

DECEMBER 2023

HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS

Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches



Warm Advent Greetings,

In my office, I have a picture of Jesus helping a young boy to swing a baseball bat. Although I do not have a photographic memory of Scripture, I have a sneaking suspicion that this scene doesn't originate in any of our Gospels. Rather, it is a well-intentioned attempt at explaining who Jesus is to a little leaguer. Likewise, my good friend Daniel had a small painting of the Ascension hanging in his dorm at Luther Seminary. It was a gift from his home congregation in Nigeria—in it, Jesus is depicted in traditional tribal garb and ascends above both His disciples and an elephant. Eidsvold has a Norwegian version of this same scene hanging above her altar. We all have images that pluck Jesus from the realm of history and plop Him into our daily lives—whether it's on an altar painting or an episode of *The Chosen*. In some ways, these images are all wrong and, in some ways, they are all right. How do you imagine Jesus? How did you first imagine Him?

Advent has arrived! It is my favorite season of the Church year, as it asks us to stop and consider what the arrival of God into our world truly means for each of us. This season of anticipation is a time of beloved traditions. Svea will be hosting Wednesday night services (Dec. 6, 13, 20) and I encourage everyone to attend. These evenings are a great way to connect as a parish and score a killer free meal. A potluck will be served at 6 pm and Holden Evening Prayer will follow at 7. December 20 will be the Scandinavian Potluck as we are expecting Santa Lucia's annual visit to Svea that day. All Confirmation Students are expected to attend. Our sermon theme for the Advent services will be "Who is Jesus?" so I would like folks to bring in their image of Christ to share with others. I'm bringing Baseball Jesus! We will hang them up in the fellowship hall and ask people to share what their image means to their story of faith. If you are interested in contributing, please bring a "Jesus picture" to church with you—on Sunday or a Wednesday.

Another beloved Advent tradition is the Nativity Play. Our Eidsvold Sunday School has toiled away to create a production for the inspiration, edification, and general entertainment of the congregation on December 10. I discovered a picture of the Eidsvold Nativity Play from the 1950s. The photo reminded me that for many of us, this program was our entrance into the great Nativity story when we first heard of God's entrance into our world and felt Jesus not as a character or something only adults talked about but as a person who lived and breathed. It is my sincere hope that that Advent story never loses its effect on us—and that we never forget who Jesus is and why He was born into our world.

Pastor Al



December Birthday

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

8- Orlando Anderson
11- Madelyn Maxwell
Dustin Anway
21- Kelly Knutson
Andrew Girdeen
27- Arnie Sarnstrom
Blair Strain



HAPPY
Birthday



CHURCH SERVICE INFO:

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

DECEMBER SERVICES AT 9 AM WITH
SUNDAY SCHOOL



SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
N2610 770TH ST
HAGER CITY WI 54014

DECEMBER SERVICES AT 10:30
WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL ON THE FIRST
SUNDAY FROM 10 AM-10:30 AM,
PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND FELLOWSHIP



CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Church Happenings

1. Svea would love donations of flowers to be used on the altar and throughout the sanctuary during this Christmas season.

2. No Book Club in December

3. No Bible study in December

4. Svea Council meets Thursday, Dec 14th at 7:00 pm

5. Svea has their Seniors' "Special Friends" potluck on Sunday, December 10th following the 10:30 worship service.

6. Svea will be hosting Wednesday night Advent Services beginning December 6th. We serve a potluck meal at 6:00 pm and at 7pm we have the "Holden Advent Christmas" music in the sanctuary. (With a brief message from Pastor Al) Everyone is invited.

7. November 19th was New Members Sunday at Svea. We welcomed 6 new people into our church family: John O'Keefe, Russ Oberg, Kathy Fick, Ricky Knudsen, and Jim and Judy Bostrom.

8. Quilting ladies will meet on the 2nd Tuesday only, for the month of December. No sewing experience is needed, just come join our fun group of ladies. We meet at 9:00 and sew until noon, stopping for a cup of coffee and a snack. Any questions call Yvonne Manore (952) 797-3402 or Bonnie Curry (715)594-3111

7. Svea mourns the passing of Berniece Leonard in November. We thank everyone who came to celebrate her life. Many of Svea's quilt tops were beautifully created by Berniece. We are going to miss all her smiles!!

8. The music for Pastor Al's Ordination ceremony on Saturday, November 11th was incredible. We are happy to Welcome Pastor Al and Kari as our Parish Pastor.

Community Events

Ruby's Pantry

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



Euchre:

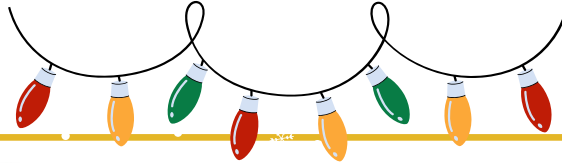
First Friday of Each Month
December 1st
7 pm at Eidsvold

Bring a treat to share
Coffee will be provided.

Parish Social Media

Facebook
Church Website

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



Svea Quilters

2nd & 4th
Tuesdays 9 am-noon

No experience is needed. All are welcome.



Advent Services

Wednesdays in December
6pm supper (potluck)
7pm Service



Sunday School News:

Sunday School is working hard on getting the Christmas Story all ready for you. This year it is Play by Play by Cathy Skoogen. The program will be held Sunday, December 10th during Eidsvold Church Service at 9 am. Come early to get your seat!

A gift exchange among the Sunday School children will happen right after the program and we are all invited for Birthday Cake and refreshments afterward.

Sunday School Times in December is the 3rd at 8:30 (stay in Sunday School throughout the church service) after church is done then head upstairs for a final run-through. December 10th arrive at church at 8:30, then in church at 9 am. No further Sunday School Classes for the rest of December.



Confirmation News:

The 7th and 8th Grade students will have completed their classes for this year on Wednesday, November 29th. They have enjoyed having pizza, different beverages, and desserts. They are highly encouraged to attend the Advent Services at Svea in December. Don't forget to be doing your sermon notes, you need to have 10 completed by May of 2024.



Do you have a family member who could use some Christmas Cheer? We just need their address. All the addresses will be shared with members of Eidsvold to send them a Christmas card.



Are you interested in being a Reader at Eidsvold? If you are let Tana Langer know and she will put you in the rotation.



EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS



Eidsvold Council Meeting Eidsvold Lutheran Church Members,

The members of Eidsvold will approve the updated constitution at their annual meeting on January 28, 2024. Several meetings have been held with leaders of the congregation updating Eidsvold Lutheran Church's constitution and the Eidsvold council approved the final draft on November 15, 2023. The constitution has been amended to conform to the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and also amended and updated the chapters referring to the annual meeting, officers, council, and committees.

The congregation is being informed of these changes 60 days in advance of the annual meeting so you have the opportunity to review them. Copies of the proposed constitution will be available on the back table at church in December and January or it can also be e-mailed to you. If you have any questions about the proposed constitution, please contact Jason Helseth at johelseth@yahoo.com or phone 612-598-2808 or Mandy Jepson at mandy.jepson14@gmail.com or phone 651-212-1679.



New Members will be on Sunday, December 10th-please see Tracie or Pastor Al if you are interested by December 3rd to get your name on the list. If you are still unsure let us know that as well and we can do this again in the springtime.

Eidsvold is sponsoring a Christmas family for the Gift Box Program. A list of items are on the back table of the church. Gifts need to be back at church by Sunday, December 10th not wrapped.



Thank you for all the prayers, well wishes, and cards after my aneurysm.
Gerry Hoffman



To the Congregation at Bethlehem Lutheran:

We would like to express our thanks for the hymnals you donated to us at Redeemer Lutheran in Burkhardt. We began using them immediately on October 1st and are adjusting to the new hymns!

We so appreciate this generous gift. We will take good care of them and sing joyfully our praises to our wonderful Lord.

Blessings,

Pastor Lucas and the congregation at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Burkhardt, WI (rural Hudson WI)

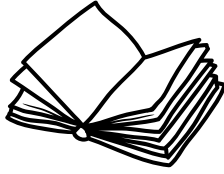
Times and Talents: December



Readers:

Eidsvold

Dec 3- Fay Albarado
Dec 10-Brenda Singer
Dec 17-Rita Anderson
Dec 24-Karen Brostrom



Ushers:

Eidsvold

Dec 3-Alvin and Lorna Eidem
Dec 10-DeLoris Bloomstrand and
Jan Kearns
Dec 17- open for you
Dec 24- open for you



Church Cleaning:

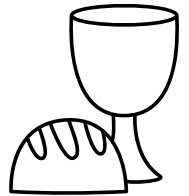
Eidsvold

Dec 3-Phyllis Beastrom
Dec 10-open for you
Dec 17-open for you
Dec 24- open for you



Altar Committee:
Phyllis Beastrom

Communion Bread:
Tricia Lofgren



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 Altar Guild let us know.

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.

MERRY
MERRY
MERRY
Christmas

