

JANUARY 2024

HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS

Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches



“
New year, new me!” I have said those silly words before—just as the clock strikes 12 and I welcome to a new year. They are typically paired with some plan for a better or healthier life—a New Year’s resolution. I call the words silly not because change is something to be discouraged but because we create arbitrary start times for that change to occur. “Well, 2024 will be different—no more lies.” “I’ll start going back to church in January.” “Maybe I’ll sign up to serve Communion in 2024.” “I’ll be a whole new person then!” All good ambitions but ones unnecessarily pushed into the future. As Christians, we need not wait for the start of January—God grants us a new beginning, a new life, through the waters of baptism.

And to this, you may think, “Well that’s swell but its been quite some time since my baptism.” To which I say, “Remember your Catechism!” In his Explanation of Baptism, Martin Luther reminds us that our baptism is ongoing. We may have begun the act as a baby but it will only be completed by Jesus Christ at our grave. In this endless washing, God offers the Church a chance to be reborn each day—each moment if you truly wish. Luther writes that in the waters of Baptism, “the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” Now those are dramatic words, but God’s action in the Sacrament of Baptism is just as extreme and dramatic—we die and are born again. In living, there is no arbitrary start time for us to wait for, we simply live. In our desire to repent, to see our neighbors as ourselves, to worship God, there is no time for us to wait for, we simply can at any moment. Luther’s reminder has power on the bad days; the days we lie and cheat or feel distant from God or our neighbor. We need not wait for a sign or day because we have already been invited by God into a blessed union with Him.

As you think about a New Year’s resolution for 2024, remember that although the first of a month may be a good time to start a gym membership or subscription to a cheese of the month club—there is no need to wait for matters of faith and service.

Pastor Al

January Birthday

2- Kaylene Nielsen
4- John Beastrom
5- Larry Gerdes
6- Austin Langer
 Jacob Willenbring
8- Carol Peterson
12- Andrea Esterby
 Heather Brown
13- Carley Albarado
14- Kimberly O'Reilly
16- Savanna Hoyer
 Leah Johnson
18- Nancy Fick
20- Kristen Mandelkow
21- Molly Langer
 Olivia Kuesel
22- Madelyn Nielsen
24- Preston Sears
26- Avery Alms
 Ann Whipple
27- Taylor Bierbrauer
30- Stephanie Potts
 Diane Hines
31- Bev Peterson

11th - Jerry Hasenberg
12th- Ardell Flynn
28th- Cara Churchill
29th-Ruth Carlson
30th Herb Enberg



HAPPY
Birthday

CHURCH SERVICE INFO: CONTACT INFORMATION

EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH:
W6111 COUNTY RD EE
BAY CITY WI 54723

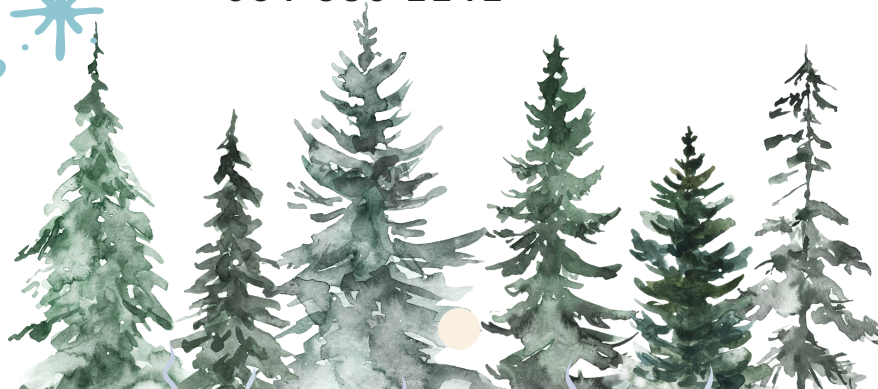
PASTOR AL AAKRE 608-799-9703
AAAKRE002@LUTHERSEM.EDU
CHURCH: BELUTHER@BEVCOMM.NET
OFFICE 715-594-3182 LEAVE A
MESSAGE

**JANUARY SERVICES AT 10:30 AM
WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

NEWSLETTER INFO;
TRACIE.ESTERBY@GMAIL.COM
651-380-2212

SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
N2610 770TH ST
HAGER CITY WI 54014

**JANUARY SERVICES AT 9:00 AM
WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL ON THE FIRST
SUNDAY FROM PARENTS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
FELLOWSHIP**



Joint Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Pastor Al, Jason, Anne, Tracie, Kelly, Denny, Wade, Mary, Mandy, and Gerry.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Al

Review Last Council Minutes: Read by Jason and no changes or corrections.

Old Business: Success Stories: Confirmation, joint services, and the addition of new members. **Breakdowns:** Need to improve our connections with new members.

Financial Reports and Review: Need to sign and approve the Parish agreement that expires on 12/31/2023. All parts were reviewed. Made changes to correct the times of services. At first, we were doing 8:45 am and 10:30 and times adjusted to 9 am and 10:30. Will continue to monitor times to make sure there is enough time for travel. Reviewed membership as of November Eidsvold at 108, and Svea at 78. Tracie to print this off-Wade and Jason to sign. Members mean confirmed, commune at least once a year, giving at least once a year. Adjustments made that will make Eidsvold 58% and Svea 42% financially responsible. This will be reviewed yearly. The joint council will meet on Feb 15th at Svea.

We will change our service times starting in January. Eidsvold will be at 10:30 am and Svea will be at 9 am.

Pastor Notes: He wants to start a visitor bag. Asking for two people to be on this. Mandy will get things started with this and recruit. Talked about the Website, and Facebook page. Anne is currently working on this.

Open Discussion: Informed Svea that AED Machine was just serviced at Eidsvold and the cost was about 70 dollars and will not need service again for 5 years. Ellsworth Ambulance Service asked for Svea to consider getting one. Talked about the fire inspection at both churches. We will continue the Sundays and Seasons subscriptions.

Closing Prayer and Thank you to Everyone. Meeting ended at 8pm

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.



Community Events

Ruby's Pantry

First Saturday of the Month
January 6th
10-11:30 at
Pierce Pepin Co-op

Euchre:

First Friday of Each Month
January 5th
7 pm at Eidsvold

Bring a treat to share
Coffee will be provided.

Parish Social Media

Facebook

Church Website

<https://www.bethlehemeidsvoldchurches.com/>

Svea Quilters

2nd & 4th
Tuesdays 9 am-noon

No experience is needed. All are welcome.

Interfaith Presentation and Lunch

in celebrations of
Martin Luther King, Jr

11 am Monday, January 15th at St Paul's
UCC

W5706 State Rd 72 Ellsworth



Sunday School News: Eidsvold

Sunday School Christmas Program was a huge success! We filled the church and had to add chairs! The greatest story of all time was delivered with a baseball twist! Peanuts were handed to everyone who attended. Cake and refreshments were served downstairs afterward. Thank you to all who worked so hard on the program.

Sunday school will be at 10:30 am starting back up on January 7th. All children are welcome to attend ages 3- 5th grade. Contact Megan Franklin for information.

Sunday School will also be going to the Ellsworth Pool on January 7th at 1 pm for their Christmas Present! Parents and siblings are welcome to attend.



NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY FOR SVEA IF INTERESTED IN ATTENDING PLEASE REACH OUT TO MARY SCHAVER OR MADY MAXWELL



Confirmation News:

No Confirmation Classes for the month of January!

What is your word for the year?

This past summer I shared with you that I have been coming up with my words for the year when Covid hit. PIVOT(everything was changing so rapidly), PURPOSE(I needed to find where I belonged), and POSITIVE. (There are too many negative things in the world need to see all the positives) I have been thinking about my word for this upcoming year and my why. I have chosen the word CONNECTION. This summer my very dear Grandma went to heaven and over these past four months, my connection to her is weaved into all parts of my day all day long. She will forever be my person but as I "talk" to her I hear her know what she was telling me over the last few years about making more connections with people. I think she knew that our bond was ever so great but needed me to branch out and make those so I wouldn't be so lost when she went to heaven. She would tell me to take date nights, and weekends with just Andy. I love being a momma-so I just always brought them with me. She would tell me to go do things with friends without Andy or the girls. So I am doing those things. Making a word for the year has made me stop, made me stronger, and made me happier. I don't say goodbye to those words at the end of the year-I just add another layer each year. So what is your word for the year 2024? Tracie

EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS

Eidsvold Welcomed twenty new members on Sunday, December 10th! Six different families became our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are so happy to have you at Eidsvold. A few other families have reached out regarding joining as well. If you are still interested let Tracie or Pastor



Mandy Jepsen VP at Eidsvold, Tessa & Isabella Blue, Collin, Elsie, Oskar, Theo, and Cedric LaFave, Katie, Derek, Ross, & Cooper Borchardt, Kari, Riley, Will, and Reggie Schroeder, Phyllis & Jack (hiding behind Will) Beaström, and Pastor Al. Missing from photo George Blue, Spence & Chris Driver.



Our annual meeting will be after worship on – January 28. Copies of the constitution are available on the entrance table for you to review before that date – especially the areas highlighted in red on the cover sheet as they pertain to how this congregation/council operates and the duties of officers, council members, and committees.



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas family Gift Box Program. All gifts and more were given to a family of four in our county.



Times and Talents: January

Readers:

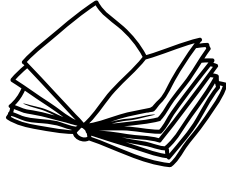
Eidsvold

Jan 7th-Mandy Jepson

Jan 14th-Michelle Plote

Jan 21st-Carol/Angie
Peterson

Jan 28th-Justin Mandelkow



Ushers:

Eidsvold

Jan 7th-DeLoris Bloomstand &Faith
Edwards

Jan 14th-Mandy, Parker, &Taylor

Jan 21st- Denice Girdeen & Fay
Albarado

Jan 28th- Kathy Hanson & Kendra
Handson



Altar Committee: Kathy Sears

Church Cleaning:

Eidsvold

Jan 7th- Open for you

Jan 14th- Mandy Jepson

Jan 21st- Denice Girdeen

Jan 28th - Kathy Sears



Communion Bread: Phyllis Beastrom

Washing Communion Cups
Jan 7th- Phyllis Beastrom



Jan 21st-Open for you

This is the definition of Altar Guild as defined in the updated constitution which will be adopted at the annual meeting in January. If you are interested in being a part of the Alter Guild let us know. Phyllis Beastrom is the contact person.

Guild volunteers serve by making sure that the place of worship is maintained and set up for the times and seasons of the church year. They serve by making sure that 1- the paraments and linens are put out, cleaned, and stored appropriately; 2 - the vessels are prepared for the Lord's Supper, and cleaned afterward. They may also supervise the decoration of the sanctuary with flowers, especially at Christmas and Easter.

**Opening for the Month of May If this month will work for you,
please talk with Phyllis.**

