

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 AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Thursday, January 29, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 1, 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

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here – Jim Vyhanek

Hymn of Invocation

592 Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

Confession and Absolution

p. 184

Introit



Psalm 1:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

P For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

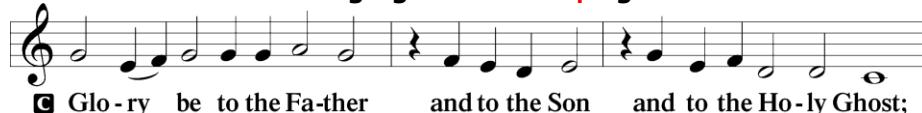
C **Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the | wicked,***
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of | scoffers;

P but his delight is in the law | of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates | day and night.

C **He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and**
its leaf does not | wither.*
In all that he does, he | prospers.

P The wicked | are not so,*
but are like chaff that the wind | drives away.

C **Therefore the wicked will not stand in the | judgment,***
nor sinners in the congregation of the | righteous.



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.

P For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

Kyrie – Collect of the Day

pp. 186-189

Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:1–8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you

up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” ⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(6:30) Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

P Praise the LORD, all nations!

C Extol him, all peoples!

P For great is his steadfast love toward us,

C and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

P Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C bring an offering, and come into his courts!

(9:00) Choral Response

Offertory – John Ness Beck

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel**Matthew 5:1-12**

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

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

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed**p. 191****Hymn of the Day****427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory****Sermon****“Christ and Him Crucified” (1 Corinthians 1:23)****Offertory****pp. 192-193****Offering****In the Cross of Christ I Glory – Charles Cooke**

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

982 Blest Are They

**(9:00) Stanza 1: Choir, Stanzas 2-4: Choir, Refrain: Choir & Congregation,
Stanza 5: All – Choir & Congregation**

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; Theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; They shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; Mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; They are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, All be -

king-dom of God. Blest are they, full of
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who hun - ger and
 shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who suf - fer in
 cause of Me. Re - joice and be glad, yours is the

sor - row; They shall be con - soled.
 thirst; They shall have their fill.
 heart; They shall see God!
 faith; The glo - ry of God is theirs.
 king - dom; Shine for all to see.

Refrain

Re - joice and be glad! Blessed are you,

ho-ly are you. Re - joice and be glad! Yours is the

king - dom of God.

Text and tune: David Haas, 1957

Text and tune: © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005587

**394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
567 Not What These Hands Have Done**

Closing Hymn**842 Son of God, Eternal Savior****Postlude****O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright – Max Drischner**

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 Bruce & Karla Bessert with thanksgiving to God in memory of William H. Bessert, Bruce's father.

Participants

Presiding Minister	Pastor Skovgaard
Assisting Minister	(9:00) Pastor Teggatz
Organist	Richard C. Ewert
Choir	(9:00) Exultate Singers
Piano	(9:00) Karla Bessert
Guitar	(9:00) Pam Ganswindt
Elder	(6:30) Jason Krueger, (9:00) Paul Haut
Chancel Assistant	(6:30) James Drabiszczak, (9:00) Jim Olson
Usher Team on duty	(6:30) Anthony Bagwell, Pam Ganswindt, Andrea Kysely, Steve Nelson, Shelly Skovgaard, Cathy Tuttrup, Matt Zientek, Mikayla Zientek (9:00) Chase Hipke, Connor Hipke, Rob Hipke, Thomas Hipke, Tyler Hipke, Carter Klein, Ian Klein, Michael Klein, Ann Wilcox, Christine Wilcox
Altar Guild	(6:30) Meg Grelk, Joan Knuteson (9:00) Carol Ewert, Helen Moore

SERVING NEXT WEEK**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 (6:30 P.M.)**

ELDER: Paul Haut

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Steve Hipenbecker

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 (9:00 A.M.)

ELDER: Doug Grelk

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Dan Berry

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

EGL in the Word (Fourth Sunday after Epiphany)

Old Testament: Micah 6:1-8

At the end of Moses' life, Moses summons all of creation as a witness to the renewal of the covenant between Yahweh and His people on the brink of the Promised Land: "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live..." (Deut 30:19). In Micah 6, Yahweh calls upon heaven and earth to do just that, calling His people to account for violating that covenant (6:1-2). After all, God brought them up out of Egypt (6:4). God defended them against the threat of Moab (Numbers 22-25) and carried them from one end of the Jordan River (Shittim-Joshua 3:1) to the other (Gilgal- Joshua 4:19) (6:5). Verse three summarizes the situation well. What has Yahweh done to His people? How has He wearied them? He's done everything for them! And, even then, Yahweh doesn't desire sacrifice in the end, even the impossible "ten thousands of rivers of oil" (6:7). Rather, Yahweh's earnest desire is that His people desire Him, reflecting His justice, His kindness, and His humility, in all that they do (6:8).

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

We've spent some time the last few weeks in this chapter and here's where the chapter finds its climax: the cross is the proclamation of the Church. The cross is the identity of the Church. The cross is the fullest expression of God's wisdom and power, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1:24,30). And such wisdom, though perceived as "foolishness" to others, is in fact the peak of God's revelation and redemptive power. God takes an instrument of torture and redeems it to be the life-giving tree of salvation. Similarly, God takes poor, miserable sinners and redeems them to be the firstfruits of His new creation in Christ (1:26-30). And the result? No boasting in man whatsoever (1:31). This conclusion governs the rest of the letter.

New Testament: Matthew 5:1-12

Remember what Yahweh desired of His people in Micah 6? Pretty much what Jesus preaches in the Sermon on the Mount, coming right off the heels of his spreading fame we heard about last week (4:23-25). Jesus opens his public preaching in Matthew's gospel by inviting his disciples into what the kingdom of heaven looks like and, as we saw in our epistle, God's kingdom is not measured by the ways of the world. It is the lowly, the downtrodden, and the faithful who are blessed in the Beatitudes, not the rich, successful, and powerful. Specifically, it is those who cling to Christ and suffer for that faith that are the most blessed. As we continue through this Epiphany season, Jesus will reveal more and more about his kingdom, a kingdom not of this world, a kingdom marked not by power and popularity but precisely by what Yahweh desires of His people in Micah: justice, kindness, and humility, walking with God. Notice how the Beatitudes are bookended. While most of them are future blessings ("they shall..."), two are present: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for *theirs is the kingdom of heaven*...blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for *theirs is the kingdom of heaven*" (5:3,10). In other words, as God's people walk by faith, blessed are they who cling to their Lord and not their own strength, even in times of persecution and suffering for the truth, for even now, the kingdom of heaven *is* theirs.

Questions for Reflection This Week

Monday: As the work of vocations begin anew this day, there are many challenges to our faith. Our Old Testament lesson this week uses a unique emotion to describe our relationship with God, namely, our being "weary" of God. Are there any areas of your life where God and His Word seem to be "wearsome" to you (in other words, a chore)?

Tuesday: One of the challenges to Christians who have walked the road of faith for a long time is the danger of losing one's first love, as Revelation 2:4 puts it. After a lifetime of fighting the good fight, it's possible to forget how far God's love went in saving us. Have you ever found yourself being "ho-hum" about the Gospel, as if to say, yeah, been there, done that? This too is one of the evil one's tricks, to make us forget how wonderful and amazing it was that the Father would send His Son to die in our place.

Wednesday: Jesus teaches us in this week's Gospel reading from Matthew that those who trust in Him are the blessed ones. Our ancient enemies of sin, death, and the devil seek to rob us of our identity as the forgiven blessed ones but Jesus gives you an identity that cannot be taken away. Where do you find the enemy attacking you most? Is there a place where you are most vulnerable because of past sin? If so, be sure to confess that sin so that the devil can't use it to accuse your conscience.

Thursday: After some frustrating ministry in Athens, St Paul went to Corinth to found a new church. He tells us in the opening chapter of I Corinthians that he resolved to simply preach Christ and Him crucified among the Corinthians. No more fancy philosophical talk, just the Gospel with all of its rough edges dealing with sin and human weakness. Have you ever tried to sugar coat the problem of human sin? Have you wanted a smoother Gospel that didn't make such a big deal of human depravity? If so, welcome to the club. We all want a message without those rough edges, but thanks be to God that the Gospel is all about Christ and Him crucified.

Friday: Because of the grace of God we find our identity in the cross. By faith we enter into his death and resurrection. What could be more blessed than sharing in the benefits of Christ's work on our behalf? But many times our lived realities are different than what we expected, right? We wonder, if I'm God's beloved child, why is all this trouble happening to me? Do you ever find yourself trying to slip out from underneath the cross(es) God has given you? Life in this world is full of them, but we face all of these troubles knowing that Christ has already placed His blessing upon us.

Next Week's Readings (Fifth Sunday after Epiphany)

Old Testament- Isaiah 58:3-9a

Epistle- 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

New Testament- Matthew 5:13-20

Next Week's Sermon:

"Letting Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16)

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
Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
Sunday, February 1, 2026 – Volume 78, Number 2.1
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)
	10:30 a.m. Bible Study	6:30 p.m. TLCHS Board (228)
	10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation	7:00 p.m. Committee of Elders (229)
	7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	
M	5:00 p.m. Intrada Ringers (Church)	W 10:00 a.m. LWML (BAAC)
	6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)	1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC)
	6:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)	5:30 p.m. She Shed Bible Study (BAAC)
T	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	7:00 p.m. Exultate Singers (MC)
	10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (BAAC)	T 6:30 p.m. Divine Service
	5:15 p.m. Exultate Ringers (Church)	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 **123** people that attended services last week in person and **143** 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)

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.

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO AM850
& kfuo.org: We're continuing our study through the book of Genesis on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT). Tune in as we discuss chapters 14-17. Join us on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as Pastor Booel leads us in a new study of the book of Numbers! On Concord Matters this Saturday (2/14 at 10 a.m. CT), we'll be studying Holy Baptism as discussed in the Large Catechism. What is the power, profit, and purpose of Baptism?

Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUO Radio app!

VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE - Thursday, February 26, 2026, 2:00 - 6:30 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 or contact Rick Ewert: BloodDrive@egl.org / 262-289-9333.



STAMMTISCH: Ohh Baby... it's really cold! But it's warm and cozy here at the EGL Bartelt Center! Come on out and join us at EGL Stammtisch as we comfortable connect with those around us, in a relaxed environment. Join us for our monthly EGL guys' get-together of great conversation and great libation... always lively, always timely, always lots of variety, in a fun atmosphere of Christian fellowship. The homebrew we brewed (Katie's Revenge?) at our Summer Social was tested last month and got a big "thumbs-up"! It will be out again this month! Thursday, February 19, from 7:30-9:00ish... for more info, please text or call Bruce Bessert at 414-526-8430.

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 20th 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!

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