



**February 2026**

## **HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS**

### **Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches**



Greetings from the Parsonage,

I have had a song stuck in my head all week, a single lyric to be exact, it goes "Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord." We will have to sing it some Sunday and get it stuck in everyone's head! It is a needed message for us. It is easy to cast ourselves as perfect beings, without needs or weaknesses—we all do it. To "humble thyself" is to throw off the delusions that we feed ourselves and to return to what is true and right.

The word "humility" comes from the Latin term for "earth" or "ground." The connection comes from the Creation narrative in Genesis. We read in the second chapter of that book that "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." In this sense, Christian humility is to recognize the reality of our existence, and our perpetual need for God. Without the Divine's first gift of life, humanity would be but the dust of the earth. But we will explore that further in Lent—beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 18.

Lent is a time of reflection, of slowing down, and of remembering who sits with ultimate power and might—all branches of Christian humility. In the seasons of life, certain seasons of the Church will speak to use more than others. The voice of Lent rings loudest not only when we have been carried away by our Pride and Ego, but also in moments when we have taken on the weight of this world. This is the other side of humility—we are not called to crush but we are also not called to be crushed. It is not your job, nor mine, nor any of the beloved who sit in our pews to save the world—Lent is a time we remember whose job it is. In times of unrest, uncertainty, division, anger, what-have-you, it is tempting to turn to ourselves, but Lent is a practice in turning to God. And my genuine hope is that by the time you read this, there will be so much unity, peace, and fellowship in the news that you think, "What in the world is Pastor talking about!?"

In the song, the lyric "Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord" is answered "... And He shall lift you up." And God shall lift us up—both in this time and in the time to come. I pray that you remember that, and have the faith to be lifted by our Lord.

Blessings,

Al Aakre

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

#### **CHURCH SERVICE INFO**

**EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
W6111 COUNTY RD EE  
BAY CITY WI 54723  
FEBRUARY SERVICES  
AND SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:30 AM

**SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
N2610 770TH ST  
HAGER CITY WI 54014  
JANUARY SERVICES  
9:00 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>**

# February Birthdays

## Eidsvold

2 - Madyson Bignell  
3 - Kendra Hanson  
4 - Verlene Benck  
5 - Mick Borst  
5 - Melody Perrin  
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

### Ash Wednesday and Lent Services

Feb., 18 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday  
Service at Eidsvold

Feb., 25 6:00 Meal & 7:00 Service  
at Svea

March 4, 6:00 Meal & 7:00 Service  
at Eidsvold

March 11, 6:00 Meal & 7:00 Service  
at Svea

March 18, 6:00 Meal & 7:00 Service  
at Eidsvold

March 25, 6:00 Meal & 7:00 Service  
at Svea

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



Thanks to the Congregation

*Greetings,  
Hi, I would like to say Thank You for thoughts and Prayers  
during my hospital stay. Good to know that I was in  
everyone's prayers and thoughts.  
Thank you and God Bless,  
Ricky Knudsen*

## PRAYER LIST

### Prayers for Healing

Barry Barringer, Darrell Schuster, Liliah Larson, Rochelle Smaller, Beth Johnston, Leonard Gilbertson, Gail Gusa, Virgil Hinrichs, Tammy Price, John (Butch) Sebion, Mick Borst, Sandy Place, Bob Soden, Wendell Manore, Dave Ericson, Elwyn Manore

### Prayers for Sustained Strength and Comfort

Norma Hanson, Laura Anderson, Larry Gerdes, Verlene Benck, Terrence Emery, Chris Larson, Rose Ann Powers, Gerry Hoffman, Connie Rieck, Julie Patterson, Jim Swenson, all those who mourn Kendra Hanson, 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

February 10

February 24

9 am-noon

No experience is needed. All are welcome!

## Ruby's Pantry

First Saturday of the Month

February 7

10-11:30 at

Pierce Pepin Co-op



## EUCHRE

Friday, February 6

Meet at 7:00 at Eidsvold

Bring a snack to share (optional).

Coffee will be provided.



## 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

## WHERE DID LWR QUILTS & KITS GO IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2025?

### HERE'S WHAT YOUR LOVE HAS MADE POSSIBLE IN YEAR ONE:



**114,038**  
QUILTS &  
BLANKETS



**73,180**  
SCHOOL KITS



**108,511**  
PERSONAL  
CARE KITS



**22,934**  
BABY  
CARE KITS



**7,800**  
FABRIC KITS



**212,425**  
TOTAL KITS



**12**  
STATES WITH  
FAITH PARTNERS



**\$1.2**  
MILLION USD IN  
CASH GRANTS



## SVEA CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

For the members of Svea - We would like to know if everyone is getting called on the **Prayer Chain or Communication Chain** and getting the messages.

If anyone has a new phone number or a different number, please let Bonnie Hasenberg know at 612-720-7411. If you are having a problem making calls and want to change who you call, please let Bonnie know as we will be making a new communication chain this spring. Any ideas that could improve our system would be appreciated too!

Thank you



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

Feb 1 Mandy Rikli

Feb 8 Michelle Plote

Feb 15 Carol / Angie Peterson

Feb 22 Justin Mandelkow

## Ushers Needed

Feb 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 22 \_\_\_\_\_

## February

### Altar Committee

Lorna Eidem

### Bake Communion Bread

Phyllis Beastrom

February 1, 15

### Wash Communion Glasses

February 1 \_\_\_\_\_

February 15 \_\_\_\_\_



## Church Cleaning

### Eidsvold

Feb 1 Faith Edwards

Feb 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Feb 22 \_\_\_\_\_



*Thank you!*

## Sunday School News!

### Our Lessons

Feb 1 Ten Commandments

Feb 8 Craft Activity

Feb 15 Battle of Jericho

Feb 22 Naomi and Ruth

March 1<sup>st</sup> Spring Break - No SS

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 comes to church multiple times per week to get the church warmed up?

Answer:  
Alvin Eidem

## Easter Gift Bags

Let's spread some Easter Cheer!

We will be donating Easter Bags to the Food Pantry again this year. Bags will be available on February 8. Fill them with toys, candy, stuffed animals, bubbles, chalk, crayons, etc.

Bags must be returned to church by March 1st.

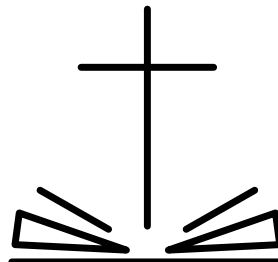


## Confirmation Schedule

### 8th Graders

Meal at 5:30, Class at 6:00

Feb 4, 2026



## Sunday, February 8, 2026 - SOUPER Bowl of Caring

Our community needs our help! The number of families struggling to put food on their tables continues to grow. We can make a difference!

On Souper Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8th, we will collect items for the **Pierce County food pantry**

**boxed foods**  
**canned good**  
**cereal**  
**paper products**  
**soap**  
**as well as \$\$**

in the soup kettles.



Thank you for helping those in need in our community.

**"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."**



## English Lutheran Roast Beef Dinner

Drive up for a carry out "hot beef dinner" on **Saturday, February 21st from 4 – 6:30 p.m.**

Cost \$12.

"Drive up for a carry out version of the summertime favorite you love from our fair stand and support our kitchen renovation!"



***Mark your calendar:***

***Eidsvold will host the Ecumenical Choir***

***Sunday April 12 at 7:00 pm***  
***(The Sunday after Easter!)***