

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**



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, July 12, 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

Word of God, Come Down on Earth – Charles W. Ore

Hymn of Invocation

545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Divine Service 4

p. 203-212

Introit

Psalm 103:15-19; antiphon v. 8

P The LORD is merciful and gracious,

C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P As for man, his days are like grass;

C he flourishes like a flower of the field;

P for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,

C and its place knows it no more.

P But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

C and his righteousness to children's children,

P to those who keep his covenant

C and remember to do his commandments.

P The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,

C and his kingdom rules over all.

**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 The LORD is merciful and gracious,

C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the Lord,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

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 8:12-17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

p. 207

Hymn of the Day

586 Preach You the Word

Sermon

“What Type of Soil Are You?” (Matt. 13:1-9)

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Word of God, Come Down on Earth – Paul Manz

To give to Elm Grove Lutheran Church, you can 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

**827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling
894 For the Fruits of His Creation
577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast**

Nunc Dimittis – Benediction

pp. 211-212

Closing Hymn

921 On What Has Now Been Sown

Postlude

On What Has Now Been Sown – Charles Callahan

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 Bernice McCloskey with thanksgiving to God on the occasion of her 104th birthday on July 18.

Participants

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Organist

Elder

Chancel Assistant

Usher Team

Altar Guild

Pastor Skovgaard

Pastor Teggatz

Karla Bessert

Andrew Alles

Steve Hipenbecker

Pam Ganswindt, Andrea Kysely, Steve Nelson, Shelly Skovgaard,

Cathy Tuttrup, Matt Zientek, Mikayla Zientik

Carol Ewert, Jean Kruse

SERVING NEXT WEEK

THURSDAY, JULY 16 (6:30 P.M.)

ELDER: Paul Haut

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Dan Berry

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

SUNDAY, JULY 19 (9:00 A.M.)

ELDER: Doug Grelk

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Mattias Goldenstein

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

EGL in the Word (Seventh Sunday After Pentecost)

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

Isaiah 55 rounds out the second section of Isaiah (Isa 40-55), which focuses on the Servant of the LORD and that servant's redemptive work to save God's fallen people. Throughout these chapters, we hear Exodus language, signifying that this Servant's work will bring about a New Exodus, not only for God's people but for God's creation as well (in our verses today, see especially 55:12-13). All these promises of a Servant coming, of His suffering and redemptive work, of restoration and return, are guaranteed because God's Word is no mere human word or empty promise. God's Word does what it says, just as it did at creation (55:10-11; see our parable in Matthew 13 for an illustrative example of this). In a sense, our verses today provide a stamp of authenticity to round out this section of Isaiah's prophecy. It is certain. It will happen. And it has happened in Jesus Christ, the Servant, the Redeemer, the Leader of a New Exodus.

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:12-17

The first half of Romans comes to a resounding conclusion in chapter 8. Whereas Romans 6-7 largely focus on what we are to do as forgiven, freed children of God, Romans 8 moves to emphasize the promises of God that He gives to His forgiven, freed children. It begins with these beautiful words: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (8:1). The first section of the chapter (8:1-11) walks through the ramifications of this truth: as forgiven, freed children of God, we are led by the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead (8:10-11). And this Spirit is not one of slavery or fear, but of adoption (8:15). When we received the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism, it signified an entire identity change. In those waters, the Spirit made us children of God, heirs of eternal life, those who can confidently cry out "Abba! Father!," especially in times of suffering and temptation (8:15-17).

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

We'll be spending the next three weeks in Matthew 13, where Jesus gives us seven parables that help illustrate God's kingdom at work in the world. The first of these parables is a very familiar one: the parable of the sower. In short, Jesus gets an F for his sowing skills. Seeds are flying everywhere, from open paths subject to trampling to rocky and thorny ground where life seems destined to fail! Such is the illogical grace and reckless love of God, reminiscent of the prodigal father's scandalous grace toward his fallen son in Luke 15. But, it's not as if God's Word has failed in some circumstances and succeeded in others. As Isaiah reminds us, God's Word inevitably accomplishes what it purposes! Rather, God allows His Word to be variously received in faith or rejected through the cares, crosses, and confusions of the world. The parable calls us to cherish this Word God gives and to catechize our families zealously in this Word.

Reflection Questions This Week

Monday: The hobby of gardening is good practice for the Christian life. What sort of ready comparisons come to your mind when you think of that comparison?

Tuesday: When you think of your life in Christ as a garden, are there any particular weeds cropping up that should be removed so that the life of faith doesn't get choked out?

Wednesday: The Bible teaches us that God alone is the One who makes the Word grow in us and produce fruit, but God does send "under-sowers" of His Word -- pastors, teachers, parents, and others into our lives where they broadcast the seed of His Word. Are there particular people you find yourself repeatedly thanking God for?

Thursday: Regardless of what type of soil you might think you are at any given moment, the truth is that the Sower has "wasted" his seed on you, but He thought you were worth it! How might you live a life of thanksgiving for such prodigal love?

Friday: When we reflect on the Parable of the Sower in Sunday's Gospel reading, we are prompted to ask what sort of soil we are. In our fallen, sinful selves nothing spiritually useful will ever grow there. But the parable in reality points us back to the Sower and His seed. Make it your ambition this weekend to again place yourself where the Sower sows His Word of forgiveness and life!

ELM GROVE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR/NEWSLETTER
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 12, 2026 – Volume 78, Number 7.2

S	9:00 a.m. Divine Service 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Pickleball (Gym) 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	W	1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC)
M	1:00 p.m. LWML Missions (FH) 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors (228)	Th	9:30 a.m. Book Discussion (BAAC) 11:45 a.m. Lunch Bunch 6:30 p.m. Divine Service
T	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228) 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (BAAC) 6:30 p.m. Visitation Team	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 **154** people that attended services last week in person and **81** households streamed the services for a total of **235**. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

TRINITY LUTHERAN CLASSICAL UPDATE: The teaching staff and new headmaster, Melvin Beversdorf, met twice in the last week to work on the calendar, class offerings, and activities for next school year. 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!

PICKLEBALL: Our pickleball open gym is today, July 12, at 3:30 p.m. in the EGL gym (enter through the external youth room door). Please join us for fun and fellowship! Other summer dates include 7/26, 8/16, and 8/30. Fall dates coming soon!

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 13, 20, and 27 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.

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.

LWML: The LWML missions group will be meeting on Monday, July 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be working on cutting fleece for MOST Ministries Eyeglass Cases. Please bring scissors or a cutting mat and rotary cutter to this event.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Thursday, July 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the BAAC is the scheduled time and date for our discussion of the book, Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame written by Olivia Ford. She rises to fame as she is selected as a contestant in the British TV show "Britain Bakes." She is concerned about a secret from her youth that could be uncovered.

LUNCH BUNCH: The Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, July 16 at Bullwinkle's in Waukesha at 11:45 a.m. Please RSVP by July 14 to Arlene Malnar, 414-690-1872.

STAMMTISCH: Guys, just a reminder that we won't be meeting in July or August. We resume conversation over a cold one in September.

VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE: Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 02:00 p.m., - 06:30 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.

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 (scan the QR code for more details). A parental waiver is required for any attendees (see QR code). 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.



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.

NOTES

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