



BROADCASTER

Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church

INSIDE

2

Message from Pastor

3

Church News

4

Council Brief

5

Member Appreciation

6

Christian Education

7

ELCW News,
Attendance, Missions,
& Givings

8

Birthdays & Contacts



OF LASTING JOY

“Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!” We will sing these words on Christmas Eve and perhaps a few times thereafter. Joy to the World, as we receive the Lord of lords and King of kings, the babe in the manger, the Savior of God’s people. Indeed, He comes to rule us in His truth and with His grace and we, His people, have reason to smile broadly, confident that in Jesus all of God’s promises are fulfilled.

I think everyone’s favorite Gospel for this Season of the Church year is St. Luke’s. His Gospel account is jam-packed with joy, starting with the birth of John the Baptist to his elderly parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth. God showed mercy upon them and the delight of delayed parenthood was overwhelming. When pregnant young Mary visits Elizabeth, John, still in his mother’s womb, kicks and moves as if to greet the Lord who is to come and whom John, as a grown man, will announce, revere and finally, die for.

Mary sings a song of joy, the Magnificat, at the realization of what God is doing through her and in humble astonishment over the child growing under her heart. This babe will exalt those of humble estate and fill the hungry with good things! Joy indeed. You know well of the joy that finally is proclaimed on the hills of Bethlehem when it is time for the Savior to enter the world. Shepherd, angels, bystanders and finally wise men from afar are rejoicing in the one who fills all human hearts with true joy.

DECEMBER
2025

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SOLVEIG ZAMZOW

It is too bad that we rank-and-file humans have the tendency to confuse joy with happiness. In her book *Smile or Die: How Positive Thinking fooled America and the World*, author Barbara Eisenreich writes about the relentless pressure she faced to be upbeat while undergoing treatment for cancer. Any lapse in positive attitude would give aid to the cancer cells that were attacking her body and she would somehow be responsible for any failed treatment. If only she was positive, positive results would almost automatically follow. Such was the advice she received.

It can be difficult to admit that we do not always feel positive and that superficial happiness is not ours. Who wants to pronounce publicly that your body does not feel good; that our mood swings make us as miserable as they make the people around us; that in spite of running relentlessly, hovering over spouses, children and grandbabies with a dedication that ought to be reserved only for God, life is still not happy-clappy.

Being the best seamstress in town; eating the healthiest diet of all your card club friends; reading the most books or growing the biggest tomatoes in your weed-free garden – well, all of that does not buy happiness. Volunteering at blue-ribbon level or having a brilliant answer to every question might make you popular but not necessarily happy.

Perhaps happiness as we understand it today is simply overrated!?! More often than not do we lull ourselves into thinking that the right job, the right spouse, the perfect car and the desired bank-account will get us to the place of assumed happiness. Ten times out of ten that is simply nonsense! Hundreds of my pastoral care hours can testify to that with the certainty with which the sun will come up tomorrow!!! You see, discomfort, pain, disappointments, tears and frustrations are part of life – but you know that anyway!

Our life in Christ offers us what we will be celebrating in just a few days: Joy. Through, in, with and by joy we get to actively participate in the gracious love and hope God offers us in all of our moments no matter how sad or glad we might feel. It would be foolish to claim that Jesus' life was 'happy' – first off, we do not know that and secondly, well, there is too much evidence to the contrary...at least if we use our own standard for happiness. There is enough evidence of hostility, uncertainty, rejection, pain and suffering conveyed in the Gospel that we would want to choose our words very carefully.

Rather, we remember that Jesus took our full humanity upon himself – all of it but sinfulness. Perhaps the difference here is not as complicated as we think: joy can and will be found even in moments when all seems wrong with life... while happiness, on the other hand, always seeks some outward, deliberate reason to be affirmed. That is why we can refer to Jesus' death on the cross as victory – that is why we can claim that the greatness of God and the glory of Christ are embedded in the events of Good Friday. That is why we announce weakness to be strength and loss of life the foundation of new life to come. Joy lets us see that no matter what circumstances are surrounding us, we are safe and secure, well cared for, loved, considered redeemed saints, members of a royal priesthood, God's very own. Jesus is making our joy complete. Neither his birth nor his death promises us happiness but rather life and salvation, joy that knows no bounds even when we are shedding tears.

Indeed, I do not want you to be "unhappy" – I surely pray your days will be filled with joy! Rejoice in the blessings of these coming holy days. **"Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!"** --- may that lasting and true joy sink deeply into our hearts and souls and permeate all of our days.

Merry Christmas to you and yours - Pastor Solveig A. H. Zamzow

CHURCH NEWS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Please join us on Wednesday, **December 24th at 7:00 p.m.**, for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



Bishop Dan Selbo



Church Directory

We have taken many pictures of individuals, couples, and families for our church directory. If you have not had your picture taken yet, we will be taking pictures after church from **10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. until December 21st**. If Sunday morning doesn't work for you, please call the church office in the morning to set up another time. If anybody would rather submit a picture, that works too. We will be changing the background of all the pictures to the same background.

Thank you everyone!!!

Lou Voss, Janis Bartley, & Camilla Grandgeorge



Scott, Karlee, and Kathy Lehman



NALC Bishop Dan Selbo visited our IA Mission District in November and stopped at Evangelical Lutheran on the 14th of November for a presentation, a Question and Answer session, and a delicious lunch. He was an engaged speaker and listener for the 49 persons who attended. His encouragement to our congregations is to boldly look at the renewal of our congregational life with a strong emphasis of not only being disciples ourselves but also disciple-makers. His suggestions were very positively received and we were glad Bishop Selbo could be with us. Pastor Z

COUNCIL MEMBERS & BRIEF

Some of the Church Council Members



Tony Olson



Daryl Hansen



Todd Nielsen



Taylor Lehman



Church Council Brief

November 12th Meeting

The church council met on Wed. November 12, at 7:00 p.m. Council present was Todd Nielsen, David Muzzey, Tony Olson, Hailey Olson, Chad Tweeten, Jody Eisentrager, Dani Eisentrager, Linda Spangler, Linda Van Vleet, Pastor Zamzow. Absent were Daryl Hansen, Taylor Lehman.

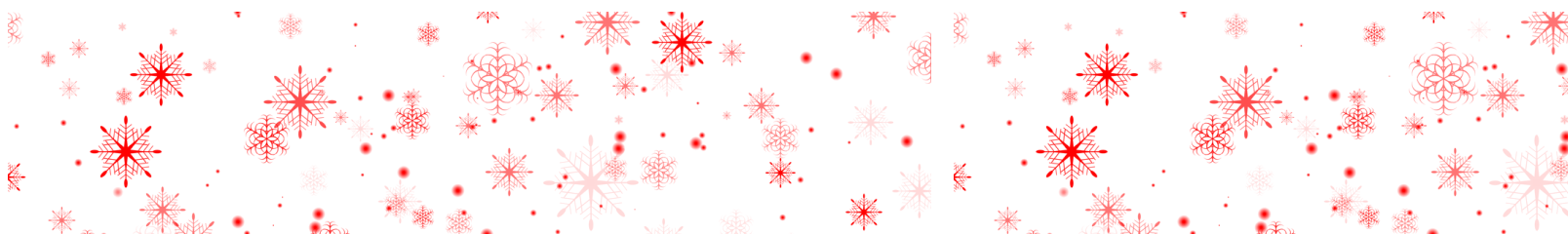
- The minutes and treasurer report were given and approved.
- Pastor's report – we need to vote on the 3 items from the NALC Convocation. We will have a meeting following worship on January 11, 2026.
- Bishop Dan Selbo and Co-dean Pastor Bahnfleth will be visiting EGELC on 11/14.
- Bible Studies are going well
- Call Committee Update – our profile is out, we are now in the "waiting to hear" stage.

Old Business:

- The new sign is in the state, the base for it is being built.
- Programable Thermostats – Linda S will be contacting Oldson's to get a quote
- Power Point/Sound – can use more help
- Offer to add new microphones throughout the sanctuary - motion carried
- Church Directory - still taking pictures
- Youth Committee formed and are meeting

New Business

- Resignation of Brandi Larsen and McKenzie Larsen from council as they are moving. Accepted
- Reminded everyone of Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 23 – Soup and Service EGAMA



MEMBER APPRECIATION



Terri Jo Meyer, Bentlee Olson, & Jim Christ. Thank you for all those who helped make potato cakes and other delicious baked goods for the sale. The money raised goes to 15 different missions such as EGAMA, Meals on Wheels, Community Welfare, the 2 Bible Camps, Lotus, Beacon of Hope.



Our Church's Three Linda's

Linda Bickford, Linda Spangler, & Linda VanVleet

Thank you for the way you all use the special gifts God has given you to bless and minister to others here at our church. You give so much of your time, love, and talent. Our church is blessed to have you lead us in our music, church office work, creating Power Power Points for our service, ELCW, and so much more. We want you to know how much we appreciate all your time and dedication to our church and all those who are members here.



Thank you to **Connie Linn** for helping serve at the Norwegian Bake Sale. Connie's mom is the late Millie Knutson. Millie Knutson's parents were immigrants from Norway in 1921 and settled on a farm near Goldfield. Connie and her five sisters traveled to Norway in 2012 to attend her mom's family reunion. Millie's brother Rev. Gerhard Knutson was a Bishop in the ELCA and her oldest brother Dr. Kent Knutson, was president of Wartburg Seminary before becoming a bishop and president of all the American Lutheran Church's in the United States in 1970, until he passed away in 1973.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christmas Program - December 14th during Church Service at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Program Practices

November 30- fitting costumes for Christmas Program and practice during Sunday School.

December 7 — Program Practice during Sunday School

December 12 — Program Practice at 5:00 p.m. Pizza provided.

December 14 — Christmas Program at 9:00 a.m.

December 21 — No Sunday School



Sunday School

Sunday School is from
10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

We look forward to
seeing a lot of children
join us each week as
they can.



Jace, Jen, Olivia, & Dan Conaway

Thank you to **Jen Conaway** for giving the children's sermon on November 16th. Jen is a teacher here in Eagle Grove. Great job **Jace Conaway** for attending confirmation every Wednesday and being an acolyte during Sunday church services.



We sure enjoy seeing
Sara Krahling at church every
Sunday morning.

ELCW WOMEN

Scandinavian Bake Sale Volunteers



Our Scandinavian Bake Sale and Coffee was on Saturday, November 8. We would like to take time to thank everyone who helped with the making of Potato Cakes and the day of the bake sale. The weather was snowy and hurt our attendance but all in all we had a great day.

Our **December 4th** meeting will be at **noon** at the Family Table – North Room. Instead of a potluck dinner, we will each be responsible for our own meal.

Rotary Senior Living

We will be going to Rotary Senior Living on **December 11th at 2:00 p.m.** Please consider joining us for an hour of fellowship with the residents. We will be serving some Christmas treats and also singing Christmas Carols/Hymns with the residents.



Attendance & Giving

DATE	ATTEND- ANCE	GENERAL BENEVOLENCE	
Oct. 26	85	\$2,956	\$25
Nov. 2	112	\$1,694	\$45
Nov. 9	83	\$3,258	\$25
Nov. 16	88	\$2,668	\$120
Nov. 23	101	\$1,742	\$172

Monthly Operating Budget: \$18,239

Mission of the Month

December Mission of the Month
Shepherd of the Prairie, Huxley, Ia. A Mission Congregation. 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



12---1 -McKenzie Larsen
12---2 - Colleen Johansen,
12---3 - Duane Riley,
Jennifer Larson
12---4 – Ashley Lawler
12---6 - Joyce Anderson,
Mark Sundberg,
Christy Larson
12-10 – Diana Thompson
12-11 – Brianna Allen Strait
12-14 – Steve Voss

12-18 – Marcella Johnson,
Linda Spangler
12-20 - Harvey Derschied,
12-21 –Tara Boyd
12-23 – Connie Linn,
Bill Locke, Jill Sundberg,
12-24 – Linda Van Vleet
12-25 – Richard Christensen,
Elizabeth Christiansen,
12-26 – Shan Beecher
12-29 – Chase Blasi
12-30 –Alan Hodson
12-31 – Dean Larson

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

**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

egelc@goldfieldaccess.net
515-448-3697

Pastor Zamzow

641-903-9416
solveigzamzow@gmail.com