

ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
945 Terrace Dr., Elm Grove, WI 53122
Phone: 262-797-2970 Website: www.egl.org
Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor
Rev. Joshua D. Teggatz, Associate Pastor



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Thursday, July 16 – 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 19, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Divine Service 4

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.



Scan the QR code (left) to give online to Elm Grove Lutheran Church, or visit egl.org/give.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Processional Improvisation on YIGDAL – Jordan Fischer

Hymn of Invocation

564 Christ Sits at God's Right Hand

Divine Service 4

pp. 203-212

Introit

Psalm 86:11-15; antiphon: v.6

P Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;

C listen to my plea for grace.

P Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;

C unite my heart to fear your name.

P I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

C and I will glorify your name forever.

P For great is your steadfast love toward me;

C you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

P O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life,

C and they do not set you before them.

P But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,

C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**All Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;

C listen to my plea for grace.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6–8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Romans 11:33, 36

P Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

C How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

P For from him and through him and to him are all things.

C To him be glory forever. Amen.

Epistle

Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds

you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

p. 207

Hymn of the Day

654 Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure

Sermon

"Waiting to Welcome" (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43)

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Improvisation on the Hymn of the Day – Jordan Fischer

To give to Elm Grove Lutheran Church, scan the QR code (inside the front cover)
to go to our online giving site.

(Those who are not communing may place their cards in the offering plate.)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface - Agnus Dei

pp. 208-211

Hymns During Distribution

773 Hear Us, Father, When We Pray
761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
769 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

Closing Hymn

794 The Lord, My God, Be Praised

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God – J.S. Bach; arr. Virgil Fox

Acknowledgments

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ALTAR PARAMETERS: The green paraments of the Pentecost season prompt us to remember that our life in Christ is one of growth, as branches connected to the Vine produce good fruit.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Placed by David and Susan Schmalzer in honor of their children's birthdays.

Participants

Presiding Minister

Pastor Teggatz

Organist

Jordan Fischer

Elder

6:30 Paul Haut; 9:00 Doug Grelk

Chancel Assistant

6:30 Dan Berry; 9:00 Mattias Goldenstein

Usher Team

6:30 Chase Hipke, Connor Hipke, Rob Hipke, Thomas Hipke

Carter Klein, Ian Klein, Michael Klein, Ann Wilcox, Christine Wilcox

9:00 Dan Berry, Caleb Nelson, Laura Traas, Aislyn Wegner, Jake Wegner,

Randy Wegner, Rick Wegner, Ryan Wegner

Altar Guild

6:30 Diane Olson, Shelly Skovgaard

9:00 Sharon Boudro, Helen Moore

SERVING NEXT WEEK

THURSDAY, JULY 23 (6:30 P.M.)

ELDER: Bruce Bessert

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Mark Ewert

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

SUNDAY, JULY 26 (9:00 A.M.)

ELDER: Eric Thompson

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Dan Berry

USHER TEAM 5: Sharon Boudro, Kirk Midtbo, Diane Olson, Jim Olson, John Schaefer

EGL in the Word (Eighth Sunday After Pentecost)

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

Three primary themes in Isaiah 40-55 are the new exodus, the Servant of the LORD, and Yahweh's supremacy over all other so-called gods and powers of the world. It is the third theme our verses in Isaiah 44 address: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me?...Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any." The point? There is only one God, Yahweh, and He sits on the throne. One of the strongest authenticators for God's supremacy is the fact that His Word, past, present, and future, remains true. It does what it says. Its promises come true (44:7) and we serve as witnesses of that fact. We see the ultimate manifestation of this authentic Word in the Word made flesh, who takes up this title in Revelation 1:17-18: "'Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one.'" Jesus reigns, and nothing can change that, not even Satan's scheming (see our gospel reading).

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:18-27

Last week, we heard about our adoption by the Holy Spirit as sons and daughters of God, through which we become heirs of eternal life with Christ and joined together with him in suffering and glory. Our verses this morning start with yet another beautiful gospel promise: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (8:18). Even the suffering we're promised as disciples of Christ pales in comparison to what lies in store for us in the new heavens and new earth. To that end, Paul gives a cosmic picture of the fallen world in our text. We groan in our suffering, as well as all of God's creation around us. And this Spirit we're given is our Comforter, who promises to lead us back to Christ and drum his promises into our ears time and time again, especially in times of suffering and groaning. He's even able to take those groanings, those times our prayers can't be put into words, and deliver them to our Father in heaven.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

The sowing parables continue this week! Right on the heels of the Parable of the Sower is the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds. While last week's parable focused on the terrain of the planted seeds, this week's focuses on the neighbors of the planted seeds, namely, the weeds (13:25). The method of Satan's corruption of God's work here reminds us of Genesis 3 and Satan's craftiness in deceiving Adam and Eve. Yet, even there and in this parable, God's plan of salvation reigns supreme. The center of the parable is verses 28-29, focusing on the sower's conversation with his workers. His plan? Keep the weeds growing, so that the wheat isn't endangered. Certainly, justice will be done when the harvest day comes (see verse 30). But, God's power and calling stand supreme (see our OT reading). As Romans will tell us next week, "...those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified" (Rom 8:30).

Questions for Reflection This Week

Monday: As you go throughout this week, remember the theme from Sunday's sermon: "when we get God's perspective on things in the Scriptures, it's a fairly good idea to pay attention." Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 for another example of God's perspective of grace on you in Jesus Christ. This is His final pronouncement upon you: forgiven, loved, a precious child in His family.

Tuesday: When you think about the Last Day, what thoughts or images come to your mind? Have a discussion at the dinner table tonight: what about the Last Day is good news for us?

Wednesday: As beautiful as that Last Day will be, we wait here and now. Paul talks in our epistle reading this week about the "groaning" that happens as we wait, longing for that Last Day to come. What is causing you to groan right now? Bring that before God in prayer today.

Thursday: We're spending several weeks this month on different parables Jesus tells. Notice that in most of the parables, the figure representing God (the sower, the master of the field, the shepherd, the prodigal son's father, etc.) operates contrary to our logic and worldly sensibilities. How does the master of the field run contrary to our expectations? Can you think of another parable where you see the figure of God running contrary to our expectations?

Friday: Even as we wait in trust and hope for the Last Day, God calls us to serve, to continue bearing fruit for Him as we sow the seeds of His Word in a fallen, messy world. Think of someone in your life who is disconnected from Christ. Pray for that person today (and, as appropriate, check in with them and share a prayer/Scripture passage with them).

Scripture Passages Cited in Today's Sermon:

- Genesis 1:31; Genesis 6:5; John 3:16-17 (God's Perspective)
- John 19:30; Matthew 28:20 (The Finish/Completion of the Age)
- Matthew 13:28-29 (God's Perspective in Today's Parable)
- Romans 8:28; Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (God's Perspective for Us)
- 2 Peter 3:4,8-9 (God's Perspective on the World)

ELM GROVE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR/NEWSLETTER
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 19, 2026 – Volume 78, Number 7.3

S 9:00 a.m. Divine Service
10:30 a.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)
M Have a wonderful day!
T 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (BAAC)
W 1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC)
Th 6:30 p.m. Worship (Evening Prayer)
F Office Closed



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (call first)

IN THE LORD'S HOUSE: There were **148** people that attended services last week in person and **60** households streamed the services for a total of **208**. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

GIVING UPDATE: There's good news and bad news. Shortly after I returned from South Africa this past March I appealed to your Christian stewardship, mentioning that we had fallen behind in our anticipated offerings. You responded promptly and generously, making up the difference (and then some!) by the end of April, so that by the time we went into the May 17 Voters Assembly we could legitimately say that we had done what we had promised to do together over the past fiscal year. That's the good news. The bad news is that since that point in time offerings have dropped off. The summer months are always low-offering months, but the bills continue nonetheless. Sadly we finished out the 2025-2026 fiscal year \$4,468 under budget in regular receipts. This position is complicated by the fact that the May 17 Assembly approved a budget which calls upon us to stretch in this new fiscal year. Let's pull together and not get stuck far behind our commitments to the ministry of the Gospel. -- Pr Skovgaard

TRINITY LUTHERAN CLASSICAL UPDATE: Art History and Art Technique will be added this year. If you have a strong background, ideas, or supplies, Mr. Beversdorf would love to speak with you. Please contact him at 262-221-7885 or melvin.beversdorf@gmail.com. Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL: We would like to explore the idea of an Auto Club - where once a month at the end of the day students can learn about cars and their mechanics. If you have interest in sharing what may be possible, please contact Melvin Beversdorf, headmaster, at 262-221-7885 or melvin.beversdorf@gmail.com. Thank you!

COFFEE DONATIONS: The money that is donated during the time of fellowship after Church on Sundays is being donated to the signage project. So, be generous!

ALTAR FLOWERS: As a congregation we greatly appreciate having flowers to adorn the altar each week. We currently have openings on August 9, 16, 23, 30 and on September 20 for altar flowers. The cost of the arrangements we receive from Welke's in Elm Grove is \$35. Please contact the church office (info@egl.org or 262-797-2970) if you would like to provide flowers this summer.

PICKLEBALL: Upcoming summer dates include 7/26, 8/16, and 8/30. Fall dates coming soon!

BINGO: Mark your calendar! EGL is having a Bingo Night on Saturday August 15 with food, fun and prizes. Dinner at 5:30 with games to follow. Please watch for Signup Genius online or signup sheet in the back of the church. Hope to see you there!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: The 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible study with Pr Skovgaard has been faithfully studying and inwardly digesting St Paul's magnum opus -- the letter to the Romans. Due to Synod Convention responsibilities and regional vice president commitments, this Bible study will take a hiatus until after the Labor Day weekend, when we will pick up again at Romans 8:31, with God's declaration that no-thing can separate the Christian from the love of God found in Christ Jesus alone.

AUGUST 8 SERVANT EVENT: Our youth group (open to junior high and high schoolers) will begin the year with a servant event on Saturday, August 8. From 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., we'll meet at and be helping The Economy Center (a thrift store run by Lutheran Counseling & Family Services) to help them organize and prepare for a busy fall season. After that, youth and families are invited to stop by the Teggatz house a few miles away for lunch and ice cream. Please let Pastor Teggatz know if you're planning to attend or have questions!

YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY: Weekly youth group Bible study will begin on Sunday, August 9 from 10:45-11:30 a.m. in the youth room. This Bible study will be offered weekly on Sunday mornings. Pastor Teggatz will begin the year with a short-term study titled "The Gospel in Seven Words."

AUGUST 9 SWD YOUTH RESTART EVENT: The South Wisconsin District's annual ReStart youth event is happening on Sunday, August 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Slick City Action Park in Wauwatosa. If you're interested in attending this youth group event, please let Pastor Teggatz or Ben Ewert know by Sunday, July 26 so we can register.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the BAAC. The book to be discussed is *The Miracle Among Us – How God's Grace Plays a Role in Healing* written by Dr. Marc Siegel. Cases of patients that have recovered and survived are explored where science and the medical teams cannot explain. Dr. Siegel points to God who is healing as faithful believers pray to Him. We look forward to an interesting discussion. We welcome new members.

VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE: Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2026, 2:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. One blood donation can save up to 3 lives! Every donation creates a ripple of hope. Make a lifesaving difference today—schedule your appointment: <https://sl1nk.com/jx8e6lf> or contact Rick Ewert: BloodDrive@egl.org / 262.289.9333.



LYAL: Grab your glove, bring your appetite, and join the Lutheran Young Adults League for an afternoon of tailgating and baseball as the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Colorado Rockies on Saturday, July 25! We'll kick things off with tailgating at 4:00 p.m. before heading into the ballpark for first pitch at 6:10 p.m. This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow young adults, enjoy some food and drinks, and cheer on the Brewers together. Tickets: \$10 per person (payment required in advance) Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot soon. See the RSVP link. lyalbrewers.rsvpify.com for payment instructions

COLLEGE-BOUND? Often the Fourth of July marks the start of the countdown to move-in day. Before those young people pack the last box and pull out of the driveway, they need something more than a dorm checklist. They need a church home. Historically, up to 70% of college students stop attending church regularly while away at school. The pressures of a secular university academically, socially, and spiritually can be relentless, and Satan strives to be in their faces during this time. Many students face the first serious challenges to their doctrine, their ethics, and their biblical worldview with little support around them. LCMS U, the official campus ministry network of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, exists precisely for this moment. With over 200 chapters nationwide, LCMS U connects students to Word and Sacrament ministry, surrounds them with fellow Lutherans, and provides the theological "home away from home" they need to not just survive college — but thrive in faith. I invite you to take one simple step: visit <http://swd.lcms.org/campus> and complete the form.

LIVESTREAM HELP NEEDED: Are you interested in helping our livestream efforts advancing the slides or being the producer/camera operator? Please contact Mark Ewert or Pam Ganswindt for more information. Knowing our service flow is a plus.

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