

# SEASONS

*Be prepared in season and out of season*  
2 Timothy 4:2



Volume 23, Issue 12

December 2025



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John 1: 1-14)

## From Your Pastor

This year during the midweek Advent services (Dec 3, 10, 17) we gather around God's gifts under the theme of eagerly anticipating Christ's return at the end of this age to take us to that place He has prepared for us, as He promised in John 14. I see this stanza as a hymnic commentary on some of the last words in the Bible, Rev. 22:20, "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" These words are often on my lips in private prayers.

Quite honestly, this Advent theme was prompted by listening to the struggles and challenges you all have in your daily lives. As Yogi Berra once famously said, "You can observe a lot by watching." There are no shortages of reminders that we live in a messed-up world, where we get hurt and wounded, sometimes more than seems fair. But when we are honest with ourselves we'll recognize that we contribute plenty to the brokenness of the world. So, it's a good thing that Jesus loves us, because we are not always so lovable.

Young people wonder what to invest their lives in, and will they enjoy a standard of living like their parents. Finances get stretched for everyone. Ongoing political fights wear us down as we contend for our nation's identity. Bodies and

minds fall apart as we deal with cancers, dementia, and the collapse of the infrastructure. Relationships get strained. Sorrow over lost dreams and the death of loved ones haunt us. The old demons of temptation to greed, lust, and power continue to rear their ugly heads from time to time. That most intimate image of God's love for His Church – Christian marriage –



*Pastor Skovgaard*

suffers under the weight of our selfish desires. Hearts for the kingdom of God grow cold, and arms grow weak for service. Add to that, at times the larger Church's trumpet blast gives off mixed messages so that in the din and fog of battle, we can lose our bearings.

In these times we draw renewed hope in the promise that Christ will return and transport us to that happy place. All the things that wear us down remind us that this earth in its current form is not our ultimate home. So, we eagerly anticipate Christ's return, because when the Parousia happens, we will be home. Every tear gets wiped from our eyes. We will then fully understand, even as we have always been fully understood by our Lord. The body and mind that labored under the burdens of this flesh will be glorified, and the old order of things will have passed away. Now, that's worth looking forward to! Come, Lord Jesus. Come soon!



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"What joy to know, when life  
is past,  
The Lord we love is first and last,  
The end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh,  
glorious grace,  
Transport us to that happy place  
Beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen!  
Come, Lord Jesus!"

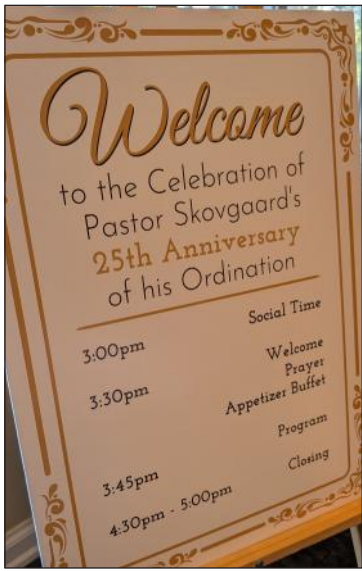
We are yearning  
For the day of Your returning!"

[LSB 395:6]

### GROW IN GOD'S WORD THIS FALL - Join an EGL Bible Study!

Day & Time	Location	Topic	Open To	Pastor Leader
Sundays 10:30-11:30 a.m.	Sanctuary	Names for Jesus	All	Skovgaard & Teggatz
Tuesdays 7-8 a.m.	Room 228	Matthew, commentary led	Men	Skovgaard
Tuesdays 10-11 a.m.	BAAC	Psalms	Women	Teggatz
Wednesdays 10-11 a.m. (except 1st Wed. of month)	BAAC	The Lord's Prayer	All	Skovgaard

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col. 3:16)



## Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church Celebrates Pastor Skovgaard's 25th Anniversary of his Ordination.

On Sunday afternoon, October 26, family and friends of Pastor Skovgaard gathered to give thanks for his 25 years in the ministry.





The morning group of LWML will meet on Wednesday, December 3 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 six cookies and a sandwich. We look forward to sharing the joy of the Christmas season.

The evening group of LWML will not be meeting in the month of December.

During the fall rally of LWML Zone 3, a new President of the zone was elected. Her name is Dawn Ziolocki, a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, West Allis. Many thanks to Jean Kruse for her years of service as Zone 3 President during her 4 terms, which were not consecutive years. She served the Lord with gladness.

Wendie Staus, Financial Secretary reported that Mission Grant #5 needs \$2,423.51 to be fully funded. Most likely, this will take place in the month of December. This means that Journeys Lutheran School will receive \$50,000.

Mission Grant #6 is \$25,000 for Trinity Lutheran Church

in downtown Milwaukee to help them with the renovations after the fire had destroyed so much of this historic church.

The LWML-SWD is hosting the Winter Getaway on January 30-31, 2026 at the Radisson Hotel in Fond du Lac, WI. The theme of this retreat is **"God Is With You,"** based on Joshua 1:9, "Don't be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Speaker will be Rev. Keith GeRue, associate pastor and principal at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Menasha, WI. He is also an Army Chaplain. January 16 is the deadline for both registration for the Winter Getaway, and for receiving the LWML group rate for the Radisson Hotel if you are staying overnight at the hotel. Check out the LWML bulletin board of the lower church entrance.



Thank you congregation members for donating your mites to LWML. They may be placed in Sherri Bond's church mailbox.

"Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2

*Barbara Kurth*

## Elm Grove Lutheran Church Welcomes the 2025 Wisconsin Federation of Lutheran Altar Guild Convention Attendees



On Saturday, November 1, EGL hosted the WFLAG convention. Nancy Ewert and Luanne Schaefer led the effort. They organized EGL's Altar Guild members, supported the guest speakers, and coordinated with WFLAG's board members to plan an event where knowledge, fellowship and LCMS inspiration were shared.

The day began with EGL volunteers greeting and registering the 80 attendees. Continental breakfast was served, followed by access to our banner room and sacristy and the opportunity to ask questions about our communion and worship service procedures. Our Pastors led the Worship Service with Holy Communion. Guest speakers included Pr Bakker, CUW Chaplain, and Pr Senkbeil. EGL Altar Guild members decorated the Fellowship Hall appropriate to the season and served lunch. Rick Ewert gave his time and talent as the organist. Ben Ewert provided technical support for the speakers. Doug Grell was the Elder, and Jim Olson was the Chancel Assistant. WFLAG President, Mary Scharenbrock, expressed gratitude to all those

who were involved in the event; *"Jesus is shining through each of you as we continue to serve Him and others in love."*



## EGL Members are invited to be a part of a VISITATION TEAM



We are hoping to begin a visitation team here at EGL, where team members make visits with our home-bound 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 season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ



The First Sunday in Advent, which marks the beginning of the new church year, was commemorated on Sunday, November 30. During the month of December, midweek Advent services are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Advent, a season of repentance, waiting and watching, looks forward in hope. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in the flesh in history to accomplish our salvation, will also return in the same way to be our judge on the last day and bring us into eternal life.

## Christmas Gift Guide

Shop the selection at **CPH.org** for gift ideas for children, adults and theologians.



### Tips to De-Stress this Holiday Season

**Not feeling particularly cheery this time of year? You're not alone. Many find that the holidays bring as much stress as they do joy. But there are ways to ease through it.**

#### 1. Accept Imperfection

Before you start preparing, acknowledge that things may not go exactly as planned. It's OK if it's not perfect. *Imperfection is healthy and normal.*

#### 2. Don't Lose Sight of What Really Counts

With long lines and nasty traffic, the holidays can get hectic. When overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle, ask yourself:

- If you're frustrated by the long grocery line you're standing in, remember that it is just a long grocery line — nothing more. Don't let it spoil your afternoon.
- Can I use this moment of frustration as an opportunity to reflect? While the cashier rings up the customers ahead of you, take inventory of the good things that have happened today or the things you are grateful for.
- Connect with someone else in line with a compliment or kind gesture, or notice what's around you with fresh eyes and an open mind.

#### 3. Respond with Kindness

You can't change how others act during the stresses of the holiday season, but you can change how you respond to situations:

- When you encounter a difficult person, consider that the person is suffering, and that's why they're acting this way. It softens your frustration, helps to be more compassionate and reminds ourselves that it's not personal. And remember to be kind to yourself. Let go of negativity.
- Keep in mind that the holidays are especially difficult for those who are alone. See if you can extend an act of kindness to those you know are without family and friends during this time of year.

If things do get tense with someone, take a few deep breaths. Those few breaths can shift things and give you new perspective.

(Adapted from [hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention](http://hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention))



**cph.org/  
christmas-gift-  
guide**



**Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior,  
Jesus Christ!**

As we have recently celebrated the season of Thanksgiving, the students, families, and faculty of Trinity Lutheran Classical High School want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued prayers, support, and partnership in the Gospel. We are especially thankful for the foundation of faith that you help to nurture in our community. Your encouragement enables us to prepare young minds and spirits not only for academic success but for lives of Christian service and witness.

This year has brought countless blessings to our school—the joy of learning, the gift of fellowship, and the opportunity to grow in God’s Word together. We see Christ at work in the lives of our students every day, and for this we give thanks.

As we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord this Advent and Christmas season, we rejoice in God’s ultimate gift: His Son, Jesus Christ. In His humble birth, we are given hope, peace, and salvation—treasures beyond measure. May this season be a time of reflection, joy, and renewal for all of us as we ponder the mystery of the Incarnation and the love of God made flesh.

We are grateful to walk alongside you in this shared ministry, and we pray that the light of Christ may shine brightly in our hearts and homes in the days ahead.

In His grace,  
Jason Eggold



The students joined Headmaster Eggold in dressing up on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Physical Education

*Taking care of God's gift of our bodies.*



### Upcoming Dates at Trinity Lutheran Classical High School

As we wrap up the first semester, final exams will take place December 15–18. Afterward, students and faculty will enjoy a well-deserved Christmas break. Classes will resume on January 4 as we begin the second semester.

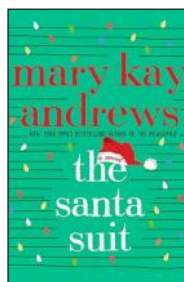
Looking ahead, Trinity will be hosting another Open House for prospective families in late February or early March. Stay tuned for more details—we look forward to welcoming new families into our school community!

## Roof Repairs

Some of you may recall that at a Voters Assembly earlier in 2025, EGL learned that we would need to change insurance companies if we wanted to continue having our entire roofed surface covered. That led us to engage with Church Mutual, contingent upon us repairing two sections that needed immediate attention -- half of the Bartelt Center and the west entrance overhang. Both sections were recently completed in time for the winter and are pictured below. In addition to new material, the pitch on the roof surface is such that the pooling of water should now be a thing of the past. So, old sections of the roof cared for and insurance secured!



**The Book Discussion Group** will meet in the BAAC on Thursday, December 19 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 the war.



We will also have our Christmas party at this meeting. Remember to bring the food and items you signed up for at our last meeting. This will be an enjoyable time in anticipation of Christmas.

*Thank you cookie bakers, packers and shippers!*

The recipients of the cookie care packages 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. YUM!



*The Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee presents "The Glorias of Christmas," featuring "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi.*

- Friday, December 5, 2025 at 7:30pm, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 12700 W Howard Ave, New Berlin
- Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 3:00pm, Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, 8424 W Center St., Milwaukee

Tickets are \$20 and students are FREE with an ID.  
Tickets are available for purchase in advance or at the door.  
[lutheranacappella.org](http://lutheranacappella.org)

*Featuring "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi & Christmas Carols and Hymns from around the world.  
Under the direction of Bill Busch, Artistic Director  
Accompanied by Chamber Orchestra and  
LAC Accompanist, Rick Ewert.*

# Peace Lutheran Campus Center

*A ministry of the North Wisconsin District - LCMS*

Andrew L. Weden, Campus Pastor, [1517](#) Maria Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54481 Email: [aweden@uwsp.edu](mailto:aweden@uwsp.edu) (715) 345-6510

Serving past, present and future students at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Elm Grove Lutheran,

This January, I will be going on a mission trip with a team of UW-Stevens Point students, alumni, and Pastor Andy Weden from Peace Lutheran Campus Center to serve in the small town of Rio Rita, Panama (Central America). The trip will take place January 1-9. While there, we will be serving at the local Lutheran congregation, Iglesia Luterana Jesus Divino Salvador, as we work alongside their Pastor, Rev. Jose Angel and former Panamanian Lutheran Church President, Milton Castillo.

Our time in Panama will involve helping the congregation with several work projects such as painting at the church, making repairs within the Sunday school rooms, and renovating the kitchen just to name a few. Besides the physical projects, we will also be coordinating and leading **Vacation Bible School** in the afternoons for the local children. During all the service opportunities, we look forward to learning more about the people and culture of Panama. This will certainly be a wonderful cross-cultural “stretching” experience for me. I am looking forward to growing in my faith through serving and seeing how God is at work in the lives of His people in Panama.

I’d like to ask you to partner with me in two areas: **prayer and financial support.**

Would you begin praying for our team today? Ask that God would bless our attitudes and our preparation. **Before we leave, the 13 of us will be putting together a list of prayer concerns. I will send you a copy of those prayers closer to our time of service so that, while we are away, you can pray for me and for our team.**

Then, there is the cost of the trip. Each of us is contributing \$1,400 as a personal commitment to reserve our place and for the support of the trip. But the whole trip will cost more when you factor in various needs (project supplies, VBS needs, food, lodging, transportation, etc.) per person. We believe that God will use many of you to assist in providing the necessary funds for this mission. So, whatever the Lord leads you to share will be a blessing for not only our team but also for the people of Panama.



The photo above shows our mission team a year ago at the Cristo Redentor statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (January 2025).

-----cut here ----- ✂ ----- cut here ----- ✂ ----- cut here -----

- ☐ I am enclosing a gift to assist with your mission trip.
- ☐ I will commit to prayer for the mission team.

You can make your tax-deductible check payable to **Peace Lutheran Campus Center** (note “Ewert – Mission Trip” in the memo line) and mailed to Peace Lutheran Campus Center – 1517 Maria Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Thank you for your consideration to partner in this exciting event as we serve our Lord in Rio Rita. Be assured that I will send you a report when we return as I will be eager to share with you how God used our team to bless the people of Panama.

With A Thankful Heart,

Matt Ewert



## December Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries ("A")

If your birth date or wedding anniversary is not included, please be sure to contact the church office.  
Thanks!



### December 2

Sarah McNeely

### December 4

Ben Mueller  
Rachael Tischer

### December 5

Kyle Higgins  
Alexandra Thompson

### December 6

Sue Mickol

### December 7

Benjamin Nelson

### December 9

Mattias Goldenstein  
Cathy Tuttrup  
Emma Wollak

### December 10

A-Bob & Nancy Genack  
James Drabiszczak

### December 11

A-Arik & Becky Ruhnau-Gee

### December 12

Lynn Crowell  
Benjamin Garcia  
Michael Gibbons

### December 15

Jean Bennett  
Nancy Ewert  
Joan Knuteson

### December 18

Emma Mitchell

### December 19

Amy Stroh

### December 20

A-Lisa & Al Savaglio

### December 21

Karlie Bellante  
Catherine Goldenstein

### December 22

Chuck Ewert  
Linda Stiloski

### December 23

A-John & Luanne Schaefer  
Delores Rische

### December 24

Dana Vilar

### December 25

Hannah Margrett

### December 26

Susie Radke

### December 27

A-Jeff & Carol Jagusch  
A-Woody & E'lem Lindblom  
Carol Ewert  
Joanne Kowach

### December 28

A-Forrest & Barb Schumacher  
Heidi Anderson  
Paul Haut  
Carol Jagusch

### December 29

Angela Holmes

### December 30

Roland Colucci

### December 31

A-David & Christa Neill  
Anthony D'Agostino  
Benjamin Krueger



# December

## Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church Calendar - 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5pm Intrada Ringers (MC) 7pm Barbershop Group (FH) 6pm Gym Rental	2 7am Men's Bible Study (228) 10am Women's Bible Study (BAAC) 5:15pm Exultate Ringers (MC) 6pm Gym Rental 6:30pm TLCHS Board (228)	3 10am LWML (BAAC) 1pm Sheepshead (BAAC) 6:30pm Midweek Advent Service 7:30pm Exultate Singers (MC)	4	5	6
7 9am Worship - C 10:30 am Confirmation Class (BAAC) 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible Study 7pm AA Meeting (FH)	8 5pm Intrada Ringers (MC) 7pm Barbershop Group (FH) 6pm Gym Rental	9 7am Men's Bible Study (228) 10am Women's Bible Study (BAAC) 5:15pm Exultate Ringers (MC) 6pm Gym Rental	10 Brookfield PD Training (805 Terrace) 10am Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1pm Sheepshead (BAAC) 6:30pm Midweek Advent Service 7:30pm Exultate Singers (MC)	11	12	13
14 9am Worship - C 10:30 am Confirmation Class (BAAC) 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible Study 7pm AA Meeting (FH)	15 5pm Intrada Ringers (MC) 7pm Barbershop Group (FH) 6pm Gym Rental	16 7am Men's Bible Study (228) 10am Women's Bible Study (BAAC) 5:15pm Exultate Ringers (MC) 6pm Gym Rental	17 10am Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1pm Sheepshead (BAAC) 6:30pm Midweek Advent Service 7:30pm Exultate Singers (MC)	18	19	20
21 9am Worship - C 10:30 am Confirmation Class (BAAC) 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible Study 7pm AA Meeting (FH)	22 5pm Intrada Ringers (MC) 7pm Barbershop Group (FH) 6pm Gym Rental	23 7am Men's Bible Study (228) 10am Women's Bible Study (BAAC) 5:15pm Exultate Ringers (MC) 6pm Gym Rental 6:30pm Exultate Singers (MC)	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed  5pm Worship 8pm Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed  10am Worship - C	26	27
28 9am Worship - C 10:30 am Confirmation Class (BAAC) 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible Study 7pm AA Meeting (FH)	29 Police K9 Training Onsite 7pm Barbershop Group (FH) 6pm Gym Rental	30 7am Men's Bible Study (228) 10am Women's Bible Study (BAAC)	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed 6:30pm Worship - C			

### The Birth of Jesus Christ

Now 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. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But 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. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. Matthew 1:18-25



## Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church

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Web Site: [www.egl.org](http://www.egl.org) • E-mail: [astroh@egl.org](mailto:astroh@egl.org)

**Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor**

**Rev. Joshua D. Tegatz, Associate Pastor**

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The deadline for articles and photos to be submitted for the next *Seasons* is:

**Monday, December 15**

Submissions can be sent to [seasons@egl.org](mailto:seasons@egl.org)



Follow Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church on Facebook!



Prayer Warriors at Elm Grove Lutheran Church are ready to pray for you.

If you have a prayer request or wish to become a part of this great mission, please contact:

Linda Hoffmann – [LindaHoffmann@yahoo.com](mailto:LindaHoffmann@yahoo.com) or call 262-786-1203, or email Meg Grelk, [mgrelk55@gmail.com](mailto:mgrelk55@gmail.com)

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday 9:00 a.m.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated  
every Sunday (except on a 5th Sunday)  
*See schedule at right for holiday worship services.*

Bible Study  
10:30-11:30

### Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
on December 3, 10, 17.

There will **not** be a Thursday evening service  
until January 8, 2026.

### Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24  
5:00 p.m.  
8:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day Service

Thursday, December 25  
10:00 a.m.  
(Communion)

### New Year's Eve Service

Wednesday, December 31  
6:30 p.m.  
(Communion)



## TOWN HALL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church has scheduled a Town Hall to update the congregation members about the business of the church.

**Sunday, January 11**  
Immediately following the  
9 a.m. Worship Service.

**Save the Date!**