

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 AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, January 4, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Divine Service 3

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

All My Heart Again Rejoices – Donald Rotermund

Hymn of Invocation

360 All My Heart Again Rejoices

Confession and Absolution

p. 184

Introit

Psalm 119:97–104

P Oh how I love your law!

C It is my meditation all the day.

P Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,

C for it is ever with me.

P I have more understanding than all my teachers,

C for your testimonies are my meditation.

P I understand more than the aged,

C for I keep your precepts.

P I hold back my feet from every evil way,

C in order to keep your word.

P I do not turn aside from your just decrees,

C for you have taught me.

P How sweet are your words to my taste,

C sweeter than honey to my mouth!

P Through your precepts I get understanding;

C therefore I hate every false way.



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Kyrie – Collect of the Day

pp. 186-189

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O

LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." ¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

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

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel**Luke 2:40–52**

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed**p. 191****Hymn of the Day****523 O Word of God Incarnate****Sermon****"The Wisdom of God" (Luke 2:40-52)****Offertory****pp. 192-193****Offering****O Word of God of Incarnate – Alex Wyton**

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.)

Prayer of the Church**Preface – Agnus Dei****pp. 194-198**

Hymns During Distribution

**410 Within the Father's House
385 From East to West
388 Go Tell it on the Mountain**

Nunc Dimittis – Benediction

pp. 199-202

Closing Hymn

397 As with Gladness Men of Old

Postlude

As with Gladness Men of Old – Lani Smith

ALTAR PARAMETERS: 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 the Richard & Nancy Ewert family, in memory of Daniel Ewert on his birth date.

Participants

Presiding Minister

Pastor Teggatz

Assisting Minister

Pastor Skovgaard

Organist

Richard C. Ewert

Elder

Jason Krueger

Chancel Assistant

Steve Hipenbecker

Usher Team on duty

Tom Brojanac, Ben Ewert, Emily Ewert, Peter Holzwart,

Ken Schuppner, Duane Wunsch

Altar Guild

Sherri Bond, Jean Kruse

SERVING NEXT WEEK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 (6:30 P.M.)

ELDER: Rick Wegner

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Jim Olson

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

SUNDAY JANUARY 11 (9:00 A.M.)

ELDER: Paul Haut

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Mattias Goldenstein

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

EGL in the Word (Second Sunday After Christmas)

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 3:4-15

These verses come after David dies and gives his blessing to Solomon to become the next king. After settling some disputes David had, we're told that "the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon" (2:46b). Now, as Solomon reigns, his first request from God is wisdom to rule this people wisely, a prayer God grants, also giving Solomon what he did not ask for: riches and honor. Right after these verses, we see Solomon's wisdom manifest itself in action, giving wise counsel to two mothers and ultimately leading to the building of God's house/his own house and his reputation of wisdom spreading to all the ends of the earth.

Psalms: Psalm 119:97-104

This is a long psalm, focused on the wisdom that only comes from meditation on God's Word. The psalm is an acrostic poem, each section having a different letter in the Hebrew alphabet that starts each line of the section (this section is the Hebrew letter *mem*). Notice that God's Word sets the speaker apart from his enemies, his teachers, and even the aged, for it is God's Word that alone brings true and lasting wisdom. It guides the psalmist in his life, keeping him secure from every evil way. It fills him with purpose and joy.

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-14

Ever wondered where the longest sentence in the Greek New Testament is? Right here! Paul can't help himself as he describes the hope of the Christian here. It's a hope predestined since before the foundation of the world, a hope prophesied and promised until the fullness of time, a hope sealed by the promised Holy Spirit. And that hope finds its center in verse 7: "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses..." This is what the Holy Spirit seals His people with through Word and Sacrament: the continuous proclamation of Jesus Christ, whose blood forgives and seals for eternal life. For the church in Ephesus, a community immersed in pagan idolatry and persecution (Acts 18-19), this was good news indeed.

Gospel: Luke 2:40-52

Coming right off the heels of Jesus' presentation in the Temple (Lk 2:22-39) is another story centered in the temple of Jerusalem, as the twelve-year-old Jesus spends three days in his Father's house with the teachers of the law, much to the distress of his earthly parents. As Solomon's wisdom inspired awe and astonishment from many, so the wisdom of Jesus astounds the teachers and his parents. Jesus' first words recorded in any gospel capture his resolve to obey his Father's will: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (2:49b). It is this firm resolve to do his Father's will that transitions us from Christmas to his revealing at the Jordan River and the season of Epiphany.

Questions for Reflection This Week

Monday: What are some wise teachings you've received from others in your life? How have they impacted you?

Tuesday: How would you define wisdom from a Christian perspective?

Wednesday: We focused a lot on what Jesus does in the sermon. Read Luke 2:48, 50-51. How do Mary and Joseph respond to this event? What might Mary teach us about receiving things we don't understand?

Thursday: This season, we see that the advent of the King at Christmas is unexpected in many ways. How does Jesus defy expectations of his coming in the Christmas accounts we have?

Friday: We talked about applying Luke 2:40-52 in the sense of pursuing godly wisdom as baptized believers in Jesus. Where have you struggled to incorporate regular worship and devotion in your life? What is one book of the Bible you'd like to learn more about?

Next Week's Readings (The Baptism of Our Lord)

Old Testament- Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm- Psalm 29

Epistle- Romans 6:1-11

New Testament- Matthew 3:13-17

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945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, WI 53122
Phone: 262-797-2970 Fax: 262-797-2977 Website: www.egl.org
Second Sunday after Christmas
Sunday, January 4, 2025 – Volume 78, Number 1.1
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

S	9:00 a.m. Divine Service	5:15 p.m. Exultate Ringers (Church)
	10:30 a.m. Bible Study	6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)
	10:30 a.m. Sunday School	6:30 p.m. TLCHS Board (228)
	10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class (BAAC)	W 10:00 a.m. LWML (BAAC)
	7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC)
M	5:00 p.m. Intrada Ringers (Church)	7:00 p.m. Exultate Singers (MC)
	6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)	T 6:30 p.m. Worship
	6:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)	7:30 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)
T	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	
	10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (BAAC)	

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

IN THE LORD'S HOUSE: There were **478** (includes Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve services) people that attended services last week in person and **448** (Includes Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve Services) households streamed the services for a total of **926**. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

EGL CHRISTMAS TREES: Please stay after Worship/Bible Study today to help take down the Christmas trees. Your help is greatly appreciated!

JAN 6 EPIPHANY SERVICE: This year EGL is not holding its own Epiphany Day service; however, an area-wide service is being held at Luther Memorial in Shorewood (3833 N Maryland Ave, 53211) on Tuesday, January 6, at 6:30 p.m. Pr Skovgaard is the preacher.

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)

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.

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.

VISITATION TEAM: We plan to begin visitation team meetings toward the end of January, with individual visits beginning after our first few meetings. If you are interested in joining the visitation team, please let Pastor Teggatz know and he will rope you into planning conversations. Thank you for your prayerful discernment!

LWML: The morning group of LWML will meet on Wednesday, January 7 in the BAAC at 10:00 a.m. The Bible study is on pages 18-19 of the winter issue of Lutheran Women's Quarterly, titled "What is Happening?" Look to Psalm 121:1-2, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." The evening group will not meet in January.

BOOK CLUB: Plan to meet on Thursday, January 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the BAAC to discuss the book, *I'm Proud of You – My Friendship With Fred Rogers* written by Tim Madigan. The author writes about how Fred Rogers became a close friend and how Fred Rogers helped Tim Madigan through some rough and depressing times in Tim's

life. This is an inspiring book. We welcome new members.

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.