

To reach Pastor Mike Knudson

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B - E Friends



“And they took out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and gave them to him.” Matt 2

I'm not sure when gift giving became a big part of Christmas. Following Christ had been going on for over 300 years before many people even heard about something called “Christmas”. (Hard to imagine, Christianity without Christmas!). Like I say, I don't know when gift giving became a big deal way back when, but it's a big deal now. And some gifts are extra special. They are beyond words.

Pictured above are a few hand-made tree ornament stars. They are only an inch and $\frac{3}{4}$ across. Imagine the precise folding involved! They mysteriously hold together tightly and each has an elegant fine thread sewn in so they are ready to hang on a tree. Our friend **Marta Friedrich** gave them to me a few years before she died. She actually gave me 28 of them!! The time, patience and love required to make them, and then give them away, is humbling and very touching. When I see them, I see Marta. She also created, and gave away, a fine memoir telling her story, beginning in Germany and ending here in Pierce County. I have a copy. I also have a full-page Christmas letter from Marta written just to me. In my mind, she is smiling radiantly toward us now, just as she did in her earthly life. The Wise Men gave three gifts, Marta gave so many more. Whatever gifts we give this Christmas, I hope we, like Marta, can find ways to also give ourselves.

Joseph gazed, Mary nodded, while shepherds quaked at the sight... of the babe/The Lord come here... for us.

Celebrate Jesus with us! Serve all people you encounter! Happy Christmas!

In Peace, Pastor Mike

December



BIRTHDAYS

May you have a special day
and a blessed year!

1 - Landon Gilbertson	20—Dylan Gilbertson
2 – Colin Johnson	22 – Daphne Hohmann
3 – Justin Mandelkow	23 – Linden Johnson
3 – Joshua Bierbrauer	23 – Tim Deden
5 - Brenda Singer	24 – Gwen Brenner
9 - Shayla Gilbertson	25 – Henry Brown
13 – Tim Singer	27 – Nikki Alms
14 – Joshua Yotter	28 – Tori Benck
15 – Tracie Esterby	30 – Jeremy Plote
17 – Brady Scharpen	31 – Jerome Lacroix
20 - Kaitlin Albarado	31 - Tana Langer

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Wed Nov 30, Dec 7, Dec 14 BE Parish has been
Invited to Svea midweek Advent meal & service

Sat Dec 24 4:00 p.m. Joint Parish Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service **at Eidsvold**

Sun Dec 25 10:00 a.m. Christmas Worship at Svea
Bethlehem-Eidsvold parish encouraged to
worship with Svea

Sun Jan 1 10:30 a.m. Joint worship at Eidsvold

Jan—Feb worship schedule:

9 a.m. at Bethlehem; 10:30 a.m. at Eidsvold

Mar-Apr worship schedule

9 a.m. at Eidsvold 10:30 a.m. at Bethlehem

Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday

April 2 - Palm Sunday

April 5 - 9th grade confirmation class meets

April 9 - Easter

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 **DECEMBER**.

Bethlehem

Altar Guild: Jan Kearns

Church cleaning: Elise Gregory, Collin LaFave

Eidsvold

Church Cleaning: Clean for date by your name

Dec 4 - Kathy Sears

Dec 11 - Lorna and Alvin Eidem

Dec 18 - **available** for you ??

Dec 24 - Tana Langer

Ushers 2 each week

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

Dec 4 - Tricia Lofgren, Dennis Potts

Dec 11 - Lorna and Alvin Eidem

Dec 18 - Karen Brostrom, Dodee Bloomstrand

Dec 24 - **available** for you ??

The January sign up sheet is on back table

Parking Lot 93.1 FM Transmission

If you would like FM transmission, please let
Alvin or an usher know. **Directions for setting
up FM transmission are with the transmitter.**

Altar Committee— Joey Peterson & daughters

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

Altar Colors this month: Blue Dec 4, 11, 18

White Christmas season

DECEMBER READERS:

Bethlehem

Dec 4 - Leah Johnson

Dec 11 - Phyllis Beastro

Dec 18 - Jan Kearns

Eidsvold

Dec 4 – Tana Langer

Dec 11 - Mandy Jepson

Dec 18 - Michelle Plote

Dec 24 - Carol/Angie Peterson



Love. Grow. Serve.



**ELLSWORTH AREA
GIFT BOX
PROGRAM**

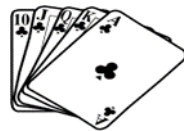
Eidsvold is providing gifts for a family of four. There are several ticket items

hanging on the ribbon on the back wall.

- Families or friends can go together to get the bigger ticket items
- If you're unsure about the request - for example "men's work pants" - feel free to get a gift card for a store and write on it "Gift for men's work pants"
- Please DO NOT wrap any of the gifts
- All gifts need to be to church by Sunday, December 4th
- When you take a ticket item from the wall, please sign the spread sheet on the table with your name and phone number
- Any questions, contact Tracie Esterby, Kris Mandelkow, or Anne Girdeen.

Thank you for making Christmas special for this family.

EUCHRE



Kathy and Dale Sears are hosting Euchre Friday, December 2 at 7 p.m. (N3184 650th St, Ellsworth).

You are invited to come for fun and fellowship - to play euchre (no experience required) or just visit. Bring a snack to share and if you'd like, your own beverage. Coffee will be provided.

Women of the Parish

Women of the Parish will **NOT** meet in December. We will aim to resume Bible Study in January with the first of a 4 session study on the Ten Commandments.

JOINT COUNCIL MINUTES Summary

Joint Parish Council met Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. by zoom. Present were Justin Mandelkow, Jason Helseth, Heather Brown, Anne Girdeen, Laura Peterson, Ron Johnson, Jan Kearns, Phyllis Beaström.

Financial report: Parsonage account: \$16,122.35 and the Technology account \$34.51.

Christmas Schedule:

December 24 - 4:00 p.m. at Eidsvold Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service

December 25 - 10:00 a.m. Christmas Worship at Svea. Our parish is encouraged to worship Christmas Day with Svea.

January 1 - 10:30 a.m. Joint Parish Worship at Eidsvold

Worship Schedule 1st quarter of 2023:

January - February Bethlehem 9 a.m. and Eidsvold 10:30 a.m.

March - April Eidsvold 9:00 a.m. and Bethlehem 10:30 a.m.

Church Membership: Eidsvold 162 members and Bethlehem 50 members. Percentages for 2023: Eidsvold 76%; Bethlehem 24%

Salaries: Motion seconded & carried to increase Pastor's Salary by 5% - salary in 2023 will be \$39,690 plus Social security. Compensation for taxes designated as \$7500 for salary and the remainder for housing allowance.

Motion, seconded & carried to increase secretary's salary by 5% and pianist to \$55 per worship.

Will continue to subscribe to Sundays & Seasons. Meeting adjourned.

**The Eidsvold Sunday School presents
CHRISTMAS IN OUR JAMMIES**

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Christmas in Our Jammies gives the students a chance to tell us big people a bedtime story . . . the Christmas story! After the program, there will be birthday cake for Jesus and the students will have gift exchange.

Students, parents, everyone - are invited to wear pajamas!

Program practice times – Sundays December 4th and 11th from 9:30—11:30 a.m.

Worship in December



The Advent wreath is an endless circle to symbolize Jesus' eternal reign. Each week the wreath grows brighter as the candles are lit to symbolize the coming of Christ. The Christ Candle in the center is lit on Christmas Eve reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Why is blue the color of Advent? Deep blue is the color of the clear, predawn sky, the color that covers the earth in the hours before the sun rises in the east. So the blue of Advent comes out of darkness, and it holds the promise of light. Blue is a color representing hope, as we prepare and anticipate the coming of Christ.

December 4th and 11th : 9:00 a.m. Bethlehem Worship

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Eidsvold SS program rehearsal

10:30 Eidsvold Worship

December 18th: 9:00 a.m. Bethlehem Worship

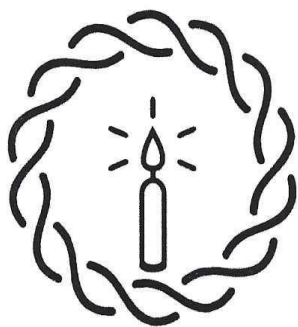
10:30 a.m. Eidsvold Worship

Saturday December 24th: 4 p.m. At Eidsvold Joint Parish Christmas Eve Candlelight service with Holy Communion

Sunday December 25: 10 a.m. Festival of Christmas with Holy Communion at **Svea** Lutheran Church—(N2610 770th St) Bethlehem-Eidsvold parish encouraged to worship Christmas Day with Svea.

Sunday January 1: 10:30 a.m. Worship at Eidsvold

Advent Service & Meal



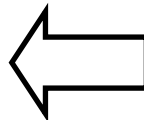
Dinner at 6 p.m. & Vespers at 7 p.m.

+
Wednesday, November 30
Wednesday, December 7
Wednesday, December 14
+

Svea Lutheran Church

+
N2610 770th St, Hager City, WI 54014 - (715) 792-2633
"The little church with Christmas lights"
+

Come and celebrate God's arrival to our world



Bethlehem and Eidsvold Parish have been invited to the Soup meal and Holden Evening Prayer Service at Svea—see poster to the left. Pastor Mike will be the cantor for Holden Evening Prayer on November 30th and December 7th.

Svea is also planning a drive-by live nativity - date & time will be announced when known.

THREE CONGREGATION UPDATE

Bethlehem, Eidsvold and Svea church councils met at Eidsvold on Thursday, November 17th. All congregations reported average attendance and yearly giving so it appears the three congregations come close to the synod recommendation for calling a full time pastor.

The three congregations decided to move ahead with the "dating process" to continue exchanging thoughts as we look ahead to a 3 point parish.

Future meetings will be open to congregation members. Next meeting may be a report from Trinity Lutheran in Spring Valley—merger of Gilman, Spring Lake, and St. John's congregations - they'll share their experiences, trials and joys!



The location for Ruby's Pantry has changed for the winter months to Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services at junction of Highway 10 & 63 west of Ellsworth. It will be inside and you drive through to get your foods and items. Ruby's Pantry helps extend your monthly grocery budget and is open to **ANYONE**. **COST \$25 per share** and you will receive an abundance of food. If possible, bring your laundry basket to be loaded with items.

Next distribution is Saturday December 3 from 10:00—11:30.



Cookie and Candy Walks
Saturday
December 10th

- 9 a.m. - Noon St. Paul's UCC (W5706 St Rd 72 - brick church at the Junction of Hwys 63 & 72)
Cookie Walk and Craft Sale
Cookies \$6 a pound
- 8 a.m. - Noon Our Savior's Lutheran (N6450 530th Street, Beldenville)
Candy Walk \$10 pound
Also silent auction items hosted by the youth

Thank You

150th Anniversary Funding Update

- We were able to send Luther Point Bible Camp \$3,218.00 from the offerings collected on Eidvold's 150th Anniversary! What an amazing gift we were able to share with a place that has been special to so many families in our congregation.
- In the months leading up to the anniversary, we held some fundraising events together with designated weekly offerings to pay for the church painting, landscaping and various other projects.
- We raised \$749 through 2 different cookie sales, \$743 from the pancake breakfast, \$800 from the Ladies Aid Lenten offering and \$970 from the quilt drawing. Plus over \$60,000 from weekly offerings.
- We are truly blessed and want to express how thankful we are for your support and generosity. Your hard work and dedication for our church and congregation are so appreciated. Thank you!

Anne Girdeen, Treasurer

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

December Events at the Senior Center

Tuesday, December 13 11:00 a.m. We'll be celebrating the holidays with a Holiday Social - singing seasonal songs, making a craft, and playing Holiday games. Light lunch will follow.

Wednesday December 29 1:30 p.m. Harland and Jane Schultz will provide Christmas music and lots of laughs

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.bethlemeidsvoldchurches.com/>

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

Happy Holidays

