

ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

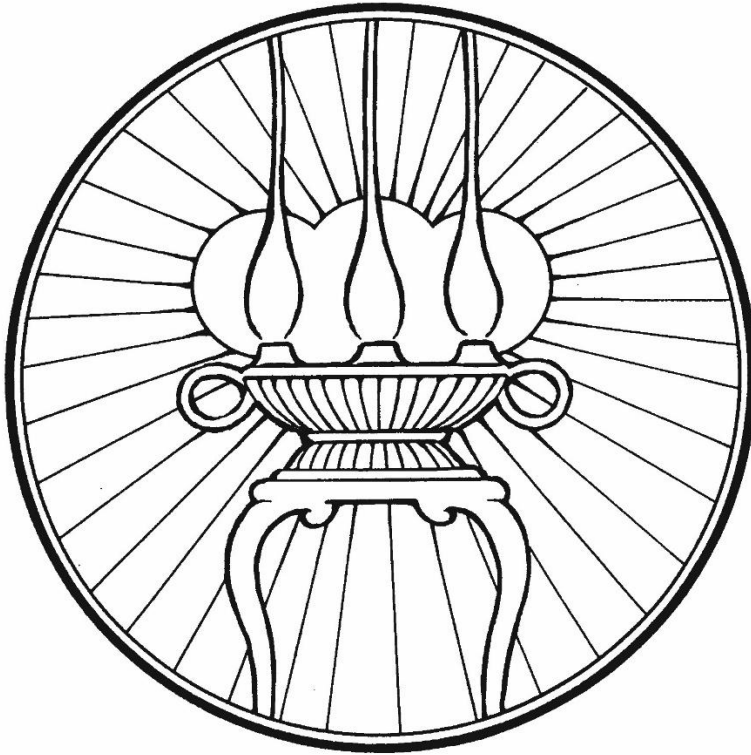
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

945 Terrace Dr., Elm Grove, WI 53122

Phone (262) 797-2970

Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor

Rev. Joshua D. Teggatz, Associate Pastor



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Thursday, February 5, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 8, 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

From God the Father, Virgin-Born – Benjamin M. Culli

Hymn of Invocation

401 From God the Father, Virgin Born

Confession and Absolution

p. 184

Introit

Psalm 119:9–16; antiphon: v. 12



P Blessèd are you, | O LORD; *
teach me your | statutes!

**C How can a young man keep his | way pure? *
By guarding it according | to your word.**

P With my whole heart I | seek you; *
let me not wander from your com- | mandments!

**C I have stored up your word | in my heart, *
that I might not sin a- | gainst you.**

P Blessèd are you, | O LORD; *
teach me your | statutes!

**C With my lips | I declare *
all the just decrees | of your mouth.**

P In the way of your testimonies | I delight *
as much as in all | riches.

**C I will meditate on your | precepts *
and fix my eyes | on your ways.**

P I will delight in your | statutes; *
I will not for- | get your word.



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



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

P Blessèd are you, | O LORD; *
teach me your | statutes!

Kyrie – Collect of the Day

pp. 186-189

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:3–9a

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?” Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalms 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!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 2:1–12

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

p. 190

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:13–20

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³[Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

p. 191

Hymn of the Day

411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Sermon

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

Offertory

pp. 192-193

Offering

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – Mark Bender



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

580 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace
825 Rise, Shine, You People
560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

Nunc Dimittis - Benediction

pp. 199-202

Closing Hymn

698 May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

Postlude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright – Charles W. Ore

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 Jim and Diane Olson for blessings received.

Participants

Presiding Minister

Pastor Skovgaard

Assisting Minister

(9:00) Pastor Teggatz

Organist

Richard C. Ewert

Elder

(6:30) Rick Wegner, (9:00) Doug Grell

Chancel Assistant

(6:30) Steve Hipenbecker, (9:00) Dan Berry

Usher Team on duty

(6:30) Dan Berry, Caleb Nelson, Laura Traas, Aislyn Wegner,
Jake Wegner, Randy Wegner, Rick Wegner, Ryan Wegner

(9:00) Tom Brojanac, Ben Ewert, Emily Ewert, Peter Holzwart,
Ken Schuppner, Duane Wunsch

Altar Guild

(6:30) Meg Grell, Jean Kruse

(9:00) Luanne Schaefer, Shelly Skovgaard

SERVING NEXT WEEK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 (6:30 P.M.)

ELDER: Bruce Bessert

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Mattias Goldenstein

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 (9:00 A.M.)

ELDER: Eric Thompson

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Doug Grell

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

EGL in the Word (Fifth Sunday after Epiphany)

Old Testament: Isaiah 58:3-9a

These verses from Isaiah are a segment of a longer condemnation of Israel's faulty worship practices, a concern the prophets repeatedly raise throughout the Old Testament (and even into the New Testament!). Here, the people complain that God has not seen their outward acts of fasting and piety (58:3a). And, in one sense, they are correct: God does not take heed of his people's empty worship (58:4b). Such outward fasting is not the true fast God desires of His people. Rather, He desires their lives to reflect their worship. Isaiah gives several examples in verses 6-7, all centered around the central image of breaking the yoke of bondage off of the backs of others, especially the downtrodden and helpless. In this way, true "fasting" (where worship and life are aligned) causes light to "break forth like the dawn..." (58:8). These verses are certainly worthwhile to ponder as we prepare for the penitential season of Lent.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

A major theme of Jesus' last teachings to his disciples at the Last Supper (John 13-17) is the giving of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promises that when he has departed from them, the Helper (the Holy Spirit) will come, who will "guide you into all the truth" and "take what is mine and declare it to you" (John 16:7,13-14). The giving of the Spirit is the center of our epistle. Paul's goal, as laid out in the first chapter of the letter, is not to exalt himself or create factions within the church who are loyal to different church leaders, but to proclaim Christ, and not with "lofty speech or wisdom" but what is deemed as folly by the world (2:1-2). And this secret mystery that all of history has been working toward (2:6-9) has been revealed "through the Spirit...that we might understand the things freely given us by God" (2:10,12). We only come to know the truth of the cross through the Spirit's working of faith within us. Or, as Luther famously puts it in the Small Catechism describing the Third Article of the ' Creed: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."

New Testament: Matthew 5:13-20

These continuing verses from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) cover two topics: (1) God's people living as salt and light and (2) Jesus fulfilling the Law. The sermon hits the ground running by describing who we are in relation to the world, namely, salt and light, those who preserve and enlighten, who proclaim the blessings of God we heard last week (Matt 5:1-11). Sounds a lot like the dawning light Isaiah discusses when God's people allow their worship to be reflected in their daily lives! But how can we be the salt and light of the world if we can't even save ourselves? That's where the second half of our text comes into play. If even the scribes and Pharisees, the peak role models of the faith at this time, can't save themselves, how could we? (5:20). Yet, thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, he who fulfilled the Law perfectly on our behalf in his life, death, and resurrection (5:17). The salt with which we preserve, the light with which we enlighten (the Gospel) is not our own. Notice: Jesus doesn't tell people here to make themselves salt and light. He declares them to be so. It reminds me of Ephesians 2:10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Let us be salt and light!

Questions for Reflection This Week

Monday: In Isaiah 58, God condemns fasting for fasting's sake, desiring rather a fasting that leads to reflecting His light to the world. Have you ever fasted? This could consist of fasting from food or something else (technology, for example). As we approach the season of Lent, what is something you could fast from that would enable you to be better able to receive the gifts of God in His Word and Sacrament and share those gifts with others?

Tuesday: We talk a lot about God the Father and His work of creating and preserving His creation. We talk a lot more about God the Son and His work of redeeming us by His blood! We talk substantially less about God the Holy Spirit, and yet, Paul reminds us that we would not be in the Church apart from the Spirit's work. What have you been taught about the Holy Spirit in years past? What questions do you have about the Spirit and His work? Ask us!

Wednesday: We are the salt of the earth, enriching and preserving the world by proclaiming Christ and him crucified. Who is someone in your life who could use the enrichment and preservation of the Gospel right now? What is one way you could be salt for them this week?

Thursday: We are the light of the world, enlightening those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Who is someone in your life who does not know Jesus? What is one way you could be light for them this week?

Friday: With the conclusion of this week and its culmination in the Transfiguration this coming Sunday, the season of Epiphany draws to a close. What are some takeaways you've had from this Epiphany season? Why do you think we celebrate Epiphany every year?

Next Week's Readings (Transfiguration Sunday)

Old Testament- Exodus 24:8-18

Epistle- 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel- Matthew 17:1-9

Next Week's Sermon

"A Lamp" (2 Peter 1:16-21)

NOTES

[illegible]

ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, WI 53122
Phone: 262-797-2970 Fax: 262-797-2977 Website: www.egl.org
Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
Sunday, February 8, 2026 – Volume 78, Number 2.2
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. Visitation Team Meeting (BAAC)
	10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation	
	7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	W 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (BAAC)
M	5:00 p.m. Intrada Ringers (Church)	1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC)
	6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)	5:30 p.m. She Shed Bible Study (BAAC)
	7:00 p.m. Board of Directors (228)	7:00 p.m. Exultate Singers (MC)
	7:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)	T 6:30 p.m. Prayer Office
T	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	7:30 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)
	10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (BAAC)	
	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 **132** people that attended services last week in person and **45** households streamed the services for a total of **177**. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: Please invite your friends and families to Trinity's open house on February 26 beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information please visit their website at trinitylutheranclassical.org/open-house.

VISIT BY GUEST CHOIR: On Sunday Feb 15 EGL is happy to welcome the high school choir from Lutheran North in St Louis. They are touring several places while up by us, and we have the joy of welcoming them next Sunday at the 9:00 a.m. Divine Service. FYI, their choir director, Brinn Miller, is a family friend to the Teggatz's.

ASH WEDNESDAY is already around the corner on **Wednesday, February 18**. While every subsequent midweek in Lent will have one service at 6:30 p.m., we'll be having **two** Ash Wednesday services at **12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Trinity

students will be attending our noon service as part of their school day, so we invite you to join us at either time as we prepare our hearts for the Lenten season. Individual absolution and ashes will be offered at both services.

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, 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 comfortably 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!

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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