

SEASONS

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



Volume 22, Issue 6

June 2024



Confirmation Class of 2024 • Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church

Front Row: Mikayla Jean Zientek, Isabella Helene Colucci, Emma Suzanne Stroh
Back Row: Pastor Skovgaard

Mikayla Jean Zientek • Ephesians 2:4-5: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved."

Isabella Helene Colucci • Exodus 35:31: "And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship."

Emma Suzanne Stroh • Hebrews 12:1-2: "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith."

From Your Pastor

A Blessed Children's Day in the Lord

June 1 is International Children's Day. This Day was established in 1949 by the communist-leaning and pro-Soviet Congress of the International Democratic Federation of Women (now, the Women's International Democratic Federation) in Paris. The People's Republic of China was one of the first countries to adopt this initiative, doing so in Dec 1949.

It's ironic that in a country like China that celebrates Children's Day for the protection of children and their well-being, they would also establish a one-child policy, which lasted for 30 years, forcing abortion and the abandonment of tens of millions of babies and children, as well as the sterilization of women. Most of these aborted babies and abandoned children were girls, since Chinese tradition preferred boys over girls. While tens of millions of innocent children loved to take a day off and have fun on Children's Day, little did they know that they were deceived and led into an ever-deeper darkness of idol worship by the communist government's propaganda.

I'd like to share my childhood experience in China as a lesson for you, my dear friends in Christ, to learn the importance of catechizing children in the truth of God. If our children stand firm in their conviction and cling to the Truth no matter how dark the days ahead are, they'll have a peace, hope, and joy this world can never take away.

I was born in a small town by a river in southern China 60 years ago in 1964. China then was and today still is a materialist and socialist country. I grew up at a time of significant political and social changes similar to what we are experiencing here today in the USA. The most dramatic and terrible period during my childhood was the Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976. This was a tumultuous period characterized by political upheaval, ideological fervor, and widespread social and economic disruption. This period was marked by the promotion of communist ideology, the cult of personality surrounding Mao Zedong, the canceling of traditional Chinese culture, and the persecution of the perceived counter-revolutionary. During this period, tens of millions of people were coerced, re-educated, imprisoned, or killed.

Throughout K-12, children had to take political classes filled with the promotion and praise of Marxism, Leninism, and Mao's thoughts. For children, politics came before their education. They were urged to fight for the communist utopia to the end of their life and to the end of the world. For adults, the proletariat revolution came before production. Parents were required to put their country and work first at the expense of their children. My father worked more than 500 miles away from home and came home only once a year for the annual Spring Festival. My mother worked day and night, often from dawn to midnight, six days a week.

Yet, daily we were taught that Mao was the savior and

great helmsman of China, and we were living in the happiest country in the whole world while the rest lived miserably, and we should strive to liberate them and plant communist flags to the end of earth. There was no other voice. Because of the deceptive brainwashing, despite the fact that we were poor and didn't even have enough to eat or to wear, we felt good about our country and future. We had fun playing together in school during class break and on the streets after school. We caught fish, crabs, and shrimp in the river when the water level became low. We longed for the annual break and celebration on Children's Day. We did not know we lived in a big lie and darkness that was doomed to death. We worshiped Mao and believed in the communist utopia. Our parents and teachers were afraid of telling us the truth for fear of persecution.

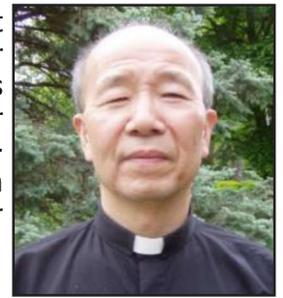
Fast forward 60 years. I've lived in the US for more than 36 years since I came in 1987 to pursue my PhD study in physics at University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. I've witnessed the gradual loss of civility and respect for the church in this country over the last 25 years, rapid moral decline in the last 15 years, terrible divisions and progressive craziness in the last 5 years. Now comes the chaos, hatred, and lawless protests on college campuses across our country as well as hostility and persecution toward Christians, unceasing restlessness and wars in the world. In this upside-down postmodern world, "truth" is subjective. Lies are called "misinformation." Judeo-Christian traditions are "canceled."

While the unbelieving world tempts us with their enticing lies and lofty ideals that tickle our ears and whisper false promises, it is urgent to catechize our children in the most important truth: Jesus Christ is our Lord. Our children must be rooted in the truth of God so they will be able to recognize Satan's schemes and lies, and defend their faith. My dear Christian friends, wake up to the reality that the tide has turned against the Judeo-Christian tradition. In fact, persecution has already come upon churches and individual Christians. Freedom of religion is being challenged in courts and taken away by government regulation. You can expect slandering, harassment, and silence at least.

So, should we bow to the "cancel" culture to avoid suffering and persecution? No! At this critical moment, we confess with Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). Confessing otherwise not only is dangerous but goes against our conscience. We must abide in Jesus, even cling to Him, "so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Eph 4:14). Moreover, it has become urgent that we should seriously commit ourselves to training our children in the way they should go so that even when they are old they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). If we are not teaching our children to follow Jesus, then someone else will teach them to follow something else, most likely Marxist ideologies, progressive utopias, and sex and gender confusion. If we are not teaching them God's truth, the world will teach them Satan's lies.

Now, you may feel uneasy and ask yourself why I am leading my children to Christ if doing so amounts to sending them out as sheep among wolves. Let me share an important lesson my dear maternal grandma taught me. Despite the persecution my grandma suffered after the communists came to power in China in 1949, somehow she remained steady and strong. She encouraged me to keep studying by reminding me that people could take away your money, possessions, even your house, but nobody can take away what you've learned and kept in your head. To that I add something way better, people can persecute you, but nobody can take away your salvation in Jesus. That is our eternal peace, hope, and joy in this dying world. So, we confidently confess with the

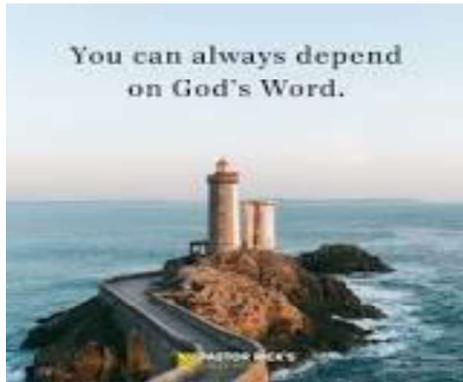
apostle Paul: "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:38-39)



Pastor Lee

As each and every day including Children's Day is made by the Lord (Psalm 118:24), a blessed Children's Day in the Lord indeed!

Stewardship Message:



The Word is a gift

James 1:17-18 "Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true Word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession"

Nothing in all the world possesses the value of the Word. It has such great value because of what it can do. The world was created by it. This Word became flesh and redeemed us. This Word claimed us as God's own

precious child in the waters of Holy Baptism. The Word has done this and so many other things. It has inestimable power and therefore unsearchable value.

It is the Word of which we are ultimately stewards. Nothing you have has any value compared to this Word. How we use the worldly gifts which the Lord has entrusted us for the extension of this Word in the world is really the end goal of our stewardship.

As we use this Word in our lives and share it in the lives of others, there is indeed great reward. This return on investment is not measured in dollars and cents. It is marked by calling sinners to repentance and setting them free to be everything the Lord has given them to be and do. God's ultimate goal for faithful stewards is to use their simple gifts in such a way that souls are rescued from death and given an eternal life that has a value and reward that is literally out of this world.

Prayer

Word of Life. You speak to us with a power and a tenderness that we can never fully appreciate or understand. It is sweet in our ears and sweeter as it is spoken with our lips and lives. Grant us the simple gift of faith which seeks to share this treasure with those around us so that they may know this sweetness as well. Amen.

Ref: lcms.org/stewardship

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

ADMISSION INTO MEMBERSHIP:

By Confirmation:

Isabella Colucci
Emma Stroh
Mikayla Zientek

By Profession of Faith:

Carol Ratkowski
Anthony Sibley

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

By Transfer:

Albert and Darlene Baumgart
Transferring to St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Oconomowoc

Bradley and Laura Patterson

Daniel
Transferring to Blessed Savior Lutheran Church – New Berlin

Michael and Jennifer Rentmaster
Michael, Megan, Joseph, and Jacob

Transferring to Blessed Savior Lutheran Church – New Berlin

Justin and Bretta Speck
Athanasius, JAEL, and EUNICE
Transferring to St. John Lutheran Church in Fredonia, WI

By Death:

Kathy Rutley

Mental Health Tip

Research finds that people experience more psychological stress and higher heart rates when they hold grudges than when they grant forgiveness. Source: health.com



The LWML morning group will meet on Wednesday, June 5 in the BAAC at 10:00 a.m. The Bible study, found on page 17 of the spring issue of Lutheran Woman's Quarterly is based on the hymn, "Take My Life and Let It Be." We will be discussing the many blessings and

been fully funded is **God's Word for Central and South American Missions – Lutheran Heritage Foundation for \$100,000.** This grant will provide 25,000 religious books in ethnic languages for people to read in their own language. What a blessing in spreading the saving message of Jesus!

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

gifts that God gives us to serve Him and His people. Voting delegates to LWML-SWD Convention on June 14 - 15 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie, WI are Jean Kruse and Sherri Bond. The mission grants for the 2024 - 2026 will be voted on by the voting delegates. Another part of the voting will be electing several new officers and a Junior Pastoral Counselor.

Check out the LWML bulletin board in the lower entryway to see a display of the 12 mission grants of the biennium of 2022 - 2024. Thank you to all congregation members who contributed their mites to LWML.

The National LWML has set its 2023-2025 Mission Grants goal at \$2,350,000. One of the mission grants that has



Barbara Kurth

LWML Zone 3 Spring Rally

The Rally was hosted by LWML Members at Elm Grove Lutheran Church. Hygiene items were collected and placed in backpacks. These will be given to the inmates that are released from the House of Correction.



Guest Speaker: Patrick Batom from Free at Last Ministries, with EGL member and LWML Zone 3 President, Jean Kruse



Governance Committee Update

On Sunday, April 28, the Governance Committee hosted a Town Hall meeting after the worship service. Prior to the meeting, draft copies of the EGL proposed constitution and bylaws were made available to congregation members. Committee members answered questions and noted comments and suggestions.

The documents are virtually complete. The WHY Discovery statement needs to be incorporated into the draft constitution. The next step is to proofread and format the documents.

The committee has been meeting regularly for the past year, and wants to thank everyone for their patience and understanding on this vital work.

The Ordination and Installation of Samuel Lee into the Holy Ministry



On Pentecost Day, May 19, Elm Grove Lutheran Church had the joy and honor to ordain one of our own members, Dr. Samuel Lee. He has completed his Specific Ministry Pastor program studies through Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne and in August will enroll at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to continue his education. Until then, Pastor Lee is serving as Assistant Pastor at our church, focusing on local Chinese and international communities by sharing the Gospel of our Lord, and by assisting Pastor Skovgaard.



Following the beautiful worship service, the congregation and their guests were invited to a delicious catered lunch from Mission BBQ, preceded by traditional Chinese dancing from Sunshine Dance Group.

Thank you to Pastors Skovgaard, Hipenbecker, Boettcher, and Bakker for their roles in the ordination service. Also thanks to those who planned and set up the luncheon and provided entertainment. God's blessings to Pastor Lee!



Sunday School

Sunday school has ended for the 2023 - 2024 school year. We did some fun projects along with learning God's Word. Join us in September!



Summer Intern: Hello, my name is Tyler Beckley. I am going into my third year at the University of Wisconsin - Stout, and am currently pursuing a major in Professional Communication and Emerging Media (PEM) with a minor in English Writing and Literature. PEM is basically learning about digital communication and online journalism.

Now, a little bit more about me. Some hobbies I enjoy are writing books, and watching films. I have been a lifelong member here at Elm Grove Lutheran Church. So, because of this fact, this summer I decided that it would be a great idea for my internship to be editing the *Seasons* newsletter, due to the fact that this kind of work fit right in line with my field of study.



EGLS Staff

End-of-year Teacher Support: Please show your support and thanks for the EGL school staff, as the school year ends. Since they have cared for the children in their classrooms, and many have been part of our community for years, let us also care for them as they move on from the school at EGL. Please remember Amy Weymier, Kenzie Peters, Laura Patterson, Angie Steinke, Casey Dodge, Joe Benson, Reid Otto and Stephanie Bahr in your prayers for God's care while they transition. Also consider how you may bless and encourage them by sending gift cards or other items, which may be left in the church office by June 15 for Amy Stroh to deliver.

EGL Bible Camp in July

Save the Dates for Kid's Bible FUN on July 14, 21, & 28. During Adult Bible Study (10:30 - 11:30 a.m.), all kids from 4K through 4th grade are invited to gather for BIBLE CAMP at EGL! Invite your friends and enjoy learning about Jesus through music, games, crafts, and Bible stories! Older kids are welcome to join as helpers. Watch for more details in June!

EGL Bible Camp



A Place of Refuge Ministries LifeWalk 2024 - Saturday, June 22

Hosted by
Immanuel Lutheran Church
13445 Hampton Road, Brookfield
Schedule: 9:00 a.m.
Registration: 10:00 a.m.
Welcome, Opening Prayer & Start
of the Walk: 11:15 a.m.
Finish the Walk, Prizes,
Music & Lunch



Get friends and family to sponsor your walk! Prizes will be given for the most money raised and most sponsors. Join us for a fun-filled and Love-for-Life event! **To register, go to aplaceofrefuge.org, click on the LifeWalk.**

WHY Discovery Statement

"God has established EGL to proclaim Christ, receiving and sharing His gifts in Word and Sacrament."

Five categories are identified for how EGLC works to accomplish this:

Divine Service/Pastoral Care · Fellowship · Reconciliation · Education · Outreach

Stay tuned for more details.



Thank you for supporting the Golf Outing. **Our total profit from this year's event was \$9,717.** We look forward to having you join us next year!

Spring has Sprung at EGL!



Enthusied by the abundance of tulips in our office garden, Pr Skovgaard captured God's gifts of nature. Ann Wilcox was nearby, and graciously agreed to be part of the photo.



Check out the New Seed Library

Cathy Tuttrup, EGL Member and Director of the Brookfield Public Library, far left, is promoting the library's seed catalog. Check out a packet of seeds to grow flowers, vegetables, or herbs; then, grow a beautiful plant to enjoy all summer. Then, in the fall, harvest some seeds to return to the Seed Library! Thank you to local Master Gardener Natalie Lester for making the Seed Library possible. For more details, please visit the Adult Reference Desk, or call them at (262) 782-4140.



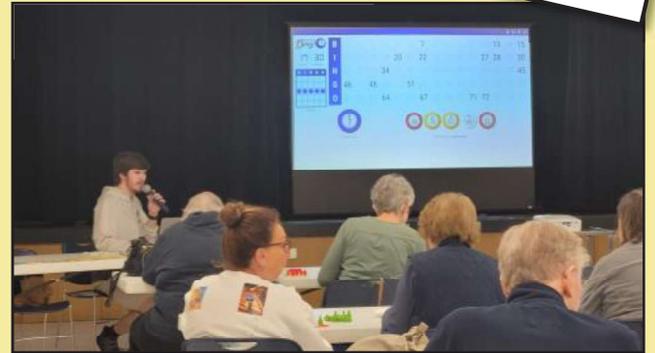
A Special Treat was Served in Honor of the Confirmands and with Thanks to Concordia's Kammerchor



Bienenstich or Bee Sting Cake is a German dessert cake made of a sweet yeast dough with a baked-on topping of caramelized almonds and filled with vanilla custard, buttercream or cream. The earliest German and Swiss recipes for the cake date to the beginning of the 20th century. The cakes were made by Kurt Schulz Delicatessen and Pastry Shoppe in Brown Deer. Pastor Skovgaard ordered two large cakes in celebration of Confirmation Sunday and the Concordia University's Kammerchor who enriched our service with their beautiful singing.

Friday Family Bingo Night!

On Friday, April 12 the Evangelism Board hosted their first Bingo and pizza night. There were about 30 people in attendance, and the shouts of "Bingo!" could be heard throughout the Fellowship Hall. Ben Ewert did a great job of announcing the Bingo numbers, and fun and fellowship was had by everyone.





June Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries ("A")

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



June 1

A-Jerry & Judy Hogan
A-Jim & Janine Netzel
Samantha Ruhnau-Gee

June 2

Kris Nitschke

June 3

A-Dick & Sue Knutson
Max Weggen

June 4

Anthony Bagwell
Chloe Handrich

June 5

Lisa Savaglio
Diane Zavadil

June 6

Steve Hipenbecker
Eunice Speck

June 7

Lamont Colucci
Kate Lind

June 9

A-Bill & Paula Keefer
A-Joan & Tom Knuteson
A-John & Nancy Wolck
Tirzah Cook

June 10

A-Tom & Sue Kaucic
A-Keith & Barb Steffel
Julie Luetzow
Katie Radewahn

June 11

A-Tom & Sue Paasch
David Bennett

June 12

Jason Seals
Teresa Stritesky

June 13

A-Megan & Don Dougherty
Grace Dennis
Tyler Hipke
Karen Kennedy
Will Myatt

June 14

A-John & Linda Berry
A-Mike & Carrie Marble

June 15

Andrew Holmes
Lynn Radovich

June 16

Elijah Thompson

June 18

Marnie Klein
Sarah Stroh

June 19

A-Tim & Cheryl Albers
A-Jim & Jeanne Clark
Karla Bessert
Louis Fohr
Molly Stritesky

June 20

A-Gene & Laura Traas
Mike Weggen

June 21

A-Rob & Heather Hipke

June 22

A-David & Cindy Busse
A-Austin & Rebecca Frank
Anne Schmadl

June 23

A-Rev. Dennis & Beverly
Hipenbecker
A-Cynthia & Stephan Regenfuss
Ron Harmeyer

June 24

A-Dennis & Carole Braun
A-Lindsay & Brian Mitchell
A-Linda & Patrick Seroka
Charles Ewert
Marissa Kritzer

June 25

A-Bob & Lynn Hicks
Tara Anderson
Debra Weller

June 26

A-Dick & Chris Rahardt
A-Steve & Anne Schmadl
Pat Mueller

June 28

A-Brooke & Dan Gronitz
Octavia Bagwell
Sharon Boudro
Isabella Colucci

June 29

A-Harry & Joan Knight
A-Mark & Eva Midtbo
Kelly Niggemann

June 30

Katelyn Elvers
Sharon Gehrke



June

Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church Calendar - 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																
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“What man is there who desires life and covets many days, that he may enjoy good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The face of the Lord is against evil doers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the Earth. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.”

- Psalms 34: 12 - 18



Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
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Web Site: www.egl.org • E-mail: astroh@egl.org



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:

Saturday, June 15

Submissions can be sent to
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

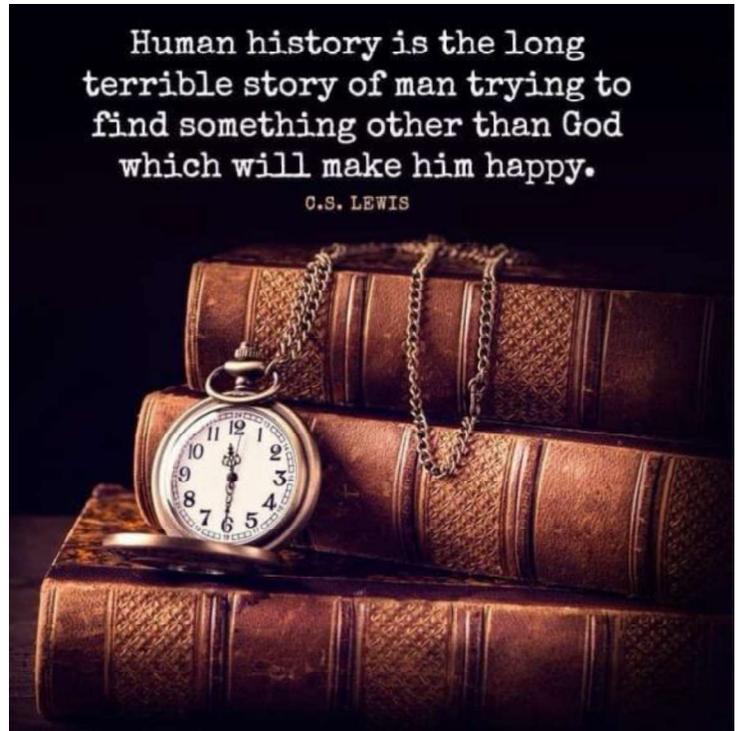
Bible Study will follow the service
10:30-11:30

Thursday 6:30 p.m.

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

Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.

C.S. LEWIS



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



On June 16, prepare to honor and celebrate the profound impact of fathers as pillars of love, guidance, and support within their families and communities, expressing heartfelt gratitude for their unwavering dedication and presence.

BREAD & FISH



The Bread & Fish Ladies; Carole Braun, Linda Hoffmann, Meg Grelk, Diane Olson, Claire Schuppner and Kris Nitschke, packed up 22 boxes of clothes and one box of food on Friday, April 26 that Jim Olson and Ron Wegner delivered to Holy Ghost Lutheran Church on May 1.