

To reach Pastor Mike Knudson

Cell: 402-620-8287

e-mail: 2knuds@comcast.net

B - E Friends

Last night, Thursday June 23, the Councils from Bethlehem/Eidsvold, English, Svea and Our Saviors Lutheran Churches met to see a presentation, led by Pastor Erin Nelson from the Synod office, on possible ways to cooperate and prepare for the future. It was eye opening.



The Bad News –

Every Christian denomination in America is shrinking. All of them.

Pastors are in short supply (30% more congregations are seeking pastors than are available)

Half time pastors are the hardest to find.

Even young adults who love Jesus find church worship boring or unhelpful spiritually

Almost ¼ of worshippers still haven't returned after the pandemic

The number of students enrolled in seminary does not keep pace with the number of pastors retiring.

The Very Good News -

There are congregations bucking this trend, many, because they join together in new ways

Congregations who have a mission to serve do better than coasting or anxious congregations

We are free to make our own decisions on how to proceed. No one, including the synod or the Bishop is telling us what to do!

Pastor Erin is committed to be available to help us no matter what.

The goal for our congregations is to be both **SUSTAINABLE and VITAL**. Paying the bills is a good thing (!) but faithfulness and creativity, with a God centered purpose, makes all the difference.

As your pastor, I can see that Bethlehem and Eidsvold are not starting at square one!! New vision, and possibly new ways of working together, will enhance our SUSTAINABILITY and VITALITY.

I am committed, God willing, to participate in this terrific work until I fully retire in May 2024... the 70th anniversary of my Baptism!



Celebrate and Serve. That's the Ticket!

Pastor Mike



BIRTHDAYS

May you have a special day
and a blessed year!

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – Mary Whipple | 20 – Jim Anderson |
| 2 - Rita Anderson | 21 – Casey O'Reilly |
| 13 – Greg Anderson | 22 – Odin Gilbertson |
| 15 - Cheyenne Yotter | 25 – Soren Gilbertson |
| 16 - Cayden O'Reilly | 29 – Ronny Johnson |
| 17 – Loni Johnson | 31 – Mike Whipple |
| 18 – Riley Lacroix | 31 - Levi Franklin |
| 18 – Chloe Kaeder | 31 - Blake Girdeen |

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Aug 6-7 Luther Point Summer Celebration-Auction

Sept. 4 10 a.m. Joint Parish Worship at Eidsvold

Sept 11 - Receive new members - Anyone desiring
to become a member of either congregation, please
let Phyllis know—call or text 715-821-5847.

Sept 17 - St. Croix Valley Women's Retreat at Joy
Lutheran, Prescott

Only 105 days away!

Oct 9, 2022 Eidsvold 150th Anniversary

Women of the Parish Bible Study

We'll continue "Crafted in Christ" Bible Study

**Thursday, July 14th at 1:30
at Eidsvold**

We will focus on the July study from the July/
August Gather issue on page 24. This month
and next we'll be examining ways that cutting
and piecing as well as binding apply not only to
quilts, but our lives and worshiping communi-
ties. Come join the discussion!

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 July.

Bethlehem

Altar Guild: Phyllis Beastro

Church cleaning: Trevor Alms, Jan Kearns

Eidsvold

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

- July 3 - Alvin and Lorna Eidem
- July 10 - none Worship at Esdaile Park
- July 17 - Michelle Plote
- July 24 - none worship at Bethlehem
- July 31 - none worship at Esdaile Park

Ushers 2 each week

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

- July 3 - Alvin and Lorna Eidem
- July 10 - Dodee B (at park)
- July 17 - Mary Williams & ??
- July 24 - none worship at Bethlehem
- July 31 - none worship at Esdaile Park

Parking Lot 93.1 FM Transmission

**The FM transmission is not working so this has
been discontinued for the summer.**

Altar Committee— Karen Brostrom

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

Altar Paraments: green until October 30th

JULY READERS:

Bethlehem

July 24 - Lora Drenth

Eidsvold

- July 3 – Tana Langer
- July 10 - Mandy Jepson (at park)
- July 17 - Michelle Plote
- July 24 - Worship at Bethlehem
- July 31 - Justin Mandelkow (at park)

The countdown is on...

**105 days to Eidsvold's
150th Anniversary**

Update from the Planning Committee

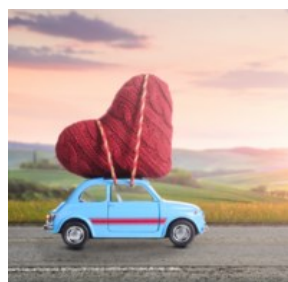
The Planning committee for Eidsvold's 150th Anniversary MET this past week to brainstorm and reviewed the committee sign-up sheets. Each of the committees are encouraged to meet soon to formulate a plan of action and report back to Michelle Plote.

Michelle's contact information: 651-380-0884 (call or text) or e-mail
mplote08@gmail.com

The planning committee is requesting your help with the following:

- Securing a photographer for group picture and memories of the day.
- Anybody feel led to be the MC?
- Does anybody have pictures, historical memorabilia to share/donate? They are considering setting up a Memory/Historical Table.

EVERYONE is encouraged to share the information about the anniversary with family, friends, former attendees/friends of Eidsvold asking them to save the date of **OCTOBER 9, 2022** and invite them to the 150th Anniversary! Watch for more updates!



Synod Assembly Awards for **TAKING IT TO THE STREETS**

Bright Spot awards were given to congregations who are doing amazing justice work, have been intentional about learning about and learning from their neighbors and taking the Gospel of Jesus to the street. Check out these 5 minute videos and the stories of these congregations who received

Bright Spot Awards at the April 30, 2022 synod assembly held in Eau Claire.

1—Ashland Lutheran Church along with the Methodist Church started an ecumenical youth group and have invited all youth from the community to be involved. <https://vimeo.com/701331580>

2— Our Savior's Lutheran in Whitehall is next door to the county jail, and started a program to help prisoners re-enter into society by assisting with clothing, food, caring conversation, etc. They have also done other rural projects. <https://vimeo.com/701894520>

3—Black River Falls Evangelical Lutheran held a series of workshops on the Doctrine of Discovery and learned of the injustices imposed on their Native American neighbors through this doctrine and actions of our government. <https://vimeo.com/702017999>

4—St. James Trinity of Fall Creek has taken food, clothing, water, to the street people in Eau Claire since 2011. They also assist families so they can stay in their homes and have also provided for those released from jail. English Lutheran of Bateman, Chippewa Falls has had a food pantry for years and recently started participating in the street ministry in Eau Claire. Both congregations stressed how important it is to talk and listen to the homeless people. <https://vimeo.com/701931453>

THANK
YOU!

I am truly overwhelmed with the gifts, cards, notes, and kind messages. Thank you to the Sunday School kids for their special cards and presenting the windchimes. I love listening to the chimes blow in the breeze. A very special *Thank You* to Eidsvold Lutheran Church for the monetary gift, the beautiful windchimes, and gift certificates to the Sheldon Theatre and Liberty's. It has been an honor to serve as your organist/pianist. I am so grateful for your love, kindness, and faithfulness. Phyllis



Ukrainian Relief—Lutheran Disaster Response and partners in Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, & other countries are accompanying refugees every day and taking care of their needs. The United Nations reports over 6.5 million people have left the country and an additional 7 million are displaced within it. Lutheran Disaster Response is seeking additional funding to help place refugees & put children in schools, find jobs, take language classes, access the health care system and integrate into the community. Checks can be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Put in memo Eastern Europe Crisis.

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

beastrom@redwing.net 715-821-5847

Ruby's
PANTRY

Ruby's Pantry is open to **ANY-ONE** who needs

help extending their monthly grocery budget. For \$25 CASH donation per share, you will receive an abundance of food. **Next distribution is Saturday July 2nd from 10:00—11:30** at Bethel Covenant Church, located at W8405 County Road KK, Ellsworth, WI

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

Check out our parish website & Facebook

Worship times will also be posted on these.

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

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



Joint parish worship 9:30 a.m.

For July and August

If the weather is inclement
when worship is scheduled for the park, worship will be held at Eidsvold at 9:30 a.m.

Worship schedule can also be found on our website and facebook:

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

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

July 3 - 9:30 a.m. Eidsvold (with Holy Communion)

July 10 - 9:30 a.m. **Esdaile Park**

July 17 - 9:30 a.m. Eidsvold (with Holy Communion)

July 24 - 9:30 a.m. Bethlehem

July 31 - 9:30 a.m. **Esdaile Park with potluck after**

Aug 7 - 9:30 a.m. Eidsvold (with Holy Communion)

Aug 14 - 9:30 a.m. Eidsvold

Aug 21- 9:30 a.m. **Esdaile Park (Holy Communion)**

Aug 28 - 9:30 a.m. Bethlehem

Sept 4 - 10:00 a.m. Eidsvold (with Holy Communion)
Anderson family reunion will be held at Eidsvold and they plan to worship with us.

HOLY COMMUNION

Beginning July 3rd, the Lord's Supper will be offered at the communion rail with Phyllis' bread and individual cups as served pre-covid. If you are not comfortable coming to the altar rail, you are welcome to pick up the prepared cups of juice and wine on the entrance table and commune at your pew when instructed.



Are you interested in becoming a member at Eidsvold or Bethlehem? We'd love to talk with you about joining and answer your questions. Have a

conversation with Pastor Mike or Phyllis.

Please feel free to join in any of our activities that are of interest to you.

**New members will be received
on September 11th.**

150th Anniversary Decorations

There's still time to sign up to create table decorations for the 150th Anniversary. Your decorations can be potted plants, fresh flowers, or fall arrangements similar to the one pictured here. You can take your decorations home after the event.



- Keep the centerpiece low so you can see across the table to the opposite side
- Keep the width narrow so that two plates will still fit on each side of the table
- No real candles - only battery operated
- Fresh or artificial flowers

A recognition card will be placed by your centerpiece.

These should all be Fall theme centerpieces i.e. sunflowers, pine cones, leaves, pumpkins, gourds, etc

Remember to sign up—the clipboard is on the table in back!

July at the Ellsworth Senior Center

Tuesday, July 12th 11am

Discovering Together Tuesday 4Her's will showcase their projects and small animals. Lunch served after gathering.

Wednesday, July 27th 1:30 p.m.

Celebrating Seniors Gathering

Liz Dietsche, the new Pierce County Fair Manager discusses upcoming Pierce County Fair August 11-14. Cake and ice cream served after gathering.



Love. Grow. Serve.