

February 2024
HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS
Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches

Although it seems like we just got done with Christmas, Lent is already upon us. Ash Wednesday is February 14— service at 7 pm at Eidsvold. Lent has the stereotype of being the “sad” time in the Church year but it is really an *intentional* time where Christians around the globe slow-down, look past the world we have built, and on to the world God has built for us. It is our shared time of repentance and *refocus* on God—one where we take a spiritual journey with Jesus to His Cross and Empty Tomb. Our Lenten Services will focus on getting the most out of this journey as we look at Christian faith practices. My goal is to offer you a sampling of many different things we can do as Christians. Do not feel like you have to take on all or any of the opportunities offered up, they are just shown for your consideration.

The Journey of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a moment when we acknowledge that our very separation from dust comes from the love of God, both in this life and the next, and Lent will end with our celebration of God’s victory over Sin and Death on Easter Sunday. Over the forty days in between, many people give something up; a nasty habit or indulgence. I think of this like not snacking before going to a fine restaurant—it changes the way we experience the journey’s end. Other people take on something new during Lent; a faith practice or Godly habit. They give it a shot for forty days and see if they find meaning enough to retain it in their lives.

An Eidsvold tradition includes locking away the “Alleluia” banner for Easter—Christians have kept themselves from saying that word during Lent for over 1700 years! It makes saying “Alleluia” at Easter all the more joyous. I would encourage all of you to challenge yourselves this Lent. Fall back on the strength that God offers you and take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Parish.

Parish Lenten Opportunities

- o The Lenten suppers and Services—Locations will rotate each week. The meal starts at 6 and the service at 7, Wednesday nights.

- o Parish Choir –On Wednesdays at 5 pm, a unified choir will meet to practice.

- o Loop Groups – I was invited by the ELCA pastors in Red Wing to make a “Loop” video.

- o Loops are small groups that meet in homes, watch a video, and then discuss it. The videos and discussion guides are already made, meaning that the Loop Groups can set their own schedule in meetings. The goal is to build small communities within the larger community.

- o The Devotion Gospels – Members can purchase (\$2) a devotion journal for the Gospel of John. We as a congregation will prayerfully read through John during Lent.

Pastor Al Aakre

February Birthday

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



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

HAPPY
Birthday

CHURCH SERVICE INFO: CONTACT INFORMATION

EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN
CHURCH
W6111 COUNTY RD EE
BAY CITY WI 54723
FEBRUARY SERVICES AT
10:30 WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL
DURING THE SERVICE

SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
N2610 770TH ST
HAGER CITY WI 54014

FEBRUARY SERVICES AT
9:00 AM

PASTOR AL AAKRE 608-799-9703
AAAKRE002@LUTHERSEM.EDU
CHURCH: BELUTHER@BEVCOMM.NET
OFFICE 715-594-3182 LEAVE A
MESSAGE
NEWSLETTER INFO;
TRACIE.ESTERBY@GMAIL.COM
651-380-2212



Joint Council Meeting Minutes

January 4th at Eidsvold Church Office

Attendees: Pastor Al, Jason, Anne, Tracie, Wade, Mandy,

Opening Prayer: Pastor Al

Discussion: Installation of Pastor Al, went over the service and who would be talking when. Wade and Jason will go together and present at the installation. They reviewed the readings.

The Parish Contract was reviewed. After a long discussion, an agreement was placed for the year 2024 housing allowance We will do the 50/50 parsonage fair market value and utilities. The agreement was signed.

Closing of the meeting.

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 have them see Mary Schaver, Pastor Al, or another council member. Training would be provided.

A Special Thank You to Santa Lucia for visiting the parish in December--and bringing us cookies! Keeping up with modern trends, Santa Lucia wore electric candles in her traditional wreath crown.



Online Worship

A reminder that Svea records and posts their Sunday services online. If you are unable to join us in person due to sickness, the weather, the dog, a bad haircut, or whatever life throws out, you can join us online either through a link on the Svea Lutheran Facebook page or directly by searching Svea Lutheran Church on YouTube.

Community Events

Ruby's Pantry

First Saturday of the Month
February 3rd
10-11:30 at
Pierce Pepin Co-op

Euchre:

First Friday of Each Month
February 2nd
7 pm at Eidsvold

Bring a treat to share
Coffee will be provided.

Parish Social Media

Facebook

Church Website

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

Svea Quilters

2nd & 4th

Tuesdays 9 am-noon

No experience is needed. All are welcome.

Women's Bible Study
Monday Feb 19th at
1:30pm at Eidsvold



Sunday School News:

Feb 4th will large group: Lent overview with a Valentine's Craft

Feb 11th: Small Groups-The Red Sea

Feb 18th: Small Groups-The Ten Commandments

Feb 25th: Small Groups: The Battle of Jericho



Pool Party for Christmas Gift

First Communion News:

Calling all 5th-grade students/or older who have not attended classes!

Feb 21st at Svea-5:30-6:30 Class (bring bible) then highly encourage you to stay for supper, then attend church service.

Feb 28th at Eidsvold-same agenda

March 13th at the same agenda

Make-up day is March 20th

First Communion Service will be on Palm Sunday, March 24th. I will email families that I have listed, friends or extended family members are welcome to join. Please let Tracie know.

YOUTH CAMPS

YOUTH CAMPS AND MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERINGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE! WE HOPE THAT YOU CAN ATTEND. PLEASE SEE TRACIE OR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Youth Events:

Pick up your pamphlet at church or go online at Luther Point Bible Camp. If you need help with payment or transportation talk with Tracie or a Sunday School Teacher. Register Early for the discounts.



Summer Camp 2024



	1st - 4th Grades	4th - 6th Grades	7th - 9th Grades	Specialty Camps	Family Camps
June 9-14	3rd & 4th Half Week (12th - 14th)	4th - 6th Grade	Jr. High & Confirmation		Grandparent/ Grandchild Camp (9th - 11th)
June 16-21		4th - 6th Grade	Jr. High & Confirmation	4th - 6th Grade Fish Camp	
June 23 - 28	1st & 2nd Grade Overnight (24th & 25th)	4th - 6th Grade	Jr. High & Confirmation	Beginning Horse Camp	
June 30 - July 2	3rd & 4th Half Week (30th - 2nd)	4th - 6th Grade Half Week	Jr. High & Confirmation Half Week	Jr. & Sr. High Night Life	
July 7-12	3rd & 4th Half Week (10th - 12th)	4th - 6th Grade	Jr. High & Confirmation	Fish Camp	Grandparent/ Grandchild Camp (7th - 9th)
July 14-19		4th - 6th Grade	Jr. High & Confirmation	Arts & Music Camp	Half & Full Week Family Camp
July 21-26	1st & 2nd Grade Overnight (22nd - 23rd)	4th - 6th Grade	Jr. High & Confirmation	Intermediate Horse Camp	

Summer Theme

Our theme for Summer 2024 is Overcoming Storms! During Bible study, we will be reading stories from the bible where a physical storm occurs and talk about how the people in the story overcome the storm. Additionally, we will be diving deeper into how trusting in God can help us overcome the storms in our personal lives. throughout the week we will be incorporating the summer theme into not only Bible studies but also crafts, games, and other camp activities!

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6

ENCOURAGE

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING

APRIL 13, 2024

GRADES 5-8 \$50 PER

8:00 - 4:30 PARTICIPANT

Bethany Lutheran Church
35 W Messenger Street
Rice Lake, WI



Information and Registration:

<https://nwswi.org/synod-youth-board>



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS

Easter Basket Gift Bags

Bags will be available for pick up at Eidsvold now.

Fill them with age-appropriate toys, candy, crafts, filled plastic eggs, etc.

Fill in the tag for a boy, girl, or either and the approximate age group.

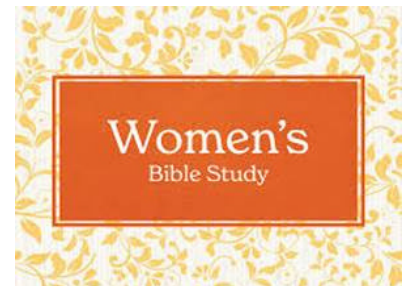
Return all bags by Sunday, Feb 25 so they can be delivered to the Pierce County Food Pantry.



February 11 – Souper Bowl of Caring – Bring items for the Pierce County Food Pantry - boxed foods, canned goods, cereal, paper products, soap as well as monetary donations. The number of families struggling to put food on their tables continues to grow. We can make a difference!

Women of the Parish – Eidsvold and Svea – come and gather for Bible Study Monday, February 19 at 1:30 at Eidsvold. We'll go over the first session of the new Gather Bible Study: "Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith". The first session will focus on Weather: Powerful Force of Change. We'll read biblical stories of extraordinary weather that show us how to live faithfully, moving us to act even when we feel powerless.

Come – let's learn and share together!



Youth Fundraiser

Cookie Sale on Sunday, Feb 11th at Eidsvold.

All Confirmation Studies are encouraged to be at church at 8 am to bake and package the cookies. We will be selling them before and after church.



Parish Choir

Are you interested in being a part of the Parish Choir?

If so come to practice on Wednesday evenings during the Lent Season at 5 pm. We will follow the church calendar on the location. We are preparing to sing at Easter Services.



Times and Talents: February



Readers:

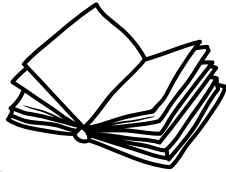
Eidsvold

FEB 4: JUDY LACROIX

FEB 11: PHYLLIS BEASTROM

FEB 18: FAY ALBARDO

FEB 25: BRENDA SINGER



Ushers:

Eidsvold

FEB 4: TRACIE & ANDREA ESTERBY

FEB 11: TRICIA LOFGREN & DENNIS
POTTS

FEB 18: FAY ALBARADO & CARLA
SCHUESTER

FEB 25: MARY WILLIAMS &
AVAILABLE



Church Cleaning:

Eidsvold

FEB 4: PHYLLIS BEASTROM

REST OF MONTH AVAILABLE

TO YOU



Altar Committee: LORNA EIDEM

FEB 11 -WHITE

FEB 14 PURPLE FOR THE REST OF MONTH

Communion Bread: Phyllis Beastrom

Washing Communion Cups: TRACIE
ESTERBY



Loop Groups

Pastor Al was invited to make Loop videos with the ELCA pastors in Red Wing. These six videos are ten-minute Lenten devotions covering Jesus' journey to the Cross.

Loops are small groups that meet, watch the video, and then discuss it. Since life can be hectic, Loop Groups are encouraged to set their meeting schedule. These videos will premier through Lent but will stay posted on YouTube indefinitely, along with discussion guides, so folks can use them when they are able. If you're interested in Loops but feel like a lot is going on in your life this Lent, then wait until after Easter to meet. Loop Groups are just another opportunity for you. The goal is to build small communities within the larger community. Loops are intended to meet in homes but any place where people can connect is great. In Red Wing, Loops have met over Zoom, at a Care Center, the Library, restaurants, and at the churches. The plan moving forward is to release a new series each summer, fall, and Lent--if it doesn't work now, there will be other opportunities. If you would be interested in hosting or joining a Loop, please connect with Pastor Al or the Parish Office.

This Loop series is modified for Lent. Typically, Loop videos run about 15 minutes and include a musical offering, a perspective from a parishioner as well as from a pastor. Pastor Al assisted with another set this fall, which could be used in the future. Past Loop Videos can be found on United Lutheran of Red Wing's YouTube page.