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# B - E Friends

*Newsletter of the Bethlehem — Eidsvold Parish*



I guess it is called a “landing”, as if you flew there!

It's a small flat place at the bottom of a staircase where you can stop and make a turn. Pretty ordinary, at least in older homes. But this landing is special because of what happened on it years ago. This landing is where a group of sisters would stand and sing and entertain their parents. They were the Gumm Sisters. You may have heard of the youngest - Judy Garland, from the Wizard of Oz. She of course ended up playing many of the most famous stages in the world, but she began here on this small landing, in her home. 😊

Most of the time most of us may feel like we “play” on a very small stage. We are not aware of what may come of our life's work, our influence over others and the example we have set. Were we to know the full extend of how our life impacts others we might blush! But undoubtedly, we are playing a part in the biggest story there is. We are called, empowered, and sent by God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit to be... ourselves!

As we enter a new year with new opportunities and challenges remember who has sent you and who is rooting for you. Go into 2022 with joy and purpose!!

Pastor Mike

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Worship for December 26 10:00 a.m. Joint Parish Worship at Bethlehem “Lessons and Carols”

Worship for January 2 10:00 a.m. Joint Parish Worship at Eidsvold

Worship schedule changes January 9: Eidsvold 9 a.m.; Bethlehem 10:30 a.m.

# January

## BIRTHDAYS

May you have a special day  
and a blessed year!

1 – Doris Halverson	16 - Leah Johnson
2 – Kaylene Nielsen	18 - Nancy Fick
4 – John Beastro	20 – Kristen Mandelkow
5 – Larry Gerdes	22 – Madelyn Nielsen
6 - Austin Langer	24 – Preston Sears
6 – Jacob Willenbring	26 – Avery Alms
8 - Carol Peterson	26 - Ann Whipple
12 – Andrea Esterby	27 – Taylor Bierbrauer
12 - Heather Brown	30 – Stephanie Potts
13 – Carley Albarado	30 - Diane Hines
14 – Kimberly O’Reilly	31 - Bev Peterson
16 – Savanna Hoyer	

If your birthday doesn't appear on our  
monthly birthday calendars, please let  
Phyllis know so she can add it.

## LOOKING AHEAD . . . .

Jan 5, 2022 6:00 p.m. 8th Grade confirmation  
Jan 16, 2022 Bethlehem Annual Meeting  
Jan 23, 2022 Eidsvold Annual meeting  
Feb 16, 2022 6:00 p.m. 9th Grade confirmation  
Mar 2, 2022 Ash Wednesday  
Mar 26, 2022 Walking Together and Epic, UW-EC  
Apr 17, 2022 Easter  
Apr 30, 2022 Synod Assembly—in person/zoom  
“Taking it to the Streets - A Public Church”

## Senior Senior Center Events for January

Tuesday Jan. 11 11 a.m. Discovering Tuesday  
Together. C J Young from Country Fit will  
lead us in strengthening and balance  
exercises one can do sitting in a chair.

Wednesday Jan 26 Celebrating Seniors  
Gathering—representatives from the Pierce  
County Historical Society will present history  
of East Ellsworth.

## 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 January.

### Bethlehem

Altar Guild: Ann Whipple

Church cleaning: Elise Gregory/Collin LaFave

### Eidsvold

#### Church Cleaning:

Jan. 2 - DeLoris Bloomstrand  
Jan. 9- Kathy & Kendra Hanson  
Jan. 16 - Alvin & Lorna Eidem  
Jan. 23 - Kathy Sears  
Jan. 30 - Tana Langer

#### Indoor Registration/Ushers

Jan. 2 - Tricia Lofgren  
Jan. 9 - Kendra Hanson  
Jan. 16 - Alvin & Lorna Eidem  
Jan. 23 - Dennis Potts  
Jan. 30 - Rochelle Smaller & family

#### Parking Lot 93.1 FM Transmission

Sign-in sheet, bulletin, communion, offering  
container, will be available at a self serve  
station in the parking lot.

#### Altar Committee— Kathy Sears

put unused communion cups in refrigerator after  
worship, discard used cups in garbage and wash  
cup containers

### JANUARY READERS:

#### Bethlehem

Jan. 2 - Joint service at Eidsvold  
Jan. 9 - Ann Whipple  
Jan.. 16 - Lora Drenth  
Jan 23 - Joint Service at Eidsvold  
Jan. 30 - Phyllis Beastro

#### Eidsvold

Jan. 2 – DeLoris Bloomstrand  
Jan. 9 - Fay Albarado  
Jan. 16 - Brenda Singer  
Jan. 23 - Rita Anderson  
Jan. 30 - Tana Langer

## Christmas Message to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

### Psalm 137:4 *How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

In 1926, my maternal grandmother left Germany and immigrated to the United States. One of my earliest memories is singing *Silent Night (Stille Nacht)* in German by the Christmas tree in her small house in Jackson, MN. I wonder what it was like for her to move to a foreign land not speaking the language. I wonder how difficult it must have been for her to sing her song in a foreign land.



Last Christmas most of us couldn't gather inside our church buildings to sing *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. Some of us sang to our computer screens, some sang in their cars in the parking lot, some sang with masks. We were all trying to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land, the land of COVID. It has been difficult. Our song has been muted.

**Psalm 137 is a lament Psalm.** The writer of Psalm 137 is describing the pain of the people who were forced to live in a foreign land after witnessing the destruction of their homeland and their temple. They are grieving the losses, lamenting, crying, and finding it impossible to "sing the Lord's song in a foreign land."

My heart goes out to the Afghan Refugees who are experiencing their first winter at Fort McCoy. I wonder how difficult it will be for them to sing their songs of faith in a foreign land. Many know that they will never go home again.

In Luke 1 Mary sings her song in unknown territory. She has received the message from Gabriel that she will bear God's son and his name is to be Jesus, and he will reign as king forever. This incomprehensible message is confirmed by her relative Elizabeth and changes Mary's life's circumstances. Mary is asked to do what no one has ever done before. This is uncharted and foreign territory for a young girl. She sings her song in a foreign land like her sisters before her Miriam, Ruth, and Hannah. She sings a song of courage, faith, hope, and love.

Luke 1:46-49 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

This Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season I invite you to reflect on Mary's song as an old song sung in new circumstances. Many of us and our churches find ourselves dealing with circumstances we might not have chosen for ourselves and wish were different, circumstances that might cause us to lament and grieve. We are here now. Sing. Join Mary and the faithful of every time and place, that great cloud of witnesses, and sing of courage, faith, hope, and love. Sing. Sing an old song of trust in unfamiliar territory, and sing a new song of hope in a new land. We are here now.

May the Hope of Advent, Joy of Christmas and Light of Epiphany bring you Peace. Bishop Laurie \_\_\_\_

For more information about helping Afghan refugees

Volunteering at Fort McCoy contact Wisconsin Council of Churches [volunteer@wichurches.org](mailto:volunteer@wichurches.org).

Resettling families contact LSSWI [Refugee Resettlement - Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan \(Isswis.org\)](http://RefugeeResettlement-LutheranSocialServicesofWisconsinandUpperMichigan(Isswis.org)). Sarah Halstad

Donations contact Catholic Charities in La Crosse <https://cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance/>

## Walking Together and EPIC

This event is for everyone! Participants can choose from an abundance of ministry workshops (Walking Together), council training workshops (EPIC) or a combination of both as we consider the “Next Most Faithful Step that God is Calling us to Take”.

**Saturday, March 26** Davies Center, UW Eau Claire

\$25 per person (includes lunch)

Anyone under age 25 free!

One day—2 events—1 registration

## ANNUAL MEETINGS



Annual meetings will be held later this month. The annual meeting is your opportunity to hear about the ministry and activities of the congregation and to offer your voice regarding

the life of the congregation. Election of officers for the congregation and budget decisions will also be on the agenda.

Reports for the annual meeting packet are due on the Monday prior to the meeting to [beastrom@redwing.net](mailto:beastrom@redwing.net)

**Bethlehem** Annual Meeting, Sunday, **January 16th** immediately following worship.

**Eidsvold** Annual Meeting – Sunday, **January 23rd** immediately following worship.

There will be joint parish worship on January 23rd at 9:00 a.m. at Eidsvold.

## THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS!



Your Christmas Program was **FANTASTIC**! All of you seemed to be having **FUN** as you presented the **BIG, BIG,**

breaking news story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of baby Jesus. **THANK YOU** for your **GREAT PRESENTATION** and sharing the news of Jesus.

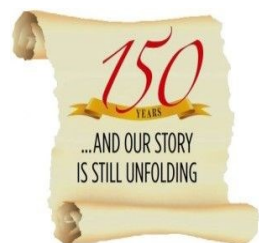
Thank you also to the teachers: Megan Franklin, Anne Girdeen, Heather Mark, Elise Gregory, Andrea Esterby and Brenda Singer for helping teach the music and accompanying on the piano.

Thank you parents for bringing your children to Sunday School and to the rehearsals.

The Ellsworth School Foundation sent Thank You's to the following for participating in and contributing to the Christmas Gift Box Program. The Thank You's are on the bulletin boards.

Eidsvold Sunday School \$300  
Eidsvold Congregation \$761  
Bethlehem Congregation \$500

## Eidsvold's 150th Anniversary



The 150th Anniversary of Eidsvold Lutheran Church is scheduled for October, 2022. Volunteers are

needed to plan the morning worship and afternoon program. The sign up sheets are on the table behind the back pew. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the program committee or any of the committees, contact a member of the committee or Justin Mandelkow at 651-764-0658.

## OFFERINGS MAY BE MAILED TO:

Eidsvold:

Eidsvold Lutheran  
Church  
W6111 County Rd EE  
Bay City WI 54723

Bethlehem

Judy Anderson  
W2062 U S Highway 10  
Maiden Rock WI  
54750

**Check out our parish website & Facebook**

Worship times will also be posted on these.

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

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