

ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, WI 53122
Phone: 262-797-2970 Fax: 262-797-2977 Website: www.egl.org
First Sunday in Advent
Sunday, November 30, 2025 – Volume 77, Number 11.5
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

S	9:00 a.m. Matins		10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (BAAC)
	10:30 a.m. Bible Study		5:15 p.m. Exultate Ringers (MC)
	10:30 a.m. Confirmation/Sunday School		6:00 p.m Empower Volleyball (Gym)
	3:30 p.m. Advent by Candlelight (FH)	W	10:00 a.m. LWML (BAAC)
	7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)		1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC)
M	5:00 p.m. Intrada Ringers (MC)		6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Service
	6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)		7:30 p.m. Exultate Singers (MC)
	7:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)	T	7:30 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)
T	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)		

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

IN THE LORD'S HOUSE: There were **150** people that attended services last week in person and **92** households streamed the services for a total of **242**. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

THANK-YOU! That's the consensus of messages the Church Office is hearing from those who received cookie care packages. Those recipients included college kids (for whom we had addresses) and homebound members. Several church ladies made the fresh-baked cookies and the Zienteks put the boxes together for mailing. It's always great to be remembered by your Church family, especially at this time of year.

EGL TOWNHALL: We're almost six months into our new governance model. One of the features is that we don't have nearly as many Voters Assemblies because you have entrusted your elected Board of Directors with the direction of the Church. However, in an effort to keep the membership informed, we are scheduling a townhall meeting for Sunday, Jan 11, right after worship to update the congregation on developments and to solicit input.

ADVENT ANTICIPATION: We are now in the Advent season. Per our tradition, Elm Grove Lutheran has changed its midweek service schedule from Thursday evenings to Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. The Wednesday services in December (3, 10, 17) will focus on faith's eager anticipation of our Lord's return in glory, while the Sunday morning services will follow the regular lectionary readings. These midweek services will not be live-streamed, so see you there in person!

ADVENT DEVOTIONS: This year we are again offering congregational members three different Advent devotional booklets, which you can find just outside the west entrance into the nave: "Wait for the Lord" by Rev William Weedon, who is often heard on Issues Etc; "Reflections" by Pastors connected with the youth organization, Higher Things; and "Born to You ... a Savior" by Dr Vo from Lutheran Hour Ministries. May God richly bless your additional study of His Word in this Advent season!

AI WONDERS: It's not possible to walk away from this video without a sense of amazement. If you're curious what AI is capable of -- and I'm a complete greenhorn here -- listen to this interview between Calvin Smith, a Christian apologist, and Grok4, Elon

Musk's AI platform. Elon says its knowledge base is better than all PhDs in their fields at the same time. At one level, as an old guy, I am fascinated by the sheer depth of conversation that can be had here with a "machine". This is light years beyond what I expected. Yes, a hologram is added to convey the sense of two individuals talking. As a Christian, however, I love hearing this particular conversation on the likelihood of abiogenesis or chemical evolution. Smith frames his questions to Grok4 with these parameters: mathematical probability, observational science, and strict logic. Assuming no one is pulling the wool over our eyes, the answers Grok4 gives are stunning.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga7m14CAymo>

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Meet the BAAC on Thursday, December 18 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the book, ***The Santa Suit***, by Mary Kay Andrews. The plot revolves around a decades old Santa Suit found in a recently purchased farm house by the new owner who finds a note from a young girl in the pocket of the suit asking for her daddy to come home from war. We will also have our Christmas Party at this meeting.

LWML: The morning group of LWML will meet on Wednesday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the BAAC for its Christmas party. Instead of a Bible study, we will all participate in a Christmas devotion with singing of Christmas songs, reading scripture verses, reading of Jesus' birth in Luke 2 and praying. For the luncheon, each lady is asked to bring 6 cookies and a sandwich. We look forward to sharing the joy of the Christmas season.

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE is having their annual Black Friday sale running now through December 1, with sales on resources for all ages. One new resource is a Bible Study workbook series that outlines the larger blue Concordia Commentaries (some of which are in our church library). The first workbook, Matthew 1:1-11:1, is available and on sale for \$14.99. This would be a great resource if you'd like a chance to slowly work through a gospel, getting some historical context, textual insights, connections to other portions of God's Word, and room for journaling/reflection.

VISITATION TEAM: We are hoping to begin a visitation team here at EGL, where team members make visits with our homebound and other members who are in need of emotional and spiritual support. In many cases, these dear members of our church simply need a listening ear and a tangible, ongoing connection to our life together as a congregation. If this is an opportunity that interests you or simply something you'd like to learn more about, there will be an informational gathering on **Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m.** in the church office conference room. We hope to see you there!

THE LUTHERAN A CAPPELLA CHOIR OF MILWAUKEE presents "*The Glorias of Christmas*," featuring "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi, accompanied by chamber orchestra and Richard Ewert. There are two performances: Friday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 12700 W Howard Ave, New Berlin, WI 53151 and Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 p.m. Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, 8424 W Center St., Milwaukee, WI 53222. Tickets are \$20 and students are FREE with an ID. Tickets are available for purchase in advance or at the door. <https://lutheranacappella.org/>

VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS: Thank you for your blood donation. We had a very successful blood drive Wednesday, November 12, 2025. There were 27 registered donors; 27 units of blood were collected. One unit can impact as many as three lives, meaning EGL's blood drive will impact as many as 81 lives. Next blood drive is Thursday, February 26, 2026, 2:00-6:30 P.M. Please schedule your appointment online using the QR below or contact Rick Ewert 262.289.9333 / BloodDrive@egl.org

