

**December 17, 2023 • 8:30am**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent – Comfort Now**

# Why Wait?

MEETING JESUS  
RIGHT NOW



# **WELCOME**

## **to Elk River Lutheran Church**

Welcome to Elk River Lutheran Church! Whether you are joining us in-person or online, we're glad you're here. Elk River Lutheran Church is a forward-thinking congregation made up of people of all ages. We are a pretty new church (formed in 2009), located in a remodeled bank building on the Mississippi River in downtown Elk River. Our mission is: *Trusting in God's grace, an accepting, joyful community, serving God and neighbor.*

We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and celebrate the work we're able to do together as a denomination (to learn more about the ELCA visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)). We welcome all people and as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation that welcome extends to the LGBTQ+ community.

Please fill out the enclosed Connection Form slip and drop it in an offering plate to receive more information about Elk River Lutheran or share prayer concerns.

### **THINGS TO KNOW FOR THE SERVICE TODAY:**

- **Bathrooms**, complete with changing tables for little ones, are located in the Fellowship Hall in the corner opposite of the main entrance.
- We welcome **kids** with their wiggles and noises in worship. We are also aware that as a parent, time away from wiggles and noises can be a blessing too. You will find our staffed nursery (For children 5 and under) by the entrance in the far corner of the fellowship hall.

We hope and pray you have a wonderful worship experience here today. To learn more about the many opportunities to participate and volunteer with the ministries of ERLC, visit our website: <https://www.elkriverlutheran.org>

**See Christmas Service Volunteers further back in bulletin.**

### **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

	<b>Sunday, December 17</b>	<b>Sunday, December 31</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Vicki Granros	Christy Boese and Dixie Rud
<b>Ushers</b>	Michal Pruchnik and Cale Stanley-Wornson	Jerry and Marianne Jackson
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Cedric Olson	Paula Rose
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Karen Acers and Vicki Simpson	Paula Hovde and Marlys Olson
<b>Sunday Morning Communion Setup/ CleanUp</b>	Julie Marie Haugen	Barb Burandt
<b>Communion Steward</b>	Larry Cook	Vicki Simpson
<b>Mid-Week Communion Fill</b>	Paula Rose	Shirley Schmidt
<b>PowerPoint Operator</b>		Mary Barthel
<b>Soundboard Operator</b>	Emily Rotz	Henry Boese
<b>Switcher Operator</b>	Nick Campbell	Nick Campbell

*If you would like to serve, Great! Please contact Taylor Quinn so we can get you filled in. If you cannot volunteer for the upcoming Sunday, please contact Taylor @ [taylor@elkriverlutheran.org](mailto:taylor@elkriverlutheran.org)*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### ***The Gathering of God's People***

Welcome

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

Gathering Hymn

**(#266) "All Earth is Hopeful"**

Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

**"Glory to God"**

### ***The Word of God Proclaimed***

Prayer of the Day

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon

*Pastor Nathan Mugaas*

Hymn of the Day

**(#271) "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"**

*v1, 2, 4, & 5*

### ***Sharing & Receiving the Gifts of God***

Apostles Creed

Bidding Prayers

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

Holy, Holy, Holy

**"Holy, Holy"**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Lamb of God

**"Lamb of God"**

Communion Hymns

**(#272) "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

**(#269) "Once in Royal David's City"**

Communion Blessing & Prayer

### ***The Sending of God's People***

Community Announcements

Sending Blessing

Sending Hymn

**(#274) "On Christmas Night"**

Sending Dialog

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## LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

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### PEACE

It is dangerous to pray for peace,  
to ask God to reveal and unravel  
our posture and pretending for  
a semblance of love and justice.

It is dangerous to pray for peace  
when we benefit from tumult unseen  
and games rigged by earthly powers.

It is dangerous to pray for peace  
when we fear our own fullness and life.

*Ordinary Blessings for the Christmas Season*, by Meta Herrick Carlson, pg 101

A graphic with a dark blue, starry background. At the top, the text 'Join Us This Christmas' is written in a large, bold, yellow font. Below this, the dates and times for services are listed in white text. At the bottom left is the Elk River Lutheran logo, and at the bottom right is a silhouette of a nativity scene with a bright yellow star above it.

**Join Us This Christmas**

**Wednesday, December 20**  
Early Candlelight Service: 6:30pm

**Sunday, December 24**  
Family Service: 10:30am  
Candlelight Services:  
2:30pm, 4:30pm and 10:00pm

 **Elk River**  
LUTHERAN

729 Main St, Elk River  
763-595-1216

## CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS

Status as of Wednesday Morning, December 12th

Roles	Dec 20	Dec 24 @ 10:30am	Dec 24 @ 2:30pm	Dec 24 @ 4:30pm	Dec 24 @ 10:00pm
Mid-Week Communion Prep	Bock, Nancy <i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i>				
Greeter	Klemenhausen, Tracie Rinerson, Roger	Howland, Shari Howland, Alex	Donnelly, Paula Donnelly, Pat	Hovde, Sue Hovde, Paul	Schaefer, Jeremiah Schaefer, Anthony
Usher	Campbell, John Werk, Tom Werk, Lorie <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Ayres, Viv Ayres, Jim [REDACTED]	<i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i> <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Bock, Rick Shellum, Ed Shellum, Deb <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Ziner, Dale	Ziner, Dale	Ethen, Levi	Carlson, Katie	Ziner, Dale
PowerPoint Operator	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Howland, Shari	Schrock, Krista	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Soundboard Operator	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Howland, Justin	Schrock, Jeff	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Communion Steward	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Communion Server	Simpson, Vicki <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Bossany, Lisa <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Wingard, Tom Wingard, LuAnn	Hippe, Martha <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Armagost, Babs Pouliot, Greg
Communion Prep/Clean Up	Burandt, Barb	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Switcher Operator	Horner, Adam	Campbell, Nick			

### Volunteers Needed.

To sign up, visit <https://bit.ly/ERLCXmas2023>  
or use the QR-Code on the graphic on the next page.

# Christmas Eve Service Volunteers

Serve at our Services this Christmas!

Sign up online to serve Dec 20th and 24th worship services.  
Positions include :

- Greeter, Usher, Scripture Reader, Communion Server/Prep/Steward, PowerPoint Operator, or Soundboard Operator.

The December 20th service is at 6:30 pm, and you would need to be there by 6:00 pm.

Our December 24th services are at 10:30 am, 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, and 10:00 pm. You would need to be there 30 minutes prior to each service.

Please sign up by Wednesday, Dec 13th. If you have any questions, contact [Taylor Quinn](#).



# Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:30AM & 10:30AM

Elk River Lutheran Church





# Starting January 18th 2024

## CLASS DETAILS

- Classes will take place on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm, beginning January 18th and continuing for nine weeks. (Jan 18 - Mar 14)
- \*\$60 Registration Fee Includes:
  - Nine Week Financial University Class and Course Workbook
  - One year Financial Peace University Online Access
  - Three Months of Premium Version of EveryDollar Budgeting App
  - Live Group Financial Coaching

\*If you attend all 9 weeks of class, the Elk River Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund will refund your original \$60 registration fee!



Sign up now at:



[bit.ly/FPU2024ERLC](https://bit.ly/FPU2024ERLC)

featuring  
Brooklyn Big Band

ERLC YOUTH PRESENT  
+ A FUNDRAISER EVENT

*benefitting the  
Youth Mission Trip*

DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT,  
DESSERT, SILENT AUCTION

20TH JANUARY, 2024

TICKETS \$30  
Use QR-Code or Bit.ly  
to purchase tickets

Roaring 20s Theme  
1920'S ATTIRE  
ENCOURAGED  
BUT NOT REQUIRED



[bit.ly/3GmcSLI](https://bit.ly/3GmcSLI)

# CHRISTMAS STORY

Q K W H O S N L P C K T N W A P X  
 K Z J S E R S E B M Z O M K B C X  
 Q I X S O N E J R Z S J H E M F B  
 K L N B G H L O V E S L T I P I W  
 X B A G S H E H T U G H K F R A S  
 U K X M S I A R S G L N K C A A M  
 L J V A B Y I E I E G D A H Z C B  
 Y O E M M R J F H Z U O V M X Q U  
 Y S J K A A T E E U O D D N C F N  
 F E K X E M M C E Z M J I K N R X  
 L P V S N B E W O Q Q M U T X E P  
 L H H O N A Z A R E T H L T Q M R  
 J O A R S Z S H E P H E R D S I H  
 J O N A N X G F L X B W H Q X H X  
 U C G T P L X F V D E A G L E D M  
 K Z E S A L W O H L E C B B N M C  
 Q N L I C S Q H E A N R H Y I P S

SHEPHERDS  
 JOSEPH  
 JESUS  
 STAR  
 MARY

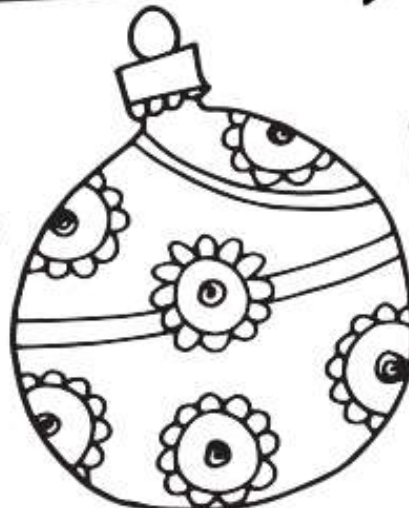
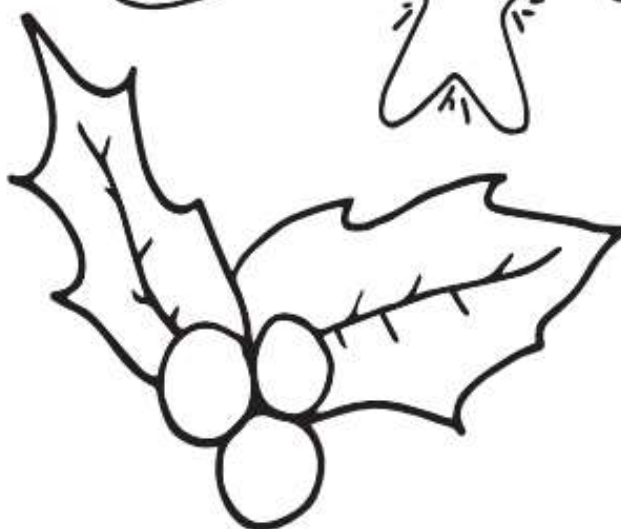
BETHLEHEM  
 ANGEL  
 CRIB  
 BABY  
 GOD

NAZARETH  
 KINGS  
 LOVE  
 BORN  
 SON

MANGER  
 SHEEP  
 GIFT  
 LAMB



tidings  
& comfort  
& joy



## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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### ***Praise the Lord (joys and answered prayers):***

- Baptism of Bjorn Shellum (Sponsors: Lindsey Rettmann and Carl Sandusky) and Jari Shellum (Sponsors: Charisa Flaherty and Joe Rohrer). Parents Thor and Heidi Shellum

### ***In Sympathy***

- Family and Friends of Al Werk, brother of Tom Werk
- Family and Friends of Jack Burris
- Family and Friends of Roger Bentz
- Family and Friends of Ken Provencher
- Family and Friends of Diane Jacobson

### ***For Support***

- Those with mental health concerns and those who care for them.

### **SHARE YOUR PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- Email [linda@elkriverlutheran.org](mailto:linda@elkriverlutheran.org)
- Fill out on your connection form
- Contact the church office at (763) 595-1216
- Fill out form on church website at [elkriverlutheran.org](http://elkriverlutheran.org)

*Generally, prayer requests will run for 3 weeks. If more time is needed, please call the church office*

### ***Health concerns***

- Bill Brown, father to Pastor Anne Schaefer (recovery from hip replacement and fall)
- Michelle Werk, sister-in-law to Tom and Lorie Werk
- Nellie Taylor, foot surgery
- Steve Bucholz, in rehab
- Robin Skeie, cousin of Diana Schansberg, in bad car accident and now in rehab
- Norma Madsen, Cancer Scan
- Darrell Madsen, throat cancer treatment
- Garnet Novotny - cancer
- Pat Kyro health concerns and recovery from surgery
- Kim Miller - cancer treatments (daughter of Tom and Marilyn Miller)
- Patty Sonneman, hospitalized and mass on brain. Aunt of Jenny Stanley
- Sara Anderson, Lorie Schulstad-Werk's sister
- Carol Sindelir, Val Nelson's sister
- Linda Retel, ongoing treatment for inoperable brain cancer (friend of Pauline Kuhn)
- Diane Harding, ALS diagnosis
- Brian Harding
- Mary Wells, pancreatic cancer
- Nancy Naig
- Steve Lindberg, on hospice
- Diane McGrath, pancreatic cancer
- Ken Bucher
- Kris West, daughter of Bob and Sue Hagen
- Duane Jerde

## WEEK AHEAD

### SUNDAY

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:30am** Traditional Worship with Kids Connect  
**9:30am** Fellowship Hour  
**10:30am** Contemporary Worship with Kids Connect  
**1:00pm** Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal  
**3:00pm** Family Band Sound Check

### MONDAY

- 6:00pm** Worship Band Rehearsal  
**6:30pm** Women's Monthly Bible Study (*Quilting Room on Lower Level*)

### TUESDAY

- 9:00am** Quilting (*Lower Level Quilting Room*)  
**10:00am** Text Study – Optional Fellowship Time starting at 9:30am (*Lower Level Community Room*)  
**3:00pm** Bulletin Assembly (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room)  
**6:00pm** Bells and Carols (*Guardian Angels Riverview Landing*)  
**6:30pm** Church Council  
**7:00pm** AA Meeting (*Community Room*)

### WEDNESDAY

- 6:30pm** Early Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### THURSDAY

- 10:00am** Worship at Guardian Angels Riverview Landing

### FRIDAY

- 9:00am** Women's Coffee (*Panera, Elk River*)  
**9:00am** Men's Breakfast (*Coborns, Elk River*)

### SATURDAY

- 8:00am** Men's Bible Study (*Zoom Bible Study*)

### NEXT SUNDAY

#### Christmas Eve

- 10:30am** Family Christmas Eve Service  
**2:30pm** Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
**4:30pm** Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
**10:00pm** Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

### NEXT MONDAY

**Christmas Day**  
**Church Office is Closed**

## SMALL GROUPS

### ERLC Quilting Group

*Tuesdays @ 9AM*  
Lower Level at Church

Mission Quilts are made for Lutheran World Relief.  
*All skill levels welcome.*

### Text Study

*Tuesdays @ 10AM*  
*(Optional Fellowship @9:30AM)*  
Meeting in the Lower Level Community Room

Studying the bible text for the upcoming Sunday  
Worship along with the preaching pastor.  
*All are welcome . Come once or come every week*

### Men's Breakfast

*Fridays @ 9AM*  
Coborns, Elk River  
Food – Fellowship

### Women's Coffee

*Fridays @ 9AM*  
Panera, Elk River  
Coffee – Food – Fellowship

### Men's Bible Study

*Saturdays @ 8AM*  
On Zoom

Find a link at  
<https://www.elkriverlutheran.org/adult-ministries.html>

### Genealogy Group

*1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month*  
*10AM – 12 Noon*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

All are welcome even if you haven't joined before.  
Meeting begins by sharing what each are working on, discoveries, questions, roadblocks and family stories.

### Women's Monthly Bible Study

*3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month*  
*6:30PM*

Lower Level at the Church

This group follows the Bible Studies of the  
Women's ELCA magazine Gather.

## STAFF

### Pastor Nathan Mugaas

763-242-8347

[pastornathan@elkriverlutheran.org](mailto:pastornathan@elkriverlutheran.org)

### Pastor Anne Schaefer

952-250-6974

[pastoranne@elkriverlutheran.org](mailto:pastoranne@elkriverlutheran.org)

### Linda Nielsen

Office Manager

763-595-1216

[linda@elkriverlutheran.org](mailto:linda@elkriverlutheran.org)

### Taylor Quinn

Director of Music Ministry & Worship

816-519-2719

[taylor@elkriverlutheran.org](mailto:taylor@elkriverlutheran.org)

### Nick Campbell

Online Broadcast Specialist

[ncdpv1@gmail.com](mailto:ncdpv1@gmail.com)

### Lisa Griffin

Staff Pianist

612-709-8882

[madeleinesmom@gmail.com](mailto:madeleinesmom@gmail.com)

### Brian Harding

Custodian

### Lori Sundman

Bookkeeper

763-595-1216

[ERLCBookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:ERLCBookkeeper@gmail.com)

### Nursery Attendants:

Clara Anderson, Emma Anderson  
and Amy Brown

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

**President:**

David Katzner

**Vice President:**

Kent Larson

**Secretary:**

Matt Glasoe

**Treasurer:**

Mark Johnson

Sue Hales  
Julie Marie Haugen  
Conni Natwick  
Jeff Schrock  
Jennifer Stanley  
Tom Werk



Confirmation Worship  
Notes Form



Confirmation Volunteer  
Form

## Ways to Give



### Cash / Check

Offering plate is  
by the entrances  
to the sanctuary



### Mobile Giving QR Code



### Text to Give

Text Give to  
(612) 324-8257

### Additional Ways to Give:

- **Automated Recurring Giving:** Set up online via website give button, via the Tithe.ly phone app or by contacting the church office
- **Stocks:** consider donating stocks through a conversation with your financial advisor and the church.

## Elk River Lutheran Church

729 Main Street – Elk River, MN 55330

(763) 595-1216

[www.elkriverlutheran.org](http://www.elkriverlutheran.org)

Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9 am – 4 pm; Fri Closed