

# **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**December 21, 2022 @ 6:30pm**

**December 24, 2022 @ 2:30pm • 4:30pm • 10:00pm**

# *Make Room*



 **Elk River** ELCA  
**LUTHERAN**  
Trusting in God's grace, an accepting,  
joyful community, serving God & neighbor.



# 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.

Each week we have two vibrant Sunday morning worship services:

**8:30AM Traditional Worship** - follows liturgical settings from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal.

**10:30AM Contemporary Worship** - music led by Taylor Quinn (our Director of Music and Worship) and our band, while maintaining the key elements of Lutheran worship.

All services are streamed LIVE on Facebook and YouTube and available on demand after.

\*Please note there will be NO SERVICES Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25.

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:

- Along with this bulletin you should have received a **candle** for the candlelit portion of our service. Feel free to grab them at any time.
- **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>. AND we are very excited about our next sermon series



Have you made your New Year's Resolutions? This January and February we'll explore what the Bible has to say about some of the most common resolutions and in doing so we'll help encourage one another to live happier, healthier lives. We'll approach these topics with grace and love, rather than judgment and shame, knowing that we all struggle in certain areas more than others.

See more on page 14...

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### GATHERING MUSIC

6:30pm, 12/21  
2:30pm, 12/24  
4:30pm, 12/24  
10:00pm, 12/24

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”  
“Love Came Down”  
“Hallelujah”  
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS SHARING OF THE PEACE

### CAROL

**(#289) “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

#### VERSE 1

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

#### REFRAIN

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

#### VERSE 2

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?

#### REFRAIN

#### VERSE 3

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

#### REFRAIN

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Today we light all the candles on the advent wreath as we celebrate the coming of the Messiah. Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**Oh, come let us adore him!**

Unto us a Child is born!

**Oh, come let us adore him!**

And the government shall be upon his shoulders.

**Oh, come let us adore him!**

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Almighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.

**Oh, come let us adore him!**

## CAROL

(#283) *“O Come All Ye Faithful”* v1 & 4

### VERSE 1

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:

### VERSE 4

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:

### REFRAIN

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

### REFRAIN

## CHRISTMAS CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh,  
the Power of the Most High, † one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Gracious God,

**We confess that in our weariness we often fail to see the good in the world and in each other. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in † Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

### SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5

## CAROL

(#279) *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* v1

### VERSE 1

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;

yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

## **GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1-20

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **CAROL**

*(#290) "Go Tell It on the Mountain" v 1 & 2*

#### **REFRAIN**

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

#### **REFRAIN**

#### **VERSE 2**

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth.

#### **VERSE 1**

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

#### **REFRAIN**

## **SERMON**

Pastor Nathan Mugaas

**CAROL OF THE DAY**     *(#271) "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" v1, 3-5*

#### **VERSE 1**

I am so glad each Christmas Eve,  
the night of Jesus' birth!  
Then like the sun the star shone forth,  
and angels sang on earth.

#### **VERSE 4**

I am so glad each Christmas Eve!  
His praises then I sing;  
he opens now for ev'ry child  
the palace of the king.

#### **VERSE 3**

He dwells again in heaven's realm,  
the Son of God today;  
and still he loves his little ones  
and hears them when they pray.

#### **VERSE 5**

And so I love each Christmas Eve,  
and I love Jesus too;  
and that he loves me ev'ry day  
I know so well is true.

## **SHARING & RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Creator God, we are filled to overflowing with the joy of this season. As the Magi offered their best to the Christ child, we place before you our offerings from the gifts you have given to us. May they be used to further your work among us. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION CANTICLE**

**It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.**

**Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

**In his light, draw all to the manger  
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

**In his light, draw all to the manger  
to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

**In his light, draw all to the manger  
to sing for joy with the angels.**

**In the brightness of his life  
cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

**It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.  
In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION CAROL

(#296) *“What Child is This”*

### VERSE 1

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard  
and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

### VERSE 2

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

### VERSE 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

## COMMUNION CAROL

(#277) *“Away in the Manger”*

### VERSE 1

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus  
laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

### VERSE 2

The cattle are lowing;  
the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus,  
no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus;  
look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle  
till morning is nigh.

### VERSE 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus;  
I ask you to stay  
close by me forever  
and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven,  
to live with you there.

## **CHRISTMAS COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

Let your light shine before others, so all may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (*Matthew 5:16*)

***(When lighting the candles, please tip only the unlit candles.)***

## **RESPONSIVE READING**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (*Genesis 1:1-2*)

**In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. (*John 1:1-2*)**

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. (*Genesis 1:3*)

**All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. (*John 1:3-4*)**

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness, did not overcome it. (*John 1:5*)

## **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

***(#279) "O Little Town of Bethlehem" v2 & 3***

### **VERSE 2**

**For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all the earth!**

### **VERSE 3**

**How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**



**(#294) "In the Bleak Midwinter" v1 & 3**

**VERSE 1**

In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.

**VERSE 3**

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.

**(#281) "Silent Night"**

**VERSE 1**

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

**VERSE 3**

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

**VERSE 2**

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

**THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

*"Go in peace, Share the Good News! We Will! Thanks Be to God!"*

**POSTLUDE**

**No Worship on Christmas Day, Sunday December 25,  
but join us for *Lessons and Carols* January 1 at 8:30am and 10:30am.  
*MERRY CHRISTMAS!***

# Christmas Carols

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

Angels

Away

Bethlehem

Child

Christmas

Come

Faithful

Glad

Go Tell

Heard

Manger

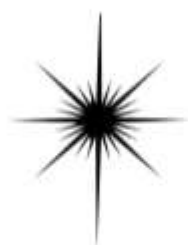
Midwinter

Mountain

Night

Silent

Town



# Mary and Baby Jesus Coloring Page





## *Christmas Poinsettia Memorials & Honorariums*



In Memory of Our Parents	By Don and Babs Armagost
In Memory of Cloy Goetsch	By Colette Brown
In Memory of Carole Goetsch	By Colette Brown
In Memory of Our Parents	By John and Debbie Campbell
	By John and Deborah Campbell
In Memory of Family	By Chuck and Jane Cazett
In Honor of ERLC Pastors and Staff with thanks for all you do	Milo and Kari Christianson
In Memory of Jean and Daryl Holt	By Larry and Jean Cook
In Honor of Family	By Larry and Jean Cook
In Memory of Loved Ones	By Hartley and Kathy Dahl
In Memory of John Dellich	By Peg and Lee Davies
In Memory of Florence and Lauren Davies	By Peg and Lee Davies
In Memory of Gladys and Malcolm Lindquist	By Peg and Lee Davies
In Memory of grandson Riley	By Sharon Emeerick
In Memory of William & Thelma Crockett, Dr. John & Mildred Fasanello	By Deb and Dave Fasanello
In Honor of Family	By Sue Hales
In Honor of our daughter Lydia Hansen in celebration of her graduation this month from South Dakota State University	By Christine and Rod Hansen
In Memory of Christine's dad, Jim Rieken and her grandparents, Bob & Frances Rieken and Lynn & Vera Petersen.	By Christine and Rod Hansen
In Memory of Rod's brother, Brian Hansen and his grandparents, Forrest & Alice Hansen and Glenn & Edna Strom	
	By Martha Hippe
In Memory of my parents Mr and Mrs C Hulse	By Charles Hulse
In Memory of Our Parents	By Fran and Mark Johnson
In Honor of Kye, Ryan, Anders, Annika, Kari and Jeff	By Pam Johnson
In Memory of Glenn Johnson	By Pam Johnson
In Memory of Our Parents	By Bob and Sandy Krumwiede
In Honor of My Family	By Pat Kyro
In Honor of our cherished children: Sarah, Michael, Gabe and Grace Livingston	By Kerry and Joe Livingston
In Memory of Michael Palmer, beloved father and grandfather	By Kerry and Joe Livingston
In Memory of Judy Livingston, beloved mother and grandmother	By Kerry and Joe Livingston

In Memory of Phyllis Mitzuk	By Madison Mitzuk
In Memory of Wesley Cottrell	By Madison Mitzuk
In Memory of Our Parents	By Robert and Verginia Nelson
In Memory of parents and grandparents Lorenze and Doris Nelson and Forest and Pearl Abbott and brother-in-law and uncle Steve Sindelir	By Dan and Val Nelson and family
In Honor of Our Parents and Children	By Pete and Linda Nielsen
In Memory of Our Parents	By Cedric and Marlys Olson
In Honor of Gerri, Mitch, Scott and Families	By Russ and Barb Overbye
In Memory of Our Parents	By Russ and Barb Overbye
In Memory of our son Jeff	By Greg and Deb Pouliot
In Memory of Our Parents	By Greg and Deb Pouliot
	By Taylor Quinn
In Memory of Carl & Vera Eckhoff, Vern Rinerson, and Verie Zillmer	By Roger and Sharon Rinerson
In Memory of Tom & Toni Rogers, Pastor Donald Ostroot	By Karen and David Rogers
In Memory of my husband Butch	By Dixie Rud
In Honor of our granddaughter Audrey Horner	Ron and Gloria Stricker
In Honor of our grahddaughter Katherine Horner	Ron and Gloria Stricker
In Honor of our granddaughter Natalie Stricker	Ron and Gloria Stricker
In Honor of our granddaughter Lauren Stricker	Ron and Gloria Stricker
In Honor of our grandson Teddy Stricker	Ron and Gloria Stricker
In Memory of Albert & Opal Swedal, Pat & Buck Scott	By Larry and Bonnie Swedal
In Memory of Guy Varty	By Donna Varty
In Honor of Our Family	By Tom and LuAnn Wingard
In Memory of Doris Ziner	By Dale Ziner



# Join a Small Group

## New Groups Forming in January



We will be forming **LIFE Groups** (small groups that **meet weekly for five weeks** to discuss each week's sermon topic) to meet **starting the week of January 15th**. LIFE Groups provide a great opportunity to get to know people at the church, while having some good intentional conversation.

### SIGN UP

Please sign up and express your interest using our online form or email [pastoranne@elkriverlutheran.org](mailto:pastoranne@elkriverlutheran.org). Groups will be organized based on sign ups.

Find the form using the QR Code or going to: <https://erlc.breezechms.com/form/393707>



## New Sermon Series

### Starting January 2023

This January and February we'll explore what the Bible has to say about some of the most common resolutions and in doing so we'll help encourage one another to live happier, healthier lives. We'll approach these topics with grace and love, rather than judgment and shame, knowing that we all struggle in certain areas more than others.



### Resolutions: This year I will...

- Spend More Quality Time With Family & Friends
- Do Something About All This Stuff
- Get My Finances In Order
- Set Goals
- Commit To Learning
- Take Care Of My Body/Eat Healthier and Exercise
- Practice Better Selfcare

## A WORD FROM THE ERLC COUNCIL

Thank you for joining us for Christmas worship today. We have had a great year of ministry and we are excited to share this new worship space with you. Can you help us finish the year strong financially? Even with great generosity from our members and careful stewardship of resources by staff and council, at the end of November we posted a \$21,000 budget shortfall for the year. We humbly ask you to consider making a special year end gift to help us see a strong financial end to the year and be well positioned to start a new year of life and ministry together.

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***

## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY



### **Kids Connect**

Kindergarten – 6th Grade  
A New Spin on Sunday School  
Held during worship on Sundays

### **Club 456**

For Students in Grades 4, 5 and 6.  
Food Game and Fellowship  
Held a couple times a year.

### **Confirmation**

Students begin in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade & are invited to confirm their faith in the fall of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
Held most Wednesdays starting at 6:30pm

### **High School Youth**

Students 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Held most Wednesdays starting at 7:30pm

### **CYF Night**

For All Ages – Birth to 100  
Fellowship – Learning – Fun for All Ages  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday/Month  
(except during Lent when there is Dinner Church)

**Lessons  
&  
Carols**

Sunday, January 1, 2023  
8:30AM & 10:30AM  
Elk River Lutheran Church

A festive poster for a "Lessons & Carols" service. It features a green Christmas tree with a yellow star on top, surrounded by red musical notes and white snowflakes on a red background. The text "Lessons & Carols" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, the date and time are listed: "Sunday, January 1, 2023, 8:30AM & 10:30AM". At the bottom, the location is given as "Elk River Lutheran Church".

Ring in the new year at church with a special service of Lessons and Carols. This simple service tells the Christmas story anew while singing our favorite carols. Please join us in the new sanctuary or online Sunday morning, January 1 at 8:30 & 10:30.

## STAFF

### Pastor Nathan Mugaas

763-242-8347

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

### Pastor Anne Schaefer

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### Taylor Quinn

Director of Music Ministry & Worship

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### Lisa Griffin

Staff Pianist

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[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 Sonja Tesdahl

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

**President:**

David Katzner

**Vice President:**

Jennifer Stanley

**Secretary:**

Sue Hales

**Treasurer:**

Ron Stricker

Kari Christianson

Matt Glasoe

Julie Marie Haugen

Mark Johnson

Connie Natwick

Tom Werk



Please Recycle Me!



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 Tithely 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