

ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Second Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 7, 2025 – Volume 77, Number 12.1
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

S	9:00 a.m. Divine Service	10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (BAAC)
	10:30 a.m. Bible Study	4:45 p.m. Exultate Ringers (Church)
	10:30 a.m. Confirmation/Sunday School	6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)
	7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	6:30 p.m. Visitation Team Meeting (228)
M	4:45 p.m. Intrada Ringers (Church)	W 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (BAAC)
	6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)	1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC)
	7:00 p.m. Board of Directors (228)	6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Service
	7:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)	7:30 p.m. Exultate Singers (MC)
T	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	T 7:30 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

IN THE LORD'S HOUSE: There were **128** people that attended services last week in person and **55** households streamed the services for a total of **183**. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY: Cookies are begging for frosting, pizza's ready to disappear, and the gym's calling for chaos – and EGL Youth Ministry is making it all happen on Sunday, December 21 right after Bible study/Sunday School (11:30 a.m.) in the Youth Center. Expect Christmas music, a short Christmas devotion, cookie decorating, and eating, and space to hang out. Come celebrate the joy of Christ's birth, enjoy lunch together, and make some lasting memories!

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.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREES: As you are filling up your December calendar, know that the plan is to set up and decorate the EGL chancel Christmas trees on Saturday, Dec 20, at 9 a.m. It would be great if you are willing and able to help. We'd love to have you there!

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 (10 and 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 BY CANDLELIGHT: In lovely candlelit Christmas setting, 70+ gathered last Sunday afternoon to hear the wonderful message of Jesus' birth in word and song. Many mothers, daughters, and sisters as well as friends and neighbors attended to share faith, fellowship, and enjoy delicious food and beverages. Thank you to all who attended, set a beautiful table, read a Reflection, brought a delicious treat, and helped set up, serve or put away. A special thank you to our

emcees, sisters Karen Clark and Karlene Joseph and to our cast, the Men Who Saw the Messiah: John Schaefer, Bruce Bessert, Ben Thompson, and Gene Traas. Thanks also to Carol Jagusch and Karla Bessert, our talented musicians. May Jesus, our Lord and Savior, be the center of your Christmas preparations. Meg Grelk and Carole Braun.

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>

THANK YOU: Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Thanksgiving offering. A total gift of \$5,120.00 was collected and will be donated to the Persian Project to support the work of the Lutheran Church in Germany as it proclaims the Gospel to Iranian and Afghan refugees throughout Germany

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.

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/>