

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 20, 2023 @ 6:30pm

December 24, 2023 @ 2:30pm • 4:30pm • 10:00pm

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



 **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. This Christmas we are celebrating one year in our remodeled worship space and are thrilled to share it with you. From the beginning, we've worked to live out our mission statement: *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). We welcome all people and as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation we're intentional about how that welcome extends to the LGBTQIA+ community.

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.

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

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

** Indicates to stand*

GATHERING MUSIC

6:30pm, 12/20	"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"
2:30pm, 12/24	"O Come All Ye Faithful"
4:30pm, 12/24	"Sledding"
10:00pm, 12/24	"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

*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 CONFESSION 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!

VERSE 1

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

SERMON

Pastor Anne Schaefer

*CAROL OF THE DAY

(#270) *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* v1 & 3

VERSE 1

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

REFRAIN

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

REFRAIN

VERSE 2

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

REFRAIN

VERSE 3

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

REFRAIN

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

Join us for *Lessons and Carols* December 31st 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

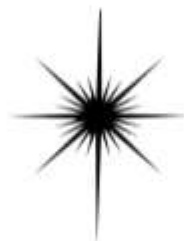
Midwinter

Mountain

Night

Silent

Town







Christmas Poinsettia Memorials & Honorariums



In Honor of our grandchildren: Briana, Logan and Brady	Don and Patsy Anundsen
In Memory of Our Parents	Barbara and Donald Armagost
In Memory of Lloyd Boese	Steve and Christy Boese
In Memory of Art Johnson	Lucy and Orlyn Boeshans
In Memory of Lucy's Mom and Dad	Lucy and Orlyn Boeshans
In Memory of Orlyn's Mom and Dad	Lucy and Orlyn Boeshans
In Memory of Crystal Brown	Mary Brown
In Memory of Charles Hatfield	Mary Brown
In Memory of Joshua Conover	Mary Brown
In Memory of Harlan & Darleen Fuchs, and Gary Whiting	Sarah Carlson
In Memory of Ken & Kathy Pohmann (Opa & Oma)	Katharine Carlson
In Memory of Ruth (Pohlmann) Carlson (Mom)	Katharine Carlson
In Honor of Family	Jane and Chuck Cazett
In Memory of Family	Jane and Chuck Cazett
In Loving memory of Friends and Family	Milo and Kari Christianson
In Memory of Mr and Mrs Parker	Larry and Jean Cook
In Memory of Maureen and Rooney	John and Cathy Dolnes
	Phil and Jane Domeier
In Memory of Grandson Riley Mujwid	Sharon Emerick
In Memory of Parents Evrvin and Ardella Anderson	Sharon Emerick
In Memory of Evert Grandparents	Kyloe & Brad Evert Family
In Memory of Schiermeister Grandparents	Kyloe & Brad Evert Family
In Memory of Mom, Dad, Brother and Sister	Linda and Brian Felska
In Memory of Our grandparents	Gasperlin Family
In Memory of our Great Aunt Betty	Gasperlin Family
In Memory of Our Parents	Glen and Lynette Geving
In Honor of Another Christmas with our Uncle and Brother Scott	Michelle Hagberg
In Memory of Art Johnson and Loved Ones	Stan and Diane Hahn
In Honor of Family	Sue Hales
In Memory of my brother, Buddy Parker	Martha Hippe
In Memory of my parents, Gray and Polly Parker	Martha Hippe
In Honor of the Staff of ERLC	Sue and Paul Hovde
In Memory of Our Fathers: Robert Cash and Howie Howland	Shari and Justin Howland
In Memory of Parents: Mr & Mrs C Hulse	Charles Hulse
In Memory of Friend: Mr Robert Carman	Charles Hulse

In Memory of Ronald and Douglas Jackson	Olga Jackson
In Memory of Philip John "Our Forever Baby"	Kevin and Rita Jenkins
In Memory of Glenn Johnson	Pam Johnson
In Honor of Family	Pam Johnson
In Memory of Our Parents	Mark and Fran Johnson
In Memory of my father Richard and brother Terry	Tradie Klemenhagen
In Memory of Our Parents	Bob and Sandy Krumwiede
In Honor of Our Children: Grace, Gabe, Michael Sarah and Hunter	Kerry Livingston
In Memory of Mike Palmer	Kerry Livingston
In Memory of Sam Livingston	Kerry Livingston
In Memory of Wesley Cottrell	Carolyn and Madison Mitzuk
In Memory of Phillis and Michal Mitzuk	Carolyn and Madison Mitzuk
In Honor of Our Family	John and Conni Natwick
In Memory of our parents, Lorenz and Doris Nelson and Forest and Pearl Abbott, and our brother-in-law Steve Sindelir	Dan and Val Nelson
In Memory of Our Parents	Bob and Virginia Nelson
In Honor of Gerri, Mitch, Scott and Families	Russ and Barb Overbye
In Memory of Our Parents	Russ and Barb Overbye
In Honor of Current Friends	Kirby and Darlene Paulson
In Memory of Past Friends	Kirby and Darlene Paulson
In Memory of our son Jeff	Greg and Deb Pouliot
In Memory of our parents Al & Dorothy, Bill and Kay	Greg and Deb Pouliot
In Memory of Our Parents	Roger and Sharon Rinerson
In Memory of Michelle Sackmeister	Vicki Sackmeister
In Memory of Lloyd and Kristin - Mom & Dad	Kathy Sandeen
In Honor of Our Grandchildren: Tillie, Oscar, Arthur, Bjorn and Jari	Ed and Deb Shellum
In Memory of Our Grandson Cully	Ed and Deb Shellum
In Honor of Family/Jesus	Jared Stevens
In Memory of husband Ron Stricker	Gloria Stricker
In Memory of Loved Ones	Larry and Bonnie Swedal
In Memory of Sister Gertie Harwood	Ruth and Wayne Traaseth
In Memory of Brother Dale Kazeck	Ruth and Wayne Traaseth
In Memory of Guy Varty	Donna Varty
In Memory of Our Parents	Lorie Schulstad-Werk and Tom Werk
In Honor of Our Family	Tom and LuAnn Wingard
In Memory of My Mother, Doris Ziner	Dale Ziner

WELCOME



We're so glad to welcome you here today, and we'd love to invite you back any time to our 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.

Upcoming Special Worship Services and Themes Include:

- **Lessons & Carols** - Sunday, December 31 at 8:30AM & 10:30AM - Continue celebrating the joy of Christmas with this service featuring favorite Christmas carols and Christmas scripture readings.
- **Rekindling Faith in the New Year - A new series starting January 7th...** Are you looking for ways to feel God's presence and rekindle your faith? This January we begin a new sermon series: Rekindling Faith in the New Year. We'll explore what the Bible has to say about the gift of faith, alive in all of us, but at times feels like it's burning brighter than other times. The Bible encourages us to ignite faith through prayer, reading of scripture, and community, so we'll look at these practices and more. So cozy up to the proverbial fireplace (or actual fireplace if you're worshipping from home and have a fireplace!) and join us for worship.

- **Lent 2024** - The church season of Lent comes early this year and brings with it many special worship opportunities, including:
 - **Ash Wednesday**, February 14th - Soup supper at 5:30PM, followed by worship with imposition of ashes at 6:30PM
 - **Dinner Church** - Wednesdays beginning February 21 and running for five weeks - 6:30-7:30PM - Dinner Church takes place in the Community Room and
 - **Holy Week & Easter** - Holy week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday Worship March 24 at 8:30 & 10:30AM, continues with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 6:30PM, and culminates with Easter Sunday Services March 31 at 8:00AM, 9:30AM, and 11:00AM (please note the new Easter Sunday schedule).

Rekindle the gift of God that is within you.

~ 2 Timothy 1:6

GET CONNECTED

We offer many other ways for you to form relationships with people and grow in faith together here at Elk River Lutheran. Below you'll find many ways to get connected. For more information about these programs visit www.elkriverlutheran.org or contact the church office.

Children, Youth and Family



We strive not to be regular, but be remarkable in our faith formation programming. Our programs, from preschool through Senior High, strive to strengthen families and involve parents in many ways. The curriculum we use seeks to engage all of the senses in learning about God's great love. Upcoming CYF opportunities include:

- **Kids Connect A New Take On Sunday School** - On Sunday mornings children attend worship, but

head out for their own special lesson during the sermon.

- **Confirmation** (Grades 7&8) & **High School Youth Group** - Wednesdays at 6:30PM, beginning again on January 3 - Both programs seek to help students develop relationships and grow in faith. Confirmation is primarily taught by Pastor Nathan and High School Youth Group by Pastor Anne.
- **CYF Nights** - Wednesdays 6:00PM-7:45PM - January 24 & April 24 - A fun night for all ages, beginning with a meal, followed by large group music, games, and learning, and concluding in small groups by age.
- **Special Classes** - Third Grade Bibles, Communion Instruction,
- **Baptism** - We joyfully celebrate the gift of baptism for all of God's children and would like to talk to you about baptism!

Music Ministry



Our music ministry provides a variety of opportunities for individuals who love music to find community with other musicians and enrich the worship services at Elk River Lutheran. Whether it be as a solo or in a group, you are invited to share your gifts with us regardless of your abilities and age. Regular musical ensembles include: Vocal Choir, Bell Choir, Instrumental Ensemble and Worship Band. Participation is project-based, meaning you only need to commit to a few weeks at a time in preparation to share music at a predetermined worship service. Connect with Taylor Quinn, our Director of Music and Worship, for more information.

Small Group Opportunities

At Elk River Lutheran Church, we want to extend our relationships beyond worship by providing various small group opportunities such as LIFE Groups (small groups that will be forming again in spring of 2024), Women's Monthly Bible Study, Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study, Tuesday Morning Text Study, Friday Mens' Breakfast & Women's Coffee, Genealogy Group, Quilting, and a variety of service opportunities and musical groups

COMMUNITY



We love and serve our neighbors through programs and events, volunteering and supporting social service agencies like CAER and Lutheran Social Services, and by simply being a loving presence in our downtown neighborhood.

Popular community events include Trunk-or-Treat, Downtown Santa in the Park and Tree Lighting, bounce house days at the Farmers Market, and our Downtown Block Party (this year's is scheduled for May 19, 2024).

Serving our neighbor through CAER, Meals on Wheels, LSS, providing luncheons for Dare Funerals, and hosting outside groups including Primary Purpose AA Group.

Sharing musical gifts with the community through caroling at downtown events, Worship Services and Hymn Sings at Guardian Angels Facilities.

Thank you for joining us for Christmas worship today.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

STAFF

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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

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