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# B - E Friends

*Newsletter of the Bethlehem — Eidsvold Parish*



**DEDICATION OF NEW CHURCH  
DECEMBER, 1906**

Lutherans are and aren't big on "sacred places". On the one hand, we emphasize the promises of God, the news of Jesus resurrection, and the presence of the Lord among us - much more than holy objects.

On the other hand, we build places of remembrance, made holy and sacred by what happened and happens there. Our steeple reaches up to heaven, it points to our truest home in God. Our Sanctuary (safest place) has multiple welcoming doors to invite us in. Our stained glass windows let beautiful light shine on us no matter how cold, or hot, it is outside. Our church building has in fact become a holy and sacred place on earth, because of all God has done on this spot.

This coming Oct 9 we will celebrate Eidsvold's 150th Anniversary! None of us were there at the beginning but we are here now. We are the caretakers, the stewards, now. Now, at this Triple Golden Anniversary, our holy place of gathering needs some attention; in particular, fresh paint, inside and out. Paint, especially good long lasting paint, is expensive. Now is the time for us

to set aside funds for this work. Now is the time to think about what this holy place has meant to us, to our families over time, and to our kids. When the appeal is named and launched how, what will be your level of support? Let your gratitude guide you.

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"Hey Pastor Mike. Why don't you go jump in a lake!" OK, I will. 😊

Matter of fact I'll jump in Crystal Lake over here in the South Metro on Feb 26! Fun fun fun! If you want to support Special Olympics search for "Polar Plunge" "South Metro". My group is "Frozen Keisters" and I'm "Mike Knudson". Last year over 200 of us raised \$77,000!

**OR...** make a donation to the 150th Anniversary Fund to support your church in a crazy fun way!!

Celebrate and Serve Y'all!!

Pastor Mike



## BIRTHDAYS

May you have a special day  
and a blessed year!

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

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

## LOOKING AHEAD . . . .

Feb 16, 2022 6:00 p.m. 9th Grade confirmation

Feb. 27 Luther Point annual meeting

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"

Oct 9, 2022 Eidsvold 150th Anniversary

## FEBRUARY

### Ellsworth Senior Center Events

Tuesday Feb. 8 11 a.m. Discovering  
Together Tuesday presents a Virtual tour of  
Costa Rica. Lunch served after presentation.

Wednesday Feb 23 Celebrating Seniors  
Gathering—representative from CCF Bank will  
discuss Identity Theft. Cake and ice cream  
served after presentation.

## 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.

### Bethlehem

Altar Guild: Pam Johnson

Church cleaning: Eric and Leah Johnson

### Eidsvold

Church Cleaning: (Note: Phyllis' interpretation—  
you clean for the worship held on the date by which  
you signed

Feb. 6 - DeLoris Bloomstrand

Feb. 13- Tracie Esterby and family

Feb. 20 - Tracie Esterby and family

Feb. 27 - Tracie Esterby and family

### Indoor Registration/Ushers

Feb. 6 - Fay Albarado

Feb. 13 - Kathy Sears

Feb. 20 - Rita Anderson

Feb. 27 - Rochelle and family

### Parking Lot 93.1 FM Transmission

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

### Altar Committee— Lorna Eidem

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

### FEBRUARY READERS:

#### Bethlehem

Feb. 6 - Jan Kearns

Feb. 13 - Pam Johnson

Feb. 20 - Judy Anderson

Feb. 27 - John Beaström

#### Eidsvold

Feb. 6 – Mandy Jepson

Feb. 13 - Michelle Plote

Feb. 20 - Carol/Angie Peterson

Feb. 27 - Justin Mandelkow

## Eidsvold Annual Meeting Summary held January 23, 2022

Called to order by President Justin Mandelkow at 10:00 a.m. President led in the opening litany.

Minutes of last year's meeting were read and amended to give Eidsvold Cemetery \$700 (not \$500)

Minutes accepted as corrected.

Pastor's report and Pastoral services throughout the year were in the annual report.

Financial reports were accepted as presented.

### **Missions** for 2022 will be as follows:

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

Pierce County Hunger Prevention will remain at \$2000; Eidsvold Cemetery fund doesn't need assistance at this time. The \$700 will be designated to other missions this year and reviewed again next year.

Sunday School amount will remain at \$250; HOPE Coalition will increase \$350; from \$200 to \$550. (This amount was increased due to the decreased amount to the Cemetery Fund.) Review next year. HOPE Coalition serves Wabasha, Goodhue, and Pierce Counties.

ARC Inc. will increase to \$1350. (This is an increase of \$350 due to the decreased amount to the Cemetery Fund.) Review this amount next year; Luther Point will remain at \$500; Ellsworth Senior Center will remain at \$500; Bay City Senior Center will remain at \$200; Camp Knutson was revisited. ELCW will send \$500.

### **Officer's positions for 2022-2023:**

President—Justin Mandelkow; Vice President—Jason Helseth; Secretary - Heather Brown; Financial Secretary - Laura Peterson; Head Ushers - Tim and Brenda Singer; Nomination Committee - Mandy Jepson; Parsonage Committee - Lee and Tana 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

**Old Business: Area Youth Group** - No information at this time for getting our youth involved with other church groups in the area.

**New Business: Eidsvold 150th Anniversary, October 9, 2022.** The two immediate concerns are **PAINTING AND FUNDRAISING** (estimated to be \$40,000). Bids for painting exterior and interior vary between \$56,600 and \$32,500. Justin will contact both companies to verify quotes and availability.

Committees please schedule meetings ASAP. Please consider adding your name to a committee list located on table in back of church. The Fundraising Committee needs to meet soon. Some ideas from the last fundraising: cookbooks, Christmas ornaments, commemorative plates.

DeLoris Bloomstrand will send out 'Save the Date' notices to previous pastors. Jason Helseth and Lee Langer will make a list of outside items to be done and a date will be chosen for a community workday so many hands can work together.

**Phyllis requested** relief from playing music. The Music and Service Committee will move forward in getting someone hired. She also wants to retire from the secretary position. Exact dates were not specified. We will look for someone to job shadow and start that process also. Her knowledge and expertise in so many areas was acknowledged.

**Jobs at the church** – Should families be designated to put up and take down the Christmas tree? There are lights outside that need to be set up at Christmas. (This will be discussed later.)

### **Upcoming events on another page in newsletter.**

**Pastor Mike** closed by mentioning that per discussion with Bishop: 1—Nationally, financial giving is up even with the hardship of Covid for the last two years; 2—Our giving is up also; 3—Seminaries are filling up, not such a shortage of pastors.

Justin thanked Alvin for all the things he has done that go unnoticed, Anne for her work, and all council members for their help. Justin's work was acknowledged and is also appreciated. Meeting adjourned.

Tana Langer, acting secretary

## Bethlehem Annual Meeting Summary January 16, 2022

Call to order by President Ron Johnson at 11:10 a.m. Opening litany led by Pastor Mike. Last year's minutes accepted as printed. Pastor's report and Pastoral services throughout the year were in the annual report. Financial reports accepted as printed.

Judy Anderson resigned as Financial Secretary. Jan Kearns was elected to fulfill Judy's term.

Collin LaFave was nominated for Vice President. Phyllis will check to see if he will accept. Motion to re-elect all other officers and committee members.

**Officers:** President – Ron Johnson, Vice President Collin LaFave, Secretary – Leah Johnson, Treasurer – Phyllis Beastrom, Financial Secretary – Jan Kearns, Deacons - Ann Whipple, Donna Barr. Trustees – Jim Anderson, Jerome Johnson, Eric Johnson, Audit Committee – Jerome Johnson, Dale Anderson, John Beastrom; Head Usher

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

Phyllis talked about Walking Together and EPIC both events to be held March 26 at UW-Eau Claire and Synod assembly to be held April 30 in person at Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire or by zoom.

Judy Anderson was recognized for serving 16 years as Financial Secretary.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

## World Hunger

For nearly 2 years, as the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic, the number of hungry people around the world has risen sharply and food pantries and soup kitchens have expanded to serve an ever-growing number of guests. During the 40 days of Lent (March and half of April) we will have an emphasis on World



Hunger. We will hear stories about how your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are at work in the world and how the ELCA World Hunger ministry walks with partners in the United States and 60 other countries to address hunger and poverty around the world.

As ARC Board members, we thank you for the recent opportunity to speak at your church services. We were warmly welcomed and supported. Your donations will help so many local households in meeting their very basic needs.

Gratefully,  
Sharon Schulze,  
ARC Board Chair

*Thank you*

## Eidsvold's 150th Anniversary

The 150th Anniversary Celebration for Eidsvold Lutheran Church will be October 9, 2022.

Sign up sheets to volunteer for committees are on the table behind the back pew. Be sure to volunteer! Volunteers are needed to plan the morning worship and afternoon program. 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

Janice Kerarns  
PO Box 724  
Ellsworth WI 54011

**Check out our parish website & Facebook**

Worship times will also be posted on these.

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

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

February 13, 2022

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.

**IF Everyone watching a football game gave one dollar or donated a can of food**

**it would be**

**A GAME CHANGER!**

Sunday February 13

at the 9 a.m.

### Eidsvold Worship Service

Phyllis will present the early history of the Eidsvold congregation and also hopes to have some early pictures to share.

### ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEB. 27, 2022

3 OPTIONS



- 1—In person at Luther Point Bible Camp
- 2—In person at Ezekiel Lutheran Church, River Falls with Program Director, Quinn Stone to facilitate and lead while as a group we connect to Luther Point's meeting via Zoom on a large screen.
- 3—via zoom

All start at 1:30 with registration & getting acquainted Meeting at 2:00 and will last about an hour

**Each congregation is entitled to 2 voting delegates**

This is a great opportunity to learn about and make decisions regarding the camp without driving two hours or more to get to the meeting.

### 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

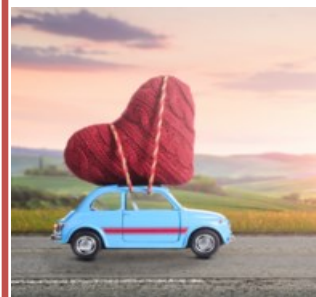
Event schedule and workshop listing will be available soon.

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

For those interested in our partnership with Malawi and/or social and environmental justice, there will be two workshop times available to view *The Ants and the Grasshopper*, a documentary about the real-life impacts of climate change across the globe. The film also lifts up issues of gender justice, race, and hunger. (These 2 workshop times will each be 2 hours - 1 hour for viewing and 1 for conversation)

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY

APRIL 30, 2022



In person @ Trinity Lutheran Church Eau Claire or via zoom. Each congregation is entitled to 2 delegates. Registration fee is \$50.

**THEME: TAKING IT TO THE STREETS  
A PUBLIC CHURCH**

Wisdom cries out in the streets; In public places, Wisdom raises her voices. Proverbs 1:20

*We are called to move beyond the building and to go into the streets - into the public- to witness to the way of Jesus and to be the church for the sake of the world.*