



June 2026



# HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS

## Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches

Greetings from the Parsonage,

The word "vocation" describes not just those who wear a collar or a habit but all Christians who answer God's call to work. As people of faith, ours is a "Called Life." We are called to serve our neighbor and our God in a way unique to our own gifts and situation. Some of us are called to teach, some to preach, some to parent, some to farm, some to balance various accounts—but all of us are called by God to respond to the world around us. By engaging in God's place for us in this world, we engage with the meaning that God has provided in our lives.

Now there is a difference between a vocation and a hobby—something we are meant to do and something we are called to do. I was confirmed with a guy who was convinced that God called him to drive in demolition derbies. Those are a lot of fun to watch but I doubt God calls anyone to do that. Vocation is not simply about what you want but what God wants for you. Home is where the heart is—vocation is where God's heart is.

The longer we stop and look at our lives, the deeper we find God's Call for us. Those who are called to teach, bank, or farm may also be called to be parents, children, or siblings. These same people are called to be faithful stewards of the earth, their community, and of their neighbors. Vocation is not a single track; it is a river that splits and splits again, but whose waters flow from a single source—God.

So how do we discern our place of service? We look where our abilities meet the needs of the world. God is a Creator. His acts of Creation are automatic, but not automatically complete. Sometimes, God moves us from one level to the next. Sometimes, God tasks us with bringing people to the next place in their journey and then asks another disciple to take it from there.

We can look at the world and think that we cannot do it by ourselves, this is true, we can't. Your vocation is not to save the world. But, as members of a congregation, we are not alone—our siblings in Christ are called to stand ready to help us. As the summer arrives, I invite you to take some time and reflect on the vocation God has given you, and the vocation God has given our community. What problems can we address? Where can we serve?

Blessings,

Pastor Al

Al Aakre

Eidsvold-Svea Lutheran Parish

(608) - 799 - 9703

### CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR AL AAKRE 608-799-9703

AAAKRE002@LUTHERSEM.EDU

CHURCH: BELUTHER@BEVCOMM.NET

OFFICE 715-594-3182

LEAVE A MESSAGE

### CHURCH SERVICE INFO

#### EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH

W6111 COUNTY RD EE

BAY CITY WI 54723

JUNE SERVICES

9:00 AM

#### SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH

N2610 770TH ST

HAGER CITY WI 54014

JUNE SERVICES

10:30 AM

### Parish Social Media

Facebook

Church Website

<https://www.eidsvoldsvea.com>

We are excited to announce **electronic** giving through **Vanco!**  
Your generosity will help us impact our community with the good news of the gospel.

Try the QR codes printed below.

Eidsvold



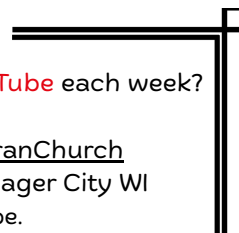
Did you know Svea's worship service is on **YouTube** each week?

Check it out at

<https://www.youtube.com/@SveaLutheranChurch>

or simply google Svea Lutheran Church, Hager City WI

Once you're there, click on YouTube.



# June Birthdays

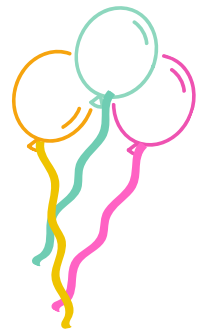
## Eidsvold

- 4 - Ava Scharpen
- 14 - Phyllis Beastrom
- 14 - Sydney Benck
- 16 - Nathan Beastrom
- 16 - Tayler Whipple
- 21 - June Gilbertson
- 21 - Jon Anderson
- 25 - DeLoris Bloomstrand
- 26 - Kaitlin Girdeen
- 29 - Philip Halverson
- 29 - Jesse Hohmann
- 30 - Albert Marklevits



## Svea

- 7- Olivia Anway
- 13- Russ Oberg
- 26-Kaila Anway
- 28-Addison Peters
- 29- Michelle Girdeen



Please let me know if I missed a birthday or need to make any corrections.

### PRAYER LIST

#### Prayers for Healing

Richard Scharpen, Lee Langer, Shelly Bloomstrand, Nate Rieck, Margaret Group, Karl Group, Jim Bostrom, Barry Barringer, Darrell Schuster, Lillah Larson, Gail Gusa, Virgil Hinrichs, Tammy Price, John (Butch) Sebion, Sandy Place, Bob Soden, Wendell Manore, Dave Ericson, Elwyn Manore

#### Prayers for Sustained Strength and Comfort

Johnnie Albarado, Norma Hanson, Laura Anderson, Larry Gerdes, Terrence Emery, Chris Larson, Rose Ann Powers, Gerry Hoffman, Julie Patterson, Jim Swenson, those who mourn Connie Rieck and all caregivers in our parish

#### Prayers for our Ministry Partners

Bishop Martin Halom, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Debi Emery, Isaac and Isabella Thrill, Zeke and Cassie Wettstein, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

#### Prayers for those serving in the military

Carson Anway, Tyler Ballman, Nathan Solomon



Two joint services planned for this summer:

## Service in the Svea Grove

June 21, 2026

10:00 am

(Also Father's Day)

We are trying a new location!



Bring your lawn chair and invite a guest!



## Service at Saratoga Park

(Bay City Park)

August 23, 2026

10:00 am



# Community Events



**EUCHRE**

No euchre for the summer, we will resume in the fall.

## Svea Quilters

2nd and 4th Tuesday

June 9

June 23

9 am-noon

No experience is needed.

All are welcome!



Come to St. Paul's United Church of Christ for **FREE cajon drum lessons**.

Final lesson: Saturday, June 6 from 11 am to 12:30 pm with lunch provided.



Adults & Students welcome  
St. Paul's UCC church is the brick church east of Ellsworth at the junction of Highway 72& 63.  
Address: W5706 State Road 72, Ellsworth

## Word in Season

Devotionals

April - May - June

Are Available on the small table at the back of the church.

## BETHEL'S BASEMENT BLESSINGS

New Community Outreach  
**FREE Monthly Shopping**  
at Bethel Covenant Church  
W8405 Cty Rd KK, Ellsworth WI  
715-792-2397

Shopping will be held each month on the  
**3rd Tuesday and Wednesday**  
11 AM - 6 PM

# Retreat for Women!!

**NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN**

**WELCA WOMEN'S RETREAT**

God Is Writing Your Story

Speaker: Pati Kachel

<https://www.theparablefund.org/bio>

Monday and Tuesday, June 29 & 30

One day option available for Monday, June 29

**\$95.00 (2 days) Early bird special available until 6/5/26**

**\$65.00 (Monday) Early bird special until 6/5/26**



Luther Park Bible Camp  
944 24 ¼ Street Chetek, WI

Contact Barb Krug for more information  
715-965-5696 or barbkrug@charter.net

## Luther Point Bible Camp

Grantsburg, WI 54840

[www.lutherpoint.org](http://www.lutherpoint.org)

Have you ever been to camp?



Luther Point is place where young people encounter God, build lasting friendships, and discover their faith in ways that shape their entire lives.

**Students 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to attend.**

Horse Camp, Fish Camp, and Outpost Camp are just a few choices.

See the bulletin board for the appropriate time and age group for your child!

Contact Pastor Al with questions.

Concerned about the cost? Funding from the church is available!



Behind the scenes:

Do you know who changes the altar cloths  
and fills all those communion cups?

Answer:

Brostrom, Fay Albarado, Mary Williams  
Tracie Esterby, Phyllis Beasom, Bev Peterson, Karen  
Altar Guild: Kathy Sears, Lorna Eldem, Kathy Hanson,

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JUNE 15 – 18**

Sponsored by English, Our Savior's, Eidsvold & Svea Lutheran Churches

This summer's theme will be WEAR LOVE!! We will explore how God's Love is woven throughout our world and our lives.

- ✦ Bible Studies, games, and arts and crafts projects
- ✦ Lunch and Snacks are included!!
- ✦ Sign up for the bus to bring your child from Summer School to the church!

Open for students going into K-5. Older kids can volunteer to help!!

**From noon - 3:30 PM (after summer school)**

Register Today



229 W Main St  
 Ellsworth, WI 54011

www.englishlutheranchurch.org



## Luther Point Counselors are coming to lead VBS!!

First, we need a representative from Eidsvold to be a lead. The lead person needs to be there daily to...

- help get kids settled
- help serve lunch and clean up
- assist with the welcome upstairs
- help make sure everyone gets in their groups
- help watch the times
- assist if something is needed.
- at times, if someone doesn't show up for a position, fill in as needed.

Tracie is willing to talk with whoever can volunteer to do this.

**Eidsvold is scheduled to provide and serve lunch on Wednesday, June 17.**

(Chicken nuggets and Mac'n Cheese are on the menu.) Thank you Rita for Mac'n Cheese

**We need some members to commit to about an hour to do this.**



### From Pastor Pete:

The housing is taken care of for the counselors.

We are looking for people to **host the LP Staff for supper**. None of the nights have been reserved yet, so Sunday thru Thursday is open. It can be in someone's home, they can be taken out to eat, or just given gift cards for the staff to go out on their own.

There are 4 kindergarteners registered so far and camp would like us to provide programming for kids younger than first grade. My wife, Kim, said that she would take the lead on that, but she could use some help. Please let me know if you have anyone that would like to help with the little kids. We have about 30 kids registered so far and a couple are from Eidsvold.

# SVEA CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Contact Bonnie Hasenberg if you have information you want included in the newsletter **612-720-7411**.



A BIG thank you to **Mary Shaver** for serving as treasurer and on the church council for several years. You always helped and served with a smile and positive attitude.



**THANK YOU!!**

**Russ Oberg** has offered his services to being treasurer and filling the vacant spot on council.

Thank you for stepping up and helping out!



Lawn mowing season is starting and anyone interested in helping out financially with the cemetery mowing is asked to donate to the Svea cemetery fund.

Any amount is appreciated.



Svea quilters are looking for clean double, queen, and king size flat sheets, preferably 100 percent cotton.

More help is needed also, so anyone is welcome to join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

No experience with sewing is required as just **cutting material is needed**



## Svea Cookbooks for sale!

THEY MAKE GREAT GRADUATION, WEDDING SHOWER OR WEDDING GIFTS. \$20.00 EACH FOR 2 FOR \$30.00.

Our sympathy to the family of **Connie Rieck**



If anyone could help with the altar guild, please let **Bonnie Hasenberg** know.

612-720-7411

### Our Communication List:

If there are any **phone number changes** or if you want to change who you call, please let us know as a new list will be made soon.



# EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS



## Thank you for your Time and Talents

### Readers

June 7 **Rita Anderson**

June 14 **Kari Aakre**

June 21 **Karen Brostrom**

Joint Service in the Grove at Svea

June 28 **Tana Langer**

### June

#### Altar Committee

**Bev Peterson**

#### Bake Communion Bread

**Phyllis Beastrom**

June 7

#### Wash Communion Glasses

June 7 \_\_\_\_\_

### Ushers

June 7 **Rita Anderson and Bev Peterson**

June 14 **Frank and Carol Peterson**

June 21 **Service in the Svea Grove**

June 28 **Tracie Esterby**

**Thank you for volunteering and being in the rotation!**

*Thank you!*



## Special Celebrations for our youth!

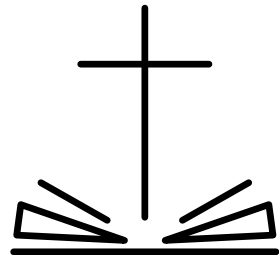
**First Communion**  
**March 28, 2026**

**Confirmation Banquet**



Brantley Huppert, Oakley Yarwood, Kylie Mark, Wyatt Mark,  
George Blue, Cooper Borchardt

**Confirmation Day**  
**Sunday, June 10, 2026**



Thank you, **Tracie Esterby**, for preparing and setting up such a wonderful banquet for our youth! And for making suppers for all the confirmation classes. You make a huge impact!



Max Mandelkow, Hayden Young, Ryder Johnson, Ben Helseth

### STRENGTHS

- active Sunday School
- family confirmation meals
- good friends
- loving one another
- children's message
- being kind to others
- welcoming congregation
- young families
- altar guild volunteers
- awesome communion bread
- fellowship
- great children's message and their participation

### SWOT

- **STRENGTHS**
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Talents

Next....

**WEAKNESSES**  
Areas we can improve.  
Post your thoughts on the board!  
What do you want our church to offer?  
Expectations and Ideas welcome!

## Eidsvold Council Meeting Sunday, May 18th 2026



The meeting was called to order. Phyllis Beaström, Mandy Rikli, Pastor Al, and Tracie Esterby in attendance. Also, Dennis Finstad and Kathy Sears for the first part of the meeting.

Dennis Finstad discussed errors on two of the cemetery deeds. On one of the deeds the legal name of the cemetery is not used and the other the land is still under Eidsvold Lutheran Church. This needs to be conveyed to the cemetery. Dennis and Phyllis will work this out.

Kathy Sears updated us on the interest in the CD's. Phyllis will send information to Laura Peterson today. We need to keep \$200,000 dollars in the two CD's. The current interest available is \$6504.27 Phyllis moved and Tracie seconded that the interest on the CD be put in the building fund. Motion carried.

### Updates

- Parsonage pipe break (fixed by Joe Lund). Waiting to get the bill; expected to be around \$100
- Basement windows need to be replaced. Tana will talk with Lee Franklin, as he has already taken care of one window. Once we hear back, we will see whether we need further bids, what kind of windows they are, and take the following steps. We talked at length about the project and agreed that windows are needed.
- Do we continue passing the collection plate, or do we go to a donation box? We would like to hear from the congregation.
- Talked about doing a pledge drive. We talked about putting information in the newsletter and also announcing at church. Questions for members and attendees need to consider: Are you giving 10% (a tithe) back to the church? Do you have a talent you can share with the church? Have you already given somewhere else doing God's work? Each of us need to evaluate our giving: has it decreased, stayed the same, or increased over the years?
- What outreach can we do as a church for our community?
- Luther Point has asked for financial help. We discussed using funds from the Pie and Ice Cream Social to help Luther Point.

### Summer schedule

- Pastor Al's Vacation:
  - June 28 - Maddie (intern from United Lutheran) No cost
  - July 19 - Jae Bates Amy Rohl will play piano as well
  - July 26 - Maddie (intern from United Lutheran) No cost
  - August 16 - Jae Bates

**-Summer Joint Church** :June 21-Svea Grove  
August 23-Saratoga Park in Bay City

**Church Times Change in June Eidsvold will be 9 am, and SVEA will be 10:30**

**Fundraisers:** (at Eidsvold) - pie and ice cream social - July 29

- August Wednesday night with Fleshpots(band), Pastor Al will check to make sure they are available for August 5th

SWOT - All the strengths were read. Pastor Al will continue to announce to write down the weaknesses that members see.

VBS- English Lutheran Church, June 15-18, held from 12:30-3:30 pm. Luther Point will be leading. Tracie will make contact with Bree and with Pastor Pete.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, August 12th at 6 pm. If anything comes up beforehand, we will address.

Lord's Prayer

Adjourn 1 pm

Minutes submitted by: Tracie Esterby

Joint Council Meeting  
Eidsvold  
May 20, 2026, 6 pm



- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. Wade, Pastor Al, Dennis R, Kelly, Phyllis, Tracie, Tana, Mandy via phone, and Diane A were all in attendance.
- 2) Pastor Al with the opening prayer
- 3) Financial Review–Russ not in attendance or any Svea finances. Phyllis reported that the March and April payments from Svea to Eidsvold have not been paid. We are now at the end of May as well. SVEA members will reach out to Russ. Also, we need to remember that at November’s joint meeting, we need to include the housing/salary in the agreement, and it needs to be printed in the December newsletter. This was missed last year.
- 4) Summer schedule:
  - a. Pastor Al’s PTO
    - June 28 - Maddie (intern from United Lutheran) No cost
    - July 19 - Jae Bates and Amy Rohl will play piano as well
    - July 26 - Maddie(intern from United Lutheran) No cost
    - August 16 - Jae Bates
- Summer Joint Church: Both at 10 am,  
June 21 - Svea Grove  
August 23 - Saratoga Park in Bay City
- 5) VBS-Tracie has left messages with Bree and Pastor Pete, waiting on responses
- 6) Next Joint Council Meeting: Svea on August 19th at 7 pm
- 7) Other/Round Table-Everyone agreed that all was well
- 8) Lord’s Prayer
- 9) Adjourned

Submitted by Tracie Esterby

Enjoy your **SUMMER!**

