards they received that were created by the children.



Brookfield

Eat to support Elm Grove Lutheran School



Use promo code
GRPRSFUND23



11:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Tuesday, May 14th



Lou Malnati's
Brookfield 15795 W Bluemound Road

Order online at loumalnatis.com, in the mobile app or call

Powered by
GroupRaise



May Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries ("A")

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



May 1

Mark Soderland

May 2

Sam Lee
Steven Schmadl

May 3

Doug Grelk

May 4

A-Katie & Dan Gerber

May 5

Sandi Ehlers

May 8

Todd Alles

May 9

Carole Lawonn

May 10

AJ Mueller

May 11

Gladys Smith (101)

May 12

A-David & Sue Schmalzer
Andrea Kysely

May 13

Joan Meller
Maci Mitchell
Anna Ohde
Steve Roesch

May 14

Arlene Jennings

May 15

Sarah Schulz

May 16

Jacob Nelson
Janine Netzel

May 17

A-Michael & Marnie Klein

May 18

A-Willi & Susie Radke

May 19

Michael Erdmann
Steven Genack
Morgan Zientek

May 21

Jennifer Gaulke
Fred Nick

May 22

Valerie Bruett
Nathan Margrett
Ryker Seymore

May 24

Kim Eichberger
Tyler Ky

May 25

Kelly Baker

May 26

A-Matthew & Amy Zienteck
Alex Eichberger
Barbara Kurth
Jeff Paulsen

May 27

A-Bruce & Karla Bessert
A-Jeff & Lynn Harner
A-John & Barb Thompson



May

Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church Calendar - 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">12</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship (C) 10:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School 7:00 PM AA Meeting (FH) Mother's Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">13</p> <p>7:00 PM Barbershop Group (FH) 7:00 PM Church Council (228)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">14</p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Bible Study (228) 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study (BAAC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">15</p> <p>10:00 AM Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 PM Sheepshead (BAAC) 7:00 PM Gym Rental</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">16</p> <p>9:30 AM Book Discussion Group (BAAC) 6:30 PM Worship (C) 7:30 PM Stammtisch (BAAC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">18</p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">19</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship (C) with Ordination of Vicar Lee 7:00 PM AA Meeting (FH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">20</p> <p>5:00 PM Finance Meeting (228) 7:00 PM Annual Meeting Voters' Assembly (Nave) 7:00 PM Barbershop Group (FH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">21</p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Bible Study (228) 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study (BAAC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">22</p> <p>10:00 AM Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 PM Sheepshead (BAAC) 7:00 PM Gym Rental</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">23</p> <p>6:30 PM Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">25</p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">26</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship (C) 10:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Meeting (FH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">27</p> <p>7:00 PM Barbershop Group (FH) Memorial Day Office Closed</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">28</p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Bible Study (228) 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study (BAAC) 5:30 PM Trustee's Meeting (228)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">29</p> <p>10:00 AM Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 PM Sheepshead (BAAC) 7:00 PM Gym Rental Elder's Meeting (228)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">30</p> <p>6:30 PM Worship (C)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em;">31</p>																																																																																												

Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."
(Mark 16: 14-16)



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, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The deadline for articles and photos to be submitted for the next *Seasons* is:
Wednesday, May 15
Submissions can be sent to
seasons@egl.org



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday

Bible Study will follow the service
10:30-11:30

Confirmation and First Communion is Sunday, May 5. THE KAMMERCHOR from Concordia University Wisconsin is singing at our worship service.

Thursday 6:30 p.m.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated
1st, 3rd, 5th Thursday

RECENT CONFIRMATION YEARS



If you've been in the Fellowship Hall in recent years and spent some time looking at the confirmation photos going back to 1944, you've no doubt noticed that we ran out of space for confirmation class photos eight years ago! It was high time to do something about that injustice, so our maintenance man, Paul Pfaff, spent some time recreating three additional wall-mounted frames to match the six that are reset into the western wall of the FH. You can now see the first additional frame mounted on the same side of the FH. We will add the other two in the years ahead as the confirmation classes roll by. For the time being, you can check out the last 8 years worth of classes.

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

VICAR LEE ORDINATION

It doesn't happen every day that a congregation gets to see a man from within her own ranks go off to seminary and then get ordained. As you all know Dr Samuel Lee has completed his Specific Ministry Pastor program studies through Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. We have the joy of seeing him ordained here at EGL on Pentecost Day, May 19, at the regular 9:00 a.m. service. What an opportunity for EGL to see this process brought to completion on Pentecost! Thanks are due to you, the congregation, for your support over the last 4+ years! Please set aside that day on your calendars.