

# SEASONS

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



Volume 22, Issue 8

August 2024

“Here I stand, I can do no other, God help me. Amen!”

- Martin Luther



Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, where Luther nailed his 95 Theses and where he is buried beneath the pulpit.

## From Your Pastor

On June 20 Shelly, Julianne, and I left for a 10-trip to Germany. On one level it would be easy to classify the trip as auf den Spuren Martin Luthers – in the footprints of Martin Luther – but in reality it was a lot broader. For some time I had promised Julianne to take her to Germany to see some of the sites connected with the Lutheran Reformation as well as to become familiar with her grandfather Skovgaard's involvement in the Cold War. Then, of course, there was German culture to experience. With her recent graduation from college, this summer became the perfect opportunity. A huge thanks is owed to the EGL Foundation for their gracious gift (originally

pegged for a study tour of Israel that got canceled due to Covid)! Because of them, the promise to my daughter, to connect her to her roots, became possible!

From Chicago we flew into Berlin where we stayed for two nights on the Kurfuerstendamm, within a mile of Die Gedächtniskirche, the bombed-out Kaiser Wilhelm memorial church. This church was destroyed during one of the Allied bombing raids in World War II. The focus of our time in Berlin involved visiting Check Point Charlie and the museum chronicling the construction of the obscenity known as the Berlin Wall, the many attempts

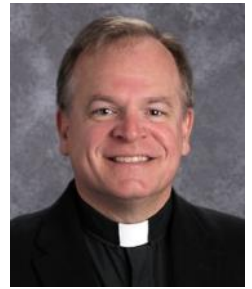
by East Germans to escape the prison state of communist East Germany. I grew up on stories of heroic men and women escaping from the East for a better life in the West.

For me growing up in Virginia at that time, it was a given that the West held the moral high ground over the tyranny of Communism. We were the good guys, and that was easily discernable. Those childhood convictions were reinforced at the University of Virginia, where I had professors who openly encouraged their students to only work for the US Government if they felt pride when they saw the flag wave. [How things have changed!]

One site I had hoped to see again in Berlin was a makeshift cemetery, complete with crosses and short bios on all those brave individuals who were killed seeking freedom in the West. In the intervening years since I was last in Berlin that memorial had been taken down, to my chagrin. It wasn't until the end of our trip, when we were yet again in Berlin on a Spree River cruise along the bank of the river that I noticed the cross memorial had been reconstructed there, with the years and the names of the victims. A good surprise to find it again!

Not far from Check Point Charlie, within easy walking distance, was an opportunity to connect with our Lutheran

forefathers, this time the one-time Pastor of St Nikolai Church, Paul Gerhardt, and the Kantor, Johann Crueger. Together these men formed a formidable hymn-writing team, some of which are in our LSB. In our hymnal we have 17 hymns by Gerhardt, and 15 hymn tunes by Crueger. However, Gerhardt is important to me for another reason also. I love the way he



*Pastor Skougaard*

remained faithful to his Lutheran convictions during a time of persecution without resorting to anger. When the emperor, who had become a Calvinist, insisted that Lutheran pastors not attack Calvinism from the pulpit, he could easily agree because he didn't do that. However, when the emperor insisted Lutheran pastors sign a document compromising their adherence to the Book of Concord, Gerhardt refused and was removed from office.

From Berlin we took the train down to Wittenberg which became our hub for seeing sites connected with the Lutheran Reformation. Although traveling by train is not as convenient as having your own car, it gave all three of us time to talk, to read, and speak with local Germans, while seeing the local countryside. In fact, traveling this way allowed us to experience the extreme punctuality of German trains and to realize that in the larger cities the main train stations are city centers in themselves, bustling with life and activity. For instance, the Berlin and Leipzig train stations are worth visiting, even if you don't plan to take a train.



In Wittenberg, the birth place of the Reformation, there's enough to keep one busy for several days absorbing the history connected with the City Church where Luther did most of his preaching, filling in for Johannes Bugenhagen; the newly renovated Old Latin School across the square from the City Church, which now houses the International Lutheran Center, directed by Wilhelm Weber; the Castle Church with its high tower, where Luther nailed his 95 Theses and where he is buried beneath the pulpit; the Wittenberg 360 panorama, which is a two-story drawing in 360 degrees depicting every day life in 1517 Wittenberg; the Lutherhaus Museum, where the Luther family lived; the Cranach house; the Melanchthon house, etc.



The City Church in Wittenberg where Luther did most of his preaching.

One special shoutout is important for Bob and Pauline Kolb. Dr Kolb was one of my professors at seminary. He's been a world-renown scholar in Reformation history for decades and is often remembered in class for saying that "some of my best friends have been dead for centuries!" For the 5 days we were in Wittenberg we shared a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor apartment courtyard with the Kolbs. But in addition to the joy of catching up, I was profoundly humbled by this giant of a scholar taking long stretches of time to talk with Julianne, to find out what was important to her in the life of the church. Here she was in Germany, for the first time out of the country, and a legendary Luther scholar was joyfully engaging her in what she was learning and thinking about. I was in awe of the pastoral approach and tickled pink as a dad.



Dr Robert and Pauline Kolb at dinner in Wittenberg.

Much could be said about our trips to Weimar and the Buchenwald concentration camp (Julianne's idea), Eisenach and the Wartburg Castle where Luther was in hiding for 10 months after the Diet of Worms declared him an outlaw.

But one of the top five experiences for me was joining Pr Gottfried Martens and the saints at Trinity Lutheran in Steglitz for worship. We stayed for lunch after the service and were so

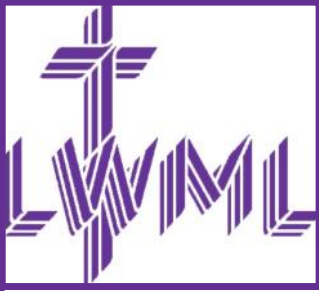


Shelly and Julianne on the drawbridge going into the Wartburg Castle.

impressed by the hospitality of German and Persian members alike. Trinity is one of the congregations in Germany where enormous growth has happened. Over a thousand former Muslims have converted to Christianity under the preaching and catechesis of Pr Martens in the past decade. The vast majority appeared to be young men and women. A wonderful sight!



The Castle Church in Wittenberg from a distance.



Newly elected officers of the LWML-SWD are the following:

- Cinda Poppe - President
- Judy Gitzlaff - Vice President of Special Focus Ministries and Gospel Outreach
- Kay Nett - Vice President of Communication

- Barbara Kaun - Corresponding Secretary
- Janis Mattson – Treasurer
- Rev. Jesse Lee Davis – Junior Pastoral Counselor

The LWML-SWD is hosting its Fall Retreat on September 27-28 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center located at 625 W. Rolling Hills Drive Fond du Lac, WI 54937. Theme for this retreat is Treasured with the theme Bible verse, "The Lord has chosen you to a people for His treasured possession." Deuteronomy 14:2 Deb Burma, the keynote speaker will include in her address how Christ takes us as uncut and rough to a gem who carries out His mission. Retreat registration forms can be found on line at lwml-swd.org

The cost for the retreat is \$70, and includes Saturday lunch. Deadline for registration is September 13. If you wish to stay at a hotel, please call 929-923-1440 #9 for

the LWML group rate. Deadline is September 6. Check our LWML Bulletin Board for items to bring for Gifts of the Heart. Come for both days or just Saturday. You are sure to be inspired and also see and visit with other "Sisters in Christ."

Good News! Our first LWML-SWD Mission Grant of the new biennium has been fully funded. Orphan Grain Train Wisconsin received a check for \$15,000, which will certainly help with the shipping costs for this special ministry. Containers vary in cost from \$6,000 to \$12,000. The Wisconsin Branch is a very active group and ships on average of 12 containers in a year.

Thanks to all our congregation members who faithfully give their mites. You may put them in the church mailbox of Sherri Bond.

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

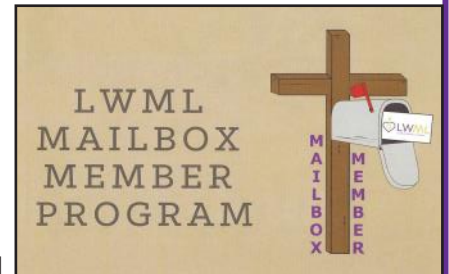


Judy Gitzlaff, VP of Special Ministries and Gospel Outreach, gives check to Theresa Rake, Orphan Grain Warehouse Packing Manager.

Would you like to know more about Lutheran Women in Missions, but your schedule or health does not allow you attend in-person events? Do you know of someone else who would enjoy monthly contact from EGL LWML? If so, the LWML Mailbox Member program may be the answer. A monthly packet can be placed in your church mailbox, emailed to you or mailed to your home. The packets are different each month:

- Bible studies and devotion for at-home quiet time with God
- Support for you through prayer and friendship
- Information about LWML mission grants and your own mite box
- Upcoming local opportunities to serve in our church and community
- Opportunities to connect with like-minded women
- Flexibility to participate when and where you are able

If you are interested in receiving a packet or know of someone who is, please call or text Luanne Schaefer at 262-617-0561 or email [jgmschaefer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jgmschaefer@sbcglobal.net). We will begin providing packets in September to your preferred method of contact.



### Operation Christmas Child

Our EGL LWML evening group will be packing boxes again for Operation Christmas Child on September 9. For this mission project, we will once again be asking for donations which fit in a shoebox. They will contain a Gospel message about the birth of Jesus in the ethnic language and will be sent to children in the world who are poverty stricken. What joy these Christmas gifts will bring to children ages 2 to 14.

If you would like to participate, please bring your donated items and put them in the big LWML Mite Box near the LWML bulletin board in the lower entrance of the church.



Here is a list of suggested items that you may wish to donate.

**Hygiene:** combs, toothbrushes, wash clothes, and bar soaps.

**School:** pencils, pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, crayons, markers, pens, notebooks, watercolor sets, glue sticks, and stickers.

**Toys:** foam balls, tennis balls, finger puppets, Slinkys, small cars, small trucks, play animals, stuffed animals, small stuffed dolls, jump ropes, kick balls and pumps.

There may be school items on sale and, many of them may be found in the dollar stores. Thank you so much for donating items and bringing happiness to many needy children.

## Experiences For Youth and Young Adults Alike at EGL

The Lutheran Young Adults League (LYAL) originated from John Powers, a member at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Whitefish Bay, and their mission is "to provide opportunities to meet new people, forge friendships, & have fun!" Before the formation of LYAL, EGL had its own young adult group, UPPER ROOM YA, but all events are now with LYAL. LYAL targets individuals aged 21–35 and has had activities such as an English Contra Dance, a Ladies Paint & Sip Night, and a Chinooks baseball game. Upcoming events include a kickball game at EGL, pop up get togethers, and Sunday church hopping. Events prior to the formation of LYAL included a Pewaukee Lake gathering at the Wolck's and a Packer Watch Party. You can find LYAL on Instagram (@lutheran\_young\_adults\_league) and by searching "Lutheran Young Adults League" on Facebook.

Meanwhile, EGL Youth Ministry focuses on youth in grades 6–12, organizing events in EGL's renovated Youth Room. Ben Ewert is our Youth Ministry Coordinator and the rest of the team consists of Elder Matt Stroh, Amy Zientek, who runs the middle school youth, and Pastor Skovgaard. EGL Youth's mission is "bringing people together in Christ and equipping them to live out their faith in an increasingly complex world." Next year they plan to take a group of high school youth to the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The LCMS Youth Gathering is planned and run by LCMS Youth Ministry, who also runs YouthLead (formerly Lutheran Youth Fellowship), which is a program aimed at developing youth leadership skills. Also, the LCMS Youth Ministry is dedicated to fostering connections and spiritual growth among young members of the Lutheran community. Ongoing work by the Governance Committee may allow youth to serve in a greater capacity at EGL in the future, giving them an opportunity to attend future YouthLead events. Being an engaged parent or a supportive adult is a great way to encourage our youth to attend events at EGL.

Both LYAL and EGL Youth Ministry provide opportunities for young people to connect, grow, and have fun, strengthening their faith and building meaningful relationships.

**LUTHERAN YOUNG ADULTS LEAGUE**  
LYAL (ages 21-35) provides opportunities to meet new people, forge friendships, & have fun.



**KICKBALL GAME**  
**PLUS**  
**SPIKEBALL & VOLLEYBALL**

**AUGUST 17TH AT 4PM**

**Elm Grove Lutheran**  
945 Terrace Dr, Elm Grove, WI 53122

Both players and spectators welcome!



## EGL Constructs Sound Barrier for HVAC Unit

Noise pollution from an HVAC unit is a common issue in residential areas, which often causes frustration among neighbors because of the sound. Elm Grove Village Hall has received two separate complaints within a single year regarding the loud noises that were being emitted. The village hall deemed the situation a violation of non-compliance orders. So, under the Good Neighbor Act, the church needed to reduce the noise level to a decibel that is satisfactory for both parties. In compliance with this, Mattias Goldenstein, Jim Olson, Matt Stroh, and Paul Pfaff are constructing a sound barrier around the HVAC unit on the north side of the church to mitigate the noise. The estimated cost for the construction of the noise barrier ranges from \$3,500 to \$3,700; however, these figures may vary as the project continues. This expense, however, is far less significant than the estimated cost of \$5,000 to \$8,500 if handled by a professional contractor. Paul Pfaff, the project's overseer and EGL's Maintenance Engineer, brings extensive knowledge to the role because of his 25 years of experience in the construction and building maintenance industry. Some of his professional background includes extensive collaboration with general contractors across various sectors. Examples of this include new construction, fire and water restoration, and commercial property management and maintenance. The project started on June 17, 2024, and will hopefully finish by the end of July.



The Fire Inspector at the Elm Grove Fire Department approached EGL in June and asked if they could use the 805 house for training. They trained on July 13 and will continue to use the house for training in the future.

## Teaching the Parables for All Ages

We explored the Parables of Jesus at EGL on July 14, 21, and 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This study invited families and individuals of all ages to deepen their faith together through the examination of timeless parables, including The Wise and Foolish Builder, The Sower, and The Good Samaritan. The experience offered participants several opportunities for family devotion and engaging discussions. The church encouraged attendees to bring their children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends. Pastor Skovgaard led the adult discussion in the Nave. Children were invited to the Kids Bible Camp to engage in Bible study, crafts, activities, and interactive sessions designed to foster spiritual growth. Older children were welcome to take part, either as helpers or active participants. Our church was enriched through this spiritual connection.



## KIDS BIBLE CAMP

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."  
- Matthew 7:24



**Blood Drive**  
**Wednesday, August 14**  
**2:00 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**EGL Fellowship Hall**



Schedule your appointment online at [versiti.org](https://www.versiti.org).  
Click on the top right button, DONATE BLOOD. Then enter the zip code 53122 and the date, 08/17/2024.

*OR*, call or email Rick Ewert 262.289.9333 - [blooddrive@egl.org](mailto:blooddrive@egl.org)

Every day, patients in your community need blood transfusions to survive and thrive. They rely on the generosity of donors like you, who help ensure a safe, healthy blood supply. Make an appointment to donate blood today!

**Congratulations**

**Kathy Ganswindt**

on being awarded as a

**2024 BizTimes  
Notable Woman  
in Technology**



BizTimes Milwaukee recently announced its inaugural showcase of Notable Women in Technology. They celebrated outstanding professionals who were advancing technological innovation in southeastern Wisconsin. Among the honorees is EGL member, Kathy Ganswindt, the lead project management office manager and vice president at Bank Five Nine in Oconomowoc.

In recognition of her significant contributions to her bank, Ganswindt was awarded the Excellence in Mentorship award at the bank's annual President's Awards. Her three decades of service with Bank Five Nine (formerly known as First Bank Financial Centre) underscore her dedication and impact. Schneider emphasized that Ganswindt's leadership has been instrumental to the bank's growth and success, making her a valuable asset to the organization.

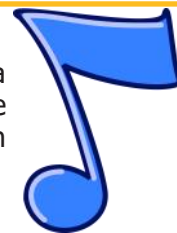
Source: BizTimes

**Sunday  
School  
Teachers  
Needed!**

September will soon be here and that means our Sunday School will start up on September 15. We are in need of teachers for the little ones. Please help spread the Word!  
Call Linda at 262-786-1203 for more information.



**The Benefits of Music**



There are benefits to being a musician. A musician is one who actively participates in making music.

Benefits include:

- Improved hearing - may help ward off age-related hearing loss and improve memory skills.
- Stress reduction
- Cognitive stimulation
- Improved focus and concentration
- Mood enhancement
- Develops a sense of belonging and connection

Additional benefits of ringing bells:

- Improves coordination
- Increases flexibility
- Builds stronger muscles

Additional benefits of singing:

- Strengthens core muscles
- Improves respiratory function
- May improve snoring
- Enhances cardiovascular health
- Boosts immune system

**Gain these benefits. Be a musician.  
Ring handbells. Sing in the choir.**

Intrada Ringers meet Mondays:  
5:00–6:00 p.m.

Exultate Ringers meet Tuesdays:  
5:15–6:15 p.m.

Exultate singers meet Wednesdays:  
7:00–8:30 p.m.

Our rehearsals will begin after Labor Day.

Contact Richard (Rick) Ewert for more information - [REwert@egl.org](mailto:REwert@egl.org) or H: 262.289.9333

**The Power of Forgiveness**

The ability to forgive improves your health, your relationships, and your outlook on life. According to a study in the Journal of Adult Development, those who are able to forgive are more satisfied with their lives and less likely to report symptoms of psychological distress including feelings of nervousness, restlessness, or sadness.

John's Hopkins Medicine shared the results of studies that have found the act of forgiveness can lower the risk of heart attack, reduce pain, etc.

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." ~ Ephesians 4:31-32





**August Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries ("A")**

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



August 2

A-Doug & Meg Grek  
A-Andrew & Angela  
Holmes

August 3

Joan Knight

August 4

A-Linda & Terry Hoffmann  
Casey Carney

August 5

Todd Baumgardt  
Sandy Hahn

August 6

Pam Ganswindt  
Beverly Hipenbecker  
Carol Schaefer

August 7

A-Dan & Stephanie Garcia  
Natalie Carstedt  
Mark Kennedy

August 9

A-Paul & Linda Haut  
A-Pr. Eric & Shelly Skovgaard  
Christine Wilcox

August 10

A-Kyle & Alexis Higgins  
Lindsay Mitchell

August 11

Barb Alles

August 12

A-Peter & Terry Holzgart  
Tyler Beckley  
Heidi Wegner

August 13

Alex Ohde

August 14

Rob Hipke

August 15

Patrick Gerber  
Ruth Lawonnn

August 16

Manfred Moritz  
Brody Setzer

August 17

A-Paula & Tri Ky

August 18

A-Jeff & Laurie Mueller  
A-William Myatt Jr. & Anna Bangle-  
Myatt  
Donald Anderson  
Tom Paasch  
Alex Setzer

August 22

A-Kirk & Cynthia Midtbo

August 23

Barb Thompson

August 24

A-Bill & Ruth Dare  
Jim Aldinger  
Jeff Netzel

August 26

Ian Klein  
Ray Lester

August 27

Kent Baumgardt  
Aislyn Wegner

August 29

A-Deanna & Matthew Beltran  
Dick Kruse

August 30

William Dennis  
Laura Patterson  
Richard Rahardt

August 31

A-Mattias & Catherine Goldenstein  
A-Kevin & Andrea Kysely  
A-Tom & Jane Neill  
A-Brad & Vicky Ohde  
Lydia Ohde



# August

## Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church Calendar - 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jul 2024</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Sep 2024</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						<b>1</b> 6:30 PM Worship (C)	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b>
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"I will extol the Lord at all times;  
 his praise will always be on my lips.  
 I will glory in the Lord;  
 let the afflicted hear and rejoice.  
 Glory the Lord with me;  
 let us exalt his name together"

- Psalms 34 : 1-3



## 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](http://www.egl.org) • E-mail:



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

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

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

**Thursday, August 15**

Submissions can be sent to  
[seasons@egl.org](mailto:seasons@egl.org)



Follow Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church on Facebook!

### **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

**Address/Phone Changes:**

Lois Greenweller 414-403-8438

### **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

**Thursday 6:30 p.m.**

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

## OUR GREAT HERITAGE

### Church History Series

LCMS historian Molly Lackey will trace the history of the church from the apostles through the 20th century in this series from *The Lutheran Witness*.

In this bi-monthly series, explore the lives of 14 people who will help non-believers understand the history of the Christian and Lutheran church. These 14 include people like Martin Luther, who spearheaded the Protestant Reformation, and Martin Chemnitz, who played a pivotal role in solidifying Lutheran doctrine. These articles will help because as a Christian, you already know what history is about: Jesus coming to save you. When people who aren't Christian study history, they have to look elsewhere to find something that history is all about.

These articles can be found under the Lutheran Witness tab on the LCMS website or type in this link: [witness.lcms.org/series](http://witness.lcms.org/series).

**COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED!** Qualifications: a friendly smile, pour a cup of coffee, and bring some morning sweets. Time: after the 9:00a.m. Sunday service. No experience required. Sign up on Sunday mornings or call Luanne and John Schaefer at 262-784-3106 or 262-617-0561.



**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:

Linda Hoffmann – [LindaHoffmann@yahoo.com](mailto:LindaHoffmann@yahoo.com) or call 262-786-1203, or email Meg Grell [mgrell55@gmail.com](mailto:mgrell55@gmail.com)