

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. Tegatz, Associate Pastor



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 28, 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

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come – Wilbur Held

Hymn of Invocation

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, stanzas 1-5

Confession and Absolution

p. 151

Introit

Jeremiah 31:15–17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1

P When Israel was a child, I loved him,

C and out of Egypt I called my son.

P Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah,

C lamentation and bitter weeping.

P Rachel is weeping for her children;

C she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

P Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping,

C and your eyes from tears,

P for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD,

C and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

P There is hope for your future, declares the LORD,

C and your children shall come back to their own country."

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 When Israel was a child, I loved him,

C and out of Egypt I called my son.

Kyrie – Collect of the Day

pp. 152-156

(The Hymn of Praise: Gloria in Excelsis)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 63:7–14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them

through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

P And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P Sing to the Lord a new song,

C for he has done marvelous things!

Epistle

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

p. 156

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." ¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place

of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

751 O God of Love, O King of Peace

Sermon

"Holy Innocents: Finding Peace in God's Plan" (Matthew 2:13-23)

Nicene Creed

p. 158

Prayer of the Church

Offering

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come – Walter Pelz



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

Christmas Medley – arr. Gary Lanier

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, stanzas 6-10

969 Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band

- 1 Sweet flow'rets of the martyr band,
Plucked by the tyrant's ruthless hand
Upon the threshold of the morn,
Like rosebuds by a tempest torn;
- 2 First victims for the incarnate Lord,
A tender flock to feel the sword;
Beside the altar's ruddy ray,
With palm and crown, you seemed to
play.

- 3 Ah, what availed King Herod's wrath?
He could not stop the Savior's path.
Alone, while others murdered lay,
In safety Christ is borne away.

- △ 4 O Lord, the virgin-born, we sing
Eternal praise to You, our King,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, alt.
Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Canticle – Benediction

pp. 164-166

(Canticle: Nunc Dimittis)

Closing Hymn

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, stanzas 11-15

Postlude

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come – Johann Pachelbel

ALTAR PARAMENTS: White paraments adorn the chancel throughout the Christmas season emphasizing God's (white) greatest gift to the world (earth tones), Jesus Christ incarnate.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Placed by Bruce & Karla Bessert with thanksgiving to God in memory of William H. Bessert, Bruce's father.

Participants

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Preacher

Organist

Piano

Violin

Elder

Chancel Assistant

Usher Team on duty

Altar Guild

Pastor Skovgaard

Pastor Teggatz

Rev Bienfait Safari-Romeo

Richard C. Ewert

Karla Bessert

Carol Jagusch

Eric Thompson

Mark Ewert

Chase Hipke, Connor Hipke, Rob Hipke, Thomas Hipke,
Tyler Hipke, Carter Klein, Ian Klein, Michael Klein, Ann Wilcox, Christine Wilcox

Sherri Bond, Jean Kruse

SERVING NEXT WEEK

WEDNESDAY, NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31 (6:30 P.M.)

ELDER: John Wolck

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Steve Hipenbecker

USHER TEAM 3: Dan Berry, Caleb Nelson, Laura Traas, Aislyn Wegner, Jake Wegner, Randy Wegner, Rick Wegner, Ryan Wegner

SUNDAY JANUARY 4 (9:00 A.M.)

ELDER: Jason Krueger

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Steve Hipenbecker

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

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 after Christmas
Sunday, December 28, 2025 – Volume 77, Number 12.4
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

S	9:00 a.m. Divine Service	6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)
	1:00 p.m. Rental (Gym)	W New Year's Eve
	7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	Office Closed
M	5:00 p.m. Intrada Ringers (Church)	6:30 p.m. Worship
	6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)	T New Year's Day
T	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	Office Closed
	5:15 p.m. Exultate Ringers (Church)	

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."

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)

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

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.