

To reach Pastor Mike Knudson

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# B - E Friends



Years ago (before their football team became awesome) we were in Cincinnati, Ohio. One thing we really wanted to do was try “Cincinnati Chili” because we had heard how distinctive it is (they eat two million pounds of it a year!) We did a search, located an eatery called “Skyline Chili”, and walked in.

“Do you have Cincinnati Chili?” I asked the waitress. She told us the various options on the menu. “Is it on top of spaghetti?” “Yes”, she answered with a knowing grin. “Does it have cinnamon in it?” (I demonstrated my research). “Yes it does” was her response. “But is it Cincinnati Chili?” (I was letting my desperation show. I didn’t want to leave town without having had the real thing). “Yes, it is Cincinnati Chili.”

After the food was on the table and we had thanked Jesus, the cook turned from his grill and called out to us, “Did they give you the raspberry vinaigrette dressing?” “No” we said. He called out to a fellow worker to get it to us and then went back to grilling. After a little more eating the lady who ran the cash machine came to our table and asked if we had been given bibs. We shook our heads. “I’ll get you some.” Not only did she bring them, she personally took the time to tie them on both of us. At several points the waitress came back to our table and asked if we needed anything. She seemed to really want to know. The Chili was good, but the service was great.

God spoke to me after the experience of hospitality at Skyline Chili. This leads me to pray:

“Dear Lord, may we in your church, be as attentive to each other and to the guests you send our way, as the servants at the downtown branch of Skyline Chili in Cincinnati, Ohio.”

Friends, let's CELEBRATE the goodness of God and SERVE our neighbors kindly.

Pastor Mike



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

May you have a special day and a blessed year!

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 – Madyson Bignell   | 13 – Bailey Benck     |
| 3 – Kendra Hanson     | 13 – Wyatt Lewison    |
| 4 – Verlene Benck     | 15 – Brandon Donley*  |
| 5 – Mick Borst        | 18 – Paige Owen       |
| 5 – Melody Perrin     | 22 – Marcus Potts*    |
| 7 – Spencer Riegelman | 23 – Jonette Peterson |
| 7 – Ben Helseth       | 24 – Megan Franklin   |
| 10 – Laurel Mason*    | 28 – RoChelle Smaller |
| 11 – Katlyn Bignell   |                       |
| 11 - Kylie Mark       |                       |

If your birthday doesn't appear on our monthly birthday calendars, please let Tracie know so it can be added.

## LOOKING AHEAD ....

Feb worship schedule:

Joint parish worship 9 a.m. at Eidsvold

Mar-Apr worship schedule

9 a.m. at Eidsvold 10:30 a.m. at Bethlehem

Feb 2 - discussion at Svea with 3 congregations

Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday at Eidsvold

Mar 11 - Walking Together, Bethany Luth. Rice Lake

Mar 25 - St Croix Valley Women meet at Christ Lutheran Somerset. Lori Peper speaker, including a Ukelele jam!

April 2 - Palm Sunday

April 5 - 9th grade confirmation class meets

April 6 - Maundy Thursday at Eidsvold

April 9 - Easter

April 29 - Synod Assembly at Rice Lake

## CARING FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Giving of our time and talents is one way of serving our faith community. Thank you to the following individuals who will serve this faith community during FEBRUARY.

### Eidsvold

**Church Cleaning:** Clean for date by your name

Feb 5 - Kathy Sears

Feb 12 - Available for you

Feb 19 - Available for you

Feb 26 - Bev Peterson

**Ushers 2 each week**

*distribute bulletins, count & write attendance on calendar, receive offering*

Feb 5 - Available for you

Feb 12 - Fay Albarado & Mary Williams

Feb 19 - DeLoris Bloomstrand & Karen Brostrom

Feb 26 - Dennis Potts & Tricia Lofgren

If you would like FM transmission to your car, please notify Alvin or an usher. Directions for setting up FM transmission are with the transmitter.

**Altar Committee— Lorna Eidem**

Set up communion for altar distribution as well as prepared chalices on platter, and wash cups.

Altar Colors this month:

Green until Feb 19

White Feb 19 Transfiguration Sunday

Purple Feb 22 and rest of month

**February communion bread maker:**

**Rita Anderson**

**READERS:**

Feb 5 – Rita Anderson

Feb 12 - Karen Brostrom

Feb 19 - Tana Langer

### Bethlehem

**NO WORSHIP AT BETHLEHEM IN FEBRUARY. JOINT WORSHIP AT 9 A.M. AT EIDSVOLD.**



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

## Eidsvold Annual Meeting Summary held January 22, 2023

Meeting called to order by Justin Mandelkow at 12 PM. Review of 2022 meeting notes, approved as read.

Pastor's Report and Pastoral Acts 2022 were in the annual report.

Financial reports accepted as presented Treasurer Anne Girdeen noted the parsonage committee balance should be 16,822.35.

### Missions for 2023 approved as follows:

Northwest Synod to remain at 11% of offerings; Lutheran Social Services (LSS) will remain at \$650.

Kathy Sears requested the \$2000 be given to Ellsworth Food Pantry instead of Pierce County Hunger Prevention Fund to keep assistance more local. Approved Eidsvold Cemetery fund request of \$500.

Sunday School amount will remain at \$250; HOPE Coalition will return to \$200

The following missions will remain at last year's giving: ARC Inc. \$1350, Luther Point \$500; Ellsworth Senior Center \$500; Bay City Senior Center \$200.

Eidsvold Women will try to host an ice cream social in early fall of 2023.

Dennis Finstad provided an explanation of the endowment fund.

Melody appealed to upgrade subscriptions to music libraries so it is easier to collect and share lyrics and music in weekly services. This will save a lot of time and headaches for Melody, Tracie and Tana. Motion to pay up to \$500 for this upgrade, approved and passed.

### Officer's positions for 2023-2024:

President—Jason Helseth, Vice President—Amanda Jepson to complete 2nd year of Jason Helseth's term; Secretary - Heather Brown; Financial Secretary - Laura Peterson; Treasurer—Anne Girdeen; Head Ushers - Tim and Brenda Singer; Nomination Committee - Mandy Jepson and Fay Albarado; Parsonage Committee - Lee and Tana Langer and Austin Langer Endowment at large - Dennis Finstad and Kathy Hanson; Auditing - Kathy Sears and Andrea Benck; Memorial - Kendra Hanson and Kathy Hanson; Youth Fund - Tracie Esterby

### New business:

Discussion on moving forward with joint ministry with Svea. Many questions and concerns, one of the big ones is whether or not Bethlehem will continue with the parish and it was agreed that this must be discussed as part of moving forward as it will affect the way things are laid out for the future with three (or two) point parish.

Tracie suggested an informal meeting for Wednesday January 25 at 6:30 at Eidsvold—a time to get together to share ideas, not make any decisions, just talk it out a bit.

Motion to adjourn meeting 1:10 PM

Submitted by Heather Brown

## **WORSHIP DURING LENT**

**Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. at Eidsvold with Pastor Mike**

**Sundays during Lent Pastor Mike will explore the meaning of five symbols of the Passion, the time when Jesus sacrificed his life for us.**

**Discussion is continuing but Wednesday evenings during Lent most likely will include a meal and a pulpit swap - 5 pastors within the St. Croix Valley Conference rotating between the 5 participating congregations offering the Wednesday evening Lenten message. More details when known and in the March newsletter.**



## **EIDSVOLD'S MEMBERS**

### **DISCUSSION**

### **REGARDING**

## **EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

There was never a quiet moment in the basement of Eidsvold Lutheran Church on Wednesday evening, January 25<sup>th</sup> as 25 folks of all ages gathered to talk about Eidsvold Lutheran Church's strengths, weaknesses, hopes for the future, and concerns as discussions continue about future ministry as a 2 or 3 point parish. Here's a summary of those comments.

### **EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH:**

**STRENGTHS:** Sunday School, Children messages, our building, financially strong, members who get along and like each other, many younger families attending, no political division, Eidsvold has been a church home for many generations for some of the current members, a welcoming congregation, nice parking lot, Worship in the Park, elevator, projection screen; Facebook and website.

**WEAKNESSES OR WHAT WE COULD DO BETTER:** nothing for youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older - have tried to offer events but youth don't come (suggestion: involve these confirmation age students by having them help with Sunday School, usher, light candles, ring the bell, serve the church in some way); have worship available online; follow-up with visitors so they feel welcomed; seems to be the same volunteers for cleaning, ushering, bringing food for events

Our society has gymnastics, basketball, hockey, softball-baseball, skiing – athletic events on Sunday mornings so participants and families are not able to attend Sunday worship;

**HOPES FOR FUTURE:** continue to have worship in this building weekly

**CONCERNS** as discussions continue with Eidsvold, Bethlehem, and Svea:

don't want to lose what we already have; want strong leadership in our pastor, pastor who lives in the area; don't want to merge congregations but continue as individual congregations served by one pastor, if discussion continue as a 2 point parish, will the expense for pastor, housing, insurance, benefits be attainable?

If you have thoughts, comments, or concerns to add to this list, please let Jason Helseth 612-598-2808 or Tracie Esterby 651-380-2212 know so they can be included.

Reminder: No decisions will be made regarding future ministry without every member's voice - a congregational meeting must be called to make any decisions and vote on the matter.

***It is Eidsvold's hope, that all 25 of these participants plus an additional 25 come Thursday evening, February 2<sup>nd</sup> to Svea at 7:00 p.m. to listen and share opinions and thoughts in the discussion about future ministry. All members are invited to participate in these discussions.***



## Joint Council Meeting

1/18/23 via zoom 7 PM

Present: Justin Mandelkow, Phyllis Beastrom, Laura Peterson, Tracie Esterby, Anne Girdeen, Jan Kearns, Ronny Johnson, Jason, Helseth, Heather Brown.

Treasurer's report by Anne: Parsonage fund \$16,822.35 Technology: 34.51.

Old business: none

New business: Pastor Mike has requested one month leave from 1/23-2/21, back for Ash Wednesday. Pastor Al Aakre from Svea can cover. Svea will adjust their start time to 10:30 and we will do joint services (Bethlehem and Eidsvold) at 9 am at Eidsvold during Pastor's leave (1/29, 2/5, 2/12, The final service on 2/19 will be covered by Pastor Jon Becker.

Motion made and approved to grant one month leave. Motion made and approved to pay Pastor Mike regular salary during one month leave.

Pastor Aare will be paid per synod guidelines for pulpit supply.

On March 5 we will switch worship times, Eidsvold 9 am Bethlehem 10:30.

Motion made and approved to send thank you card and \$50 Kwik Trip gift card to each of the two individuals that came from Trinity Parish Lutheran in Spring Valley to share their experiences with combining congregations.

Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services will be at Eidsvold.

Submitted by Heather Brown

## Bethlehem Annual Meeting

January 15, 2023

Call to order by President Ron Johnson at 12:10 pm. with nine members in attendance. Opening litany led by Pastor Mike.

Last year's minutes accepted as printed. Pastor's report and Pastoral services for 2022 were in the annual report. Pastor Mike commented that it's hard to believe he is in his 7<sup>th</sup> year with this parish (started 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Avest 2016). Financial reports accepted as printed.

Motion to have officers remain the same for another year: **Officers:** President – Ron Johnson; Vice President—Collin LaFave, Secretary – Leah Johnson, Treasurer – Phyllis Beastrom, Financial Secretary – Jan Kearns.

**Mission Support:** 17% of offerings to Synod, \$1000 to missionaries Patrick and Jackie Bencke, \$1200 to Lutheran Social Services, \$2000 or more to ARC, at least \$500 to Luther Point Bible Camp and to Pierce County Food Shelf and to other missions as funds available.

Discussion focused on ministry with Bethlehem, Eidsvold, and Svea. Strong feeling that this discussion will become a 2 point parish discussion (Eidsvold and Svea) served by one pastor. It is expected that Bethlehem will eventually close with a Celebration of Life and Ministry. In the future, Bethlehem will contact its members to inform them of this conversation and seek their intentions for joining either Eidsvold or Svea. There was no formal motion to close Bethlehem at this meeting as that requires a special congregational meeting noticed for that purpose.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Phyllis Beastrom, acting secretary

## Pastor Mike on Leave

Joint council approved a one month leave for Pastor Mike Monday January 23, 2023 through February 21, 2023. Pastor Alex Aakre, the interim pastor at Svea, will provide worship in Pastor Mike's absence.

**JOINT WORSHIP for Eidsvold and Bethlehem will be at 9 a.m. at Eidsvold effective through February.** Pastor Al will conduct services January 29, February 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Jon Becker on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Mike will be back for Ash Wednesday service on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and worship on February 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have need for pastoral services please call Pastor Mike first, at 402-620-8287 or Tracie Esterby 651-380-2212 [tracie.esterby@gmail.com](mailto:tracie.esterby@gmail.com) Or Phyllis Beastrom 715-821-5847 [beastrom@redwing.net](mailto:beastrom@redwing.net)



The location for

Ruby's Pantry has changed for the winter months to Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services at junction of Highway 10 & 63 west of Ellsworth. It will be inside and you drive through to get your foods and items. Ruby's Pantry helps extend your monthly grocery budget and is open to **ANYONE**. **COST \$25 per share** and you will receive an abundance of food. If possible, bring your laundry basket to be loaded with items.

**Next distribution is Saturday February 4 from 10:00—11:30.**

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

February 12, 2023

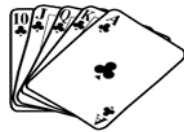


The "Souper Bowl of Caring" is an annual event that is national in scope, yet local in impact. You are invited to help the families and people of this area who need food assistance. We are collecting dollars and non perishable items for the Ellsworth Food Pantry.

### EUCHRE

Friday, February 3rd  
7:00 p.m.

Eidsvold church basement



You are invited to come for fun and fellowship - to play euchre (no experience required) or just visit. Bring a snack to share and if you'd like, your own beverage. Coffee will be provided.

### IN OUR PRAYERS



Pastor Mike, Chris Larson, Jim Larson, care giver Sally Larson, Gerry Hoffman, Jack Hartman, Elliot Kuesel, Kathy Hanson, Randy Smeltzer, Doris Halverson

### THANK YOU, MARY AND MARTHA

Saturday, March 25 all women are invited to Christ Lutheran, Somerset to hear speaker Lori Peper share her ministry with Ukulele's. The Good Neighbor Ukulele Ministry has around 60 participants and has been lifting spirits, sharing our hope in Christ Jesus and offers "gigs" at nursing homes, fairs, Mall of America, church services, park events, anniversary parties and more!

Come—listen and learn from our speaker Pastor Lori Peper and the Ukelele ministry.

Registration begins 8:15 Cost: \$10 includes lunch

Please see Poster on bulletin Board

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Mike Knudson cell 402-620-8287

E-mail 2knuds@comcast.net

Church e-mail: beluther@bevcomm.net

Office: 715-594-3182 leave a message

Newsletter & bulletin items by Wednesday to

Tracie.esterby@gmail.com or text 651-380-2212

### OFFERINGS MAY BE MAILED TO:

Eidsvold:	Bethlehem
Eidsvold Lutheran Church	Janice Kearns
W6111 County Rd EE	PO Box 724
Bay City WI 54723	Ellsworth WI 54011

Wednesday, February 22nd 1:30 p.m.

Ellsworth Senior Center

powerpoint presentation on history of Esdaile and Eidsvold Lutheran Church

Presented by Phyllis Beastrom

Check out our parish website & Facebook

Worship times will also be posted on these.

<https://www.bethlehemeidsvoldchurches.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Bethlehem.Eidsvold>