



**May 2024**



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

Greetings from the Parsonage!

Although most of you have read the Gospel of Mark, this was not Mark's original intent—he composed to be heard. In the earliest days of the church, folks would gather in houses and courtyards and listen to Mark tell the story of the Gospel. The ancient world delighted in master storytellers—if you think of Homer and his Iliad and Odyssey—and so God's Church met that world where they were, on the terms that they were most familiar. At some point, Mark dictated the Gospel so others could tell the story as well—eventually, that written text was all that remained.

On the fifth Sunday of June our parish is going to put on the Gospel of Mark. A friend of mine works with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at UW-Madison and the Mark Drama is a part of their regular ministry. He has agreed to come and direct us through the process here. The “script” is taken directly from the Bible, there are no costumes and very few props. The Drama calls for 14-16 volunteers from the congregation. This play isn't aiming for a blue ribbon, so no need to worry about acting experience or natural skill. For the rest of the parish, this will simply a rare opportunity to hear the Gospel in a different way.

Like the original Gospel, the Mark Drama is meant to be a gateway into a relationship with God. Let's be real, it is way easier to invite a friend to “come see the play I'm in,” then to invite them to church. What's reassuring is that this has always been the case—Mark found a new way to share the Gospel and one that can help us do the same today. As Ecclesiastes tells us, “there is nothing new under the sun.” What appears new to us is so often very old and, in the case of the Mark Drama, the concept is as possible. If you are interested in being a part of this play, please connect with me. There are only three rehearsals—Thursday night, Friday night, and most of Saturday, with a performance on Sunday morning. The goal is not perfection but experience.

We are exploring options for a venue but are always open to suggestion—the hope is to hold the drama somewhere in the vicinity of Hager or Bay City.

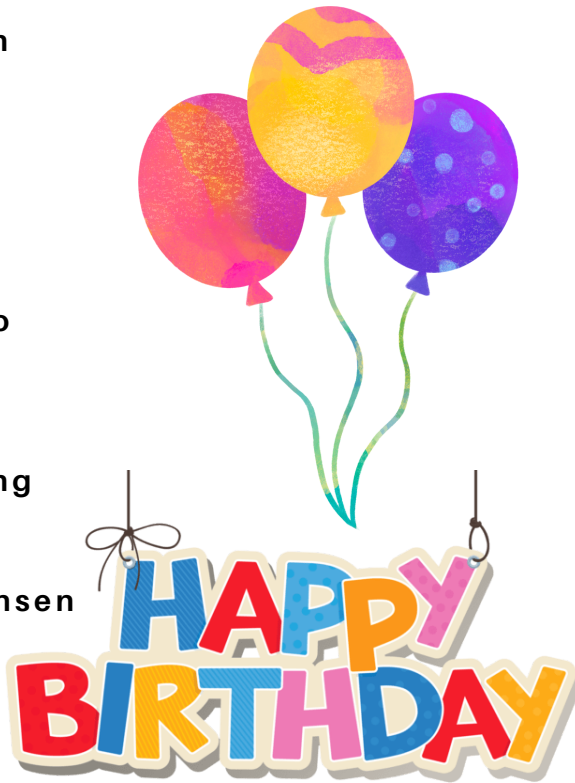
Yours in Christ,  
Al Aakre

**Pierce County  
Ecumenical  
Choir Concert**  
Thank you to all  
who provided  
desserts, your  
time, and for  
coming and  
supporting!



# May Birthday

2-Madonna Knudson  
4-Jerome Johnson  
    Jebediah Johnson  
7- Jackson Brenner  
    Karen Brostrom  
    Darrell Potts  
    Paige Scharpen  
8-Riley Plote  
9- Cassie Lofgren  
10-Kristen Albarado  
    Alex Gerdes  
13- Haley Kaeder  
14-Diane Hohmann  
16- Jessi Willenbring  
    Miles Kuesel  
17- Seth Johnson  
18-Barbara Christensen  
    Keith Mark  
22- Bev Bierbrauer  
    Averie Soden  
24-Thelma Hartman  
25- Aaliyah Huppert  
31- Macey Alms  
    Judy Anderson



5-Don Manore  
7- Max Grand  
11- Tate Albarado  
14- Denise Witgert  
16-Ray Carlson  
17- Misty Schwarhoff  
25- Al Schwarzhoff  
28- Yvonne Manore  
31- Sue Enberg  
    Dennise Rieck  
    Joanne McCoy

If a birthday was missed  
please email Tracie at  
tracie.esterby@gmail.com

## CHURCH SERVICE INFO: CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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



**MAY WORSHIP TIMES:**  
9 AM AT SVEA--- 10:30 AT EIDSVOLD  
JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPT.  
**WORSHIP TIMES:**  
9 AM AT EIDSVOLD--- 10:30 AT SVEA  
ANY JOINT SERVICES WILL BE AT 10  
AM

# 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.

## Anniversary

Svea's 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

We are looking for several volunteers to help with the altar guild at Svea. Let Pastor Al or Bonnie Hasenberg know if you can help.

### Svea Garage Sale

Address: Kelly Knutson  
N1524 715th St  
Bay City WI 54723

**GARAGE**  
**SALE**

Phone & Text: 715-594-3838

Sale dates: Thursday May 2nd, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Friday, May 3rd, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Saturday, May 4th, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

When to drop off: Tuesday, April 30th in the afternoon and Wednesday, April 1st

Everything has to be marked for price.

What goes well: Items of all descriptions, Men's stuff, baked goods, and good quality clothing will be accepted but not preferred.

Please pick up your leftovers. Saturday after 12:00 PM, Sunday after church, or Monday.

See Kelly Knutson for any questions!



Women of the Parish Bible Study – May 15, 6:30 pm

Women of the Parish Bible Study at Eidsvold. This month we're focusing on food and what the Bible says about food.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL THE WOMEN OF OUR CHURCHES.



# Community Events

## Ruby's Pantry

First Saturday of the Month  
May 4th  
10-11:30 at  
Pierce Pepin Co-op

## Euchre:

First Friday of Each Month  
May 3rd  
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*

May 15th at 6:30 pm  
At Eidsvold

## Worship

May 8  
1:30 Worship at Senior Preferred Living and  
2:30 at Ellsworth Health Services

## In our prayers:

Sandra Helseth, Ricky Knudsen, Terrence Emery, 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, 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:

Sunday, May 5th Large Group-Last Class

Thank you to all of our teachers for a wonderful year! Thank you to all the kids who came and for the support of the parents!

If you are interested in helping with VBS this year please reach out to Pastor Al, Tracie, Anne, or Megan. We are still looking for crew members. Eidsvold is responsible for the lunch on Wednesday.



## Ellsworth Community VBS 2024



For kids going into Kindergarten thru Fifth Grade

**June 10-13, 2024**

12:00-3:30 PM

at English Lutheran Church

co-hosted with: Our Savior's Lutheran Church and  
Eidsvold-Svea Lutheran Churches

There will be a bus available to bring kids from Summer  
School to English Lutheran Church

**Registration opens on May 1st at**  
[www.vbspro.events/p/ellsworthvbs2024](http://www.vbspro.events/p/ellsworthvbs2024)



## Conformation News:

Thomas Helseth, Spencer Peterson,  
Carsyn Richardson, Jack O'Reilly from  
Eidsvold, and Madelyn Maxwell from  
Svea

Formal classes for 9th-grade students on  
May 1st. The Banquet Meal will be on  
May 8th. Confirmation Day will be May  
12th during Service.



# 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

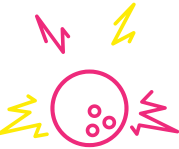


	1st - 4th Grades	4th - 6th Grades	7th - 9th Grades	Specialty Camps	Family Camps
June 9-14	3rd & 4th Half Week (12th - 14th)	4th - 6th Grade	Jr. High & Confirmation		Grandparent/ Grandchild Camp (9th - 11th)
June 16-21		4th - 6th Grade	Jr. High & Confirmation	4th - 6th Grade Fish Camp	
June 23 - 28	1st & 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!

# EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS



On Sunday, April 14th our youth went bowling at St Croix Lane. It was a very busy place with lots of different groups. I was impressed with how beautiful the weather was outside and the bowling alley was hoping busy. Our church had three different lanes going. We had lots of laughs, conversations, and encouragement .



## Fed My Starving Children

Saturday, May 4th 5-6:30 pm at Eagan Location

We have a school bus for our ride. Meeting at the Ellsworth School parking lot at 3:30 pm and leaving at 3:40 sharp. We will have snacks on the bus and will stop on the way home for a quick supper.

40 spots are available to go. See form at the back of Eidsvold to sign up!



Suggestion Tote:  
In the back of the church  
if you have a suggestion  
please fill out a card!

thank you

If you want to be a member  
of either church fill out a  
form and we will welcome  
you with open hearts

Thank you to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the additional One Voice Hymn Books, We also will be hanging up the Hymn Board from Bethlehem. When we redid the painting at Eidsvold our Hymn board was damaged. We also will be getting the painting that Bethlehem had at their altar. We are so ever thankful for all that Bethlehem was and we welcome these gifts.



Our New Printer.



Parish Choir at Eidsvold on Easter 2024  
Thank you for all who ordered flowers and  
decorated our church for Easter!

# WONDERFUL WORTH OF A WOMAN

## The Joys, Challenges, & Influences



### **2024 WELCA Retreat**

**Wed. June 5 & Thur. June 6**

**Presenter: Pastor Lori Peper**

**Music:** Northern Lakes Worship Team

**Hosted by:** Chippewa Valley Conf. Jacki Johnson – coordinator 715-864-1489

**Held at:** Luther Park Bible Camp  
944 24 ¼ Stret Chetek, WI

**Full 2 day - Retreat** - Early Bird Registration **\$90 postmarked by 5/15/24**. \$100 postmarked after 5/15/24  
*This includes 4 meals, overnight lodging in a handicapped accessible cabin, cabins sleep 6 women, Speaker, camp activities, and costs to host the retreat.*

**Needed items for overnight stay:** Bible and pen along with personal items, towels, pillows, bedding or sleeping bag, flashlight, swimsuit (if you want to swim), snacks, camera, and spending money.

**One day only**, Early Bird Registration **\$60 postmarked by 5/15/24**. \$70.00 postmarked after 5/15/24  
*This includes 2 meals, Speaker, camp activities, and costs to host the retreat.*

**Needed items for one day retreat:** Bible and pen along with swimsuit (if you want to swim), towel, camera, and spending money.

\*NO ONSITE Registration\* and \*No early check-ins for Cabins\*

**Registration: Wednesday - 9:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. in the Ministry Center**

**Thursday - 7:30 A.M. – 7:45 A.M. in the Ministry Center**

*Retreat begins at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday and concludes at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday*

**A free will offering will be taken each day with proceeds going to WELCA and Feed My People**

-----**PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NEEDED**-----

Make Checks Payable to WELCA (not your church or Luther Park)

**Send to:** Barb Krug, 883 Brucker Street Medford, WI 54451 **Questions:** call or text 715-965-5696

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Is this your 1st retreat?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Church and City** \_\_\_\_\_

**If attending only one day – which day?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have any special dietary requirements?** \_\_\_\_\_



# Times and Talents:

## May



### Readers:

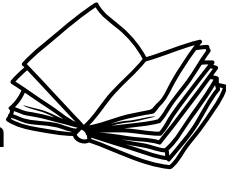
**Eidsvold**

May 5 Phyllis Beastrom

May 12 Fay Albarado

May 19 Brenda Singer

May 26-none Joint worship  
at Svea



### Ushers:

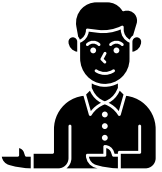
**Eidsvold**

May 5 Brenda and Tim Singer

May 12 Karen Brostrom & Kathy  
Sears

May 19 Alvin and Lorna Eidem

May 26-None



Altar Committee: Phyllis Beastrom

Communion Bread: Phyllis Beastrom



### Church Cleaning:

**Eidsvold**

May 5 Open for you

May 12 Kathy Sears

May 19 Lorna and Alvin Eidem

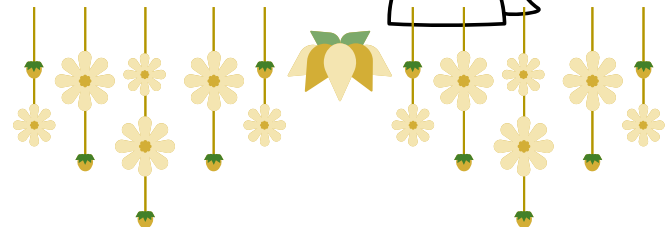
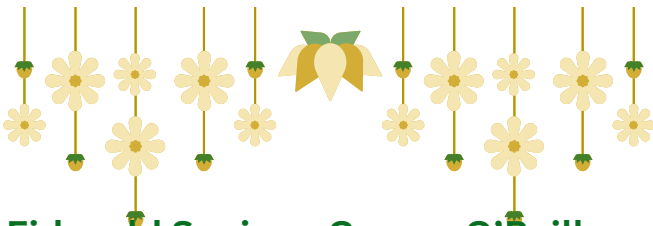
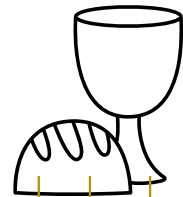
May 26-none



Washing Communion Cups: May 5 Mary  
Williams

May 12th Carol and Angie Peterson

May 19



**Eidsvold Seniors: Carson O'Reilly and Trichelle Smaller Bethlehem Seniors: Macey  
Alms and Colin Johnson CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS!**



**Carson**



**Macey**

**Carson will be following his dreams of farming. Macey will enter the workforce. Colin graduated in January and is currently full-time nights right now at the refinery.**

## Eidsvold Council Meeting-April 17, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

In attendance: Tracie E., Anne G., Jason H., Kendra H., Laura P., Mandy J., Judy L., Tana L., Pastor Al

Mandy started with an opening prayer.

Tracie read the last council meeting minutes, and Kendra motioned to accept, all in favor of accepting.

### Discussed Service Music:

- We are looking for a secondary musician for church services. Melody would like to take some Cme off this summer, length to be determined. She will still play for the Sunday School and will play in church on the 3rd Sunday and whenever there is a 5th Sunday.
- Pastor Al found a student from Red Wing Jonah who has agreed to take on playing if we approve. Tana and Judy will meet him for an interview (\$100 per Sunday per church).
- Discussed the expectations, (who will pick music, will he just come play songs picked by us) Tana and Judy have agreed to help with assisting with song selection if needed.
- Also discussed having our subs fill in if needed until a decision is made, TBD.
- This will be an ongoing item until he is interviewed and we find out more about him.
- Looking to have people make comments on cards and leave at church in regards to the music selections we are singing just to get an idea of what people are liking or not liking.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- New color copier/printer has arrived and seems to be going well so far, just a few tweaks with the WIFI hookup may be needed but otherwise so far so good.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Bowling on Sunday, April 14 with the youth and parents went very well, fun was had by all.
- Feed My Starving Children for May 4th needs more volunteers to sign up or else Tracie will have to cancel. There is a bus scheduled but we need more volunteers to make this cost effective for bus rental.
- Vacation Bible School will be at English Lutheran Church this year on June 10-13th. The kids can take a bus after summer school to the church in town, lunch will be served.
- English Lutheran also discussed welcoming our kids to participate in lock-ins with area churches to connect area youth groups. More discussion will be had about this.
- Discussed using VANCO for direct contributions from members for offering to the church. Mandy will contact a rep. to set up a demonstration Zoom meeting for the council to preview first. Svea has already seen the demonstration and is interested in it. More to come.
- Anne G. has got the new website up and running and has been maintaining it. Looks great!

### BETHLEHEM UPDATE

- They have (30) One Voice blue hymn books that Eidsvold will take for future use when needed.
- They also have 2 Hymn boards they would like to donate to Eidsvold if we would like them. We will take a look at them and decide.
- They also have a 28" 45" picture that was hanging on their altar to be donated to Eidsvold to hang at a location in our entryway.
- They also donated candle oil, service trays, and disposable plastic communion glasses to Eidsvold as well.

### FINANCIALS General \$ 88,735.19

Memorial 24,485.26

Youth 2,782.53

Building 23,860.63

Parsonage 28,819.75

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\$168,683.36

Items that will be discussed at the Joint Council Meeting on Thursday, April, 18th were brought up.

- Music
- Financials
- VANCO
- Church service times for upcoming months

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned.

Meeting minutes by Kendra Hanson, Council Secretary

**Joint Council Meeting-April 18, 2024**  
at Eidsvold-(this will be in place of May meeting)

**In Attendance:** Tracie, Mary, Pastor Al, Tana, Wade, Judy, Jason, Kelly, Jerry, Mandy, and Ann

Pastor Al did the opening prayer

**Reviewed Last Council Minutes:** No changes made

**Old Business:** We will change our rotations by a month regarding our service times. We will combine June, July, August, and Sept, then change service times in Oct-Jan.

**Financial Reports:** No problems noted both churches report that they are able to pay bills.

**Discussed Membership:** Eidsvold reviewed memberships with the spreadsheet

**Changes Needed:** Music at both churches. Melody has requested some time off. Pastor Al reached out to several places and found one person willing to take on music at both churches. It was decided that Judy, Melody, Tana, Wade, Tracie, and Pastor Al to set up a time to meet with Jonah within the week. This meeting will happen at Svea. Mandy will draw up a work agreement for him if we decide to hire.

**Online/Direct Offerings:** Svea shared that they liked the meeting with VANCO and encouraged Eidsvold to check it out. Eidsvold decided to set up a meeting to see if this would be a route that they wanted to take.

**Social Media:** The website was shown-thanks Anne for her work on this

### **Open Discussion:**

Pastor Al would like to get a group together to help support the Bay City Days on July 20th from 10:30-3:30  
Pastor Al also would like to do the Gospel of Mark on the last Sunday of June. He will be looking for people to help with this.

The meeting ended with a prayer led by Pastor Al.