



March 2026



HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS
Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches

Greetings from the Parsonage,

By the time you read this, our Lenten Soup Suppers will be well underway. I hope that you are able to join us. Since Lent is a time of almsgiving and prayer, ministries that we support as a parish—through prayer and financial giving—will be sharing the message each week.

God asks us to return one-tenth of the gifts we collect—time, talents, money—to the world around us and this process is easier when we have a relationship with those that we support. Although there are many organizations and ministries that we partner with as a parish; I have invited a handful to join us this March.

March 4 - Eidsvold - Pierce County Food Council

March 11 - Svea - Hope & Harbor Shelter

March 18 - Eidsvold - Neighbor to Neighbor

March 25 - Svea - Lutheran World Relief

The first two are directly tied with our local community; the food shelter in Ellsworth and the shelter in Red Wing. Both provide resources to those in need and are always looking for volunteers and partners. Hope & Harbor is now home to the Next Step program and Community Care Fund which help folks find stability and security in times of need.

The next ministry is synod-wide. Neighbor to Neighbor is the Spanish-speaking ministry of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. N2N organizes Spanish worship services, health fairs (one of which we hosted last year), pathway to citizenship classes, etc.

In the spirit of Lent, a member of our parish has offered a matching gift to Neighbor to Neighbor—whatever we collect will be matched. Checks can be made out to the congregation with the designation of "Neighbor to Neighbor," or loose offering can be placed in Gustav the Care Bear who will be journeying with Pastor Al to every service in March.

The last ministry, Lutheran World Relief, is global in its reach. As a parish, we produce health and school packages as well as mighty-fine quilts which find their way across the world through Lutheran World Relief—in war torn regions and disaster-zones.

I hope you will join us this Lent and hear a little more about the partnerships we have as a congregation.

Blessings,

Al Aakre

Eidsvold-Svea Lutheran Parish

(608) - 799 - 9703

CHURCH SERVICE INFO

EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH
W6111 COUNTY RD EE
BAY CITY WI 54723
MARCH SERVICES
AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 AM

SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
N2610 770TH ST
HAGER CITY WI 54014
MARCH SERVICES
9:00 AM

CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR AL AAKRE 608-799-9703

AAAKRE002@LUTHERSEM.EDU

CHURCH: BELUTHER@BEVCOMM.NET

OFFICE 715-594-3182

LEAVE A MESSAGE

Parish Social Media

Facebook

Church Website

<https://www.eidsvoldsvea.com>

March Birthdays



Eidsvold

- 1 - Parker Bierbrauer
- 10 - Ross Borchardt
- 11 - Elaine Greenfield
- 11 - Bradley Stelter
- 12 - Katelyn Donley
- 12 - Elijah Freden
- 14 - Samantha Sears
- 14 - Jason Helseth
- 18 - Barb Lacroix
- 18 - Michelle Plote
- 18 - Mary Williams
- 20 - Cooper Borchardt
- 26 - Trevor Alms
- 26 - Tricia Lofgren
- 28 - RoseAnn Powers

Happy Birthday



Svea

- 5 - Todd Strain
- 5 - Ardith Strain
- 7 - Wade Strain
- 8 - Olivia Girdeen
- 9 - Ruby Dailey
- 10 - Julia Girdeen
- 14 - James Albarado
- 19 - Marcus Maxwell
- 19 - Nancy Truttman
- 20 - Roger Knudson
- 25 - Alex Aakre
- 25 - Mike Fritz
- 29 - Bonnie Hassenberg

We are excited to announce **electronic** giving through **Vanco!**
Your generosity will help us impact our community with the good
news of the gospel.

Try the QR codes printed below.

Eidsvold



Svea



Ash Wednesday and Lent Services

March 4, 6:00 Meal & 7:00 Service
at Eidsvold

March 11, 6:00 Meal & 7:00 Service
at Svea

March 18, 6:00 Meal & 7:00 Service
at Eidsvold

March 25, 6:00 Meal & 7:00 Service
at Svea

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for Healing

Lisa Tesch, Barry Barringer, Darrell Schuster, Liliah Larson, Rochelle Smaller, Beth Johnston, Leonard Gilbertson, Gail Gusa, Virgil Hinrichs, Tammy Price, John (Butch) Sebion, Mick Borst, Sandy Place, Bob Soden, Wendell Manore, Dave Ericson, Elwyn Manore

Prayers for Sustained Strength and Comfort

Norma Hanson, Laura Anderson, Larry Gerdes, Terrence Emery, Chris Larson, Rose Ann Powers, Gerry Hoffman, Connie Rieck, Julie Patterson, Jim Swenson, all those who mourn Verlene Benck and Beth Johnston, and all caregivers in our parish

Prayers for our Ministry Partners

Bishop Martin Halom, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Debi Emery, Isaac and Isabella Thrill, Zeke and Cassie Wettstein, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

Prayers for those serving in the military

Carson Anway, Tyler Ballman, Nathan Solomon



Community Events



Svea Quilters

2nd and 4th Tuesday

March 10

March 24

9 am-noon

No experience is needed. All are welcome!

BETHEL'S BASEMENT BLESSINGS

New Community Outreach

FREE Monthly Shopping

at Bethel Covenant Church

W8405 Cty Rd KK, Ellsworth WI

715-792-2397

Shopping will be held each month on the

3rd Tuesday and Wednesday

11 AM - 6 PM

EUCHRE

Friday, March 6

Meet at 7:00 at Eidsvold

Bring a snack to share (optional).

Coffee will be provided.



Ruby's Pantry

First Saturday of the Month

March 7

10-11:30 at

Pierce Pepin Co-op



You're invited to come to a free meal and table discussion

Monday, March 9, 2027 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

on What does it mean to be a neighbor in the Ellsworth community?

Who IS my neighbor? Am I a neighbor?

Location: English Lutheran Church, 229 W Main St, Ellsworth, WI.

Sponsored by the InterGenerational Wholeness Project whose goal is to provide intergenerational activities for seniors and youth as well as community interactive conversations.

Phyllis Beastrom is a member of this wholeness project. Come join us for this free meal and table conversation.

Volunteers Needed

At the **Pierce County Food Pantry**
in Ellsworth.

Just a few hours a week will help.

Clean, friendly environment.

Call Heidi at 715-821-7763 for more
information.



Mark your calendar:

**Eidsvold will host the
Ecumenical Choir**

Sunday April 12 at 7:00 pm

(The Sunday after Easter!)

**Come and relax and enjoy a great
message through music.**

Invite a guest!

LIGHTHOUSE

Middle School Youth Gathering

5th - 8th Grade

Saturday, April 11

9:00 am - 4:15 pm

Bethany Lutheran Rice Lake, WI

EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS



Thank you for your Time and Talents

Readers

Eidsvold

- March 1 Judy Lacroix
- March 8 Phyllis Beaström
- March 15 Fay Albarado
- March 22 Rita Anderson
- March 29 Kari Aakre

Ushers

- March 1 Alvin & Lorna Eidem
- March 8 Mary Williams
- March 15 Fay Albarado
- March 22 Mandy, Taylor, Tom
- March 29 (Palm Sunday) Karen Brostrom

March

Altar Committee

Kathy Hanson

Bake Communion Bread

Phyllis Beaström

March 1, 15, 29

Wash Communion Glasses



March 1 _____

March 15 _____

March 29 _____

Church Cleaning

Eidsvold

- March 1 Alvin & Lorna
- March 8 Reese and Lexi
- March 15 Reese and Lexi
- March 22 Reese and Lexi



Thank you!

Sunday School News!

Our Lessons

- March 1 No Sunday School Spring Break
- March 8 David and Goliath
- March 15 Easter Activity
- March 22 Elijah and the Widow
- March 29 No SS - Kids Sing in Church!

PLEASE CONTACT BREE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT WOULD LIKE TO JOIN SUNDAY SCHOOL!

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR EXTRA PEOPLE TO HELP WITH OUR CHILDREN.

BREE_LUND@OUTLOOK.COM OR 651-764-2227



Behind the scenes:

Do you know who teaches 1st Communion classes to the 5th graders?

Answer:

Tracie Esterby

Easter Gift Bags

Thank you to everyone that filled an Easter Bag!
What a great way to make a child's Easter special!



SOUPER Bowl of Caring

52 lbs of food
and
\$700
was collected!!

Thank You!



First Communion Classes

5:30 Class, 6:30 Supper

7:00 pm Lent Service

Wed., March 11

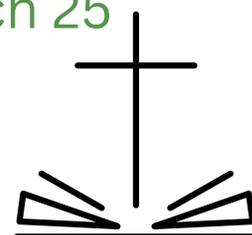
Wed., March 18

Wed., March 25

Confirmation Schedule

9th Graders

Begins April 8th!



SVEA CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Contact Bonnie Hasenberg if you have information you want included in the newsletters **612-720-7411**.

For the members of Svea - We would like to know if everyone is getting called on the **Prayer Chain or Communication Chain** and getting the messages.

If anyone has a new phone number or a different number, please let Bonnie Hasenberg know at 612-720-7411. If you are having a problem making calls and want to change who you call, please let Bonnie know as we will be making a new communication chain this spring. Any ideas that could improve our system would be appreciated too!

Thank you



Help is needed for setting up communion. Anyone who could help for a month or a couple of weeks, please let Bonnie Hasenberg know. (612-720-7411) Thank you

As the end of the year approaches, we encourage members to support missions both here and abroad. One such opportunity is the ministry of Debi Emery, who currently works with young adults (CRU) in the Eau Claire area. We pray for Debi each week but those interested in further supporting her work are encouraged to connect with her at (651) 263-9442.

Summary of Eidsvold Council Meeting

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Old Business:

- Pastor Al and Phyllis will meet to start the process of having a **mass texting** platform (this will help when church needs to be cancelled). This will be shared with both churches to use for communication purposes. It will cost \$3.95.
- We may need to have a sign-up sheet with current phone numbers.
- Pasonage rental agreement has been written. This process was started several years ago and finally updated. This is for the church's liability.
- Church cleaning will be done by Reese Franklin and Lexi Flett. They will earn \$15 an hour and will turn in hours each month.
- **SWOT- Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Talent** will start with Strengths on March 1st. This will be a bulletin board with sticky notes. For the whole month of March, we are encouraged to write about the strengths of our parish. Our hope is that this will start conversations.
- **Hymn list** - We encourage all members to submit a list of favorites.
- The housing allowance for the Pastor was decided in November but the form wasn't filled out. It will be ready for both council presidents to sign at the joint council meeting.
- This form needs to be completed each November per protocol.

New Business:

- Lent Services-no changes
- **Ushering will now rotate**, just like the readers. Lee will be asking people to be on a list. The hope is that you usher about once every two months.
- Piano humidifier will be installed this Friday, Feb 27th. Piano tuning will be on March 3 and 26th.
- The air conditioning unit cover was made by Alvin.
- **Fundraisers were discussed**. The fundraisers are to help with the five-year maintenance plans. Brainstorming:
 - A concert in our parking lot with a meal. Looking at early summer time for this.
 - Pancake breakfast for the fall time.
 - Also, if anyone wants to give a memorial for a window or pay for half a window, their name would be added to the window. We have one estimate and will be looking for others.
 - Ice Cream Social is set for July 29th.
- The Church Mutual refund came and was deposited.
- The English Lutheran Church plans to hold a **VBS meeting on Monday, Feb 23rd**. Tracie and Pastor Al plan to attend. VBS is planned for the second week of summer school. We need to find out how many are interested, as our students have had low attendance. Tracie will report back to the council and church if we decide to be active in Community VBS.
- The next Eidsvold Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5th, at 5 pm.

Pastor Al ended our meeting with a prayer.

Submitted by Tracie Esterby

Summary of Eidsvold Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

The Eidsvold Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Coffee and cookies were set up in the church after the 10:30 am worship.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:35 by President Mandy Rikli.

There were 16 voting members present, as well as Pastor Al and Kari Aakre.

- We watched a video featuring Bishop Halom
 - Each of us reviewed last year's minutes independently. No questions or corrections. Approved and Seconded.
 - Pastor Al read his report. He asked about the positive blessings we have had this past year: confirmation meals, engaged core volunteers, and confirmation classes. Then asked us what would excite us for 2026. Nothing was shared, but we were asked to consider it and share it with another member or the council.
 - Phyllis Beaström reviewed the financial report.
 - We will be reimbursed by Church Mutual insurance the premium was paid in November before the current policy with Ohio Mutual took effect in December.
 - Due to the water damage, we had the carpet cleaning, a broken window replaced and the gutters on the church replaced. Since that was completed, we believe the water damage problem has been fixed.
 - Offerings **down 9.3 percent (approximately \$7,400)** this year. Discussion on why this happened and ideas to improve. Phyllis also asked for a text, email, or handwritten note if you need funds deposited into a specific account.
 - Mission Support was reviewed and will stay the same as in 2025 due to a decrease in our offerings.
 - We may have a Sunday each year, dedicated to special mission offerings.
 - **Mission Support 2026:**
 - Northwest Synod 11%
 - Lutheran Social Services of WI and Upper Michigan \$1500
 - Ellsworth Food Pantry \$2000
 - HOPE Coalition \$200
 - Turning Point River Falls \$500
 - Grace Place of New Richmond \$500
 - Salvation Army of Ellsworth \$2000
 - Luther Point Bible Camp \$500
 - Ellsworth Senior Center \$500
 - Bay City Senior Center \$200
 - Megan Franklin gave the Sunday School report. No concerns or changes made.
 - Dodee Bloomstrand gave the Women's Report. No longer have a giving due to no bible study.
 - Mandy had us review the Cemetery report; no concerns or changes were made.
 - Mandy presented open elective seats and nominations:
 - President - Mandy Rikli
 - Council Secretary - Tracie Esterby
 - Financial Secretary - Laura Peterson
 - No other nominations were made. Motion made and seconded. All approved.
 - We still have an open spot for head usher; we discussed creating a schedule for an usher rotation.
 - Kari Schroeder will be on the youth education committee.
 - Old Business: We reviewed the long-range plan for building maintenance and the funding required.
 - New Business:
 - Shared Expenses with Svea in 2025 were 58% Eidsvold and 42% Svea. In 2026 Shared expenses will be 55% Eidsvold and 45% Svea. These percentages are based on membership as determined at the November joint council meeting.
 - Cleaning will be done by youth members Reese Franklin and Lexi Flett. They need to be trained in, and will submit hours monthly.
 - Discussed the survey distributed last month; only a few sheets were turned in. We will start the **SWOT process**. S=strengths W=weakness O=opportunities T=talents
 - Hymns: each member is encouraged to write down the hymns they really enjoy and give to a council member.
 - Meeting closed at 12:34 pm Pastor Al led us in the Lord's Prayer
- Submitted by Tracie Esterby Council Secretary.

SWOT
Strengths
Weaknesses
Opportunities
Talents



*What do you want our church to offer?
Expectations & Ideas welcome!*