



BROADCASTER

Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Solveig Zamzow



Gradual Grunge Ever since we moved back to Iowa in 2012, I have been asking the same question: why, for crying out loud, does this entire region of Iowa not have car washes where I can drop off my car and for less than \$25.00 have it superbly cleaned inside and out – and pick it up 10 minutes later? Traveling highways several times each week right now, my car always looks super messy, often with mud all the way up to my windows. (Before you send me angry emails: when I lived in Wisconsin, I wondered aloud why their corn was not as tall as the corn in Iowa!) Really – entrepreneurs to the front; there is a great market waiting for you. Of course, I know that my car is not the only one that has mud all over. It is a reality we share. Most often I do not realize how dirty my car is until it is really DIRTY. The process is gradual, is it not? A pothole here, a gravel road there, a rain storm today and a semi chasing you tomorrow - and voila, your car screams: WASH ME.

APRIL
2026

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SOLVEIG ZAMZOW

Few circumstances in life happen instantaneously. Most accumulate and develop without fanfare. The messy house becomes messy after several days of no attention. The marriage that falls apart seldom does so based on one single moment in time. The friendship that becomes distant often does so quietly over weeks, months or even years. The sense of being disgruntled with a leader hardly is grounded in a singular decision made by him or her.

NALC Bishop Emeritus John Bradosky was very fond of telling the story of the frog in hot water. If you put a frog into boiling water he will jump out. If you slowly heat up the water the frog will be comfortable and not notice that he is being cooked.

Bishop Bradosky told that story frequently to show his listeners how deceiving it can be when leaders or institutions slowly but surely change their emphasis, belief or mission until it is too late for anyone to do anything about it. Having worked fairly closely with Bishop Bradosky for a number of years, I never had the heart to tell him that research argues that the frog story does not work scientifically (check it out on your trusty internet)! But, of course, the moral of the story is entirely and forever true.

Already C.S. Lewis, in his famous piece, *The Screwtape Letters*, let senior devil Screwtape write to his apprentice devil Wormwood about the methods for delivering souls to hell. The cumulative effect of small and nearly imperceptible sins, notes Screwtape, beats the spectacular wickedness of dramatic sin. He says: "Indeed, the safest road to hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

We began the Season of Lent looking a bit grungy with an ashen cross on our foreheads. That grunge of ashes symbolized the accumulation of all of our own personal failings and reminded us that we are dust and will return to dust. Now, as we come to the threshold of Holy Week we are not any less grungy. Our sinfulness did not disappear when we wiped off the ashes.

Frankly, we will have gradually accumulated even more. I have! Yet, to the cross of Christ we come with all that we have gradually picked up while living. We bring it to him because we know that Jesus has nailed our entire life's grunge to the cross when he let his body be broken on our behalf. We bring it all, leaving nothing behind. Christ takes it all, leaving nothing behind.

I always envision the scene of the crucifixion as truly nauseatingly filled with grime and grunge. A naked body, blood, sweat, sand...and seemingly no answer to the piercing question: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

The thunder is silent. The city holds its breath. The heavens are shut. Gradually but surely the people rejected the very Son of God. Gradually but surely the shouts went from "Hosanna" to "Crucify Him". Gradually but surely our Lord gave up his spirit. Gradually but surely our sins do not stand between us and Almighty God any longer. Gradually but surely, miserable sinners become redeemed saints. Gradually but surely the darkness of Good Friday and despair of Holy Saturday gives way to the joy of Easter morning. No more death. No more chasms between us and our Creator God. No more grunge that will have the power to suffocate us. Washed clean we are in the blood of Jesus. Walking into the light with the very light of the world we proclaim: He is not here, for He is Risen.

Please remember that, trust that, believe that, live that, as you gradually continue to get grungy again. Bring your grunge to the cross and leave it there. And please pray that I will do so as well.

A very blessed Holy Week and Easter to all of you. May God protect you from all harm and may the joy of the Easter Feast accompany you into a bright and blessed future. Fondly, Pastor Z+



CHURCH NEWS

Church Parsonage Garage



Old Garage Doors



New Garage Doors

**THANK
YOU
FOR YOUR
CONTRIBUTION**

Thank you for all who generously have donated to update our church parsonage. If you are wanting to help pay for some renovations, please contact our church treasurer, Dani Eisentrager, at 515-851-2728, Dani@eisentragerlawoffice.com.



Thank you to Big John and all of his many helpers for another year of excellent Fish Fry Fridays; to Sarah Jensen and her helpers for getting all other foods prepared and to Linda Spangler for organizing the delicious bars for all our hungry guests. Thank you one and all for whatever you did and thank you to all who came and enjoyed the meals and supported our Youth Mission Trip.

- Thank you to Terri Jo Meyer for agreeing to serve as chair for our Altar Guild!
- Thank you to Alan Linn for always and forever fixing all things that are awry!
- Thank you to Del Kramersmeier for the wonderful stands he made for our small flags in the Fellowship Hall.
- Thank you to the members of the PA Team who are bringing us sound and Facebook Live for our worship services!
- Thank you to the ladies who cooked and served the Lenten Luncheon!



High Tea at Evangelical Lutheran

All woman of our congregation are invited to a HIGH TEA on **Sunday, April 19th at 3:00 pm.** We will have a speaker from the Agape Pregnancy Center in Des Moines who will share of the many agency efforts they make to help families and young moms.

You are very much welcome to bring along a friend or two. For those who love decorating, we invite you to sponsor a table for eight which you can decorate to your liking with dishes and items you enjoy. There is a sign-up in the back of our sanctuary. Please do not include yourself in the number of guests so we not double up in our preparations.

The Evangelism Committee will be providing the goodies. If you are unable to sign-up at the church, please call the office and we will happily do it for you. Let's be fancy for an afternoon, enjoy each other's company and learn at the same time. Yes, there will be coffee!!

COUNCIL MEMBER BRIEF

Church Council Brief

March 18th, 2026 Meeting

Council met following the Lenten Service on March 18th. President Todd Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Members present were Taylor Lehman, David Muzzey, Jody Eisentrager, Dani Eisentrager, Linda Van Vleet, Chad Tweeten, Bill Krahling, Linda Spangler, Susan Maier, Todd Nielsen, Pastor Zamzow.

Devotions were by Pastor Z.

- Minutes of the previous meeting and treasurers report – approved
- Pastor Z report - updated the council on upcoming Holy Week service, youth and adults were going to attend a movie, confirmation is May 10, council approved Jace Conaway and Avery Locke for Affirmation of Baptism, boilers are still continuing to malfunction but Oldson's are working on them, the programmable thermostats are ordered, and we have had a wasp problem. We have had Hawkeye Pest Control come and spray for them, Evangelism Committee is working on a "High Tea" for women in April and a Golden Confirmation celebration in September.

Old Business:

- Power Point and Sound System - Todd will be visiting with a family who is wishing to donate towards some updates
- Work continues on the parsonage – still need donations to help with the new windows. With no new business, we closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Visitation Team

Our newly established Visitation Team met for instructions and is now ready to visit our home-bound members and those in Nursing Home facilities.

The Evangelism Committee was actively involved in setting up these plans and will continue to be the responder for questions and concerns. We thank God for faithful volunteers!



Pictured from front to back: Linda Spangler, Linda Van Vleet, Joyce Hill, Terri Jo Meyer, Pastor Zamzow, Del Kramersmeier, Mike Ryerson, Sarah Jensen, Christy Larson, Diane Middleton, Jeanine Reichter, and Jeff Utrah. Also Todd Nielsen, Ann Nielsen, Jo Gustafson

STEWARDSHIP

To Own or Not to Own

In 2013 our son Ephraim gave us his car. His family had switched around several vehicles in anticipation of our grandson going to College the following year. Somehow, Mom and Dad Zamzow ended up with a nice, big Ford Taurus in recognition of the cars we had financed for him in years gone by. What a great gift, indeed! We were in need of a second car. But, as always in our family, nothing ever goes smoothly.

After our son paid off the car, the title got lost. It was mailed to the wrong address. So, for a few weeks we had a car that was properly insured and registered but that still had a Texas license plate. Getting a replacement title in Texas is more trouble...and while we were waiting for that title to arrive we hardly drove the car. It felt to us like we were in charge of managing the car – but we still didn't own it. We were stewards – stewards with all sorts of rights and privileges but we were not owners.

A steward is indeed a manager, but a manager of what does not belong to him/her. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf. We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him.

Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. This is not only because He created all things; He is also the Redeemer. He has redeemed – that is, purchased – all things. Therefore, it all belongs to Him. We are simply managers of everything in this world. What a privilege! Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input as to how best to use the things that belong to God. What a privilege, indeed.

But, what a responsibility as well! While God puts us in place as managers, we are still to do with His possessions what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what He desires and wills for His property. How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? By searching God's Word. In Scripture. There God tells us what His will is for all of His gifts. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls. God informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – managers and custodians – are to manage His property.

That is stewardship. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us.



Bible Camp

If you have a child who wants to attend Bible Camp this summer, please be aware that our congregation will provide a \$175 stipend for all campers. Please call the church office at 448-3697 if you have any questions or want to submit your request.

CHURCH SERVICES



- **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

- **Good Friday** Worship service will be **April 3rd at 1:00 p.m.** in the Chapel.
- Soup supper will be at **6:00 p.m.**
- Annual Ecumenical Good Friday service at **7:00 pm.**



- Easter Sunrise Service is at **7:00 a.m.**
- Easter Breakfast is from **7:30 to 8:30 a.m.**
- Easter Sunday Service is on Sunday, April 5, 2026 at **9:00 a.m.**



Golden Confirmation

With the agreement and support of the Church Council, our busy Evangelism Committee will sponsor a Golden Confirmation in **September of 2026**. And we need your help! This will be a celebration for all who were confirmed at our church in 1976 and prior to that. In our Fellowship Hall you will see the various years of these former confirmands and we do not have all of their contact information nor do we know who already might have passed on to the Church Triumphant. That is where you come in.

Please look at the individual pages and see if you can identify where folks from your own confirmation class or before or after your time could be located. If you take a sheet home to fill it in, please mark that on the paper that is provided for it. It would be great if we can clarify most if not all former confirmands by the end of April so we can mail out Save-the-date cards to them all. Thanks so much for your help. This will be a great event and we want to plan well.



ELCW WOMEN

Hometown Cookin' Favorites

This is a great recipe for those times when you are having company over or need to take a dish to a potluck. It is pretty quick and easy to put together.



**Loretta
Kraehling**

Hamburger Hot Dish

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds hamburger
- 1 small onion
- 1 stick margarine
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can Cheddar cheese soup
- 1 18 ounce container sour cream
- 26-32 ounces shredded frozen hash browns

Instructions:

Brown hamburger and onion. Drain well. Place this mixture into the bottom of a greased 9"x13" pan. Spread hash browns on top of hamburger mixture. Melt margarine; add cream of chicken and Cheddar cheese soup. Heat together, then remove from heat and stir in sour cream. Pour this mixture over the hash brown layer. Bake at 350 degrees, uncovered for 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Optional: Place a layer of crushed chips or crackers over the top of the casserole for the last 10 minutes of baking time.

ELCW March Meeting

Our ELCW met on Thursday, March 5 at 1:30 p.m. We discussed helping to pay for the long tables that we are needing to replace the white ones. We would like them prior to having our salad lunch. Linda Spangler will get them ordered. Linda Van Vleet suggested we get 6 tables.

We voted to have our annual salad lunch on **Thursday, June 18, 2026**. We will send out more information as time gets closer. We are in hosting the Lenten Lunch on March 12th. We plan to serve scalloped potatoes and ham, with cups of apple sauce for dessert.

With no further things to discuss we closed with the Lord's Prayer

Attendance & Giving

DATE	ATTEND- ANCE	GENERAL BENEVOLENCE	
March 1	60	\$3,916	\$0
March 4 Lent	34	260	\$30
March 8	74	\$1,216	\$46
March 11 Lent	22	\$200	\$50
March 15 no church	0	\$0	\$0
March 18 Lent	32	\$76	\$0
March 22	88	\$2,930	\$105

Monthly Operating Budget \$18,239

Mission of the Month

April Mission of the Month is NALC (North American Lutheran Church) & LCMS (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ). 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



4-3 – Alan Linn, Craig Voss
4-4 – Connor Christopher,
Jacob Grandgeorge, Tom Kist
4-5 – Darla Tweeten
4-6 – Karen Riggs
4–8 – Kathy Lehman
4-10 – Rick Dawson
4-11 – Greer Mingus
4-12 – HannahJo Gustafson,
Karen Butler, Scott Smith ,
Darlene Friesleben

4-14 –Terry Lerdal,
Kale Christiansen
4-18 – Roger Thompson
4-21 – Rachael Smith
4-22 – Brooklynn Comstock
4-23 – Corbin Pinkele
4-24 – Alan Jensen
4-27 - Nichole Jergens
4-29 – Lindsay Haugland
4-28 – Michael Ryerson
4-30 – Linda Bickford,
Lynn Fevold

Our records show that the following members celebrate birthdays in April. 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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