

# ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
945 Terrace Dr., Elm Grove, WI 53122  
Phone (262) 797-2970  
Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
Sunday, December 8, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

## Divine Service 2



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

## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude**

**O Lord, How Shall I Meet You – John Eggert**

**Hymn of Invocation**

**334, O Lord, How Shall I Meet You**

**Confession and Absolution**

**p. 167**

**Introit**

**Psalm 81:8, 10, 11, 13 (Antiphon Luke 3:4b)**

P The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

**C “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”**

P Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!

**C O Israel, if you would but listen to me!**

P I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

**C Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

P “But my people did not listen to my voice;

**C Israel would not submit to me.**

P Oh, that my people would listen to me,

**C that Israel would walk in my ways!**

**ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

**C “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”**

**Kyrie**

**943 Kyrie — I**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**pp. 172**

*(Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent)*

**Old Testament Reading**

**Malachi 3:1–7b**

<sup>1</sup>Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. <sup>5</sup>Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not

fear me, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>6</sup>For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them." Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, "how shall we return?"

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual**

**Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26**

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

**C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

**C righteous and having salvation.**

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C From the house of the Lord we bless You.**

### **Epistle**

**Philippians 1:2–11**

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Alleluia and Verse**

**p. 173**

### **Holy Gospel**

**Luke 3:1–20**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the

wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" <sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."

<sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." <sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn of the Day**

**343, Prepare the Royal Highway**

**Sermon**

**"Return to the LORD Your God!" (Malachi 3:1-7b)**

**Apostles' Creed**

**p. 175**

**Prayer of the Church**

**Offering**

**Prepare the Royal Highway – John A. Behnke**



To give to Elm Grove Lutheran Church, you can scan the QR code (left) to go to our online giving site.

(Those who are not communing may place their cards in the offering plate.)

## Service of the Sacrament

### EGLC Communion Statement

The Lord's Supper is celebrated here in the glad confidence that those who commune actually eat and drink the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Only those communicants who believe this and who repent of their sins receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Those who do not believe this or who do not repent of their sins will commune to their harm. Because Holy Communion is a confession of the specific teachings of the faith which is confessed in this congregation, those who are not in agreement with this understanding of the Lord's Supper, or who belong to a religious community that is not in Altar & Pulpit Fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are requested to consult with the presiding minister before communing.

**Preface – Agnus Dei**

**pp. 177 - 180**

**Hymns During Distribution**

**351, Creator of the Stars of Night  
511, Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment  
346, When All the World was Cursed**

**Post-Communion Canticle - Benediction**

**pp.181-183**

*(Post-Communion Canticle: Nunc Dimittis)*

**Closing Hymn**

**344, On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

**Postlude**

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry – Jacob B. Weber**

ALTAR PARAMENTS: The blue paraments announce a new church year and hope with the coming of the King of Kings – as Baby in Bethlehem, as Savior in Word and Sacrament, and as Judge of all.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Placed by Barbara Schuldt in celebration of her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 9.

### Participants

Presiding Minister

Pastor Eric Skovgaard

Preacher

Rev. Dr. Jason Soenksen

Organist

Richard C. Ewert

Elder

Matthew Stroh

Chancel Assistant

Steve Hipenbecker

Usher Team on duty

Tom Brojanac, Ben Ewert, Emily Ewert, Matthew Ewert,  
Sam Ewert, Peter Holzqart, Ken Schuppner, Duane Wunsch

Altar Guild

Jean Kruse, Sue Schmalzer

**SERVING NEXT WEEK:**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 (6:30 p.m.)**

ELDER: Eric Thompson

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Mark Ewert

USHER TEAM: (Team 5: Sharon Boudro, Lizzie Ky, Tyler Ky, Kirk Midtbo, Emily Krueger, Jason Krueger, Diane Olson, James Olson, Sam Thompson)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 (9:00 a.m.)**

ELDER: Rick Wegner

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Jim Olson

USHER TEAM: (Team 1: Aaron DeWitt, Pam Ganswindt, Andrea Kysely, Steve Nelson, Shelly Skovgaard, Cathy Tuttrup, Matt Zientek, Mikayla Zientek)



In an early observance of St. Lucia's day, next Wednesday, St. Lucia will lead us out after service to the overflow room for traditional snacks.

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**945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, WI 53122**  
**Phone: 262-797-2970 Fax: 262-797-2977 Website: [www.egl.org](http://www.egl.org)**  
**Second Sunday in Advent**  
**Sunday, December 8, 2024 – Volume 76, Number 12.2**  
**The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod**

**Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar**

S	9:00 a.m. Worship (DS2) 10:30 a.m. Bible Study (Formula) 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg (FH)	W	10:00 a.m. LWML (BAAC) 1:00 p.m. Sheephead Players (BAAC) 5:00 p.m. HA Gym Rental
M	5:00 p.m. HA Gym Rental 5:00 p.m. Intrada Ringers (MC) 7:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)		6:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Gym Rental 7:00 p.m. Exultate Singers (MC)
T	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (Romans) (228) 10:00 a.m. Women's Study (Romans) (BAAC) 5:00 p.m. Property Meeting (228) 5:15 p.m. Exultate Ringers (MC)	F	6:00 p.m. EGL Youth Group Christmas Party (YR, GYM)

**IN THE LORD'S HOUSE:** There were **193** people that attended services last week in person and **94** households streamed the services for a total of **287**. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**VOTERS' ASSEMBLY:** Please join us on December 15 after the 9 a.m. service for the next Voters' Assembly.

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT:** Join us for pizza dinner, drinks, and popcorn with the movie. Friday, December 20, 6:30 p.m. in the CLC. The cost is a free-will offering. We will watch a live-action Christmas musical adventure that combines classic Christmas melodies with humor, faith, and pop songs in a retelling of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus. Feel free to bring a comfy movie chair. RSVP by December 18 to [evangelism@egl.org](mailto:evangelism@egl.org)

**THANK YOU:** Our heartfelt thanks to the many people who helped to make Advent by Candlelight 2024, a special time of focus on the true meaning of Christmas. We also enjoyed the fellowship, music and delicious food surrounded by faces aglow with candlelight. We thank all those who shared their time and talents; Karen Lippert for her inspiring words, Gene Traas for his fine piano accompaniment and musical arranging, Laura Traas for alto clarinet, and Emily Ewert for flute. We appreciate all the ladies who lovingly decorated a table, and those who brought the delectable food. A special thank you the many who helped set up, serve, greet, or take down. Most of all, we thank and praise God for our Savior, Jesus, the fulfillment of all the signs, now and forever. Meg Greik and Carole Braun

**SWD CONVENTION NOMINATIONS:** The South Wisconsin District meets in convention June 9-10, 2025, at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon under the

theme of "Nicaea at 1700." The regular business of the convention includes the election of officers -- President, regional Vice Presidents, Circuit Visitors, CUW Board of Regents, District Board of Directors, and District Convention Nomination Committee. Nominations for District President and Vice President must be made by congregational action and the nomination forms available on the convention web page must be signed by the President/Chairman and the Secretary of the congregation, by March 10, 2025. These original forms are to be mailed to Secretary Knuth at the SWD office by the appropriate deadline. The other recommendation forms should also be completed, signed, and returned to the District for the other various offices by January 31, 2025. Copies of the instructions and various nomination forms can be found on the credenza in the back of the nave. You may also go here to read the same material: <https://swd.lcms.org/president/convention.html>

**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Offering envelopes have been put in Church mailboxes for those individuals/families who have requested them. If you have not received envelopes and would like to have them please let Amy know ([astroh@egl.org](mailto:astroh@egl.org)/262-797-2970). Thank you!

**THE LUTHERAN A CAPPELLA CHOIR OF MILWAUKEE** presents their Christmas concert, *"...and night shall be no more,"* Friday, December 6, 7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 121 W. Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha and Sunday, December 8, 3:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, 8424 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$20 General Admission. Students are free with student ID. Tickets can be purchased at <https://lutheranacappella.org/> or talk to Rick Ewert.

Come hear music from Bach, Manz, Kirchner, Rutter, Wilberg and more!

**EGL YOUTH BAKE SALE:** EGL Youth Ministry is holding a bake sale the next 2 Sundays (December 15 and 22) after church in the Friendship Library. Stop by to pick up some sweets and baked goods. All proceeds will support the participants attending the LCMS Youth Gathering in July 2025.

**EGL YOUTH GROUP** is having a Christmas Party on Friday, December 13, 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Room and Gym. Enjoy playing in a Mario Kart tournament, beach ball volleyball and minute-to-win-it games. Food will be provided. Please plan to attend!

**INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH:** Here's some nice publicity about Pr Lee's work at CUW. We rejoice in this opportunity to see the Gospel proclaimed among international students at CUW (as well as University of Wisconsin-Madison.) <https://blog.cuw.edu/rev-dr-samuel-lee/>

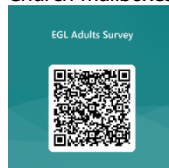
**DEUTSCHE GOTTESDIENST:** Benediction Lutheran Church is sponsoring a German Christmas Service again this year on December 15 at 1:30 p.m. The church is located at 8475 W. Fond du Lac Ave. in Milwaukee. Benediction offers a monthly German service (Gottesdienst) in the afternoons, and a weekly German radio devotion on WJOI 1340 am at 4:30 p.m.

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:** We plan to meet on Thursday, December 19, at 9:30 a.m. in the BAAC to discuss the book, *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* written by Joe Siple. This will also be our Christmas party. Remember to bring what you volunteered at the November meeting. Questions? Please call Barb Kurth at 262-345-5083.

**LWML RETREAT:** If you are planning to attend the LWML SWD Winter Getaway, please note that the deadline for reserving rooms at the Cranberry Country

Lodge for the LWML room rate is December 31, and the deadline for registering for this retreat is January 17. Check the LWML bulletin board in the lower entrance of the church for details.

**ADULT SURVEY:** The Elders are requesting that adults in our congregation complete a survey. You may complete the survey by following the QR code below or there are hard copies in the back of Church. Please complete them and put them in the red mailbox near the Church mailboxes. Thank you very much for your time!



<b>GROW IN GOD'S WORD IN 2025 – Join an EGL Bible Study!</b>				
<b>Day &amp; Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Open To</b>	<b>Pastor Leader</b>
Sun 10:30-11:30	Sanctuary	Formula of Concord	All	Skovgaard
Tues 7-8 a.m.	Rm 228	Romans	Men	Skovgaard
Tues 10-11 a.m.	BAAC	Romans	Women	Hipenbecker
Wed 10-11 a.m. (except 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed. of Month)	BAAC	Acts	All	Skovgaard

ALSO CALLING ALL HOME BIBLE STUDY GROUPS: If you are willing to invite new members, contact the BOCE so we can promote it and encourage EVERYONE in our EGL family to "let the Word of Christ dwell in ypu richly" (Co.. 3:16) in 2025!

<b>This Advent Season the Sunday sermons will focus on the Old Testament Prophets while the Midweek sermons will focus on the "I Am" statements of Jesus.</b>		
December 11, 6:30 p.m.	Midweek Advent	"I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25)
December 15, 9:00 a.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	"The LORD Rejoices Over You With Singing" (Zeph. 3:17)
December 18, 6:30 p.m.	Midweek Advent	"I Am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11, 14)
December 22, 9:00 a.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	"He Will Be Their Peace" (Micah 5:5)
December 24, 5:00 & 8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve	"I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6)
December 25, 10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day	"The Piling Up of Goodness and Mercy" (John 1:16)