

# ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

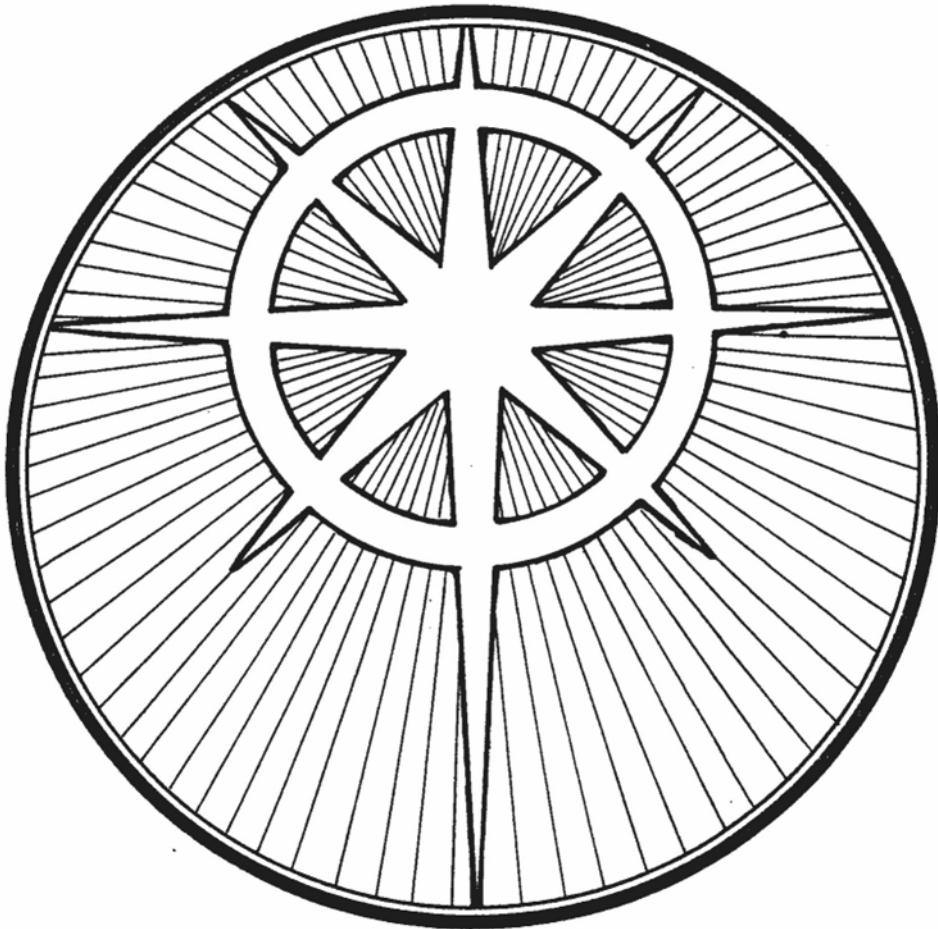
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

945 Terrace Dr., Elm Grove, WI 53122

Phone (262) 797-2970

Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor

Rev. Joshua D. Teggatz, Associate Pastor



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 25, 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

**The People That in Darkness Sat – Brad Hall**

### Hymn of Invocation

**412 The People That in Darkness Sat**

### Confession and Absolution

**p. 184**

### Introit

**Psalm 22:27–31; antiphon: v. 22**



L I will tell of your name to my | brothers;\*

in the midst of the congregation I will | praise you.

C **All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,\*  
and all the families of the nations shall worship be- | fore you.**

L For kingship belongs | to the LORD,\*  
and he rules over the | nations.

C **All the prosperous of the earth eat and | worship;\*  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not  
keep him- | self alive.**

L Posterity shall | serve him;\*  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;

C **they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet unborn,\*  
that he has | done it.**



C 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.

L I will tell of your name to my | brothers;\*  
in the midst of the congregation I will | praise you.

P I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
**C in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.**

### Kyrie – Collect of the Day

**pp. 186-189**

## Old Testament Reading

**Isaiah 9:1–4**

<sup>1</sup>There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Choir Response

**God of Mercy, God of Grace – Roland Diggle**

## Epistle

**1 Corinthians 1:10–18**

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia and Verse

**p. 190**

## Holy Gospel

**Matthew 4:12–25**

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

**C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup>And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup>the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." <sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>18</sup>While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they

were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. <sup>23</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. <sup>24</sup>So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. <sup>25</sup>And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

**p. 191**

**Hymn of the Day**

**839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light**

**Sermon**

**"To Love or Not to Love the Light" (Matthew 4:12-16)**

**Offertory**

**pp. 192-193**

**Offering**

**O Christ, Our True and Only Light – Paul O. Manz**



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**

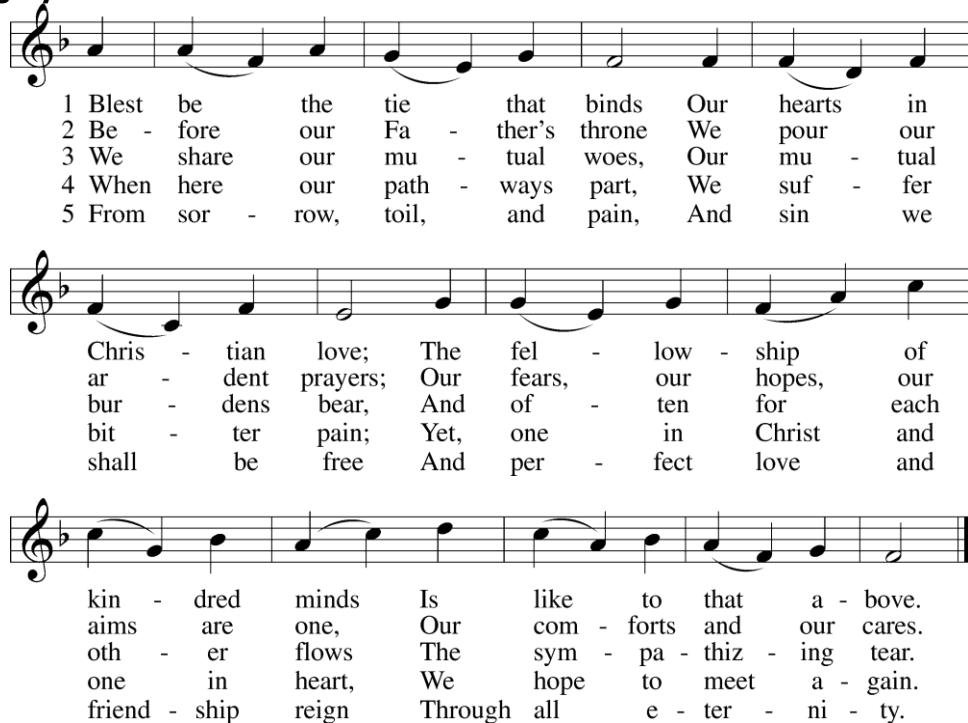
**723 The Lord Is My Light**  
**749 There Is a Balm in Gilead**  
**836 O God of Light**

**Nunc Dimittis - Benediction**

**pp. 199-202**

## Closing Hymn

## 975 Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual  
4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer  
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we

Chris - tian love; The fel - low - ship of  
ar - dent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, of  
bur - dens bear, And of - ten for each  
bit - ter pain; Yet, one in Christ and  
shall be free And per - fect love and

kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
aims - are one, Our com - forts and our cares.  
oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.  
friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.

Tune: Johann G. Nägeli, 1773-1836; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude

## O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright – Johann Pachelbel

ALTAR PARAMENTS: The green paraments of the Epiphany season suggest growth, especially spiritual growth, as we focus on Jesus' earthly ministry and mission to all people of this world.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Placed by Virginia Moeller in celebration of her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on January 20. Thankful that God has taken care of her all these years!

## Participants

Presiding Minister

Pastor Teggatz

Organist

Richard C. Ewert

Choir

Exultate Singers

Piano

Karla Bessert

Elder

John Wolck

Chancel Assistant

Dan Berry

Usher Team on duty

Sharon Boudro, Kirk Midtbo, Emily Krueger,  
Jason Krueger, Diane Olson, Jim Olson, Sam Thompson  
Nancy Ewert, Julie Leaf

Altar Guild

**SERVING NEXT WEEK**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 (6:30 P.M.)**

ELDER: Jason Krueger

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: James Drabiszczak

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 (9:00 A.M.)**

ELDER: Rick Wegner

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Jim Olson

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

## **EGL in the Word (Third Sunday after Epiphany)**

### **Old Testament: Isaiah 9:1-4**

Our Old Testament verses are taken from the so-called “Book of Immanuel” in Isaiah (Isaiah 7-12), which both introduce and elaborate upon the promise of Immanuel and what it means for God’s people. The dawn of chapter 9 is very welcome, as chapter eight concludes on a dour note of judgment. God’s people aren’t calling on their God, and because of this, “they have no dawn...they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness” (Isa 8:20,22). Yet, chapter 9 immediately reverses the fortunes of God’s people: “But there will be *no* gloom for her who was in anguish...” (Isa 9:1). Gloom turns to joy, anguish to freedom, contempt to glory, darkness to light. The territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, territory that will soon fall to Assyria’s might and be thrust into thick darkness, will have a light dawn once more, namely, the light of Immanuel, the child born who shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6). This dawning light will produce the most joyous of celebrations, as at harvest time and victory on the battlefield; Isaiah refers back to Judges 6 and Gideon’s triumph over Midian here.

### **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Paul began this first letter to the Corinthians by thanking God for the gift of faith the church at Corinth had received and reminding them of God’s faithfulness to His promises. Here, Paul starts to address the central issue this particular congregation is facing: competing loyalties and division as a result. Just as John the Baptist desired to decrease after Jesus’ baptism (John 3:30), so Paul desires the same. While the congregation is divided into factions following Paul, Cephas (Peter), Apollos, and Christ, Paul teaches that his ministry is not to glorify himself but to “preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power” (1:17). To direct any further attention to the messenger is to empty the cross of its power and lead people astray. The rest of the letter is a call to get back to the Church’s one foundation Peter himself professes: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt 16:16).

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:12-25**

It’s only natural that we read these verses from Matthew, for here Matthew quotes our Old Testament reading (specifically Isaiah 9:1-2) as being fulfilled in Jesus’ residence at Capernaum. That quotation builds up to the start of Jesus’ public ministry (4:17), which is exactly the dawning light Isaiah prophesies. This light is the kingdom of God, which is at hand and enfleshed in Jesus himself. This text has three major sections, namely, Jesus’ movement from Nazareth to Capernaum (4:12-16) sometime after his temptation by Satan in the wilderness (4:1-11), the beginning of his ministry and calling of the first disciples (4:17-22), and his various healings and the consequent spreading of his fame throughout the region (4:23-25). The city of Capernaum, originally located in the territory of Naphtali and closely neighbored by the territory of Zebulun (both right around the Sea of Galilee), is where Jesus chooses to begin his ministry, rather than Judea and Jerusalem, which may have been expected of the Messiah. Jesus brings his dawning light into the territories that had once been ravaged by Assyria and subsequently perverted through intermarriage and syncretism (worshipping Yahweh as one of many gods). It is into this thick darkness that Jesus steps with his dawning Epiphany light.

## **Questions for Reflection This Week**

**Monday:** We see lots of opposites in our Old Testament reading that come about in the dawning light of the promised Messiah. Gloom turns to joy, anguish to freedom, contempt to glory, darkness to light. Which one of those opposites resonates with you right now? Why?

**Tuesday:** In the sermon, we talked about how easy it is to get comfortable in the dark. As you ponder that difficult teaching today, what sins or habits deceive you into desiring to stay in the darkness?

**Wednesday:** Paul says that the power of his ministry and the only power and glory of the Church is the cross of Christ. Why is the cross alone our power and glory as Christians?

**Thursday:** We hear a lot of language in our readings about darkness and the dawning of light. What is a fond memory you have of the appearance of light in darkness? How does that remind you of Jesus?

**Friday:** One way to love the light that Jesus brings is to forgive and be forgiven. What is a recent example of that happening in your life? How did it make you feel?

## **Next Week's Readings (Fourth Sunday after Epiphany)**

Old Testament- Micah 6:1-8  
Epistle- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Gospel- Matthew 5:1-12

## NOTES

**ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, WI 53122**  
**Phone: 262-797-2970 Fax: 262-797-2977 Website: [www.egl.org](http://www.egl.org)**  
**Third Sunday After the Epiphany**  
**Sunday, January 25, 2026 – Volume 78, Number 1.4**  
**The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

**Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| S | 9:00 a.m. Divine Service<br>10:30 a.m. Bible Study<br>10:30 a.m. Sunday School<br>7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)       | 6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)   |
| M | 5:00 p.m. Intrada Ringers (Church)<br>6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)<br>6:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)       | 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (BAAC)<br>1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC)<br>5:30 p.m. She Shed Bible Study (BAAC)<br>7:00 p.m. Exultate Singers (MC) |
| T | 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)<br>10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (BAAC)<br>5:15 p.m. Exultate Ringers (Church) | 7:00 p.m. Committee of Elders (228)<br>6:30 p.m. Divine Service<br>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 **135** people that attended services last week in person and **107** households streamed the services for a total of **242**. "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)

**MIDWEEK LENTEN MEALS:** The start of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is just around the corner on Feb 18. As is our local custom, we will offer a light meal each week before the 6:30 service. If you or a group would like to host one of the meals please contact Amy Stroh in the Church Office.

**VISITATION TEAM:** Our first visitation team meeting will be **Tuesday, Feb 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the BAAC**, where we'll acquaint ourselves more with how this team will work and begin our study of Christian caregiving. Please let Pastor Teggatz know if you are interested in learning more about this team.

**VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE** - Thursday, February 26, 2026, 02:00 P.M. - 06:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Did you know that every 2 seconds, someone in America requires a blood transfusion? From trauma patients to those battling cancer, your donation can make a lifesaving impact. Every donation is needed to meet high demand for blood in your community. Schedule Appointments: [https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/11622806](https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11622806) or contact Rick Ewert: [BloodDrive@egl.org](mailto:BloodDrive@egl.org) / 262-289-9333.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** We are in need of Sunday School subs during the winter months. The truths of God's word need to be taught through our Lord's stories. To help out please call Linda Hoffmann, 262-786-1203. Thank you!

**LCEF ACCOUNTS:** When was the last time you checked out LCEF.org? This is the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, basically the Synod's bank. On this site you can find all that you need, from information to forms, for steward accounts for your children, CD's, checking and savings accounts, church worker loans, as well as strategic, development, and real estate solutions support. Everything is financially competitive with the secular banks but has the added bonus of supporting the Church's ministries. What you may not have known is that the South Wisconsin District's LCEF office will be giving away prizes at the spring pastors conference for those SWD congregations that have the highest number of LCEF accounts to congregational membership. The prizes are significant cash awards to those congregations. Check out LCEF.org and support EGL at the same time!

**LWML:** The morning group of LWML will meet on Wednesday, Feb 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the BAAC. The Bible study, "**Esther – a Faithful Woman of God**," is found on pages 22-23 of the winter issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. Like Esther, we too with prayer and preparation, can step out in faith for such "a time as this" and witness that God is using us to share His love with others. Plan to attend. We welcome new members.

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:** Thursday, February 19 at 9:30 a.m. is the next scheduled meeting when we will discuss the book, ***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn***. This is about an Irish immigrant family in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century who live in a tenement building in an impoverished area of Brooklyn. Francie, the daughter, admires a tree that grows in a small piece of soil in front of their apartment. She longs for a better way of life and sees hope as this tree grows in Brooklyn. We welcome new members. Please join us!