

To reach Pastor Mike Knudson

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B - E Friends

Newsletter of the Bethlehem — Eidsvold Parish

This morning I grabbed a cup of coffee, went outside, and surveyed our flowerbed. Up till now it was a place of digging out rocks, tilling soil and pulling weeds. It's satisfying now to see the first signs of flowers reaching up to the sun in straight line formation. A random scattering of tree seeds lay moist in the dew. In the photo, a mature basket of flowers looks down over the tiny emerging flowers.



The scene reminds me of our present time as a church parish. We, like the new flowers, are emerging too. We have passed through over a year of isolation and testing—a real disturbing of the patterns of congregational life; a tilling for sure. We have tried a random scattering of ways to adjust to the pandemic: FM broadcasting parking lot services (honking horns said “Amen!”), Zoom meetings that seldom start without a hitch or two, masks, no singing, keeping space between us, even forced smaller funerals.

What we will be is beginning to unfold. Like the basket of flowers, we have the strong experience of our past habits and cherished rituals. But now we also have some new tools to use! In the future a snow-storm probably will cause a cancelled worship service, but the storm won't be able to stop our Mighty YouTube Channel from providing a message! Individuals have already begun to share the work our beloved Loren did for us for years. A resurgence of the desire to do fun things together is emerging too. A new appreciation for worshipping together is taking root.

It's a good time for new life to grow!

It's a great time to Celebrate and Serve!

Peace and Strength!

Pastor Mike



Birthdays

May you have a blessed birthday!

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 – Marni Girdeen | 21 – June Gilbertson |
| 2 – Monte Gilbertson | 21 - Jon Anderson |
| 4 – Alex Hoyer | 25 – Deloris
Bloomstrand |
| 4 - Ava Scharpen | 26 – Kaitlin Girdeen |
| 11 – Paul Riegelman | 28 – Dennis Potts |
| 14 - Phyllis Beastrom | 29 – Philip Halverson |
| 14 - Sydney Benck | 29 - Jesse Hohmann |
| 16 - Allie Doose | 30 – Albert
Marklevits |
| 16 - Tayler Whipple | |

Joint council minutes

Wed. May 19 by Zoom

Present: Justin Mandelkow, Anne Girdeen, Laura Peterson, Pastor Mike Knudson, Ronny Johnson, Jan Kearns, Phyllis Beastrom, Jason Helseth and Heather Brown

Treasurer's report by Anne—Parsonage account \$29,069.58, Technology account \$ 590.10; PPE loan leftover funds \$1,445.26 Phyllis made motion to apply leftover PPE loan funds towards payroll, Ronny seconded motion, passed.

New Business

- 1 - Joint service May 30th at Bethlehem at 9 AM in building and FM transmission.
- 2 - First Sunday of the month beginning on June 6 will be Joint worship in Esdaile park and if it rains we will move service to Eidsvold (indoors with parking lot service as an option). The June 6th service in the park will include an ice cream treat to enjoy after the service
- 3 - Worship services for June 13, 20, and 27th : 9 AM at Eidsvold and 10:30 AM at Bethlehem. Try for one month and see how attendance is and make a decision on July services after that.
- 4 - Ideas were sought on how to get youth back to church and involved. Get together with other churches and combine youth activities? Jason will reach out to Zion and Bethel Covenant.
- 5 - Masks will be encouraged within the church buildings. No singing at this time indoors or out.
- 6 - July 4th no service held, Pastor will have a YouTube message.
- 7 - Parsonage information: The house needs a new furnace, Comfort by Design did an inspection of the furnace and it needs to be replaced by fall . They submitted quotes for replacement ranging from \$4,300-5,900 depending on warranty. Another quote will be obtained for comparison. Shingles are loose on the roof, will do a bit of visual checking to see if roof needs attention.

Next meeting June 30 7:30 PM via Zoom

Heather Brown, Secretary



CALLING ALL WOMEN! JOIN US FOR MUFFIN AND COFFEE (or juice) AND BIBLE STUDY

Women—I think we can safely gather together again for coffee, conversation and Bible Study.

We'll gather on Wednesday, June 9th at 9:30 a.m. for Coffee (or juice) and muffin, conversation, and Bible Study at Esdaile Park (unless the weather or insects urge us to move to the church). If you get the Gather magazine, bring it and your Bible. If you don't have Gather, come anyway—Phyllis will have copies of the Bible Study available starting this Sunday. The June session is "Just Wisdom!" and we'll be looking at "common sense wisdom", "Divine Wisdom or Sophia", "Holy wisdom" . Who do you look to for wisdom? Who seeks wisdom from you?

Come and share in the discussion!

PARISH WEBPAGE & FACEBOOK

Anne Girdeen is creating the parish webpage and will be updating the Parish Facebook I'll share the addresses next time. If you have confirmation pictures or parish items to send her, Anne's e-mail is amgirdeen08@gmail.com

WORSHIP MAY 30th & FOR JUNE

May 30th worship will be a Joint Parish worship service at Bethlehem at 9 a.m.
in the building with masks recommended and 93.1 FM Transmission to the parking lot.



June 6—9:00 a.m. Joint Worship at Esdaile Park with Holy Communion. Social Distancing will be observed. **Bring your lawn chair.**

Ice Cream Treats after worship—bring the whole family!

In case of rain, the service will be at Eidsvold—indoor and with FM transmission



For the remainder of June, there will be WEEKLY in person worship & FM transmission . Masks recommended and social distancing observed.

June 13 9:00 a.m. Eidsvold 10:30 a.m. Bethlehem

June 20 9:00 a.m. Eidsvold 10:30 a.m. Bethlehem

June 27 9:00 a.m. Eidsvold 10:30 a.m. Bethlehem

READERS AND THOSE ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN JUNE

Eidsvold members—I have contacted the following to assist at June worship services. Tana will have a sign up sheet available to sign up for cleaning and worship assistants for the next couple of months. You can sign up for weekly tasks or if you want, for the month.

EIDSVOLD 9:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays of month

Put on green altar cloths Bev Peterson

Clean in June Bev Peterson

	<u>Assist in building</u>	<u>Assist with Parking Lot</u>	<u>Reader</u>
June 13	Brenda Singer	Rita Anderson	Rita Anderson
June 20	Laurel Mason, Dodee	Tana Langer	Tana Langer
June 27	Kendra & Kathy Hanson	Mandi Jepson	Mandi Jepson

BETHLEHEM 10:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays of month

Put on green altar cloths Pam Johnson

Clean in June Bob and Linnea Soden

	<u>Assist in building</u>	<u>Assist with Parking Lot</u>	<u>Reader</u>
June 13	Judy Anderson & Jan Kearns	Ronny	Judy Anderson
June 20	Lora Drenth & Jan Kearns	Ronny	Lora Drenth
June 27	Ann Whipple & Jan Kearns	Ronny	Ann Whipple

Giving of our time and talents is one way of serving our faith community.

Thank you to the above individuals who will be serving this faith community during June.

GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO WEEKLY WORSHIP

- Bethlehem-Eidsvold Lutheran Parish’s priority in resuming worship weekly is safety—we are called to love God and our neighbor. Masks are recommended and social distancing will be observed. There will be no congregational singing in the building or at worship in the park.
- **We must remember children under the age of 12 are unvaccinated.** They deserve the highest care and protection from all of us as we express the love of Christ by following sensible precautions. There are also those who have chosen not to be vaccinated.
- If you have health risks or are not comfortable worshipping in the building, you are welcome to worship in your vehicle in the parking lot and listen on your radio via the FM transmission

The Wisconsin Council of Churches latest document states:

- Until herd immunity is reached (75-80% vaccination), it is prudent that congregations continue to implement all risk factor mitigations, such as mandatory masks, social distancing, and no congregational singing.

UNSAFE TO GATHER	MAKE IT SAFER	SAFEST
Vaccination rates <50%	Vaccination rates 50-70+%	Vaccination rates 70-85+%
Viral Transmission ♦ Cases >10/100K ♦ Positive Tests >10%	Viral Transmission ♦ Cases 5-10/100K ♦ Positive Tests<10%	Viral Transmission ♦ Cases<1/100K ♦ Positive Tests<5%

Pierce County statistics:

Whole County: 40.2% vaccinated with at least 1 dose **17,200 individuals out of 42,754**

39.7% fully vaccinated—complete with required doses

Individuals 65 and over: 85.5% vaccinated with one dose 5590 individuals out of 6541

81.7% fully vaccinated with required doses 5,344 individuals out of 6,541

Pierce County currently has **4.3 cases per 100,000 population ; 1.9 daily new cases**

So for number of cases, we’re in the Make It Safer category above.

But our county vaccination rate does not meet the Make It Safer category.

PRINTED NEWSLETTER

Because we are returning to weekly worship, I plan to resume the monthly newsletter with worship schedule, parish information and news, announcements, and calendar. This issue will be mailed to all who were on the mailing list prior to the pandemic. Those who wanted their newsletters by e-mail will get this by e-mail. In the future I hope it will be distributed at worship the last Sunday of the month.

The weekly mailing and e-mailing will be discontinued unless there’s a message that needs to be sent to you. The *Taking Faith Home* inserts will continue to be e-mailed to you. Those who received them by mail, if you want to continue receiving them, give me a call at 715-273-5847 or 715-821-5847.



PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Almighty God, our Rock and our Salvation,
we beg You to pour out your Holy Spirit upon our fractured nation.
Heal the divisions that separate us and remove all obstacles to authentic unity.

May you guide this great country of ours and lead our citizens
to embrace one another as neighbors and fellow countrymen and women,
created in your own image and likeness.

Give us a fresh opportunity for renewal and true solidarity
for the common good of our homeland.

May we return to our true identity as a people of faith and charity.

Help us to always remain One Nation, Under God, Indivisible,

With Liberty and Justice for All.

AMEN.

(Written by Pedro de la Cruz)

IN OUR PRAYERS FOR HEALING OF BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT:

Kristie Wilkens (diagnosed with pancreatic cancer), **Denice Girdeen**; **Barb LaCroix**, **Sue Andrews**, **Diane Anderson**, **Vicki Riegleman**, **Courtney Sousek**, **Melody Perrin**.

Long Term needs: **Doris Halverson**

A PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Gracious God, on this Memorial Day weekend, we pause to remember those who have given their lives for the freedoms we enjoy. Remind us of the cost of freedom and the sacrifice that many have given to achieve and preserve it. Grant comfort to those who mourn. Help us to live our lives in grateful service to our country and our fellow citizens. Be with all who serve in our Armed Forces. Bless them and their families and grant them your loving protection. Guide our nation and all the nations of the world in the ways of peace. In your name we pray. Amen.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Pastor Mike and Madonna Knudson's address:
10851 Thomas Ave S, Bloomington MN 55431-3746

Parish contact: Phyllis Beastrom 715-273-5847

call or text 715-821-5847 **Please continue to send prayer requests, updates, and other information for the newsletter**

Eidsvold folks can mail your offering to:

Eidsvold Lutheran Church
W6111 County Rd EE
Bay City Wi 54723

Bethlehem folks can mail your offering to:

Judy Anderson
W2062 U S Highway 10
Maiden Rock WI 54750