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



25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, November 15 – 9:00 a.m.

DS2

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 **Be Strong in the Lord – Lynn L. Petersen**

Hymn of Invocation **665 Be Strong in the Lord**

Confession and Absolution **p. 167**

Introit **Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1**

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.
P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;
C I ponder the work of your hands.
P I stretch out my hands to you;
C my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
P Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
C Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
P For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!
C In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!
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 Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
C In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Kyrie - Collect of the Day **pp. 168-172**
(Hymn of Praise: This is the Feast)

Old Testament Reading **Zephaniah 1:7–16**

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,

a loud crash from the hills.
[11]Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
[12]At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
[13]Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
[14]The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
[15]A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
[16]a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Gradual **Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5**

P These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
C They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
P Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
C in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Epistle **1 Thessalonians 5:1–11**

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4]But you

are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5]For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse **p. 173**

Holy Gospel **Matthew 25:14–30**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

[14][Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15]To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16]He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17]So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18]But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20]And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' [21]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [22]And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' [23]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [24]He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26]But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day	**667 Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses**
Sermon	**"Faith, Stewardship, and Reward" (Matt 25:14-30)**
Nicene Creed	**p. 174**
Prayer of the Church	
Offering	**Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses – Benjamin M. Culli**
Offertory	**p. 176**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface -Agnus Dei	**pp. 177-180**
Hymns During Distribution	**755 In the Very Midst of Life** **562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall**
Post-Communion Canticle-Benediction *(Canticle: Thank the Lord)*	**pp. 181-183**
Hymn to Depart	**660 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus**
Postlude	**Be Strong in the Lord – Robert A. Hobby**

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: Today's flowers are provided by the Altar Guild.

Participants

Presiding Minister	Pastor Eric Skovgaard
Organist	Richard C. Ewert
Elder	Paul Haut
Chancel Assistant	Mark Ewert
Usher Team	Chase Hipke, Connor Hipke, Rob Hipke, Thomas Hipke, Tyler Hipke, Carter Klein, Ian Klein, Michael Klein, Ann Wilcox, Christine Wilcox
Altar Guild	Helen Moore, Sharon Boudro

SERVING NEXT WEEK

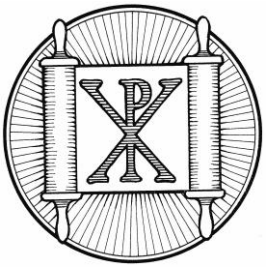
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 (6:30 P.M.)

ELDER: Doug Grelk
CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Kirk Midtbo
TEAM 3: Dan Berry, Caleb Nelson, Laura Traas, Aislyn Wegner, Jake Wegner, Randy Wegner, Rick Wegner, Ryan Wegner

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

ELDER: Bruce Bessert
CHANCEL ASSISTANT: Doug Grelk
TEAM 4: Tom Brojanac, Ben Ewert, Danny Boettcher, Emily Boettcher, Peter Holzwart, Ken Schuppner, Duane Wunsch

EGL in the Word (Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost)



Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7-16

We don't hear much from Zephaniah in our lectionary, but in short, Zephaniah's catchphrase is "the day of the LORD." As we continue our consideration of that theme, Zephaniah illustrates the day of the LORD for the unrepentant. And it's not pretty. This day is one of "distress and anguish, ruin and devastation, darkness and gloom, clouds and thick darkness, trumpet blast and battle cry" (1:15-16). We had the image of virgins stumbling in the dark with lamps last week. Here, God is the one with lamps, searching out and punishing those who have forsaken Him, preferring to dwell in darkness. Such is the day of the LORD for the wicked.

- With every word of the Law must necessarily come the proclamation of the Gospel. Read Zephaniah 3:14-20 this week to hear God's promises to the faithful who cling to Him. Remember: every day the return of Jesus doesn't happen is another opportunity for those outside the kingdom to hear these words, repent, and receive!

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Paul gives us a good illustration of the day of the Lord for the unbeliever and the Christian here. The day of the Lord is darkness and destruction for the unbeliever (see Zeph 1). But not so for the people of God, for we are not children of darkness, but "children of light, children of the day" (5:5). This day won't surprise us like a thief. Rather, as Jesus encourages in Luke 21: "...when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (21:28). Straighten up. Raise your heads. Or, as Paul puts it, stay awake. Stay sober. Encourage and build one another up, not in your own strength, but in the strength God Himself supplies (5:8). "For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (5:9).

- We've heard the call to stay awake the last several weeks in our readings. The call to be sober is added here. How do we stay awake and sober in the Christian life? What might prevent you from staying awake and sober in your life?

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

In both our OT and epistle readings, we see a call for God's people to live differently in light of their calling (and the punishment due when God's people scorn that calling). Such is the teaching of the parable of the talents. The servants are already part of God's household and, as part of that calling, are entrusted with various talents when the master goes away on a journey (note: there's every expectation that the master is returning!). Two servants invest those talents zealously. One does the bare minimum, misjudging the personality of his master and the reckless grace of His kingdom. Here too, we see both the punishment of those who are God's people in name only (25:24-30) and the praise of those who abound in good works as children of the day (25:20-23).

- Think of **one** talent God has uniquely given you. This could be vocations, skills/abilities, possessions, status, etc. What is **one** way you can use that talent anew to serve your neighbor? Be a child of the day/light this week!

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 11.3

WEEK OF NOV. 15

Su 9:00 a.m. Divine Service
10:30 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Youth Bible Study
7:00 p.m. AA (FH)

M 10:00 a.m. Al Krueger Visitation
12:00 p.m. Al Krueger Funeral
4:30 p.m. Jr Spartans Rental (Gym)
5:15 p.m. Exultate Ringers (MC)
6:00 p.m. TLCHS The Great Conversation (286)
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 (FL)
5:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting (BA, Finance Rm)
5:00 p.m. Intrada Ringers (MC)
6:30 p.m. Visitation Team Meeting (BC)

W 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (BC)
1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BC)
4:30 p.m. Jr Spartans Rental (Gym)
5:30 p.m. Ladies PM Bible Study (BC)
6:30 p.m. Elders Meeting (228)
7:00 p.m. Exultate Singers (MC)

Th 9:30 a.m. Book Discussion Group (BC)
12:00 p.m. TLCHS Thanksgiving Potluck (CLC)
4:30 p.m. Jr Spartans Rental (Gym)
6:30 p.m. Divine Service
7:30 p.m. EGL Stammtisch (BC)

F Happy Friday!

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

IN THE LORD'S HOUSE: There were **138** people that attended services last week in person and **85** households streamed the services for a total of **223**. "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

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.

COFFEE DONATIONS: The money that is donated during the time of fellowship after Church on Sundays is being donated to the signage project. Thank you for your generosity!

PICKLEBALL: Add our future dates to your calendar: November 22 & December 13.

EGL THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON - Please join our EGL family in gathering together for a family-style Thanksgiving luncheon on Sunday, November 22. The meal will begin at 11:30 a.m. following the Sunday morning Bible Studies and Sunday School. Turkey, gravy, and mashed potatoes will be provided. Please sign up to bring a dish to share. You may use the paper sign-up sheet at the back of the church or you may use the Signup Genius QR code on the right:

THANKSGIVING EVE DETAILS: In response to our gracious God who has given us more than we deserve or could ask for, EGL will hold a 6:30 p.m. service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday evening, November 25. You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for the ingathering to be given to our inner-city partner churches for sharing in their communities. Please also note that, in continuity with our local tradition, the monetary offering from this service will be dedicated to a ministry outside of our immediate circle of needs. This year the offering will support the work of our missionaries in Germany among the Persian immigrants, as you heard discussed in the presentation by Pr Christian Tiews on November 8. Thank you for all you do to support the work of EGL in being a lamp post of the truth!

2027 CALENDARS AVAILABLE: Around church are 2027 calendars generously given to EGLC by Harder Funeral Homes. If you would like to get one, please help yourself!

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT: Reflect on our Savior's birth by attending this event on Sunday, December 6, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. During this time, you will enjoy visiting with family and friends while sipping and snacking on delicious treats. Dr. Brad Alles shares, "The Sure Thing!" with inspiring instrumental music and carols of the Christmas season. Mark your calendar and call Meg Grelk (262-309-9861) or Carole Braun (262-781-1494) for reservations and to decorate a table, bring an appetizer or dessert, or offer your helping hands.

EGL NOVEMBER STAMMTISCH!! Guys! Lots to be THANKFUL for this and every year… Let's celebrate our Christian faith with fellowship and fun on Thursday, November 19, from 7:30 - 9:00(ish) p.m. Again, the November EGL Stammtisch will be at the EGL Bartelt Center. Bring your favorite beverage and 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.

EGL FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING HELP NEEDED! The EGL Foundation Board is looking to put together a committee to assist with the preparations for the golf outing this year. Due to the availability of dates at Ironwood golf course, the outing will be held on Friday, April 30 of 2027. Work would primarily consist of soliciting sponsors for the outing and donors for the raffles and arranging prizes for the golfers who win the various contests. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Ann Wilcox at 262-409-5888 or annw821@gmail.com.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Meet in the BAAC at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 19 to discuss the book *Magic Hour* written by Kristin Hannah. This is a contemporary drama about redemption, trauma, and the transformative power of love. Reluctantly giving up her California practice working with troubled children, Julia Cates is forced to draw on all her skills to deal with a young mute girl found abandoned and terrified in her Pacific Northwest hometown. Ladies, if you like to read and discuss books, please join us. We welcome new members! If you have any questions, please reach out to Paula Keefer at paulajkeefer@gmail.com.

LUTHERAN MISSIONS IN UGANDA: You've heard Pr Bienfait Safari-Romeo preach here at Elm Grove Lutheran Church. You've read about his remarkable life story from refugee camp in Malawi to studying at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. He has returned to Africa with a call to minister among the Congolese refugees in Uganda while also teaching at the seminary in Uganda. An email from the church office went out to the congregation a few weeks ago. If you missed that email, ask Beth at info@egl.org for another copy or look for a printed copy in the back of the nave.

THE LUTHERAN A CAPPELLA CHOIR OF MILWAUKEE PRESENTS: "Oh Hear the Angels Sing" featuring "Gaudete," Christmas carols and anthems by John Rutter, K. L. Scott, Dan Forrest, Rene Clausen, and More! Directed by Bill Busch and accompanied by woodwind trio and Richad Ewert. There are two performances: Friday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 12700 W Howard Ave, New Berlin, WI 53151 and Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m., Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, 8424 W Center St., Milwaukee, WI 53222. Tickets are $20 and students are FREE with an ID. Tickets are available for purchase in advance or at the door. Check it out at https://lutheranacappella.org/

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