



BROADCASTER

Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church

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How thoughtful a Good-bye

A few months after I was diagnosed with cancer, I wrote my obituary. Not because I thought or feared that I would die sooner than later, but because I thought it would be a good exercise. I tried to figure out what, looking back, had been important during my lifetime.

It took only a few sentences to realize that being “Oma” to my grandkids and working to beautify parsonage grounds with my husband might be a much greater legacy than any real or perceived professional accomplishments I had. And yes, I wanted to be sure to mention some of my extra-curricular work that went beyond my parish calls and – God willing – will have served the Household of God through supervising and evaluating future clergy.

I have conducted very close to 250 funerals/Memorial Services. Each one was a privilege to me. Each one had a unique obituary reflecting on the life of the diseased. Neither one, however, fully captured the life of the person lost – no matter how elaborate they might have been. Obits only allow us a glimpse into the days of living. The rest we have to know, experience or hear in stories about the beloved dead. Obituaries have a certain function: they inform, enlighten and sometimes even amuse. Some reveal too much, others don’t say enough. They all, however, remind us that life is fleeting.

June 2026

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SOLVEIG ZAMZOW

I have laughed pretty hard at reading obits that basically made fun of diseased family members. But then again, was the person's life simply a collection of klutzy experiences, practical jokes and silly remarks? Do we want to let our family members be known as goof-balls? Or as mean-spirited grouches? Or did a life seem so uninteresting that the obit barely covers the very basic, factual information? I think those are fair and honorable questions when we put together an obituary for ourselves or a family member. On the other hand, it can be very much off-putting to read an obituary that expresses a life as so outstanding that one has to wonder if we are talking about a real, sinful human being who even in the midst of all accomplishments had to have had struggles like all of us. Who wants to read a resume, right?

I was a bit surprised to find that even today one can hire an "obituary writer" for a few hundred dollars who will sit down with you, ask questions about the deceased and produce an obit in a few days' time.

The obituary for Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough delivered a miniature civics lesson by using words from the author himself: "Understanding the real world, being part of it and enjoying it, has mainly to do, I believe, with being a real person. That's the point. It means taking an interest in other people, all kinds of people. It means enjoying people and trying to understand one another. It means kindnesses. It means doing what we can to move civilization forward, to make the world a little better place because we are in it."

So, perhaps it does help to think of a life not only in terms of personal successes but also in lessons left for those who come after us? But we know not every life was lived under circumstances that allow or call for such reflection. Thinking of it that way, putting together an obituary might not be as simple as we thought.

Each life has value. Each life has its grounding in God. All of us are called to a vocation through which we get to live out the God-given gifts we have. Indeed, all lives are irreplaceable and special. God looks at us with equal care and love whether we are a bank president or are unhoused person in the streets of Chicago. Jesus died for all of us. We all are sinners in the hands of a merciful God who has given His Son for us. These are not new or profoundly theological statements, of course. You know it all and have heard and shared it with those around you. But when we think about how to reflect on a life that has left this earthly shell, it is good to be reminded of them. In light of all this, what can we say about a person? What must we remember and what must we leave graciously unspoken?

Pastor Peter Marty recalls visiting Denver Botanical Gardens and coming across a bench with these words: Marilyn Hickie Shaw – "All mushrooms are edible...some only once." Intrigued, he wondered what had led to such inscription and googled her obituary. As it turned out, the obit revealed that Marilyn Hickie Shaw had been an artist, a citizen scientist, and a mycology (study of fungi) consultant who for more than 30 years had performed all-hours, on-call poisonous mushroom identification for individuals and poison centers throughout the western United States." She had died peacefully at age 94. Deadly mushrooms were not involved.

I think as the days go by I probably will "tinker" with my obit here and there. Maybe I will come to greater insights about myself or perhaps I will decide that some information needs to stay with my family alone. Perhaps I even find a word of wisdom to be added?! And then, after all is said and done and my life is over, my loved ones will have the last and final word regarding that obituary – and they may change it all!!!!

Still living and learning with all of you – Pastor Z+

Obituary for Jane Doe

Jane Doe, 75, of Springfield, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2024. Born on January 10, 1949, in Springfield, Jane was the beloved daughter of the late John and Mary Smith. She graduated from Springfield High School in 1967 and later earned a degree in Nursing from Springfield University.

Jane dedicated over 40 years of her life to caring for others as a registered nurse at Springfield General Hospital. She was known for her kindness, compassion, and dedication to her patients. In her free time, Jane enjoyed gardening, reading, and spending time with her family.

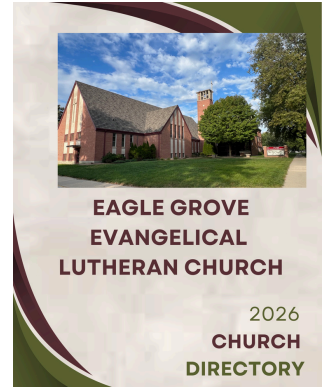
Jane is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Robert Doe; her children, Emily (James) Brown and Michael (Anna) Doe; her grandchildren, Sophie, Jack, and Ella; and her sister, Margaret (David) White. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Thomas Smith.

A memorial service will be held on June 10, 2024, at 11:00 AM at Springfield Memorial Chapel, 123 Main St., Springfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Springfield Animal Shelter, a cause dear to Jane's heart.

CHURCH NEWS

Church Directory

OUR NEW DIRECTORY IS HERE Remember when we took your picture and told you about it! Now our very nice new directory is here for you to take home and refresh your memory of who is who at Evangelical Lutheran. We hope this will not only be a nice and needed help for all of us but especially for our new pastor. Please find a copy on the table in the narthex. We ask that you please deposit **\$10.00** in the container that is provided to help us pay for this endeavor. Thank you. Also, a printed directory with names and addresses, etc. can be found right next to it. Please feel free to take one.



We Appreciate All Those Who Help Out at the Church

Thank you to everyone who has been helping at the church this past month. The flower planters look great. Alan L. has replaced some windows in the fellowship hall that had holes in them, and thanks to Connie Linn for taking the curtains home and getting them cleaned and refreshed. Will be great to have this done before the Benefit for Taylor Larsen, the memorial service/lunch for Sue Erickson and the Salad Luncheon. Many hands make light work!!

Boiler Update

You have heard it: **Our boilers need to be replaced.** While it is most unfortunate, we must do it and a plan of action is in place. If YOU wish to help with the significant cost of this needed endeavor, please place your special offering in the offering plates or drop it off at the office. It will be much appreciated.

To date, we have received \$2,250 towards cost of the boilers. Thank you to the Trust Committee for helping with half of the cost.

The new boilers are being installed on May 28 & 29th.



COUNCIL MEMBER BRIEF & YOUTH

Church Council Brief

May 13, 2026 Meeting

All reports approved from previous meeting
Confirmation Classes will be on break till Sept. 9 – Possibly only 2 youth
Pastor will be at the Pastors Retreat on June 1 and 2
The Evangelism Committee has sent out 230 letters for The Golden Confirmation Sunday
Call Committee - nothing to update
Alan Linn continues to work on the parsonage and items at the church
Pastor and Jody Eisentrager took the Youth to Java for Jesus at Lake Mills.
The youth are planning a Pasta Buffet for Taylor Larsen in June
A date of November 7 was set for the NALC “Renew Program” with Dean Matt Bahnfleth.
The Council appointed Susan Maier to serve on the trust fund as council rep.

Our Church Council has decided to support the **NALC Disaster Response** financially as we see the Midwest inundated with floods and tornadoes. In the past we have filled flood buckets, this time we ask that you place your offering in the flood bucket that will be in the back of the sanctuary throughout the month of May. The Response team is currently working with flood victims in Wisconsin. Please consider helping.



Java for Jesus - Our youth enjoy gathering with new and old friends for a night of music, food and prayers.



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Musings

One of the categories of offering in every congregation is what we call 'Benevolence' – from the meaning of giving a good gift. Benevolence monies are those offerings designated to be given to the work of the church outside the local congregation. That may include the church body to which a congregation belongs, all the way to help in times of national and global disasters and/or the support of local causes...as in Food Banks, area Christian radio stations, treatment centers, etc.

Benevolence giving is what a community commits to in response to what we as individuals commit to. I am giving X amount of dollars to my church and my church in return gives X amount of dollars to the needs of the wider church/world. It becomes a question of setting and fulfilling basic biblical expectations. In many, if not most, congregations Benevolence monies of a congregation are taken out of the overall budget by way of a percentage or actual amount.

At EGELC we have a monthly Benevolence cause of which we are informed in our bulletins and newsletters. Some of these might be close to your own heart while others may not even register for you. That is totally normal and okay. We all have our own ideas of who could and should benefit from our generosity – it makes the world go round. Still, some of us might ignore the entire endeavor! So, I encourage you today to pay a bit of attention to our monthly commitments. Perhaps even a cause that is not particularly important to you is still 'worthy' of a small amount of your monetary generosity. Just something to think about – PZ+

Ever wondered how you can help others? Do you have a neighbor that needs help with food? Maybe you can offer to take them to get what they need.

Remember the Food Bank of Iowa is at Grace E-Free Church the first Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. The Food Pantry is open Monday 2:00 - 5:00 and Fridays at 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. They can always use help if you are interested in volunteering. Talk to Marcella Johnson, 515-448-3743. You can always leave donations at the church, and we will get them delivered to the Food Pantry.

Upper Des Moines Opportunity is open Monday - Thursday 9-12 & 1-4

Concern Inc. can also use some monetary donations. They support the Meals on Wheels and Senior Citizen Center, Their funding has been cut again by Elderbridge which affects the meals for our Senior Citizens.

Wednesday morning 9:00 Bible Study

Come and join us as we delve into the Book of Revelation on Wednesday mornings, starting on June 3rd. You will find that much of what you read means not what is on the page. Our imagination and biblical knowledge will need to make a few jumps to "get" what the Lord is telling us. The book is filled with many secrets in order to protect its original readers. Help us walk through the chapters faithfully

CHURCH EVENTS

Golden Confirmation

SAVE THE DATE- **September 13th 2026** has been set aside on our master calendar to be a day of celebration for a GOLDEN CONFIRMATION. We will be inviting everyone who was confirmed at Evangelical Lutheran in 1976 or before. Think of it as a reunion with meeting old friends, worshipping together, sharing a meal and tell stories (probably of who snuck into the sacristy to taste the Communion wine). We are still in need of addresses for a number of folks. If YOU are one of those former confirmation students and can help us locate some of your class mates, please contact the church office where we are compiling lists so we can contact everyone with and invitation. Question: please talk to Linda Spangler or myself. Thanks for your help. Pastor



Please join us for the Pasta Night Fundraiser and we show our love and support to Taylor Larsen. Feel free to invite your family & friends to join us on this special night. This is sponsored by our youth group and all proceeds will go to Taylor.

Join us for our ELCW annual Salad Luncheon.



ELCW WOMEN

Hometown Cookin' Favorites

This is a great dish to make and is a favorite of ours. A couple of suggestions is to use a pie crust to put the ingredients into. Also, if you are too busy to make the crispy bacon, buy Hormel Real Bacon Bits that are found near the salad area in the store.



**Loretta
Krahling**

Easy Quiche

Ingredients:

- 12 slices bacon, crisp, and crumbled
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup Bisquick Baking mix
- 1/4 cup teaspoon salt (optional)
- pinch of pepper

Instructions:

Cook bacon until crispy, drain any grease. Place crumbled bacon in a 9 inch greased pie pan. Sprinkle cheese over bacon. In a blender, mix 4 eggs, 2 cups milk 1/2 cup Bisquick, salt and pepper. Blend on high for 1 minute. Pour over the ingredients in the pie pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Cool 5 minutes before serving. Serve with your choice of fruit.

Note: This recipe can be topped with chives or parsley or chopped scallions for decoration.

ELCW May Meeting

Our ELCW met on Thursday, May 14 at 1:30 p.m. We made plans for the Salad luncheon which will be on June 18 from 11:30-1:00 p.m. We will be asking the ladies of the church to help with salads as well as helping with the luncheon. Linda Van Vleet and Terri Jo Meyer will take care of decorating the tables.

Loretta Baker mention that the Senior Citizens are low on funds. The ladies voted to send \$500 to Concern, Inc. to be used for the Meals on Wheels program.

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



Attendance & Giving

DATE	ATTEND- ANCE	GENERAL BENEVOLENCE	
May 3	68	\$2,023	\$0
May 10	100	\$1,821	\$25
May 17	88	\$2,537	\$65
May 24	58	\$2,221	\$130
May 31	N/A	N/A	N/A

Monthly Operating Budget \$18,239

Mission of the Month

June Mission of the Month

Beacon of Hope, men's homeless shelter in Ft. Dodge. The mission box is located on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms: 0 Funerals: 0
 Weddings: 0 New Members: 0



6-1 - Nicole Rethman, Arille Willard
6-3 - Dan Flumerfelt
6-4 - Emma Bartley, Brandi Larsen
6-5 - Brian Burres
6-6 - Rachel Muzzey
6-7 - Ashton Carlson, Greyson Riggs, Zachary Boyer
6-8 - Dustin Dawson, Emily Dawson
6-12- Skylar Premo
6-14 - Rosalyn Swalin
6-16 - Joan Rasmussen
6-17 Hailey Olson
6-18 - Don Halverson, Bradley Houser
6-20 - Esther Larson
6-21 - Timber Swalin
6-22 - Whitney Willard
6-24 - Rick Anderson, Megan Larsen, Steve Watson
6-26 - Katie Locke
6-29 - Jared Locke, Ellen McCurry, Pat Middleton, Debora Smith
6-30 - Noah Rethman, Fred Nesheim, Pastor Solveig Zamzow

We pray for their health and happiness as we share in their celebration. We appreciate being notified if anyone's birthday is not on the list.

**Eagle Grove Evangelical
Lutheran Church
PO Box 68
Eagle Grove, IA 50533**

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

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Pastor Zamzow

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solveigzamzow@gmail.com