

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



16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 13 – 9:00 a.m.

DS 2

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

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven – Wayne L. Wold

Hymn of Invocation

793 Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

Confession and Absolution

p. 167

Introit

Psalm 143:1-2; antiphon: v. 9

P Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C I have fled to you for refuge!

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

P Enter not into judgment with your servant,

C for no one living is righteous before you.

**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 Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C I have fled to you for refuge!

Kyrie - Collect of the Day

pp. 168-172

(Hymn of Praise: This Is the Feast)

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

A Fear the LORD, you his saints,

C for those who fear him lack nothing!

A Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

C but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Epistle

Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

p. 173

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

719 I Leave All Things to God's Direction

Sermon

"The Stewardship of Forgiveness" (Matthew 18:21-35)

Nicene Creed

p. 174

Prayer of the Church

Offering

I Leave All Things to God's Direction – Friedrich Wilhelm Marburg

Offertory

p. 176

Service of the Sacrament

Preface -Agnus Dei

pp. 177-180

Hymns During Distribution

**635 O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing
758 The Will of God Is Always Best
613 To Thee Omniscient Lord of All**

Hymn to Depart

816 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Postlude

From All That Dwell Below the Skies – Dan Miller

Acknowledgments

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ALTAR PARAMENTS: 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: The altar flowers are given by Karen Clark in celebration of Trinity Lutheran Classical HS being on our campus for a second year.

Participants

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Organist

Elder

Chancel Assistant

Usher Team

Altar Guild

Pastor Skovgaard

Pastor Teggatz

Richard C. Ewert

Eric Thompson

Dan Berry

Tom Brojanac, Ben Ewert, Emily Ewert, Peter Holzwart,

Ken Schuppner, Duane Wunsch

Meg Grelk, Sue Schmalzer

SERVING NEXT WEEK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 (6:30 P.M.)

ELDER: John Wolck

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Mattias Goldenstein

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 (9:00 A.M.)

ELDER: Jason Krueger

CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Mark Ewert

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

EGL in the Word (Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost)

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

The big theme in our Old Testament and Gospel readings today is forgiveness, and certainly one of the finest examples of forgiveness in the Old Testament is the story of Joseph. Check out Gen 42-45 for the various interactions Joseph has with his brothers when they come down to Egypt for food during famine. Our verses today take place years after this initial moment of reconciliation; we're told that Jacob lives in Egypt for 17 years before his death (Gen 47:28). As soon as Jacob dies, the brothers immediately fear that Joseph will exact vengeance on them. But, Joseph's response in these verses shows that his initial forgiveness of them was, in fact, genuine. Joseph is a shining example of the forgiveness every Christian should share (see Matt 18), as well as the need for sinners to hear again and again the words of absolution from the lips of another.

Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation, where God brought you through a difficult time in order to equip you to help someone else? Looking back on various heartaches, have you seen Romans 8:28 in play, God at work in all things for the benefit of those who love him?

Epistle Reading: Romans 14:1-12

With these verses, we close our lectionary time in Romans for a while. Remember that Romans 12 began the third and final section of Paul's letter, exhorting the church at Rome to faithful Christian living. The focus in Romans 14 is our brothers and sisters in Christ, particularly the weak in faith. Paul here addresses the concept of *adiaphora*, those traditions and practices neither commanded nor forbidden by God in His Word. In this case, Paul notices differences in habits of eating and fasting among the congregation and reminds them not to pass judgment on things that fall into this category of *adiaphora*. Rather, one ought to eat, fast, and do all things in life and death to the glory and honor of God (14:6-9). Paul echoes what Jesus teaches in his ministry, namely: "...what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person," rather than eating certain foods and observing manmade traditions (Matt 15:1-20).

St Paul writes that he is prepared to become all things for all people for the sake of winning some. For the sake of strengthening and preserving your brother or sister in Christ, maybe even a family member, what would you be willing to let go of so that he or she is not offended? Without giving up on the purity and beauty of God's Word and Sacrament, are there things that don't matter salvation-wise, you'd be willing to do or not do to keep from losing a soul for whom Christ died?

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Our verses last week ended with a model of reconciliation we do well to follow today (Matt 18:15-20). This discussion prompts the second question of Matthew 18: "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" (18:21). Surely seven times is generous, in other words! Jesus' answer, as last week, defies the disciples' expectations of the kingdom: "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times." Forgive like the master, not the servant, as the parable shows. The first servant is forgiven an impossibly outrageous debt he could never dream to repay. And his response? He chokes and imprisons a fellow servant who owes him a sliver of his own debt (18:28-30). The master doesn't take kindly to this response and

imprisons the first servant for his lack of forgiveness (18:31-34). Like Joseph and most especially like Jesus, we forgive continuously because of the forgiveness we have received through Him.

Our stewardship of the gift of forgiveness is at play in this Gospel text. Misusing it illustrates that you don't appreciate what God has done for you. Have you ever held onto a grudge or slight or anger longer than you knew was healthy? Considering how the parable ends, what happens to those who willfully withhold forgiveness? Is there someone you need to release from their chains, maybe even repeatedly, in order to set them free?



[When Jesus calls Nathanel Bartholomew into discipleship in John 1:48, Jesus tells him that He saw him sitting under a fig tree before meeting him. To sit under one's own fig tree was a way of describing someone who was studying the Word of God. So, Jesus is saying that he saw Nathanel studying the Scriptures before calling him to follow Him.]

KOINONIA

"Our Life Together"

Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF ELM GROVE LUTHERAN

Vol. 78, Number 9.2

WEEK OF SEPT. 13

- S 10:00 a.m. Divine Service
11:30 a.m. BBQ (FH)
7:00 p.m. AA (FH)
- M 5:00 p.m. Intrada Ringers (MC)
6:30 p.m. LWML (FL)
7:00 p.m. Board of Directors (228)
7:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)
- T 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (BC)
5:15 p.m. Exultate Ringers (MC)
- W 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (BC)
1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BC)
6:30 p.m. Elders (228)
7:00 p.m. Exultate Singers (MC)
- Th 9:30 a.m. Book Discussion (BC)
6:30 p.m. Divine Service
7:30 p.m. Stammtisch (BC)
- F Happy Friday!

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

IN THE LORD'S HOUSE: There were **151** people that attended services last week in person and **76** households streamed the services for a total of **227**. "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Heb.10:24–25

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY: Join us every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the youth room as we begin a new topic for youth Bible study: "Themes of the Bible." This study is for middle and high schoolers. We hope to see you there!

EXULTATE SINGERS: You are invited to sing with the Exultate Singers, our congregation's adult vocal choir. You do not have to be a soloist to sing in the choir. The main function of a chorus singer is to blend in, not stand out. Fullness of voice is not really a requirement. Rehearsals are Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Music Center. We sing for Sunday worship twice a month. Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 16, 2026. For more information contact Rick Ewert: REwert@egl.org.

INTRADA RINGERS: We need more people to ring handbells. Do you sit in amazement while listening to the handbell choir ring bells at worship wondering, "Can I do this?" You are invited to try ringing handbells with the Intrada Ringers. Please join our rehearsal/practice on a Monday evening 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Music Center. Contact Rick Ewert REwert@egl.org / 262-289-9333.

REGULAR WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES: Sunday mornings after worship in the nave we are reading through the Pastoral Epistles of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. Tuesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in the conference room the men of EGL are studying the book of Revelation. Tuesdays at

10:00 a.m. in the Bartelt Center the ladies of EGL are working their way through the story of the Bible through the lens of various people we meet along the way. Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Bartelt Center this co-ed study is in the middle of St Paul's magnum opus -- the epistle to the Romans.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRE-K4-6TH GRADES: Mark your calendars for September 20 for the start of learning the Word in Sunday School. We will begin with the great prophet, Elijah. We meet in the lower hallway, Room 128 at 10:30 a.m. Teachers or helpers are needed! Contact Linda Hoffmann for details at 262-786-1203.

WISCONSIN MEMORIAL CEMETERY: A grave plot at Wisconsin Memorial Cemetery was purchased a few years ago but is no longer needed because the man is moving out of the area. If you or someone you know would like more details on this offer to purchase a plot, please connect with Pr Sam Lee at 414-979-5503. The seller is prepared to offer the plot at a steep discount in comparison with the fair market value.

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!

LWML: The evening group of LWML will discuss mission projects on Monday, September 14 in the Friendship Library at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

MABAS LECTURE: The Milwaukee Area Biblical Archaeology Society [MABAS] is hosting its first lecture of the new academic year on Tuesday, Sept 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Wisconsin Lutheran College, in the Fine Arts Building, FM15 -- Reichel Lecture Hall (8815 W Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53226). The presentation is entitled "John on Patmos: Vanishing Islands, Peak Consumption, and the Apocalypse." The presenter is Dr Friesen, the Louise Farmer Boyer Chair of Biblical Studies Emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Meet in the BAAC at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 17 to discuss the book *The Maid* written by Nita Prose. This novel is a mystery about Molly Gray, a hotel maid at the Regency Grand Hotel who loves to clean rooms and takes pride in her work. She finds Mr. Black, a wealthy tycoon, dead in his room. She becomes the first suspect in the murder investigation. Molly gets support from friends and staff of the hotel. Ladies if you like to read and discuss books, please join us. We welcome new members.

STAMMTISCH: Guys! Fall's almost here! Please don't forget to include EGL Stammtisch in your monthly schedule! Take a break and kick back with us on Thurs., Sept. 17, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. for great libation and lively conversation that runs the gamut, but always in a fun, informal atmosphere of Christian fellowship. Perhaps a few new things to enjoy this fall? Come and find out! (Hint: stay tuned for details for our Fall Brewing Social, Saturday, October 3) Join us in the Bartelt Adult Activities Center (BAAC) at EGL, bring your favorite brew and some snacks to share and a friend! Any questions? Contact Bruce Bessert by phone/text at 414-526-8430, or by email at bruce.bessert@gmail.com.

PICKLEBALL: Add our future dates to your calendar: September 20, October 4 & 18, November 8 & 22, and December 6 from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

LADIES PM STUDY: What is God calling me to do? What is the *one thing* I was born to do? Am I truly living out my calling? The truth is that there isn't just *one thing* you are meant to do. God calls you to *many* things throughout the ages and stages of life. Whether you are a recent graduate, settled into a stable job, or retired, all of us can experience seasons of feeling stuck. God's Word speaks truth about how we are meant to live and what we are called to do.

Please join the Ladies PM Bible Study as we take up the five part study of "Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose" by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger starting on Wednesday September 23, 2026 and meeting every other week through November 18, 2026, 5:30-6:45 p.m., in the BAAC. The book is available from several sources including Concordia Publishing House. Contact Laura Traas with questions at 414-380-0171 or traaslm112@sbcglobal.net.

LWML FALL RETREAT: September 25-26 are the dates for the LWML Fall Retreat to be held at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc.

KNITTERS WANTED: LWML is in the process of knitting newborn baby hats for the Manitowoc County Pregnancy Center. Patterns and yarn are at the back of the church. Hats are due by September 24. Please sign the sheet so we know who has a bag. Thank you, Linda Hoffmann

FROM TLCHS HEADMASTER MELVIN BEVERSDORF: I left some information in the back of church if you'd like. Thank you for your prayers and your continued support and encouragement. We look forward to a great year! Questions - contact me at the School office phone 262-289-8267 (text ok) or head@trinitylutheranclassical.org.

HOW ARE PASTORS MADE: Have questions about how the LCMS is forming faithful pastors to meet the current and future demands of the holy ministry? Come and talk to the LCMS Pastoral Formation Committee, which includes the two seminary presidents, at the Listening Session hosted at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, Ill., on Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.