



BROADCASTER

Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church

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“CHRISTIAN ENOUGH”

If you ever hear the phrase “Christian Enough” from members of your sister congregation in Grafton, feel free to lay the blame at my feet! Early on in my ministry there I attended a meeting of the Education Committee where we discussed the need to improve our Sunday School curriculum.

A member of the committee wanted to know if I was okay with the selection the ad hoc group had made. Looking over the item in question, I must have thought that it was not the ‘most Lutheran’ I had ever seen or heard of... but, apparently, I also did not see how any harm could be done by moving forward with it. So, I answered (obviously not very elegantly!): “Well, I think it is Christian enough.” Even though we **DID** make several important adjustments to the curriculum - the phrase was coined, the laughter hearty and the longevity of the saying assured.



**FEBRUARY
2026**

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SOLVEIG ZAMZOW

The idea of getting away with as little effort as possible is not restricted to church environment, to our generation or to living in a first-world nation. Indeed, the Bible has a few instances where the idea of the least common denominator raises its head in questions like "what must I do to inherit eternal life" or "who is my neighbor." While there is more than meets the eye in questions like these, surely one of the implications is: what is it that I absolutely must do so my salvation is not in peril.

It is always refreshing when one meets people who are not interested in getting away with being Christians in name only. People who do not want to cover their lives merely with a thin veneer of an religious aura but who want to be 'All In' and who do not shy away from acknowledging that it is pretty hard work to walk the walk of faith.

There is no doubt: living a life that is aligned with Jesus is a very, very difficult task. More often than not when we think 'I've got that', we find out that we just fooled ourselves. Yep, loving enemies, being generous, and forgiving without counting can become a drag. Living even a barely "Christian-Enough-Life" is not particularly glamorous by definition. When will we ever appropriately appreciate the undeserved grace and mercy God shows us? Will we ever truly master the Good-Samaritan lifestyle that looks out for the neighbor first before we take care of our own real or perceived needs?

We often hear people say that they 'practice their faith'. Well, we are practicing for sure and we are practicing without any guarantee that we will come to a point when and where we can say: well, the goal has been achieved. Rather, at least for me, it is always frustrating to realize that our best attempts are subject to failure. It does not help that Scripture reminds us in different passages that even our best efforts and greatest works are "like filthy rags." Martin Luther certainly was very right when he taught us that we are simultaneously 100% saint and sinner!!!

I recently came across a quote by Dr. Luther: "This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified."

We are an unfinished work. We indeed will continue to be purified. And while today we might only be "Christian enough", tomorrow God may lead us onto a path that is ever more faithful and glorious, honoring and praising God's holy name, following His precepts ever more diligently. For it is true and sure: God continues to love us sinners, bestows the righteousness of Christ upon us, and with open arms receives us as we beg His forgiveness.

Epiphany greetings, dear friends in Christ! Pastor Solveig Zamzow



CHURCH NEWS

Pancake Supper

Before we go into the Lenten Season this year, we get to enjoy a PANCAKE SUPPER sponsored by the Men of our Council. Join us on Fat Tuesday (also known as Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras), **February 17th, starting at 5:00 pm.** We ask for a Free-Will Offering which will benefit our youth as they plan for their Mission Trip in July. So, whether you plan on fasting or not during Lent – enjoy the calories we offer!



Fish Fry Supper

We will enjoy two Fish Fry Suppers this Lenten Season. On **Friday, February 27th and on Friday March 27th, from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.** The proceeds will once again be given to our youth group for their mission trip 2026. Please watch for posters and more information coming soon, Big John's Famous Fish Fry.



Volunteers are needed to run the Power Point or Sound System

We are so thankful for Russell and Maia Romero for devoting so many Sundays running the sound system and Power Point during our church services.

We are asking for others to sign up for a to help with this important part of our church service. You can text **Pastor Zamzow at 641-903-9416** if you would be willing to help out. Linda Bickford has everything set up so for the Power Point, so it is pretty easy to do. Thank you for those who are already helping out.

College Scholarship Money

Mike Ryerson, treasurer of the trust fund, announced that the Oppedahl family gift to the trust was over \$24,000 this year. The money will be given to our church members to attend college this next year. Please contact **Mike at 515-678-3728** to learn how to apply for this church's trust fund scholarship.

Pastor gave a children's sermon at the Baptismal Fountain. She talked to the kids about why it was important for John the Baptist to baptize Jesus.



COUNCIL MEMBER BRIEF



Church Council Brief

January 14th, 2026 Meeting

Council meeting of EGELC was held on Wed. Jan. 14, 2026 with all council members present. Pastor led us in devotions.

- Minutes of the previous meeting and treasurers report were presented and approved.

Pastors report

- Office painted and the carpet has been cleaned.
- Christmas services went well.
- We still need help with Power Point/Sound during Sunday morning services.
- Discussed Lenten Service - (Full schedule of all services and events will be published)
- Good Friday Service - Ecumenical Service will be at EGELC – Soup supper prior.
- Discussed and made plans for Pancake Supper on "Fat Tuesday"
- Youth have some events planned.
- Fish Supper dates planned.

Other business

- New Sign - They are finishing up making the framework.
- Programmable Thermostats – The council approved getting them ordered and installed.
- New Soundboard, mics, etc. - Todd Nielsen and Alan Linn are meeting with the Sound company to see what all we need to update. Todd will be talking with a couple families on possible donations to cover all the updates. (Current sound board is 30 years old and parts are not available if it breaks down.)
- Parsonage Update - \$9,395 was raised at the Potato Cake Auction for the parsonage's new windows . The property committee is continuing to do work on the parsonage.



Thank you to Travis Bell, our church custodian, for all you do. Travis also volunteers to run our sound system during our Sunday church services.

RENOVATING THE CHURCH PARSONAGE

Before we call our new pastor and he/she moves into the parsonage, the parsonage is in need of some updates. If you would like to contribute to this project, please take any item you would like to purchase off the poster board (the board is located in the basement by the kitchen) or **contribute any amount of money you would like** to help purchase new windows.

Any amount contributed, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.

Sunroom Window - \$2,194.04

Sunroom Window - \$1,922.79

Bathroom Window - \$1,941.62

Kitchen Window - \$1,998.12

Dining Room Window - \$2,626.35

Large 75" Picture Window - \$4,938.69

Master Bedroom Slider Window - \$1,998.12

Bedroom #2 Window - \$2,181.73

Bedroom #3 Window - \$1,998.12

Bedroom #3 Window - \$1,998.12

Garage Window - \$1,934.56

Garage Window - \$1,934.56

For any questions, please contact our church treasurer, **Dani Eisentrager, at 515-851-2728**, Dani@eisentragerlawoffice.com. Dani is our church treasurer and an attorney here in Eagle Grove.



Jim Christ, Ken Stoakes, Pastor Zamzow, & Mike Ryerson

One of the windows was broken by the lawn mower this summer. All the windows are the originals, from when the house was built in 1968.

On January 11, 2026, after church service, Mike Ryerson auctioned off potato cakes and kringla to help raise money to pay for doors and windows for the church's parsonage. \$9,395 was raised. Thank you for all who donated money to help pay for the renovations at the parsonage.

LENTEN SERVICES

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, as found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5, will be the basis for our 2026 Lenten Season gatherings on Wednesdays. Please note that we have the following plan for our Mid-Week services:

Ash Wednesday services will be February 18th, 2026 at 1:00 pm (Chapel) and at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes for those who desire so. All Mid-week services will be 7:00 pm in the Chapel

Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion will be **April 2nd, 2026 at 1:00 pm in the Chapel and at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Good Friday worship will be April 3rd, 2026 at 1:00 pm in the Chapel with our annual **Ecumenical Good Friday service at 7:00 pm.**



The first week of Lent we hear the call of Christ, telling us to be salt and light in this world of sin. We who have tasted and seen his great love for us on the cross can spend our Lent savoring his salvation and shining with his glory and grace in the places where he has put us.

The second week of the season brings us the discipline of prayer and fasting. We grow in our relationship with Christ by communicating with him, and we learn more about him and ourselves by giving up those things that can distract us from our connection to him.

Join us again for the **third week of Lent**. In this service we recognize that so much of our lives, even in Lent, is spent worrying about what might happen or what has happened. Christ teaches us to stop being anxious, but simply to trust that he knows what is best and will take care of us to the very end.

Week four of Lent leads us to recognize that we live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus' advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

The last week of Lent we want to be reminded that we build our lives on very shaky foundations, and then we are surprised when things start collapsing. Jesus teaches us that the only solid foundation is he himself, the Rock of our salvation. On him alone we build.



ELCW WOMEN

Hometown Cookin' Favorites

This time of the year when we have cold windy days, soups are very welcoming. Soups are quick to make and can be very nutritious. Soup can be changed to add whatever you want with various seasonings and other ingredients that you may have in your pantry.

Taco Soup

Ingredients:

2 pounds ground chuck
1 cup chopped onion
2 packages mild taco seasoning
1 package dry ranch dressing
3 cans diced tomatoes
1 can Rotel
1/2 cup sliced black olives
1 can kidney beans
1 can pinto beans
1 can whole kernel corn
Water, for desired thickness

Instructions: Brown ground chuck and onion; drain. Mix with other ingredients and bring to a boil. Turn down heat. Simmer for 1 hour, or use a large crock pot and cook for 4 to 5 hours on low. Serve with tortilla chips and garnish with finely shredded Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese.



Loretta Krahling



Attendance & Giving

DATE	ATTEND- ANCE	GENERAL BENEVOLENCE	
Dec 28	33	\$4,573	\$0
Jan. 4	75	\$840	\$25
Jan. 11	76	\$2,603	\$30
Jan. 18	82	\$3,521	\$700
Jan. 25	60	\$3,916	\$0
<i>Monthly Operating Budget: \$18,239</i>			
<i>End Of Year Donations: \$20,463</i>			

Our ELCW did not meet in January. We will meet on February 5, 2026 (weather permitting- if school is cancelled due to the weather, we cancel ELCW). We will discuss the upcoming year and also talk about plans for going to Rotary Senior Living on February 12, 2026.



Food Pantry

REMEMBER – The Food Pantry can always use your help with volunteers and also with food. If you are interested in volunteering a couple hours a week to help at the pantry, please contact **Marcella Johnson at 515-448-3743**. Remember we have the grocery cart in the entrance where you can bring your donations.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with making potato cakes this past month, and also for those helping with the Hot Beef Sundae Supper.

Mission of the Month

February Mission of the Month is **Riverside Bible Camp and Okoboji/Ingham Bible Camp** The mission box is located on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms: 0 Funerals: 1

Weddings: 0 New Members: 0

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2- 1 - Sarah Jensen
2- 2 - Sydney Haugland
2- 3 - Terry Kist
2- 4 - Marilyn Sampson
2- 5 - Taylor Stockdale,
Maverick Harvey
2- 6 - Tim Chelesvig,
2- 7 - Shari Houser, Mary Lerdal,
Margieann Voss
2- 8 -Shealeigh Lehman
2-10 - Scott Christopher
2-11 - Mary Jane Derscheid, Kent
Spangler
2-13 -Tim Knutson

2-14 -Tom Jorgensen
2-15 - Kayla Jorgensen,
2-16 - Mollie Lehman, Laura
Olson
2-19 - Joann Nelson
2-21 - Kim Spangler
2-22 - Evelyn Chelsvig,
2-23 - Lyle Larson, Lora
Thompson
2-25 - Sharon Johnson, Shirley
Olson
2-26 - Nicole Boyer
2-28 - Courtney Brooks
(Jacobson), Joan Knutson, Alicia
Olson

Our records show that the following members celebrate birthdays in February. We pray for their health and happiness as we share in their celebration. We appreciate being notified of any errors or if anyone's birthday is not on the list we have.

Church Facebook Page

Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our church Service is broadcasted on Facebook Live every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Radio Broadcast

Our church service is also heard on KQWC Radio 97.5 Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Church Website

www.EGELC.org

Church Email

egelc@goldfieldaccess.net

515-448-3697

Pastor Zamzow

641-903-9416

solveigzamzow@gmail.com

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