



January 2026



HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS
Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches

Greetings from the Parsonage,

I was recently asked if there was a “Bible in a Year” schedule that I would recommend. At the time, the short answer was “no;” I had never used a schedule nor did I know of any to recommend. I did however resolve to find one that people have used and enjoyed. Asking folks how they read Scripture led to all sorts of interesting conversations about devotional practices. Many folks in our parish use the “Christ in our Home” devotional which we give out, others save their bulletin inserts and read them throughout the week, a cashier at the grocery store told me they listen to “The Bible in a Year” podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz after work, and of course, many of us pick up the Bible and read as we can. Like many pastors, I use a breviary—which is like a devotional but covers all of Scripture and pairs each reading with a prayer and reflection for each day. I incorporate my reading into Morning and Evening Prayer each day. My sister and her husband keep their reading schedule on their fridge and hold each other accountable. Scripture offers us encouragement, hope, advice, and conviction—and becoming familiar with its contents prepares us for the moments we will need it. A friend told me that flight school is mostly drills and mind-numbing repetition—because in moments of crisis, very few pilots rise to the occasion; most simply fall back on their training. To read Scripture is to hear God speak to us today, and to be reminded of those words on a day-to-come.

I am attaching a year-long schedule for reading the Bible. It was created by a Lutheran pastor in North Carolina based on comments from his congregation. If you are looking for further guidance, I would recommend enterthebible.org. Enter the Bible is a ministry of Luther Seminary and relies on leading scholars in its program. They have a podcast beginning in 2026 for “reading the Bible in a year.” (<https://enterthebible.org/the-bible-in-a-year-podcast>)

If you need a Bible, come and talk to me—we will get you one!

Meet the New Year with God,

Al Aakre
Eidsvold-Svea Lutheran Parish
(608) - 799 - 9703

CHURCH SERVICE INFO

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

SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
N2610 770TH ST
HAGER CITY WI 54014
JANUARY SERVICES
10:30 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>

January Birthdays

Eidsvold

2 - Kaylene Nielsen
4 - John Beaström
5 - Larry Gerdes
6 - Austin Langer
8 - Carol Peterson
12 - Andrea Esterby
14 - Kimberly O'Reilly
16 - Leah Johnson
18 - Nancy Fick
20 - Kristen Mandelkow
21 - Molly Langer
21 - Olivia Kuesel
22 - Madelyn Nielsen
24 - Preston Sears
26 - Avery Alms
26 - Ann Whipple
27 - Taylor Bierbrauer
30 - Stephanie Potts
30 - Diane Hines
31 - Bev Peterson

Svea

11 - Jerry Hasenberg
28 - Cara Churchill
29 - Ruth Carlson
30 - Herb Enberg



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

Eidsvold



Try the QR codes printed below.



Svea



PRAYER LIST

Prayers for Healing

John Kuesel, Ricky Knudson, Barry Barringer, Jim Albarado, Darrell Schuster, Liliah Larson, Rochelle Smaller, Beth Johnston, Patty Butenschoen, Leonard Gilbertson, Kathy Huppert, Gail Gusa, Diane Hines, Virgil Hinrichs, Tammy Price, John (Butch) Sebion, Jim Bostrom, Mick Borst, Sandy Place, Dave Betthausen, Bob Soden, Wendell Manore, Dave Ericson, Elwyn Manore

Prayers for Sustained Strength and Comfort

Laura Anderson, Larry Gerdes, Verlene Benck, Terrence Emery, Chris Larson, Rose Ann Powers, Gerry Hoffman, Connie Rieck, Mavis Flack, Julie Patterson, Jim Swenson, those who mourn Lynda Phillips, 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, 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

January 13

January 27

9 am-noon

No experience is needed. All are welcome!

EUCHRE

Friday, January 2

Meet at 7:00 at Eidsvold

Bring a snack to share (optional).

Coffee will be provided.



Ruby's Pantry
First Saturday of the Month
January 3
10-11:30 at
Pierce Pepin Co-op



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.

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

Do you like to sing?

The Pierce County Ecumenical Choir is inviting anyone who loves to sing to join them for the upcoming season. The choir is open to all voices. The concert theme for 2026 is Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone).

The choir rehearses on Sunday afternoons starting January 4, 2026.

Rehearsals are at the Ellsworth Senior High School in the choir room at 1:30 P.M.

Concerts are held in area churches on Sunday afternoons and evenings in April except for Easter Sunday.

The choir also performs at a Haitian benefit concert in River Falls that is held in late February or early March.

Singers of all levels and abilities are encouraged to participate.

The ability to read music is helpful but not required.

The Pierce County Ecumenical Choir is under the direction of Janet Hansmeier.

Organizing committee members are Connie Anderson, Shelly Johnson, Lone Hayes, Joanne Farrell, Rita Anderson and Pat Shutes.

People interested in joining the choir should contact the director for more information, Jan Hansmeier at jansmeier62@gmail.com or 320-241-1829.

SVEA CHURCH HAPPENINGS



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

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.



EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS



Thank you for your Time and Talents

Readers

Eidsvold

Jan 4 Rita Anderson
 Jan 11 Kari Aakre
 Jan 18 Karen Brostrom
 Jan 25 Tana Langer

Ushers

Jan 4 DeLoris and Jan
 Jan 11 Kathy and Kendra
 Jan 18 Karen and _____
 Jan 25 Mary and Bev

January

Altar Committee
 Phyllis

Bake Communion Bread
 Phyllis Beastrom
 January 4, 18

Wash Communion Glasses

January 4 _____
 January 18 _____



Church Cleaning
 Eidsvold

Jan 4 DeLoris
 Jan 11 _____
 Jan 18 _____
 Jan 25 _____



Thank you!

Sunday School News!

The S.S. Christmas Program was filled with
 "A Bunch of Gifts for Christmas"
 The children shared the message of the gifts we
 receive, not just for Christmas, but everyday!

Great performance kiddos!!

Narrators: Kylie and Wyatt Mark



Singing

Bells



Excitement



Joseph: Brantly Huppert
 Mary: Rylie Schroeder

Angels, Shepherds, Star, Wise Men
 Cows, Sheep, Cats

Fiona Andrews
 Ingrid Andrews
 Olivia Kuesel
 Lucy Langer
 Madi Lund
 Aubrey Meyer
 Jersi Owen

Eli Freund
 Miles Kuesel
 Calvin Langer
 Alex Lund
 Fletcher Owen
 Mason Reginsheid
 Reggie Schroeder
 Oakley Yarwood



**A huge Thank You to Bree Lund, Superintendent;
 Teachers, Heather Mark & Molly Langer;
 Music, Melody Perrin**



Thank you for your time, teaching the children the message about our greatest gift, JESUS.

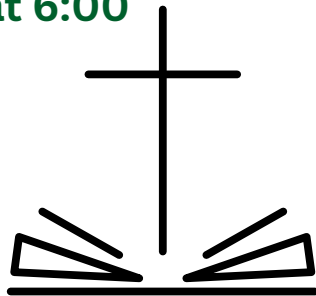
***** Sunday School Resumes January 11, 2026 *****

Confirmation Schedule

8th Graders

Meal at 5:30, Class at 6:00

Jan 7, 2026
 Jan 14, 2026
 Jan 21, 2026
 Jan 28, 2026
 Feb 4, 2026



**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 shovels the sidewalks
 at church?**

Answer:
Alvin Eidem



Eidsvold Annual Meeting will follow service on Sunday, January 25th!



Please submit reports by January 15th

- Financial Report
- Sunday School Report
- Church Women
- Cemetery

Do you know our income and disbursements? Do you know what missions we support? Do you have a specific mission you are passionate about? Come and learn about these and share your opinion!

Also, this is an opportunity to discuss our strengths and areas that need growth. Ponder these questions and share your thoughts....

- How are we doing as a community of faith?
- What are we doing really well?
- Where can we spend a little more energy to do better?
- Would you feel comfortable inviting others to worship with us?
- How can we better serve you and your family?

If you are not able to attend the Annual Meeting, jot down your thoughts and submit them to a council member or by email to beluther@bevcomm.net

Eidsvold Council Meeting-December 9, 2025 (via ZOOM due to inclement weather)

In Attendance: Pastor Al, Mandy, Phyllis, Tana and Lee, Laura, Kendra, Kris Flock from the Service Agency Insurance office (5-5:30 only) Kris Flock gave an overview of our building insurance policy. Did a comparison of Church Mutual and what we could potentially have with WI Mutual.

New policy would cover:

- 1.4 million-true replacement cost to rebuild if something would happen to destroy the building.
- If we would want to rebuild, would cover 90% of the true replacement cost of 400-500 sq.ft.
- BPT=everything inside the structure. \$210,000 replacement cost.
- General Liability=\$1 million

We currently pay \$6170 the new policy would be \$5049.

Lee made a motion to approve WI Mutual. Kendra seconded it. Approved.

Kris Flock signed off the Zoom meeting

Pastor Al led with a prayer.

Kendra read the minutes of the last meeting. Minutes approved as read.

Discussion:

- Housing allowance is being reviewed with Svea. Suggested \$1400 rental value for the Svea parsonage. Motion made and approved. This also needs to be approved by Svea.
- Recommendation of 55/45 split, Eidsvold/Svea. Motion made and approved
- Furnace replacements are on hold unless an issue comes up this winter.
- Discussed setting up a procedure when church needs to be cancelled due to bad weather. Calling tree was brought up. Pastor Al will look into different text formats and the cost. We will discuss more next time.
- Mandy will look into a rental agreement for the parsonage.
- Hand railings need to be installed going to the basement of the parsonage.
- It was requested to install another railing to the church basement so there is one on both sides of the steps.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes submitted by Kendra Hanson, Council Secretary