

# B - E Friends

Warm Greetings from my family to yours!

My name is Al Aakre and I will be filling in at Eidsvold and Svea for the month of July. I graduated from Luther Seminary in St. Paul and am currently awaiting my first call in the ELCA. My wife, Kari, and I moved into the Svea parsonage last October—it was our fourth move in under a year-and-a-half. I am what the Church calls a “pipeliner,” meaning that I started at the Seminary immediately after graduating from college—we used to be the standard model but are actually becoming something of a novelty. Currently, the vast majority of seminarians are in their second or third careers—it is truly never too late to follow God’s Call to service.

Aakre is a Norwegian farm name, it means “plowed field.” It is easy to pronounce—I do it correctly most days. Start to say “awkward” and end with a “ree,” awk-ree, Aakre. I have heard my name said more ways than you can imagine—no mispronunciation will phase me. I am a hereditary Lutheran, meaning that I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church although I have a deep passion for our unique theology and tradition. In my free time, I enjoy woodworking. I started making furniture in high school, but many moves have whittled the passion down to simple hand carving. My wife and I tend to be out and about—walking, birding, or on our perpetual hunt for “just one more” bookcase. Pastors and English teachers tend to possess more books than should be legal. Our house sort of looks like we robbed a library... or two. I have met many of you in passing but would love to get to know you better, please do not hesitate to reach out.

I invite you all to engage with this new parish; attend events at “the other” church, introduce yourself to new people, be open about your hopes for the future, and take notes afterwards. Nothing about our schedule, ministries, worship, groups, etc. is carved in stone. Attend, meet, greet, and later ask yourself, what worked well and what didn’t work, then share those impressions with your congregation’s leadership. This is Jesus’ Church, parish, and congregation but *YOU are the one caring for and steering it. There is no perfect way to be the Church or to worship—it is a dance that we learn as we go. I invite you all to jump in and learn a new move or two.*

Blessings,

A.M. Aakre  
[aaakre002@luthersem.edu](mailto:aaakre002@luthersem.edu)

(608) 799-9703



## BIRTHDAYS

May you have a special day and a blessed year!

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – Mary Whipple     | 20 – Jim Anderson     |
| 2 - Rita Anderson    | 21 – Casey O'Reilly   |
| 13 – Greg Anderson   | 22 – Odin Gilbertson  |
| 15 - Cheyenne Yotter | 25 – Soren Gilbertson |
| 16 - Cayden O'Reilly | 29 – Ronny Johnson    |
| 17 – Loni Johnson    | 31 – Mike Whipple     |
| 18 – Riley Lacroix   | 31 - Levi Franklin    |
| 18 – Chloe Kaeder    | 31 - Blake Girdeen    |

If your birthday doesn't appear on our monthly birthday calendars, please let Phyllis know so she can add it.

## LOOKING AHEAD ....

August 27th 10 am–Joint Worship in the Esdaile Park with

Potluck to follow

Bring a dish to pass!



## Women of the Parish Bible Study

**No Bible Study for the Women of Eidsvold or Bethlehem for the month of July.**

**BUT YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY Svea has invited you to join them on Tuesday evenings at 7pm!**

## CARING FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Giving of our time and talents is one way of serving our faith community. Thank you to the following individuals who will serve this faith community during July.

### Bethlehem

Altar Guild: Jan Kearns

Church cleaning: John and Phyllis Beastrin

### Eidsvold

**Church Cleaning:** (Note: you clean for the worship held on the date by which you signed

July 2 - Bethlehem

July 9- Open for you

July 16– DeLoris Bloomstrand

July 23- none worship at Esdaile Park

July 30 - Open for You

### **Ushers 2 each week**

**distribute bulletins, count & write attendance on calendar, receive offering**

July 2- Bethlehem

July 9 - Kathy Sears & Tim&Brenda Singer

July 16 - DeLoris Bloomstrand &—

July 23 - (park) Tracie Esterby and Girls

July 30 - Open for you

### **Altar Committee— Karen Brostrom**

Set up communion for altar distribution as well as prepared chalices on platter, and clean up.

Altar Paraments: green until October 30th

### JULY READERS:

#### Bethlehem

July 2nd John Beastrin

#### Eidsvold

July 2 – Bethlehem

July 9 - Brenda Singer

July 16- Rita Anderson

July 23 - Karen Brostrom

July 30 - Tana Langer

Hello Members of Eidsvold, Bethlehem, and Svea:

As I am writing this letter I just reviewed the note that Pastor Mike wrote one year ago for the newsletter. It was about our meetings together with English and Our Savior's on what to do to keep our churches out of the red in money and how to be alive in our churches. A whole year has gone by since our very first meeting. Just last week both Eidsvold and Svea voted to become a joint parish. And just a little while ago Bethlehem made the very hard choice to close their doors within the next year. Pastor Mike wrote about the negative and the positive of all of these situations. While change is very hard for all of us to some degree it is our turn to find ways to Shine in the Light that was given to us. My hope is that we find new ways to be THE CHURCH, to grow our numbers and our hearts, and to help those that are struggling with all of these changes.

In the month of June we sent our youth from Eidsvold to Luther Point Bible camp—if you are on Facebook you might have seen some of the pictures that were taken. I have talked to several of the kids and they are still all smiles when talking about their day, and the parents that drove have said it was a great day! In June we have also had two new Pastors come—while I was not here for the first Sunday, the second Sunday with Pastor Jae—wonderful to hear a young pastor—full of energy and just young enough for us to laugh at his growing pains of entering adulthood. We have all been there. We have outside services coming up that are always so peaceful and fun.

As all of these new changes are coming about I want you to use your voice and let us know what you want to stay the same, ways you think we could do things better. Are there prayers that you would like us to use, or music (new or old) that you would like to hear? Are you liking the prayers of intercessions being read by multiple people—and are you willing to be one of those people? Are there events that you want to promote in our community more? You can let a council member know, write a note and leave it on the church desk, or talk with me. Enjoy the summer months and our next newsletter will be with me and Mary from Svea.

With Love, Tracie

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Church e-mail:** beluther@bevcomm.net  
**Office:** 715-594-3182 leave a message  
**Newsletter & bulletin items by Tuesday to**  
beastrom@redwing.net 715-821-5847  
Or tracie.esterby@gmail.com 651-380-2212  
July Pastoral needs will be Pastor Al from Svea.

Pastor Al has asked for names of people who are wanting pastoral care, visits, or phone calls. Let myself or Pastor Al know. Pastor Al can be reached at 608-799-9703.

#### OFFERINGS MAY BE MAILED TO:

Eidsvold:	Bethlehem
Eidsvold Lutheran Church	Janice Kearns
W6111 County Rd EE	PO Box 724
Bay City WI 54723	Ellsworth WI 54011



Ruby's Pantry is open to **ANY-ONE** who needs

help extending their monthly grocery budget. For \$25 CASH donation per share, you will receive an abundance of food. **Next distribution is Saturday July 1st from 10:00—11:30** at Pierce Pepin Co-op

**Check out our parish website & Facebook**

Worship times will also be posted on these.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/Bethlehem.Eidsvold>



## Joint parish worship

For July and August

If the weather is inclement when worship is scheduled for the park, worship will be held at Eidsvold

Worship schedule can also be found on our website and Facebook:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/Bethlehem.Eidsvold>

July 2 - 8:45 a.m. **Bethlehem**

July 9 - 8:45 a.m. **Eidsvold**

July 16- 8:45a.m. **Eidsvold**

July 23 - 10 .m. Esdaile Park with ice cream after

July 30 - 8:45 a.m. **Eidsvold**

Aug 6 - 10:30 a.m. **Bethlehem**

Aug 13 - 10 a.m. **Eidsvold**

Aug 27 - 10a.m. **Esdaile Park** with potluck after

## Eidsvold Call Committee Members:

Justin Mandelkow, Kendra Hanson, Michelle Plote, and alternative is Tana Langer. We thank all of you for your willingness to be on the committee. We will hold you in our thoughts as you help make the decision with calling our full time pastor with Svea church



## Luther Point Bible Camp Kids 2023

