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Hill & Valley Parish News

Svea and Eidsvold

Lutheran Churches

Warm Greetings from the Parsonage!

I am proud to report that our fair booth was a complete success! Members of the Parish gave away over 2000 bottles of water and one lovely green quilt! I thank everyone who volunteered their time to connect with fairgoers as well as those who donated cases of water. Living your Gospel call can come in many forms, but service is never a terrible one. *If you ever have an idea for the Parish to serve or engage with the community in any way, let it be known.*

On [September 24](#), the Parish will be welcoming Pastor Al Erickson from *Adults Saving Kids*. *During both services, Pastor Erickson will be teaching on the Church's response to human trafficking. The service will remain the same length at both churches. According to their website, "The work of Adult Saving Kids is to prevent harm being done to young people by preparing their parents and grandparents to equip them with faith stories, support their identity in Christ through baptism and share with wise skills by which they can avoid the traps set for them."*

Human trafficking is not a foreign issue, it is not an evil known only by distant lands, but rather tragically occurs in the shadows of our very own home. Instead of choosing not to see it, we should prepare ourselves for its evils. Many, myself included, look upon this cultural plague and wonder, "What can I do about it?", "Can a single person do *anything* about it?" *With this in mind, Pastor Erickson has developed a faith-based program for guardians to use at home. He has worked with several former traffickers as well as countless survivors and their families to develop the material. Pastor Erickson and Adults Saving Kids has been featured in The Lutheran, The Christian Science Monitor, as well as on the Oprah Winfrey Show and ABC/20-20. Given Pastor Erickson's extremely busy schedule, this program is certainly a blessing for our parish. All people with children in their lives are encouraged to attend. With so much darkness in the world, we cannot afford to hide the light Jesus has placed within our hearts. More information can be found on their website: <https://adultssavingkids.org/>*

With Blessings I look Forward to See You All,

Al Aakre (awk-ree)

(608) 799-9703



September

BIRTHDAYS

May you have a special day

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- Olivia Grand | 17 – Tracy Sears |
| 2 – Francis Halverson | 20 – Bristol Plote |
| 3 – Thomas Helseth | 23 - Lorna Eidem |
| 7 – Norma Hanson | 24 – Rachel Lewison |
| 7 - Joan Odden | 24 - Denice Girdeen |
| 10 – John Willenbring | Brooke Knudsen |
| Susan Sebion | Richard Flack |
| 11 – Eric Johnson | 25 – Berkley Brenner |
| 12 – Christopher Larson | 26 - Pam Johnson |
| 13– Lynda Phillips | 26 - Carsyn O'Reilly |
| 14 – Susan Gerdes | 27 - Janice Kearns |
| 15 – Ruth Ann Brown | 27 - Jackson O'Reilly |
| 16 – Dale Anderson | 28 – Greg Andrews |
| Kathy Shuh | 29 – Lola Johnson |
| Jaelyn Gerdes | 30 – Wyatt Mark |
| Lucille Langer | |

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

A glance at this month

Sept 10— Rally Sunday at Eidsvold—1st Sunday of Sunday School and Blessing of Backpacks.

No **Euchre** in September—but plan on Euchre the first Friday of October—October 6th,

No Women of the Parish Bible study at Eidsvold in September—hopefully we will resume in October.

Svea quilting—2nd & 4th Tuesdays 9 a.m.—noon
No experience needed. Everyone welcome!

Tuesday's at 7 p.m Bible study on the book of Romans continues at Svea



Love. Grow. Serve.

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 September

Eidsvold

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

- Sept 3 - Deloris Bloomstrand
- Sept 10 - Tana Langer
- Sept 17 - Bev Peterson
- Sept 24 -

Ushers 2 each week

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

- Sept 3 - DeLoris B & ??
- Sept 10 - Kathy Sears & Kendra Hanson
- Sept 17 - **available for you**
- Sept 24 - Karen Brostrom

Altar Committee— Fay Albarado

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

Altar Paraments: green

SEPTEMBER READERS:

All Celebrate inserts until November are ready, Ask the ushers and you can get these ahead of time!

Eidsvold

- Sept. 3– Judy Lacroix
- Sept 10 - Dodee Bloomstrand
- Sept 17- Fay Albarado
- Sept 24 - Brenda Singer

Svea:

Anyone interested in helping with Svea's Alter Guild, contact Bonnie Hasenberg at 612-720-7411

All Ladies of Svea are invited to a planning meeting at Svea on

Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30 pm

Coffee and dessert will be served.

Eidsvold-Svea
First Joint Council Meeting
August 2, 2023
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Attendees: Wade Strain – Svea President, Dennis Rieck – Svea Vice President, Kelly Knutson, Yvonne Manore – Secretary, Lynda Phillips, Mary Schaver – Svea Treasurer, Tracie Esterby – Eidsvold Secretary, Anne Girdeen – Eidsvold Treasurer, Amanda Jepson – Eidsvold Vice President

Meeting Agenda:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Determine frequency of joint council meetings | 2) Call process status and next steps |
| 3) Booth support at Pierce County Fair | 4) Youth events and frequency |
| 5) Confirmation status and format discussion | 6) New members service for October |
| 7) Directory recognition | 8) Fees for church rental – member vs. non-member |
| 9) Special upcoming services for the fall | 10) Validate phone directory is ready for print |
| 11) Discussion on newsletter – any changes? | |

1) Joint council meetings

- The members agreed that joint council meetings should follow individual council meetings by one week every quarter. Proposed was August, November, February and May, 3rd week joint meeting (assuming 2nd week is individual council meeting).
- The next meeting will be dependent on when the signing of the pastoral contract occurs; the next meeting may need to move up to October so the joint council can get some alignment with the new pastor should one be hired by then.
- There was discussion around when the service year starts and ends for each congregation. At Svea it is November and January for Eidsvold. There was discussion around whether to align on this start date, but it was decided that it was not a huge deviation and we would not change for either church until we get some run time.
- It was decided that we would determine joint council office positions at the next meeting after a pastor has accepted the position and when we had all council members present (Jason Helseth, Eidsvold Council President was out of town).

2) Call process status and next steps

- The Call Committee has selected a pastoral candidate they would like to make an offer to.
- Anne Girdeen and Tracie Esterby passed out the financial package for review and discussion.
- Wade made a motion to approve the financial package and Dennis seconded the motion.
- Tracie will notify the call committee that they can proceed with the offer.
- potential vote on September 10th for Rally Sunday (first day of Sunday school)
- members at Eidsvold must receive letter in the mail notifying them of upcoming vote 2 weeks prior to voting day

3) Booth support at Pierce County Fair

- Dennis plans to bring 2,000 bottles of water on Wednesday. Kelly was going to test the labels to see if they would fall off with condensation.
- Tracie was going to call confirmation students to remind them that they could get school volunteer hours for supporting. She would pair students up with an adult. (two hour shifts)
- t-shirts will be available for handout
- water will be handed out free of charge
- recommendation given to post pictures or have a laptop up cycling through photos from our churches (may be done next year since short notice)

Continued Joint Council Minutes:

4) Youth events and frequency

- Youth events occur 4 times a year at Eidsvold
 - Examples:
 - Fall: October Reformation Sunday (breakfast followed by cleanup at the cemetery)
 - Winter: bowling?
 - Spring: Feed My Starving Children?
 - Summer: Vacation Bible School

5) Confirmation status and format discussion

- Tracie Esterby discussed the confirmation format for Eidsvold and how it has been implemented the past several years with Pastor Mike. She also cited some examples of how previous pastors have implemented it.
 - most recently, confirmation is for 6th – 9th grade
 - 5 weeks with homework, confirmed in May
 - take sermon notes
 - adult members attend with confirmands
- Svea has 2 confirmation students; Eidsvold has 15

6) New members service for October

- 3 Cs need to be met to be a new member: Commune, Contribute, Confirmed
- (did not discuss date)

7) Directory recognition

- Discussed collecting pictures for directory (Dennis and Mary)
- Pastor and Melody (music leader) in front of directory
- meeting with photographer on August 17th so pictures need to be collected by then

8) Fees for church rental – member vs. non-member

- Svea currently charges \$75 for non-members; members donate
- Eidsvold is charging \$100 fee for non-members with a \$100 deposit which will be returned following event assuming church is left as clean as it was when event began; members donate
- Svea will evaluate their fees

9) Special upcoming services for the fall

- Rally Sunday is September 10th: backpacks, Sunday school start
 - potentially vote on calling of a pastor at both congregations
- Bethlehem closing on September 17th at 2pm
 - still having normal morning services with Eidsvold at 8:45a.m and Svea 10:30 a.m.
- Reformation Sunday, October 29th joint service
 - members agreed 10 am service with egg bake breakfast afterward
- Sunday school church program (Christmas Program)
 - Megan Franklin from Eidsvold will determine practice schedule and program date
- Christmas Services
 - to be aligned with new pastor

10) Validate phone directory is ready for print

- Svea Council members validating a few member numbers but overall ready to print

11) Discussion on newsletter – any changes?

- Tracie will be printing the next newsletter August 24th and handing out at worship in the park
- August 26th in the Red Wing Band Shell: Elvis impersonator

Prayer held and meeting adjourned.

Mandy Jepson, note taker



Friends at Eidsvold and Svea Lutheran Parish,

For 138 years, Bethlehem Lutheran Church is where we have assembled for worship, heard God's word read and preached, sang hymns, confessed our faith, offered our prayers, offered our gifts of time, money and talents, and feasted at the Lord's Table to be strengthened and enriched to be sent out to share God's love through our words and deeds. It is the place where we were baptized and had our children baptized, where we were confirmed and had our children confirmed, where we were married and where we have said goodbye to our loved ones.

You are invited to the final Celebration of Life and Ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church on [Sunday, September 17, 2023](#) at 2:00 p.m. At this final celebration we will acknowledge Bethlehem's history, its ministry and witness in the community, and share our memories. Former Pastor Carol Peterson will lead the worship service and Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, Bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin will preach. A reception will follow. Please share this information with family or friends who might like to attend.

Our offering that Sunday will go to Lutheran Disaster Response for Maui to help them recover from the wild fires that has devastated their lives, and their city, homes and businesses.

God's Work our Hands – [September 10th after Eidsvold Worship](#)



Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self care, critical germ fighting supplies and the chance for our neighbors in need to regain dignity amidst fear and uncertainty.

On [Sunday, September 10th](#), after worship, we will assemble approximately 30 health kits at Eidsvold. This could be completed in 15-20 minutes or less if several come to the basement to help. **Students can place the items in the towel, but adults are needed to wrap the string around and tie in knots to secure.**

Phyllis Beastrom is one of eight voting members from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to the Women of the ELCA Convention [September 18-21](#) which is being held in Phoenix. At the convention we will act on resolutions and memorials, constitutional changes, and elect officers for the next three years. We held a zoom convention three years ago to conduct the business of the organization.

[September 21-24](#) will be the Women of the ELCA Gathering, being held at the Phoenix convention center, focusing on the theme **JUST LOVE**. There will be many worship opportunities, speakers, workshops, and in the afternoons participate in JUST LOVE servant events and activities in the Exhibit Hall. Our last gathering was six years ago in Minneapolis.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
[SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023](#) | [PHOENIX](#)
[WELCATG.ORG](#)

On September 24th Pastor Al Erickson from Adults Saving Kids will be leading a forum on human trafficking. According to their website, "The work of Adult Saving Kids is to prevent harm being done to young people by preparing their parents and grandparents to equip them with faith stories, support their identity in Christ through baptism and share with wise skills by which they can avoid the traps set for them." Pastor Erickson and Adults Saving Kids has been featured in the Christian Science Monitor, as well as on the Oprah Winfrey Show and ABC/20-20. This program will immediately follow the late service. All people with children in their lives are encouraged to attend.

<https://adultsavingskids.org/>

All it takes to be considered a member of the Church is 3 C's:

Commune—Confirmed—Contribute

So...what does this mean to you?

Commune—We ask that you fill out a communion card **ONE** time during the calendar year.

Confirmed—Every Confirmed member is able to participate in congregational voting.

Contribute—Give at least one offering per year. Please note, if you put cash in the offering plate, try to use one of the pew envelopes at least once so we can give the credit to you or your family unit.

Any questions, please reach out to your Church's council members!

Ruby's
PANTRY

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 September 2nd from 10:00—11:30** at Pierce Pepin Co-op

WORSHIP IN



Effective September 3rd

8:45 a.m. Worship at Eidsvold and Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Worship at Svea



Thank you

to all who scheduled for pictures for our church directories and those helping with the picture taking sessions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Al Aakre cell 608-799-9703

E-mail aaakre002@luthersem.edu

Church e-mail: beluther@bevcomm.net

Office: 715-594-3182 leave a message

Newsletter & bulletin items by Tuesday to

Tracie.esterby@gmail.com 651-380-2212

OFFERINGS MAY BE MAILED TO:

Eidsvold:

Eidsvold Lutheran Church
W6111 County Rd EE
Bay City WI 54723

Svea

Svea Lutheran Church
N2610 770th St
Hager City WI 54014

Check out our parish website & Facebook

Worship times will also be posted on these.

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

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