



**March 2024**

**HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS**  
**Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches**



Warm Greetings from the Parsonage!

Holy Week and Easter will soon be upon us. It is said that Christians are “Easter People” and I certainly agree. Central to our story of faith is the story of Christ’s journey to and from the grave. Without the Cross and Tomb, without the Resurrection and Defeat of Death, we would not have a movement to belong to—we would not have a story to share. Easter was so central to the earliest Christians that the ancient church reenacted Holy Week each and every week—reenacting the Last Supper on Thursdays, mourning Christ on Fridays, and celebrating His return on Sundays. Although we have corralled the reenactment a bit, its impact on our faith has not changed—we remain “Easter People.”

This Lent, I would encourage everyone to make use of the Loop Videos posted on our Facebook pages. The hope is that members will gather in small groups, watch the videos, and discuss them. A discussion guide accompanies each video. This was a collaboration with the Red Wing Area ELCA pastors and is a way to build small communities within our larger one. The videos will remain on YouTube indefinitely, so groups may gather past Easter if they would like.

On March 29, the Ellsworth Area Ministerium is holding a joint Good Friday service, 7 pm, at Our Savior’s Lutheran. Pastors from three denominations and eight congregations will be leading the service—I preached last you, so you will have the opportunity to hear someone else!

Beginning Monday of Holy Week, the Stations of the Cross will be hung at Svea and Eidsvold—exact locations to be determined. There will be a devotional in a white mailbox that will guide you through. The stations will be set up until Easter Sunday. Journeying the “Way of the Cross” is a millennia old practice for Holy Week—the very first pilgrims to Jerusalem wished to walk the very route that Jesus took to His death and needed a way to mark it. The version that I am using is based on Scripture and was developed about 30 years ago—Catholics and Protestants from around the globe use this modern version although the devotion is unique to this parish. Folks are invited to walk the path at some point in the week and reflect on the journey to the Cross. I look forward to making this journey with you this Holy Week and pray that our paths will cross (no pun intended) at one of our several events.

Blessings, Pastor Al

## **Pierce County Ecumenical Choir Concert**

**Sunday, April 21st at 7 pm**  
**Eidsvold Lutheran Church**



# March Birthday

1- Parker Bierbrauer  
11- Elaine Greenfield  
Bradley Stelter  
12- Katelyn Donley  
Elijah Freden  
14- Samantha Sears  
Jason Helseth  
17- Clint Hoyer  
18- Michelle Plote  
Mary Williams  
26- Trevors Alms  
Tricia Lofgren  
28- RoseAnn Powers



HAPPY  
Birthday

5- Todd Strain  
Ardith Strain  
7- Wade Strain  
8- Oliva Girdeen  
9- Ruby Dailey  
10- Julia Girdeen  
14- James Albarado  
18- Donna Christiansen  
19- Marcus Maxell  
Nancy Truttman  
20- Roger Knudsen  
25- Alex Aakre  
Mike Fritz  
29- Bonnie Hasenberg



## CHURCH SERVICE INFO: CONTACT INFORMATION

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

SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
N2610 770TH ST  
HAGER CITY WI 54014  
MARCH 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

WEDNESDAY SERVICES:  
MARCH 6TH AT SVEA  
MARCH 13TH AT EIDSVOLD  
MARCH 20TH AT SVEA  
5 PM PARISH CHOIR PRACTICE  
6-7 PM SUPPER  
7 PM LENT HOLDEN EVENING  
SERVICES



# Joint Council Meeting Minutes



**February 15th at Svea**

**Attendees: Pastor Al, Jason, Anne, Tracie, Wade, Denny, Mary**

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Al

Discussion: Reviewed Jan council minutes-no corrections made. Talked over our current members and our flow sheet at Eidsvold, this was shared with Svea, they will continue to work on theirs. Service hours at churches were reviewed, and no changes were made. Will continue with current times through May due to Sunday school and Confirmation classes. Joint services for summertime discussions. May 26th and June 23rd at Svea 10 am, July 28th and August 25th at Eidsvold-Esdaile Park service at 10 am. Pastor has some vacation coming up for the summertime. Eidsvold copier will no longer be serviced in June, decided to replace the copier and we will continue with the same company. Wednesday night services were reviewed, Ash Wednesday had great attendance, and we will do meals before each Lent service. Thrivent update: encourage members of Thrivent to make sure any choice members contact them. Pastor Notes: happy with winter attendance at both churches, will see if people are interested in doing a drama, Mark Gospel Drama. More to come. Also would like to get a group to help with the Bay City Days children's game. Saturday, July 20th from 10 am-3 pm. Closing Prayer at 8 pm by Pastor Al

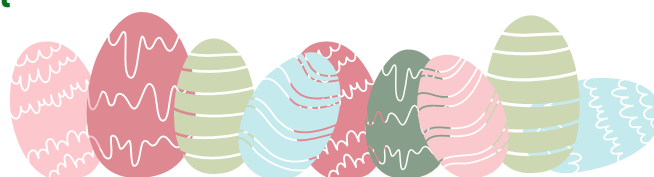


## Svea Church Happenings

**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.**

**Parish Quilters will be having an open quilt on March 6 at 5 pm. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. A small craft has been prepared for youth participants.**

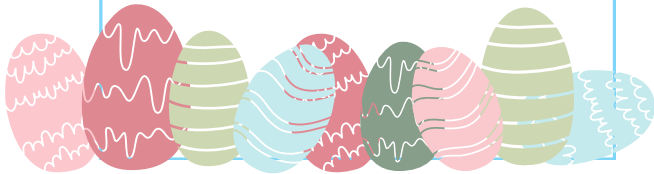
**Svea 150th Anniversary will be in 2025! The Svea Council would like to form a committee to plan this celebration. If you are interested please see Yvonne Manore or Pastor Al**



# Community Events

## Ruby's Pantry

First Saturday of the Month  
March 2nd  
10-11:30 at  
Pierce Pepin Co-op



## Euchre:

First Friday of Each Month  
March 1st  
7 pm at Eidsvold

Bring a treat to share  
Coffee will be provided.

## Parish Social Media

Facebook  
Church Website

<https://www.eidsvoldsvea.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



## In our prayers:

Ricky Knudsen, Michael Smith, Terrence Emery Jan Kearns, Maisley Maxwell, Jim Nelson, Fred Hoyer, Naomi Ruth, Chris Larson, Jim Larson, RoseAnn Powers, Gerry Hoffman, Connie Rieck, Mavis Flack, Julie Patterson, Jim Swenson, Missy Dailey, Barbara Phillips, Debi Emery, Carson Anway, Tyler Ballman. If you have additional people we should pray for or if someone needs to come off the prayer list let us know.



# Sunday School News:

March 3rd No Sunday School-Spring Break Ellsworth Schools

March 10th Large Group Escape Room

March 17th Large Group

March 24th Palm Sunday-Kids will Sing in Church

March 31st Easter-no classes



## First Communion News:

Our last class will be:

March 13th at Eidsvold 5:30-6:30 Class (bring bible) then highly encourage you to stay for supper, then attend church service. Make-up day is March 20th

First Communion Service will be on Palm Sunday, March 24th.



## Conformation News:

Encouraged to attend Lent Services

Formal classes will resume for 9th-grade students on April 10th, 17th, 24th, May 1st, and 8th. The Banquet Meal will be on May 8th. With Confirmation on May 12th during Service.

## Congratulations to the Cast/Crew of Peter Pan!

Oskar LaFave, Max Mandelkow, Ben Helseth, Neveah Peters, Bella Blue, Reese Franklin, and Taylor Bierbrauer!



## 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

Funds are available to pay for these camps!

# 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



**February 11 – Souper Bowl of Caring – Pierce County Food Pantry- We collected 541 dollars and 70 pounds at Eidsvold and 60 pounds at Svea of food! Thank you to everyone that gave during this drive.**

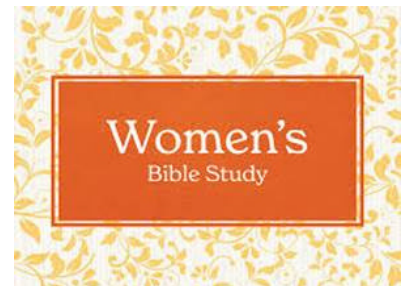


## **Thrivent Choice Dollars in 2023**

**Bethlehem had \$356 and Eidsvold had \$904 in grant funding. If you are a Thrivent Choice Holder you have until March 31st to claim the grant funding to your choice. Forms and contact information are available at Eidsvold if help is needed.**

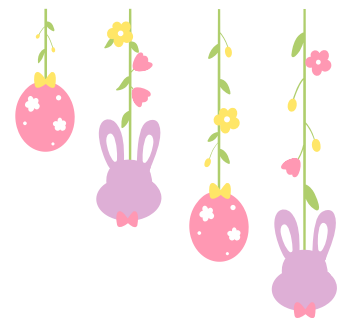
**Women of the Parish – Eidsvold and Svea – come and gather for Bible Study t Monday, March 18th at 1:30 at Eidsvold. Last month we discussed how God is speaking to us through weather. This month we'll look at Biblical stories of creatures and how God speaks to us about ourselves and all creation.**

**Come – let's learn and share together!**



## **Youth Fundraiser**

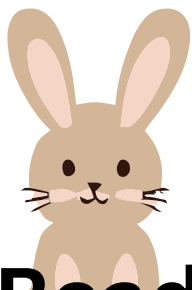
**WE ENDED UP DOING TWO SUNDAYS FOR OUR COOKIE SALES: WE MADE 397 DOLLARS. THIS WILL GO TOWARD YOUTH EVENTS. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK TANA LANGER FOR THE DONATIONS OF COOKIES.**



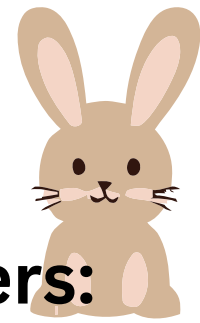
## **Parish Choir**

**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: March



## Readers:

### Eidsvold

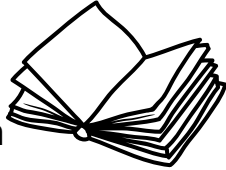
March 3 Rita Anderson

March 10 Kari Aakre

March 17 Karen Brostrom

March 24 Tana Langer

March 31 Mandy Jepson



## Ushers:

### Eidsvold

March 3 Karen Brostrom & Fay Albarado

March 10- DeLoris Bloomstrand & open  
for you

March 17-Kathy and Kendra Hanson

March 24-Rita Anderson and Deloris  
Bloomstrand

March 31-open for you and a friend



## Church Cleaning:

### Eidsvold

March 3 Phyllis Beastro

March 10 Molly and Austin Langer

March 17 Kathy Sears

March 24-Loren Eidem

March 31 is available for you



Altar Committee: Kathy Hanson

Communion Bread: Tricia Lofgren

Washing Communion Cups: Tracie Esterby



## Loop Groups

### Loop Groups

A reminder that all through Lent, Loop will be posted on our Facebook Pages.

Loop videos are ten-minute Lenten devotions covering Jesus' journey to the Cross. Members are encouraged to gather outside of church, 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. 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. If you would be interested in hosting or joining a Loop, please connect with Pastor Al or the Parish Office.

