

# SEASONS

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



Volume 22, Issue 2

February 2024



Lent begins this year on February 14 with Ash Wednesday and so does our emphasis on Moses' book called Exodus. In it Moses asks Pharaoh to let God's people go seven times, and Pharaoh finally does it. When he does, God's salvation is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. The Old Testament Scriptures mention the Exodus 125 times! Throughout the book of Exodus God reveals who he is through his absence and his presence, through his silence and his speech, through his wrath and his mercy, and through his judgment and his amazing grace. In so doing, the book paints a beautiful portrait of Jesus. Under the theme of "Let My People Go," we will look closely at 10 different passages in Exodus in which we find God at work rescuing His people.

## From Your Pastor

*(This is a summary of my sermon from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, urging us to take seriously the need for young men and women to consider church work.)*

1 Sam 3 introduces us to Samuel as a young man, probably in his teenage years. But if you remember your Bible history, his birth is an answer to prayer. His mother Hannah is one of two wives of the man Elkanah. The other wife, Peninah, is hard on Hannah for being barren. Apparently she mocks Hannah relentlessly, until one day Hannah is praying at the tabernacle at Shiloh. She must've been praying fervently because Eli sees her and thinks that she is drunk.

In any case, Hannah vows that if God will give her a son, she will dedicate his life in service to God. God answers her prayer; therefore, she names her son Samuel – God hears. Once she has finished weaning him, probably at 3-4 years old, she gives him to Eli to serve at the tabernacle. We know that she and her husband are pious because they come every year to the tabernacle and bring young Samuel a new robe to wear. Some ten years have probably passed and Samuel is a teenager as we meet him in chapter 3, sleeping in the tabernacle.

3x times Samuel wakes up to the sound of someone calling him, thinking it is Eli. After those 3x, it is Eli, to his credit, who figures out that God is the one calling the young man and tells him how to respond faithfully – Speak Lord, for your servant is listening. Great words for all of us to pray! However, once Samuel returns to his bed and once again hears God calling out to him, the text says something interesting. We read that “the LORD came and stood, calling out.” We have a pre-incarnate vision of the Son of God standing near young Samuel. When Samuel is called, he can see the Word calling him!

The same God continues to call men into the pastoral office today, and men and women into the teaching ministry, the diaconal ministry, and into various forms of missionary service. We know from Scripture that it is God's desire that all people repent and believe in Christ. But for that to happen, someone has to be called and sent. As St Paul writes in Romans 10, “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?” We see Paul's logic here. When preachers are sent, people hear the message that allows them to believe, and then call upon the One who saves. But if preachers are not sent, people won't hear the Gospel which allows them to believe and be saved.

So, that brings us to an effort that the Synod has embarked on, Set Apart To Serve. This effort is aimed at encouraging men and women to hear the Lord's Word,

calling them into service as church workers. If you've been involved in the life of any congregation, you'll realize that church work is often hard and frustrating at times. What compels your church workers to keep going, however, is the goal of one more soul hearing the Gospel and being saved. That makes it all worthwhile – to know that you are an instrument for the revealing of the glory of God, all for the sake of saving souls. Honestly, does it get any better than that? To know that your work is making an eternal difference in the lives of others?



*Pastor Skougaard*

The Synod has embarked on this effort because it's the right thing to do but also because the numbers are scary. The man in charge of Set Apart to Serve, the Rev Dr James Baneck, reports that enrollment at both seminaries is down 60% in the last 5 years. 60%. Let that sink in. At a time when ½ of all LCMS pastors are 55 or older, and many baby boomers will retire in the next few years, that's when our enrollment numbers at the seminaries are dropping. And the numbers of those studying to be teachers, principals, deaconesses, church musicians and organists are even worse! How do we expect unbelievers to hear and believe and thus be saved, if we don't actually send anyone out to proclaim the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ?!

But raising up the next generation of pastors is not just on the young men in our church. Let's ask some questions of ourselves. Does the Church create an atmosphere of love and support for her workers? Do we put stumbling blocks or hurdles in the way of the Spirit moving in the lives of our young people? Do we cultivate the idea that serving God and His people is profoundly rewarding and worthy of our dedication? Do we nurture young men and women, in whom the Spirit is moving, being patient and encouraging them as they grow?

All of these questions are easily summed up in one question: What do you hope your children will grow up to be and to do? Other professions and vocations are of course worthy, but if you wouldn't be deeply honored and prepared to sacrifice like Hannah did with Samuel to see your son or daughter enter into church work, you've lost sight of Epiphany! As a community we ought to be looking for and prepared to support them as they wrestle with the Spirit's call into ministry. We ought to teach them to pray for listening ears and to realize that being a servant of God is the most rewarding job possible, even when frustrating at times.

Christ teaches us that the harvest is vast, and that we should pray to the Father for more laborers in the vineyard. If you and I treasure the gift of faith that saves and the forgiveness that God pours out abundantly in His Word and Sacraments, then out of compassion for the next generation in the church and for our neighbors, we ought to gladly promote church work among our youth as something worthy of their best years and energy! God's good and gracious will be done! Amen.

When preachers are sent, people hear the message that allows them to believe, and then call upon the One who saves. But if preachers are not sent, people won't hear the Gospel which allows them to believe and be saved.

## Stewardship in Our Daily Lives -

Stewardship, in the easiest definition, is Gift of Self. It's giving back to God what He gave us, which is everything. It is a lifestyle based on gratitude for all that God has given us and then understanding that we are stewards of these. We're not meant to hoard them but to share them with others and be a conduit of God's graces. It really comes down to using our simple gifts, serving others to glorify God.

Stewardship isn't just about spectacular gifts but rather simple ones. You don't have to give millions of dollars to be a God pleasing steward. You don't have to go to Africa for mission work to get a "thumbs up" or "way to go" from God. Stewardship includes simple gifts such as a husband loving his wife because she is a gift from God. A mom feeding her baby in the middle of the night be-



cause she has been given this new life. A child doing their absolute best because their talents are gifts from God.

Simple gifts have been entrusted to you and stewardship happens every day. You have been doing it. It is your faithfulness to the callings you have been given. Your faithful presence in worship, your generosity for the Gospel, the investment in your family with the message of the Gospel and so many other gracious and ordinary efforts. These are all stewardship.

The Father was well pleased with Jesus because of what He had done (Luke 3:21-22) and what He was going to do. The same is true of you, faithful steward. He is pleased with what you have done and what He knows you will do. He knows you will heed His Word and answer His call. He has given you all the grace you need to be His faithful steward. With you He is well pleased. *Ref: [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)*

## Prayer

*Loving Father, grant us the grace to be faithful in the stewardship of our daily lives. When we fall short, lead us back to Jesus. We know that it is because of Him that you are pleased with us. Lead us to be faithful stewards of His Gospel every day! Amen*

## LCMS Campus Ministry from Stevens Point Makes a Mission Trip to Orlando, Florida.



Matt Ewert recently went on a mission trip with Peace Lutheran Campus Center, the LCMS campus ministry in Stevens Point, WI. He joined the campus pastor, Pastor Andy Weden, and 11 students as they went to Orlando, FL for a week to serve Pastor Kenyatta Cobb and his congregation, Shekinah Lutheran Church. The primary goal was to refurbish the worship space they began renting this year, but the team also found time to feed the homeless and reorganize Pastor Cobb's garage. Matt would love to tell you more about the trip! As Pastor Cobb says, "See you on the battlefield!"

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### ADMISSION INTO MEMBERSHIP:

#### **Baptized:**

##### **By Baptism**

Frank Pleester III

Jonathan Pleester

##### **By Consent of Parent(s)**

### TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

#### **By Transfer:**

Jeffrey and Shari Schulz

Sarah

Noah

Transferring to Blessed Savior LC in New Berlin

Robert and Debra Tesch

Transferring to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Irmo, SC

Amelia Woelky

Transferring to Grace Lutheran in Menomonee Falls

#### **By Release:**

Linda Peters

Per her written request

## Congregation Gathers for an Update from the Governance Committee



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)

Church members were invited to attend one of two Town Halls in January to hear an update from the Governance Committee. One of the findings by the Ambassadors of Reconciliation, as outlined in their December 2022 report, was to "Over the long-term (two to four years), consider reviewing and changing your governance model." The nine-person Governance Committee was formed and has determined that the current constitution and bylaws need updating. They've been meeting to consider the pros and cons of different options. Their research and deliberations have led them to endorse a "single board governing structure." Comparing it to a "set of nested bowls" with the largest bowl representing the voters' assembly, it also integrates the work and responsibilities of a Board of Directors, a Committee of Elders, Pastor(s) and an Executive. Their good work will continue, as will their updates to the congregation.



The morning group of LWML will meet on Wednesday, February 7 in the BAAC at 10:00 a.m. The Bible study, "**Where is Your Treasure?**" found on pages 20-21 of the winter issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* is based on Matthew 6:21, "For where

your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The study is divided into 5 parts for our discussion: A Look at Biblical Stewardship; Stewardship – Love in Action; Stewardship is Discipleship; Stewardship in Action; and Stewardship and Treasure. At the meeting, there will be a handout of a synopsis of the events in Nehemiah 1-8, in regard to stewardship. If you have time before the meeting, you may like to read these chapters.

On December 16, 2023, President Cinda Poppe; Vice President of Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants, LuAnn Roman; and Treasurer Patty Silah presented a \$20,000 check to fully fund the SOS Center Mission Grant #11 to Lydia Beasley, the Executive Director of SOS. This grant will be used to start a new program, **Designed for Success**, to effectively reach high school youth. We see how our contribution of mites is being used to promote special programs within our South Wisconsin District. Praise the Lord.

Good news from the National LWML! Journeys Lutheran School received the fully funded Grant #3 of \$100,000. High school students at Journeys Lutheran School are able to enroll in the School-to-Work Internship Program by taking elective classes at Martin Luther High School. This National Grant will allow for the purchase of two vans for transportation between Journeys Lutheran School and Martin Luther High School.



*Pictured left to right:*

Tim Young-Eagle, Director of Development - Journeys  
 Jenny Stollenwerk, Head Principal - Journeys  
 Michael Oldenburg, Executive Director - Journeys  
 Cinda Poppe, President - LWML South Wisconsin District  
 Mary Zuehlsdorf - LWML South Wisconsin District  
 Kristen Kolllel - LWML South Wisconsin District

An upcoming event for LWML-SWD will be the **Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations** to be held on Saturday March 16, 2024 and hosted by Benediction Lutheran Church. It will take place at Granville Lutheran School located at 8242 Granville Road, Milwaukee. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. Pastor Hougard will be leading the worship service. Lunch will be served, including American and Ethnic food. It will be interesting to see our ethnic sisters in Christ present the program. The event will conclude at 2:30 p.m.

Thank you to EGL members who faithfully contribute their donations of mites. You may put your filled boxes of mites into Sherri Bond's church mailbox.

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

*Barbara Kurth*

# Giving

## WARMS THE HEART

**DONATE BLOOD**

### VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE Thursday, February 22

2:00 pm - 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Please schedule your donation appointment online at [Versiti.org](https://www.versiti.org) (click on **Donate Blood**)

Or go to:

[https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/261580](https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/261580)



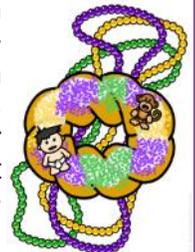
Eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

Every year, transfusion medicine saves more than four and a half million lives in America.

## EGL Stammtisch!

### Happy February, EGL Guys!

Yeah...it's cold! But it's warm and cozy inside! Come on out and join us at **EGL Stammtisch** as we comfortably connect with those around us, in a relaxed environment. Join us **Thursday, February 15, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.** for great libation and lively conversation that runs the gamut, but always in a fun, informal atmosphere of Christian fellowship.



### Come and find out what were all about!

**Meet us at Biloba Brewing Company, 2970 N Brookfield Rd** Bring some snacks to share and a friend! Any questions? Contact Bruce Bessert by phone/text at 414-526-8430, or by email at [bruce.bessert@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.bessert@gmail.com).



### LUTHERAN SINGLES CRUISE:

Set sail on a spiritual adventure with Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller on a four-day Lutheran Singles Cruise, departing from Galveston on August 1. This journey is designed for connection and fellowship, offering daily devotions, Bible studies, and opportunities to meet like-minded singles. Embrace this chance to deepen your faith, make new friends, and enjoy the beauty of the sea. Don't miss out on this unique blend of spiritual growth and social fun – book your spot today! Learn more at [www.wolfmueller.co/cruise](http://www.wolfmueller.co/cruise)



## Baskets of Blessings

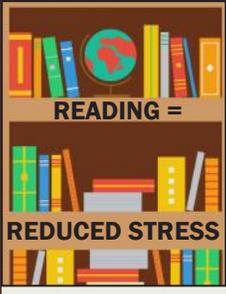
At Easter, our hearts are filled with joy, love, and thankfulness as we celebrate our Savior's Resurrection. We love to share that joy. We have many fellow members who find it difficult to get to church and may not be able to celebrate our Savior's Resurrection with us on Easter. Would you be willing to fill an Easter basket with a few items of care and comfort and take it to one of these members?

We will again provide the baskets, the suggested list of items, and the name, address, a phone number of the individual or couple. The new items could include a devotional book(let), an Easter card/note, hand lotion, candy or baked goods, a small plant, etc. Many blessings have been given and received by such a simple act of kindness. Thank you to all of you, families, couples, widowed, or retired, who have thoughtfully filled and delivered a basket in the past.

Baskets, names, and lists will be ready to pick up in the lower entrance on the following Sundays, March 10 and March 17, 2024. Please come and pick up a basket or two, fill it and deliver it with Easter blessings from all of us to a fellow EGL member before Easter. If you have questions, please contact Barbara Thompson (262-784-3886) or Carole Braun (262-781-1494).

### Wednesday Lenten Light Suppers

You're invited to enjoy a bite to eat before each midweek Lenten service. Join us in Fellowship Hall. Meals are served starting at 5:30.



Did You Know If you're feeling stressed, reading a good book can lower your cortisol levels and other unhealthy stress hormones by 68%. Researchers from the University of Sussex found that stress reduction can be achieved within six minutes of reading. They also found that reading reduces stress better than other methods such as listening to music (61% reduction), drinking tea or coffee (54% reduction), or going for a walk (42% reduction). Researchers believe the concentration of reading a good book helps distract the brain away from anxious and stressful thoughts, which reduces heart rate and muscle tension caused by stress. (Ed. Note: Of course, we know that reading THE Good Book, not only calms our hearts but also soothes our souls!) (source: Better Health, Concordia Plans)

Sweet potatoes are high in fiber and are full of healthy nutrients. They contain high levels of beta-carotene which is converted into vitamin A to support your vision.



### Food for Thought

Vitamin A also supports your immune system by fighting infections in your body. Sweet potatoes help with stress management because they contain significant amounts of magnesium which assists in reducing stress and anxiety. Source: Healthline.com



## Family Easter Egg Hunt

JOIN EGL'S BOARD OF EVANGELISM ON SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD AT 9AM FOR AN EASTER EGG HUNT, TREATS, AND AN EASTER MESSAGE. AGES 0-12 ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE. OLDER STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO COME AND HELP. BRING YOUR OWN BUCKET AND JOIN IN SOME FUN AND FELLOWSHIP! LOOK FOR A SIGN-UP GENIUS FOR DONATIONS & RSVPS IN MARCH!

# Family BINGO Night

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12  
6pm-8pm  
EGL FELLOWSHIP HALL**

BINGO WILL START PROMPTLY AT 6:30pm.  
ARRIVE EARLY TO GET YOUR BINGO CARDS

**Cost? \$5.00/PERSON (FOR DINNER)  
PLUS TWO FULL SIZED CANDY BARS**

## **INVITE YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!**

In order to plan for dinner, please fill out the sign up slip below  
and return to the church office by Monday, April 8.

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### EGL BINGO NIGHT SIGN-UP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Friend's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Friend's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Friend's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Any Questions? Email [Evangelism@egl.org](mailto:Evangelism@egl.org)



*Red Robin® will give*

**20% OF FOOD SALES\*  
BACK TO**

# **ELM GROVE LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

**Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to  
your server to have your sales counted.**

## **FUNDRAISER DETAILS**

**95 N Moorland Road, Brookfield, WI 53005**

**February 27, 2024\***

**If ordering online, please follow these instructions:**

- 1** Start your order at [order.redrobin.com](https://order.redrobin.com) and select the restaurant above.
- 2** In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3** Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4** Add your meal items and check out.
- 5** Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

\*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit [redrobin.com](https://redrobin.com) and find this location to view hours.  
Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.





## February Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries ("A")

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



### February 1

Sam Ewert  
David Schmalzer

### February 2

Jean Baesemann  
Mark Ewert

### February 3

David Neill  
Jeanne Pentler

### February 4

Amalia Seeger  
Bretta Speck

### February 5

Tom Paasch, Sr.  
Aidan Pritchard

### February 7

Micaela Anderson  
Elizabeth Ky  
Megan Schultz  
Walter Tesch

### February 8

A-Rick & Nancy Ewert  
Rev. David Ernst  
Lynn Harner

### February 9

Mia Halvorson  
Sam Thompson  
Harley Widas

### February 10

Kayla Burk  
Irma Koch  
Daniel Patterson

### February 11

Cheryl Kari  
Nancy Kelley  
Megan Stritesky

### February 12

Caroline Thompson

### February 13

Cara Corder

### February 14

James Ahnert  
Katie Gerber  
Luanne Schaefer

### February 15

Frank Eichelberger  
Elaine Peppel

### February 16

Katie Baesemann  
Gary Baker  
Meghan Patterson

### February 17

Peter Holzwart

### February 19

Daniel Garcia

### February 20

Daniel Berry  
Barbara Schumacher  
Terry Sousek

### February 21

Ruth Dare

### February 22

A-Chuck & Hazel Ewert  
Sherri Bond  
Andrew Peters  
Mikayla Zientek

### February 23

David Busse  
Andrew Niggemann

### February 24

Lianne Peters  
Nancy Wolck

### February 27

Jeff Jagusch  
JoAnn Randall



# February

## Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church Calendar - 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
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18 9:00 AM Worship (C) 10:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School 11:30 AM Youth Confirmation (BAAC) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (FH)	19 5:00 PM Intrada Ringers (MC) 7:00 PM Barbershop Group (FH)	20 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study (228) 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study (BAAC) 5:15 PM Exultate Ringers (MC)	21 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 PM Sheepshead (BAAC) 5:30 PM Lenten Dinner 6:30 PM Lenten Service 7:00 PM Gym Rental 7:30 PM Exultate Singers(MC)	22 12:00 PM Blood Drive (FH) 7:30 PM Stewardship Meeting (FL)	23	24																																																																																																									
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His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. (2 Peter 1:3-9)



## 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: [ElmGrove@egl.org](mailto: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:  
**Thursday, February 15**  
Submissions can be sent to  
[seasons@egl.org](mailto:seasons@egl.org)



**Follow Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church on Facebook!**

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday 9:00 a.m.**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday

Bible Study  
10:30-11:30

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

On February 1, 8.  
The Lord's Supper is celebrated  
1st, 3rd, 5th Thursday

### Wednesday LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

February 14 - Ash Wednesday  
and on each succeeding Wednesday,  
6:30 p.m. with a light meal beforehand

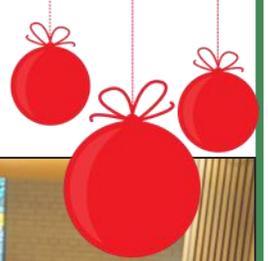
**Palm Sunday, March 24 – 9 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday, March 28 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Good Friday, March 29 – 12:00 and 6:30 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday, March 31 – 9:00 a.m.**

The Christmas Eve and Day services at our church were beautifully enhanced by many talented musicians and vocalists who gave of their time & talents.



Rick Ewert, our Director of Church Music, planned and led the choral, organ, piano, bells, brass, and string melodies that enriched our worship during the blessed season of our Savior's birth. Praise be to God for the music ministry at Elm Grove Lutheran!



**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](mailto:prayerchain@egl.org) or 414-698-8774

Linda Hoffmann – 262-786-1203