

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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday, December 21, 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

Prepare the Royal Highway – John A. Behnke

Hymn of Invocation

343 Prepare the Royal Highway

Confession and Absolution

p. 151

Introit

Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

P Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

C that the mountains might quake at your presence.

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

C and in his word I hope;

P my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,

C more than watchmen for the morning.

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

C and with him is plentiful redemption.

P And he will redeem Israel

C from all his iniquities.

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 Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

C that the mountains might quake at your presence.

Kyrie – Collect of the Day

pp. 152-156

(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent.)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

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 Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

p. 156

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

357 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (stanzas 1-4)

Sermon

"From Fear to Faith" (Matthew 1:18-25)

Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of the Church

Offering



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.)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – James Pethel

Offertory – Agnus Dei

pp. 159-163

Hymns During Distribution

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come
900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

Post-Communion Canticle – Benediction

pp. 164-166

(Canticle: Nunc Dimittis)

Closing Hymn

357 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (stanzas 5-7)

Postlude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – Charles W. Ore

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 John and Luanne Schaefer in celebration of their 53rd wedding anniversary on December 23.

Participants

Presiding Minister

Pastor Teggatz

Assisting Minister

Pastor Skovgaard

Organist

Richard C. Ewert

Elder

Paul Haut

Chancel Assistant

Mattias Goldenstein

Usher Team on duty

Dan Berry, Caleb Nelson, Laura Traas, Aislyn Wegner, Jake Wegner,

Randy Wegner, Rick Wegner, Ryan Wegner

Altar Guild

Nancy Ewert, Sherri Bond

SERVING NEXT WEEK

WEDNESDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24 (5:00 P.M.)

ELDER: John Wolck

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Doug Grelk

USHER TEAM 4: Tom Brojanac, Ben Ewert, Emily Ewert, Peter Holzwart, Ken Schuppner, Duane Wunsch

WEDNESDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24 (8:00 P.M.)

ELDER: Doug Grelk

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Kirk Midtbo

USHER TEAM 5: Sharon Boudro, Kirk Midtbo, Emily Krueger, Jason Krueger, Diane Olson, Jim Olson, Sam Thompson

THURSDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25 (10:00 A.M.)

ELDER: Bruce Bessert

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: James Drabiszczak

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

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28 (9:00 A.M.)

ELDER: Eric Thompson

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Mark Ewert

USHER TEAM 2: Chase Hipke, Connor Hipke, Rob Hipke, Thomas Hipke, Tyler Hipke, Carter Klein, Ian Klein, Michael Klein, Ann Wilcox, Christine Wilcox

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945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, WI 53122
Phone: 262-797-2970 Fax: 262-797-2977 Website: www.egl.org
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 21, 2025 – Volume 77, Number 12.3
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

S	9:00 a.m. Divine Service	7:00 a.m. Committee of Elders (228)
	10:30 a.m. Bible Study	W Christmas Eve
	10:30 a.m. Confirmation/Sunday School	Office Closed
	11:30 a.m. Family Christmas Party (YC)	5:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols
	7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols
M	4:45 p.m. Intrada Ringers (Church)	T Christmas Day
	6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)	Office Closed
T	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	10:00 a.m. Divine Service
	4:45 p.m. Exultate Ringers (Church)	F Office Closed
	6:00 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 **185** people that attended services last week in person and **81** households streamed the services for a total of **266**. "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 today 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!

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE SIGNAGE PROJECT: EGL is preparing to enhance signage throughout our campus to better welcome visitors, provide clear direction, and reflect our identity in Christ. Our goal is to raise **\$75,000** to fund new monument signs, updated lettering, directional signage, and necessary electrical work. The Foundation is providing a matching gift of \$1 for

every \$2 raised to support this effort. Graphic boards showing the proposed signs and locations are in the back of the church. "Let your light shine before others..." (Matthew 5:16)

CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY SERVICES: Our Advent services of eagerly anticipating our Lord's return have come to their conclusion this year with the yearly celebration of our Lord's incarnation. This coming week we offer two Christmas Eve services at 5:00 and 8:00 on Wednesday, Dec 24, and one on Christmas Day at 10:00. Both Christmas Eve services will follow the Lessons & Carols format, as we hear familiar Bible passages and hymns mixed with short devotions and prayer. The Christmas Day Divine Service will connect us via Word and Sacrament with the first pillar of the Christian faith -- that God became man in order to save us. See you soon!

AFRICAN PASTOR: This past summer EGL welcomed Pr Bienfait Safari-Romeo in person as we heard during the adult Bible study hour about his journey from war refugee to Lutheran pastor. He was here as he prepared for studies at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft Wayne.

Bienfait is finishing up his first semester of studies and will be traveling back to WI to visit with Pr Senkbeil. While here on his break, he will preach for us on Sunday, Dec 28. You may have noticed that we included him in public prayers last week as we prayed for peace in a place called Uvira, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is Bienfait's hometown and it has seen renewed warfare recently, resulting in the death of many, including relatives of Bienfait.

THE WORD OF THE LORD GROWS: As we anticipate a new year, we also anticipate a new topic for our Sunday morning Bible study! Join us as we explore the world of the Old Testament prophets. God used these men in the course of the Old Testament to be watchmen for His people, standing at their posts with words of judgment and promise. We'll spend some time with these prophets each week to explore their context, personality, respective books, and message to God's people then and even today. This study will begin on Sunday, January 4.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: There will not be Sunday school on December 28. I encourage all of you to rejoice in church with your family in the precious gift of God's son. Blessings, Linda Hoffmann

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. If you would still like to contribute to the work among the Persian Immigrants you may do so at this link, <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/germany-foro>. If you are interested in reading more about

the growth of Christianity in Iran and thus within the Persian community, consider this article by our own Dr Lamont and Kathryn Colucci, who wrote this piece for Newsmax in late 2019: <https://lamontcolucci.org/2019/11/07/newsmax-documentary-offers-news-perspective-on-international-relations-with-iran/>.

LADIES PM STUDY: The Story of Esther follows the story of a young orphan girl starting with a six-month long feast, to her becoming queen, and finally risking her life to save the lives of her people. Join the "She Shed" gals as we dig into this beautiful story together, with LWML speaker Donna Pyle-Snow. She will show us how the story of Esther applies to our lives today. The Ladies PM Bible Study will take up the eight-week study of "Chosen – A Study of Esther" starting on Wednesday evenings January 21, 2026 through February 11, 2026, 5:30-6:45 p.m., in the BAAC, then shift to Thursday evenings for the next four weeks during Lent (February 19 through March 12). Contact Nancy Wolck or Susan Schmalzer with questions.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDIES: With the exception of the men's study on Tuesdays at 7:00 am, which will continue meeting over the next couple of weeks, the midweek Bible studies are on a break. Pr Teggatz's study of the Psalms will resume on Epiphany, Jan 6, at 10:00 a.m. Pr Skovgaard's Wednesday 10:00 a.m. study will launch into the Book of Romans on Wednesday, Jan 14.

SOUP AND COOKIE JARS are still available! You are not too late! They will be in the lower lobby today.

SERMON NOTES

Matthew 1:20-21: ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, **do not fear** to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Luke 1:13: ¹³But the angel said to him, "**Do not be afraid**, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Luke 1:30-31: ³⁰And the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid**, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Luke 2:9-11: ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "**Fear not**, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Matthew 14:27: ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. **Do not be afraid.**"

Matthew 17:7: ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and **have no fear.**"

John 12:15: ¹⁵"**Fear not**, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Matthew 28:5,10: ⁵But the angel said to the women, "**Do not be afraid**, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "**Do not be afraid**; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

John 20:19: ¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "**Peace be with you.**"

Revelation 1:17-18: ¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "**Fear not**, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

