

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. Tegatz, Associate Pastor



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Sunday, March 15, 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."

Lenten Services

During this year's Lenten journey to Easter, we will eavesdrop on Job's experience and often faithful response. The Book of Job will serve as the theme for the midweek and Holy Week services as we see the "bet" between God and Satan play out in the Bible's greatest book of wisdom. We all suffer – personally and privately. We also suffer in more public ways: jobs are lost, relationships fall apart, loved ones die, laws go unenforced and communities flounder. Martin Luther once claimed that "Job is magnificent and sublime like no other book of Scripture." We gather each week for a short, devotional type of service, focusing on one particular passage in Job. Each Wednesday night will feature a light meal, prepared by different individuals and groups, also before the 6:30 p.m. worship service. Come be strengthened by God's Word in the pages of Job, and then strengthened, encourage one another to pursue the way of Christian discipleship.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten – Jacob B. Weber

Hymn of Invocation

914 Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten

Confession and Absolution

p. 184

Introit

Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15



P My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

C **One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:***
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the
beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his | temple.

P For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

C **And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will**
offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*
I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.



☐ 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 My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Kyrie – Collect of the Day

pp. 186-189

(No Hymn of Praise during Lent)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in

carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C the founder and perfecter of our faith,

P who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

C and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(During Lent, the Alleluia is omitted)

Holy Gospel

John 9:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He

answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed **p. 191**

Hymn of the Day **841 O Son of God, in Galilee**

Sermon **"Why?" (John 9:1-11)**

Offertory **pp. 192-193**

Offering **O Son of God, in Galilee – Kevin Hildebrand**



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.)

EGL Visitation Team Installation

Prayer of the Church

Preface – Agnus Dei **pp. 194-198**

Hymns During Distribution **425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**
545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth
551 When to Our World the Savior Came

Nunc Dimittis - Benediction **pp. 199-202**

Closing Hymn **890 O Blessed Light, O Trinity**

Postlude **My Faith Looks Up to Thee – Karl Osterland**

ALTAR PARAMENTS: Purple paraments suggest the somber, solemn mood of this penitential season while the symbols of torture bring to mind Christ's suffering and death to save us.

Participants

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Organist
Elder
Chancel Assistant
Usher Team on duty

Altar Guild

Pastor Skovgaard
Pastor Teggatz
Karla Bessert
John Wolck
Kirk Midtbo
Tom Brojanac, Ben Ewert, Emily Ewert, Peter Holzwart,
Ken Schuppner, Duane Wunsch
Karen Clark, Helen Moore

SERVING NEXT WEEK

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 (6:30 P.M.)

ELDER: Jason Krueger

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Doug Grelk

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 (9:00 A.M.)

ELDER: Rick Wegner

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Mark Ewert

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

EGL in the Word (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:14-21

These verses from Isaiah come in a longer discussion about idolatry and comparing God with “carved idols” and “metal images” that are empty and come to nothing (42:17). For this reason, God’s people are characterized as “deaf” and “blind” (42:19-20) and deemed in need of God’s leading and guiding so beautifully described in 42:16: it is God who comes to the blind and leads them “in a way that they do not know...I will turn the darkness before them into light...I do not forsake them.” God promises guidance and light through his chosen Servant who is not deaf and blind as this servant Israel is (see Isaiah 42:1-9). In fact, it is through this Servant that the blind shall see: “I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness” (42:6b-7). God’s concern for spiritual blindness in Isaiah’s day is warranted even in Jesus’ day and today (see the epistle and gospel readings below).

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-14

Our epistle reminds me of Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount: “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!” (Matthew 6:22-23). It’s a sobering reminder to set our eyes on the things above and be blind to the things that are passing away (and not the reverse!). Such is Paul’s call in Ephesians 5 to walk in light and not in darkness. This stems from Paul’s proclamation of the gospel and call to walking in 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.” We’ve been brought into the light. So, says Paul, walk like it! Verse 14 is likely from an early hymn of the church Paul is quoting. He then describes specific ways to walk as children of light, especially in the family (5:15-6:9).

New Testament: John 9:1-41

Our gospel this morning drips with irony. We hear Jesus identify himself as the Light of the world in the last chapter (8:12), promising that “whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Jesus has come to be the Servant of Isaiah 42 and this chapter is a beautiful example of that. A man born blind is healed and given sight (9:1-7) but, in the end, that’s not the focus of the text. The man first interacts with the crowds who argue over this healing (9:8-12), where he calls Jesus “the man.” They then bring him to the Pharisees, where he calls Jesus “a prophet” (9:13-17). After the man’s parents quickly pass the hot potato right back to their son (9:18-23), the Pharisees question the man again (9:24-34) and he calls himself a disciple of Jesus and concludes that Jesus must be from God (9:33). And, at the end, the man calls Jesus the Son of Man and his Lord (9:35-38). All throughout the text, we’re directed not to the man’s physical healing ultimately but to his gradual realization of who Jesus really is (being healed from spiritual blindness). And the Pharisees who see? Well, they may see physically, but in the end, they are blind (9:39-41). In fact, their basis for excommunicating people from the synagogue (those who confess Jesus as the Christ) is the very confession of spiritual sight the entire gospel demands (see John 20:30-31).

Questions for Reflection This Week

Monday: What does it mean to you that Jesus has brought you out of darkness and into His marvelous light?

Tuesday: Now that we have been brought out of darkness and into the light of Christ, Paul encourages us in our epistle to walk in that light. What is one thing in your life that God is calling you out of in order to better walk in and shine His light as a child of God?

Wednesday: Trace the various individuals we've encountered so far in John's gospel. Jesus invites Nicodemus to see the kingdom through new birth. Jesus invites the Samaritan woman to see the Messiah through living water. And now, Jesus invites a blind man to see the Son of Man, not just physically but spiritually, and to follow him. Come to our midweek service today to see and receive Jesus once more as we approach Holy Week.

Thursday: Unfortunately, the same suffering=sin logic we see the disciples and religious leaders adopt in our gospel (and in Job, for that matter) is prevalent in our day. Have you or a family member ever experienced judgment because of a sickness, disability, or illness? How did it make you feel? How does Jesus' treatment of the blind man redirect our thinking on this?

Friday: Read John 20:30-31. This is the confession John's gospel demands of its readers. How does Jesus reveal this identity in our gospel reading and in John's gospel these last few weeks?

Next Week's Readings (Fifth Sunday in Lent)

Old Testament- Ezekiel 37:1-14

Epistle- Romans 8:1-11

New Testament- John 11:1-45

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 in Lent
Sunday, March 15, 2026 – Volume 78, Number 3.3
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

<p>S 9:00 a.m. Divine Service 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>W 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC) 5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner</p>
<p>M 11:00 a.m. New Berlin PD Training 5:00 p.m. Intrada Ringers (Church) 6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym) 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors (228) 7:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)</p>	<p>T 6:30 p.m. Midweek Lenten Worship 7:30 p.m. Exultate Singers (MC) 9:30 a.m. Book Discussion Group (BAAC) 6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym) 7:30 p.m. Stammtisch (BAAC)</p>
<p>T 7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study (228) 10:00 a.m. Women’s Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 p.m. LWML (FL) 5:15 p.m. Exultate Ringers (Church) 6:00 p.m. Empower Volleyball (Gym)</p>	<p>F PALS (Multiple rooms in the building) S PALS (Multiple rooms in the building) 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting (228)</p>

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

IN THE LORD’S HOUSE: There were **182** people that attended services last week in person and **64** households streamed the services for a total of **246**. “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

EASTER BRUNCH: Make plans to join us for brunch on Easter Sunday. We will have an assortment of fantastic food items and will be serving in the Fellowship Hall from 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

EASTER BRUNCH FOOD SIGN UP: Following the 7:00 a.m. Easter morning service, we will be providing an Easter Brunch. If you are able to contribute some of the needed food items or if you are able to help with cleanup after the breakfast, please sign up using this SignUpGenius Link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4DA8A-D2EA5FD0-62812204-easter# There is also a paper sign-up sheet available in the back of the church.

EGL FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING: Mark your calendars for Friday, May 8! The EGL Foundation is once again hosting a golf outing, dinner and raffle. All proceeds from this event will go to support Trinity Lutheran Classical High School. Sign-up forms are now available in the back of the church along with donor/sponsor forms. You can drop off completed forms in the golf outing mailbox in the mailbox room. The deadline for sign-up this year is April 24!

THE EGL FOUNDATION is looking for donations of money to be put toward purchasing a premium raffle item for the Drive to Thrive golf outing. Any donations which go past the price point of that item will be put toward purchasing gift cards for the raffle. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Wilcox at 262-409-5888.

BASKETS OF BLESSINGS 2026: Baskets of Blessings 2026 - Would you be willing to share your Easter joy with a fellow member who finds it difficult to get to church? We will provide the baskets if you will put in some items that would

bring a smile of appreciation for your visit. The basket, names, contact information, and suggested list of items will be available between services in the upper hall outside the church library/coffee area on Sunday, March 15 and March 22. Please pick out a name, fill the basket and deliver it before Easter with Easter blessings from all of us. If you have questions, please contact Barbara Thompson (262-784-3886) or Carole Braun (262-781-1494).

PICKLEBALL: We are hoping to begin a pickleball group here at EGL that would meet either monthly or bimonthly to gather for fellowship, fun competition, and prayer. This group would be open to all levels of play, even folks who have never played before. Right now, we would like to gauge interest in this, so if this is something you might be interested in, please let the church office or Pastor Teggatz know. Thank you!

NOMINATIONS FOR EGL LEADERSHIP: At the Sunday morning, May 17, Voters Assembly we will elect new leadership to both the Elders Committee and the Board of Directors. You have the opportunity to nominate godly men to the Elders Committee as well as godly men and/or women to the Board of Directors. There are two positions on both open for election on May 17. Please submit any nominations to the Church Office or one of the Pastors by Easter Sunday, April 5.

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)

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday school will not meet March 15 due to spring break. See you in church!

MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION: During the bible study hour on Sunday, March 29, Matt Ewert will be giving a presentation about his mission trip to Panama. He joined a group from Peace Lutheran Campus Center, the LCMS campus ministry for UW-Stevens Point, for a 9-day mission trip at the beginning of January 2026. Thank you to the EGL members that supported the team financially and through prayer!

LIST OF LENTEN MEALS: Thank you so much to everyone who has offered to host meals this Lenten season. All of the dates have been spoken for. March 18 hosted by the Evangelism Committee (baked potatoes); and March 25 hosted by the Finance Committee (jambalaya). The free will offering at the Lenten dinners will go toward the Let Your Light Shine Signage Project.

LWML: The evening group will meet on Tuesday, March 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the Friendship Library to discuss future mission projects. Plan to attend.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Thursday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m. is the next meeting in the BAAC. The book to be discussed is *The Runaway Quilt* written by Jennifer Chiaverini about the underground railroad in the free state of Pennsylvania prior to the Civil War. Searching in an old house in the attic, a diary is found written by the sister of the person's great, great grandfather, plus 3 very old handcrafted quilts. The plot involves 3 different time periods and goes back and forth telling the story of the story of how the runaway quilt played a key role when the quilt would hang on a clothesline to indicate a safe house for runaway slaves. It tells the interesting story of a family through the years and how the runaway quilt was important to the underground railroad. Plan to attend. We welcome new members.

SET APART TO SERVE (SAS): Where do we get pastors who preach and care for us with God's Word? Where do we get teachers who teach our children about Jesus in our Lutheran schools? Where do we get our directors of Christian education, deaconesses and directors of parish

music? Set Apart to Serve (SAS) is partnering with our seminaries, Concordia universities, districts, congregations and many other to build a Synodwide culture of church work formation and recruitment. You can contribute toward this effort **by taking this brief online survey** at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve-survey. Please let us know how all of us can make SAS more beneficial to your congregation. It is important we hear what you have to say.

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT STUDENT

FINANCIAL AID: Anyone attending a Concordia University or Seminary, is a member of an LCMS congregation in the SWD and is preparing to be a full-time church worker (pastor, teacher, deaconess, DCE/DCO, DFLM, DPM, lay minister) is encouraged to apply. There are two applications required (District Financial Aid Application and Personal Aid Application). Both are available on the SWD website – www.swd.lcms.org/AID. Applications are **due at the District Office by May 15.**