

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

Rev. Joshua D. Teggatz, Associate Pastor



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Ambrose of Milan

Sunday, December 7, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

Divine Service 1

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.

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

Children in Worship

"Let the little children come to me." Jesus delights in faithful parents bringing their children to hear His Word. EGL gladly joins Christ in that joy! Thank you for bringing your children with you to worship! You are welcome to sit wherever you want. While some find it best to sit in the back with their children, for easy access to the cry room, others find their children are better behaved when sitting near the front so that they can see what is happening in the chancel. If your child needs a moment to settle down, ask an usher to point you to the nursery or cry room. But please bring your child back soon so that he or she can be with us as we receive Christ's gifts and as we collectively raise our voice in prayer and song. Be sure to sing the hymns and join the liturgy's responses so that your child learns from you what should be done in church. If you are without children, encourage parents with little ones and offer assistance as needed.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People – Paul O. Manz

Hymn of Invocation

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Confession and Absolution

p. 151

Introit

Psalm 105:4–8; antiphon: Isaiah 40:3b

P In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

C make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

P Seek the LORD and his strength;

C seek his presence continually!

P Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

C his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

P O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

C children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

P He is the LORD our God;

C his judgments are in all the earth.

P He remembers his covenant forever,

C the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

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 In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

C make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Kyrie – Collect of the Day

pp. 152-156

(Hymn of Praise is omitted during the Advent Season)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

¶There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ¶And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ¶And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ¶but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ¶Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ¶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ¶The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ¶The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ¶They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¶In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response

Once He Came in Blessing – Mark Sedio

Epistle

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." ¹³May 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

p. 156

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume 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. ¹⁰Even 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. ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Sermon

"A Shoot of Life" (Isaiah 11:1-10)

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming – Gerald Near



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.)

Offertory – Agnus Dei

pp. 159-163

Hymns During Distribution

515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers – Choir only, stz 3
337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending
344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Post-Communion Canticle – Benediction

pp. 164-166

(Canticle: Nunc Dimittis)

Closing Hymn

717 Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Postlude

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry – Richard Purvis

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.

Participants

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Organist
Choir
Piano
Flute
Elder
Chancel Assistant
Usher Team on duty
Altar Guild

Pastor Teggatz
Pastor Skovgaard
Richard C. Ewert
Exultate Singers
Karla Bessert
Emily Ewert
Bruce Bessert
Mark Ewert
Tom Brojanac, Ben Ewert, Emily Ewert, Peter Holzwart,
Ken Schuppner, Duane Wunsch
Julie Leaf, Shelly Skovgaard

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 (6:30 P.M.)

USHER TEAM 1: Anthony Bagwell, Pam Ganswindt, Andrea Kysely, Steve Nelson, Shelly Skovgaard, Cathy Tuttrup, Matt Zientek, Mikayla Zientek

"A Shoot of Life" (Cited Scripture Passages)

Luke 24:44-45

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, WI 53122
Phone: 262-797-2970 Fax: 262-797-2977 Website: www.egl.org
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/>