



February 2025

**HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS
Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches**

Greetings from the Parsonage,

My favorite part of February is watching the film Groundhog’s Day. For those of you that haven’t seen it, it stars Bill Murray as Phil Connors, a somewhat despicable weatherman who gets stuck in a time loop. Connors wakes up every day to find that it’s February Second again, and he is stuck in the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania—there Connors is forced to experience and same annoyances and ice-cold shower over and over again.

After initially giving up on life, Connors becomes obsessed with creating the perfect day—thinking that he can manufacture love between him and his co-worker. Maybe on some level, he thinks the perfect day will free him from the loop. But the further Phil Connors chases perfection, the further he gets from this goal. It is only after Connors accepts the imperfections, and the broken—even annoying—relationships around him that he finds purpose in this never-ending cycle. Each day becomes a gift to enjoy instead of one to attempt an escape from.

As Christians, we are painfully aware of our imperfections—and we often think that if we work harder, apply ourselves, manufacture moments, that we can achieve perfection. It is a fool’s errand. We think by following the Law (the Ten Commandments, for instance) we will become perfect, but this only leads us farther away from the goal. The Apostle Paul writes to us in Romans, “... If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, ‘You shall not covet.’”

In Baptism, God grants us a new day, each day—through returning to His gift of Grace (repentance), we are brought into new life through Him. Yet, our God leaves the living of this new day up to us. When we wake up, it might as well be February Second all over again. Don’t waste this day chasing perfection—rather accept the imperfections, and the broken—even annoying—relationships around us. That is where our purpose lies. Each day is a gift to enjoy, not something to escape from. By the Cross and our Baptism, God has clothed us with His own perfection—so we might be joined together when our own cycles end. How might we live today, if tomorrow wasn’t a worry?

Pastor Al (plot spoiler extraordinaire)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CHURCH: BELUTHER@BEVCOMM.NET
OFFICE 715-594-3182
LEAVE A MESSAGE

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



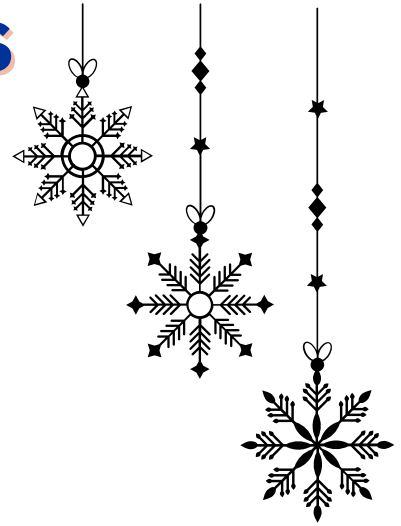
February Birthdays

Eidsvold

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

Svea

5 - Ashley Anway
6 - Wallace Truttman
8 - Chris Knutson
18 - Karl Girdeen
25 - Kelsey Albarado
26 - Nicole Peters



If a birthday was missed or is incorrect, please let me know.
beluther@bevcomm.net
Tana

CHURCH SERVICE INFO

EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH
W6111 COUNTY RD EE
BAY CITY WI 54723
FEBRUARY SERVICES AND
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:00 AM

SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
N2610 770TH ST
HAGER CITY WI 54014
FEBRUARY SERVICES
10:30 AM

Parish Social Media

Facebook
Church Website
<https://www.eidsvoldsvea.com>

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for Healing:

Tracy Eidem, **Ron** Peterson, **Wendell** Manore, **Kelly** Snyder, **Dave** Ericson, **Mick** Borst, **Maisley** Maxwell, **Missy** Dailey, **Elwyn** Manore, **Adeline** Florness, those who mourn **Naomi Ruth**, **Alvina** Girdeen, and **Bev** Vinge

Prayers for Sustained Strength and Comfort:

Terrence Emery, **Jim** Nelson, **Chris** Larson, **Jim** Larson, **Rose Ann** Powers, **Gerry** Hoffman, **Connie** Rieck, **Mavis** Flack, **Julie** Patterson, **Jim** Swenson, **Paul** Curry

Prayers for our Ministry Partners:

Bishop Martin Halom, the **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin**, **Debi** Emery (CRU), **Isaac and Isabella** Thrill, The **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi**

Prayers for those serving in the military: **Carson** Anway, **Tyler** Ballman



Svea Church Happenings

Svea is looking for a Treasurer. If you are interested or know of someone who would be a great fit for this important role, please contact Mary Shaver, Pastor Al, or another council member. Training will be provided.

150th Anniversary
Celebration will be in June, 2025.

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

SVEA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY IS QUICKLY APPROACHING. ON JUNE 22, WE WILL HAVE A CATERED MEAL FOLLOWING THE SERVICE SO WE NEED FOLKS TO RSVP. IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE SENT AN INVITATION, PLEASE SUBMIT THEIR ADDRESS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE, A MEMBER OF COUNCIL, OR PASTOR AL.

Svea council members are:

President: Dennis Rieck

Vice President: Kelly Knutson

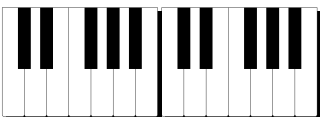
Secretary: Wade Strain



A Minnesota artist donated his water color of Svea. If you would like to buy a print, coffee mug, shower curtain, or greeting card with the print on it, please visit : fineartamerica.com and search "Svea Lutheran Church," or type in : <https://fineartamerica.com/art/svea+lutheran+church>

All proceeds will go towards the lift and painting projects at Svea.

Pastor Al requested that the artist also paint a picture of Eidsvold. The artist agreed and so we can look forward to that sometime in the future.



Melody and Phyllis will be back to playing the piano for our services starting in February. Jonah's last day will be Jan 26. Thank you, Jonah, for filling in and sharing your talent with us.

THANK YOU!



EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS

Eidsvold Sunday School News!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPRING 2025 SCHEDULE

FEB. 2 – PETER HEALS

FEB. 9 – LYDIA

FEB. 16 – PAUL AND SILAS

FEB. 23 – PAUL AND THE PHILIPPIANS

MAR. 2 – ELLSWORTH SPRING BREAK – NO SS



Portals of Prayer are available!

Please take for your daily devotion.

Eidsvold will be trying the Word in Season daily devotional starting in April. This will be replacing our current *Portals of Prayer*.

If you have questions regarding Sunday School, please contact Megan Franklin.
meganmfranklin@yahoo.com

Megan will be ending her position as Superintendent at the end of this school year. We are in need of someone to take on this position. Do you feel called to lead our children or know of a person or two that would help out?

Thank you for your Time and Talents

Readers

Eidsvold

Feb 2 Rita Anderson

Feb 9 Kari Aakre

Feb 16 Karen Brostrom

Feb 23 Tana Langer

February

Altar Committee

Lorna Eidem

Bake Communion Bread

Extra loaves are available

Feb. 2, 16

Church Cleaning

Eidsvold

Feb. 2 _____

Feb. 9 Franklins

Feb. 16 Austin & Molly L

Feb. 23 Jepsens

Ushers

Eidsvold

Feb 2 DeLoris B & Kathy S

Feb 9 Tricia L & Dennis P

Feb 16 Karen B & Rita A

Feb 23 Kathy H & Kendra H

Washing Communion Glasses:

Feb. 2 DeLoris Bloomstrand

Feb. 16 Heather Mark



Thank you!



Confirmation

8th and 9th Graders

Old Testament, Faith Statements

We will meet at 5:30 p.m. for pizza and class will

be held from 6:00 to 7:00

Wednesday, Jan 26 and

Wednesdays in February - Feb 5, 12, 19, 26

Community Events

Ruby's Pantry

First Saturday of the Month
February 1

10-11:30 at

Pierce Pepin Co-op



Svea Quilters

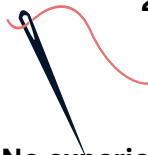
2nd and 4th Tuesday

February 11th

February 25th

9 am-noon

No experience is needed. All are welcome.



Euchre

The first Friday of the month.

February 7

7:00 pm at Eidsvold

Bring a snack to share, coffee will be provided.

Don't know how to play? Come and learn!

New Community Outreach

FREE Monthly Shopping

at Bethel Covenant Church's Basement

W8405 Cty Rd KK, Ellsworth WI

715-792-2397



Shopping will be held each month on the 3rd Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2 PM - 7 PM

Current DONATIONS NEEDED:

Gently Used & New Clothing (especially infant - college students), shoes, boots, hats, gloves, diapers, bottles, toys, books, games, coloring books, school supplies, blankets, bedding, toiletries, towels, storage containers.

*Food pantry items:

unopened, non-expired.

SHOPPERS NEEDED

ALL ITEMS ARE **FREE**

Come shop each month for clothes & items your family can use as inventory will always be changing and always FREE!

Drive Thru Steak Dinner

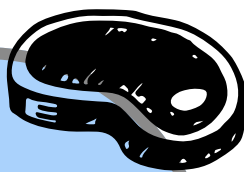
St. Paul's UCC

Saturday, Feb 8, 4-7 pm

Tickets must be purchased in advance, in person or online spuccellsworth.org

\$15

See the flyer on the bulletin board.



Hot Beef Meal

English Lutheran

Sunday, Feb 23

Dine in or Take Out

\$20 adults / \$10 children

Sign up required.

See English Lutheran website

See the flyer on the bulletingboard

Eidsvold Council Meeting-January 15,2025

In Attendance: Pastor Al, Anne G, Jason H, Mandy J, Kendra H, Tana L, Lee L, Phylis B, Alvin E, Laura P.

·Pastor Al led with a prayer.

·Kendra read the minutes of the last meeting. Anne motioned to accept, Mandy seconded motion, all in favor. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

·Tana Langer has taken over the church secretary position.

·Alvin Eidem gave a report of the fire inspection of the church. We need to get a couple emergency exit light signs installed that will turn on in the event of a power outage while the building is in use.

Recommended 1 downstairs and 1 upstairs above the piano area possibly. Also, need to have some of the fire extinguishers charged and updated so they are current. Lee Langer will get in contact with Kevin Burgess from Ellsworth and have him come down to check to make sure we have enough extinguishers through out the building.

NEW BUSINESS:

·Laura recommended looking into some updated software for helping her keep track of the offering monies and one that will make the end of the year summary slips for the parishioners printed more efficiently. Phylis said there are church software programs out there that help keep track of that. We will revisit at a later date.

·Phylis Beastrom has agreed to take over Anne Girdeen's Treasurer position.

·Jason Helseth has stated that he will not be doing any more terms as the President.

·Melody and Phylis will be taking the piano position back over starting in February.

·Pastor Al brought up stain glass window inspection and what the cost would be have a large window fixed. \$200-250/square ft. So approximately \$5200 for one of our large windows. Will discuss further at a later date.

·Also talked about doing something with the stained glass window that the back is covered up by the wall in the office. More discussion to be had regarding this matter.

·Some of the electrical outlets need to be replaced or tightened. Alvin will look in to working on some of those.

·Alvin stated that we need to be looking at ordering more oil for the alter candlesticks soon.

FINANCIALS

·Anne will forward the financial numbers to Kendra to note in the meeting minutes.

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

·Discussed the agenda for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Items that need to be brought up for discussion are cleaning options, head usher job, Spring cleaning of the church.

Joint Council Meeting at Svea on February 27th, 2025 at 6 P.M.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting minutes submitted by Kendra Hanson, Council Secretary

JOIN US FOR THE 35TH ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY

February 9, 2025



JOIN US FOR THE EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE FUNDS AND SUPPORT THE ELLSWORTH FOOD PANTRY – all while enjoying the thrill of the big game. Let's team up to make a powerful impact in the fight against Hunger. We CAN help the families and people of this area who need food assistance.

Bring your dollars and non-perishable food items for the Ellsworth Food Pantry.

Thank you for supporting the 35th Annual Souper Bowl of Caring. Your support makes a significant impact!

Thanks for sharing, Lynda

An Open Letter to Svea from Lynda Phillips

December 24th, 2024, I think I witnessed a Bible Story. The night had another coincident; my donation check had number 1224.

So, the Christmas Eve service was very nice. You know all of the usual Christmas songs—Joy to the World, Hark the Herald; we sang 5 or 6 songs. The Church was packed with people; every pew had 5 or 6 people. I'd never seen so many people at Church.

Do you remember the Bible Story about Jesus and 5 loaves of bread and how he can feed a thousand people with 5 loaves of bread. Jesus said, 'It would be alright. And it was. All were fed.

Well, the night of the 24th, when we got to communion, we had one loaf; One communion loaf; the same size loaf that usually feeds 40 to 50 people. And when people came up to the altar all WERE fed. Pastor gave out the portions of bread (mine looked the same size as always) and people kept coming up to the altar and all were fed and given the wine, too.

I was amazed. I felt like I witnessed something awesome.

Last night when I went to church, I was not in a good mood. Sometimes I want to go, sometimes I need to go for the promise of learning how to forgive and how to find peace. I received it last night. From invitations from people to sit and from GOD. I think and thank GOD for his open hands.

Lynda Phillips