November 2026
HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS
Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches

Meet Interim Pastor Karen Behling

Greetings to all! I come with a German last name (pronounced bay-ling as in “baling hay”) but my ancestry is mostly Scandanavian, specifically, Swedish and Norwegian. Since my ordination in 1990, I have been serving congregations in North Dakota, Iowa (the state where I grew up), Minnesota, and recently Chippewa Falls, WI. Nearly two years ago, I made the switch to serving congregations in transition, and as your Interim Pastor, I will work closely with the Call Committee and Councils to prepare the forms that will strive to describe your congregations accurately while also enticing prospective pastoral candidates to consider this parish, which as I have already observed, has much to offer a first-call pastor.

I will be with you half-time: leading worship with communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month (plus extras like Christmas Eve), and I will be based out of the church office two days per week (typically Wed and Thurs, though some weeks will vary). The goal is to communicate each week and month’s schedule well in advance. Mornings will be the best time to find me in the church office, as afternoons will often be spent visiting homebound members. You may contact me at karenraskbehling@gmail.com or text/call me at 507-402-5182.

I am married to David, and we live in Hastings, MN which keeps us in close proximity to our extended family:

- my mother in Albert Lea;
- our oldest daughter, son-in-law and grandson in St. Paul;
- our son who has a home in Duluth but works in Antarctica 9 months of the year;
- and in Rochester, our youngest daughter, daughter-in-law, grandson, and baby due in March 2027.

My hobbies include: quilting, reading, baking (cookies are my specialty), walking, yoga, pollinator gardening, and cheering on the MN Lynx. And though it may seem surprising, this pastor does not drink coffee – I never have – however, I very much enjoy the fellowship that comes with coffee breaks and look forward to our time together these coming months.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Karen

Planned office hours

Wed & Thurs, Nov 4 and 5

Wed & Thurs, Nov 11 and 12

Tues & Wed, Nov 17 and 18

Wed & Fri, Nov 25 and 27 (Funeral at 11

November Birthdays



Eidsvold

1 - Ellie Mae Alms
2 - Gerald Anderson
4 - Alvin Eidem
7 - Andrea Benck
7 - Brantley Huppert
9 - Darren Bloomstrand
11 - Christina Donley Hains
13 - Linnea Soden
13 - Ryan Hanson
17 - Gene Benck
17 - Reese Franklin
20 - Emily Lofgren
20 - Diana Gilbertson
21 - Lee Franklin
23 - Emeree Munsen
23 - Robert Soden
25 - Rylie Schroeder
26 - Amanda Rikli
29 - Dennis Finstad

Svea

8 - Orlando Anderson
11 - Madelyn Maxwell
11 - Dustin Anway
15 - Brock Strain
21 - Kelly Knutson
21 - Andrew Girdeen
22 - John O'Keefe
27 - Arnie Sarnstrom

Please let me know if I missed a birthday or need to make any corrections.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for Healing
Wendell Manore
Randy Manore
Jeff Jonas
Jason Anderson
Roger Knudsen
Elwyn Manore
Ken Huffman
Diana Gilbertson
Denice Girdeen
Sam Stockwell
Heather Ritchie
Jon Swedien
Karl Groop
Jim Bostrom

Prayers for Sustained Strength and Comfort
Chris Larson
Terry Emery
Margaret Groop
Norma Hanson
Larry Gerdes
Gerry Hoffman
Jim Swenson,
all caregivers in our parish

Prayers for those serving in the military
Tyler Ballman
Nathan Solomon
Devon Fenner
Jaden Back



Did you know Svea's worship service is on YouTube each week?
Check it out at
https://www.youtube.com/@SveaLutheranChurch
or simply google Svea Lutheran Church, Hager City WI
Once you're there, click on YouTube.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

TANA LANGER
PARISH SECRETARY
715-222-4058

CHURCH SERVICE INFO

EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH
W6111 COUNTY RD EE
BAY CITY WI 54723
NOV SERVICES
10:30 AM

SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
N2610 770TH ST
HAGER CITY WI 54014
NOV SERVICES
9:00 AM

EIDSVOLD Council Members

Mandy Rikli	651-212-1679
Lee Langer	715-222-8006
Tracie Esterby	651-380-2212
Phyllis Beastrom	715-821-5847
Laura Peterson	715-307-2670

SVEA Council Members

Dennis Rieck	715-307-3547
Kelly Knutson	715-594-3838
Wade Strain	715-821-2704
Dianne Albarado	715-222-8648
Dan Maxwell	715-410-5818
Yvonne Manore	715-594-3624
Russ Oberg	715-273-3611

Parish Social Media

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

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.

Eidsvold

Svea

Community Events

Svea Quilters

2nd and 4th Tuesday
Nov 10
Nov 24
9 am-noon
No experience is needed.
All are welcome!

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 Monday Nov 16 11 am - 7 pm
and Tuesday Nov 17 11 am - 5 pm

EUCHRE

Euchre is back!
Do you want to learn how to play?
Join us on
Friday, November 6
7:00 pm at Eidsvold
Bring a snack to share, coffee will be provided.

Fundraising is now in progress so **"Feed My Starving Children"** can come to **Ellsworth in March, 2027.** Industries, businesses, churches and individuals are asked to help raise the $30,000 needed to make this happen. It's a huge endeavor to bring all the equipment needed to pack and seal the meals, as well as all the products to fill the individual meal bags.

They have sponsorship levels of:
$500 = Hopeful Impact
$1000 = Community Champion
$2500 = Feed the Future

The Eidsvold-Svea joint council met last week and decided each of our congregations would participate and ask members to donate to "Feed My Starving Children" and each congregation will match the funds up to $2500. So if you're donating cash, put it in an envelope and mark it "Feed My Starving Children". If writing a check, put "Feed My Starving Children" on the memo line.

Set up will happen on March 18, 2027 at the high school and the students will be packing the meal bags at the school on Friday. There will be opportunities for adults to assemble bags Friday evening and Saturday morning so put these dates on your calendar so you can participate.

Feed My Starving Children says: "We want to reach everyone, until ALL are fed."
Because no one deserves to go hungry, especially when we can do something about it.

Update from Tracie:
The next meeting is on November 30th at 6 pm at Zion.
Donations are welcome now, and they are aiming to have them in by Nov 15th.
Dates for volunteering will open in mid-January. I will let people know when that comes in.
Event: March 19 and 20, 2027 at the Ellsworth High School.

Kingdom Kids
The 1st Wednesday of every month
November 4



English Lutheran church has
The Kingdom Kids program.
It is offered to 4k through 5th grade students. They can join us on the **first Wednesday of each month** after school from 3:30 to 5:00 pm
We will have a bus bring the EES kids right after school.
We will have a snack, sing songs, play games, and learn about God!
Families are invited to join us for a meal at 5:00 p.m.



Community Events



Eidsvold-Svea and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches are without a pastor and will be joining English Lutheran for Confirmation classes this year.



2026-2027 Confirmation Schedule
English Lutheran Church

4-Nov Lesson 6 – Moses & the Exodus
11-Nov Basket Flyer Drop-Off
18-Nov Basket Donation Pickup
25- Nov No Class Thanksgiving

2-Dec Lesson 7 – Joshua & Judges
9-Dec Lesson 8 – David
16-Dec Christmas Party
23-Dec No Class - Christmas Break
30-Dec No Class - Christmas Break
6-Jan Review Session
13-Jan Lesson 9 – Ruth & Naomi

Each night of confirmation, supper is served from 5:30-6:30. Then class follows for one hour.
All students can come right after school as they will have the youth room open for them to hang out in.

What is confirmation? Confirmation in the Lutheran Church is a public profession of faith prepared for by long and careful instruction. **It is also called the affirmation of baptism.** Confirmation is a place where young people learn about the promises God has made, why he made them, and how they impact our lives today.

Confirmation goals

- Learn about the Bible-Old Testament and New Testament
- Learn about the Ten Commandments
- Learn about the Apostles' Creed
- Learn about the Lord's Prayer
- Learn about the major Christian Holy Days, Holidays, and Seasons
- Learn about the sacrament of Holy Baptism and Confirmation
- Service Learning within our community.

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 6:6-7

If you are willing to help volunteer in the confirmation program, please reach out to Tracie or Pastor Pete.



Daily Devotional
Word & Season is now avialable at both churches for Oct-Nov- Dec



LWR School Kits and Personal Care Kits

- Thank you to all who made school kits for LWR
- and all who helped assemble the 35 Personal care kits after worship on the 18th. The process is so efficient with many volunteers helping!
- Phyllis delivered a total of **78 school kits** and **46 personal care kits** to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul.

Your help is appreciated!

Lutheran World Relief celebrated its **80th Anniversary** in 2025 and has been sharing the light and love of God around the world.
In 2025 LWR expanded its ministry to serve and provide emergency relief to the United States and in 2025 provided relief to 12 states due to hurricanes in the southeast, flash flooding in Texas, the south and Midwest and wild fires in California.

Some of the 2025 totals from Lutheran World Relief:

Total quilts distributed	315,818	36% distributed in United States	114,038
Total school kits distributed	179,200	41% distributed in United States	73,180
Total personal care kits distributed	231,811	47% distributed in U.S.	108, 511

Your love and support not only arrives quickly, but also works with organizations and creates partnerships to coordinate efforts and prepare for future crises.



SVEA CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

****Note****

Communion will be offered at worship on November 1st and 15th as Interim Pastor, Karen Behling, will be leading service

Svea Cookbooks for sale!
THEY MAKE GREAT GIFTS.
~~$20.00 EACH FOR 2 FOR $30.00.~~
REDUCED PRICE



Sunday October 25
Blessing of the **QUILTS**

Phyllis honored and surprised the quilters by giving each of them the heart LWR pin in recognition and appreciation for their tireless work of sending love to our neighbors in need around the world.



About 60 quilts were displayed!

After the blessing of the **QUILTS**

- 35 were taken up to Lutheran World Relief
- 10 are going to Turning Point in River Falls
- 10 will be taken to the Senior High School at Christmas time for needy families

Thanks to all who contributed with the sewing, supplying sheets, material, etc.

Svea will be renting out the parsonage until we find a new pastor. If anyone knows of someone who is looking for a 3-4 bedroom house and 2 car garage, please contact Dennis Rieck or any council member.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the lawn mowing this year and a big "shout out" to Billy Emery for doing a great job.



Don't forget to remove all flowers and pots from the gravesites before the snow comes.



Svea still needs readers for the church service and also help on the Altar committee.
Anyone - male or female - can help with this.





Please consider helping out in these areas.



Thanks to everyone that brings food for the food pantry! Now, we need a **volunteer to transport it to the food pantry in Ellsworth.**
This can be done whenever it is convenient for you; weekly, bimonthly, or however it fits in your schedule!

Volunteers are needed to be on the call committee, please contact a council member if you are interested as soon as possible.

EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS

****Note**** **Communion will be offered at worship on November 1st and 15th as Interim Pastor, Karen Behling, will be leading service**

Thank you for your Time and Talents

Readers

Nov 1 Fay Albarado
Nov 8 Rita Anderson
Nov 15 ------
Nov 22 Karen Brostrom
Nov 29 Tana Langer

November

Altar Committee
Karen Brostrom
Nov 1 & 15

Bake Communion Bread
Phyllis Beastrom

Ushers

Nov 1 Fay Albarado & Jan Kearns
Nov 8 Rita Anderson & Bev Peterson
Nov 15 Frank & Carol Peterson
Nov 22 Karen Brostom & Mary Williams
29 Tracie Esterby

Thank you for volunteering and being in the rotation!

SWOT

- STRENGTHS
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Talents

STRENGTHS

- active Sunday School
- family confirmation meals
- good friends
- loving one another
- children's message
- being kind to others
- welcoming congregation
- young families
- altar guild volunteers
- awesome communion bread
- fellowship
- great cildren's message and their participation

WEAKNESSES

- no church softball league
- Less than 10 Eidsvold members attended the Ecumenical Choir Concert.
- no community outreach
- offer wafers at communion
- use disposable wine cups
- need happier music for kids
- new ideas aren't welcomed
- no support for youth events
- showing up more
- need more upbeat music
- too much new music
- need modern upbeat music that is easier to sing (not too high)

In progress....

OPPORTUNITIES
Areas we can get involved in!
Please add your ideas to the whiteboard in the entryway.

Sunday School

Sunday School News

Please contact our Superintendent, Bree Lund, if you have any questions or if you know of someone that would like to join Sunday School!
We are also looking for a few more people to help with teaching!
bree_lund@outlook.com or
651-764-2227

Sunday School Registration ~ Eidsvold Lutheran Church
Kids do NOT need to be registered to attend Sunday School. However, filling out this form will help us plan lessons and activities, and help communicate Sunday School news and announcements.
Please fill out one form per child.
Click on the link below or the QR Code to the left.

https://forms.gle/xgdsHGBCrgmWeRxg6

What we will be learning about....

Nov 1 Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
Nov 8 Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
Nov 15 Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
Nov 22 Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
Nov 29 No SS - Thanksgiving Break
Dec 6 Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
Dec 13 Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

Dec 20 Christmas Pageant!!



Students, Thank you for singing on Reformation Sunday!