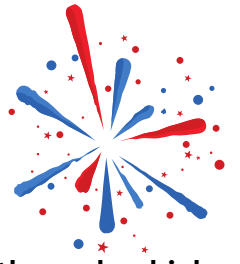


July 2024

HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS
Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches



“Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:14-15

It's a famous line with two ever-relevant questions; “Who do you serve? If not God then who?” It sounds like an easy enough question to answer, “I was baptized and Confirmed, I serve the Lord my God—there is no other! I just heard about Him at Easter.” But truly I tell you that we often place other gods above God without knowing or intending it. At the risk of sounding Rumsfeldian, there are gods that we know, gods that we know we don't know, and then gods that we don't know we know. I am well versed in the God of the Cross and Empty Tomb, I know that I know Him. And I know that there are other gods that I know absolutely nothing about—I could not tell you a single thing about any of the Aztec deities. But that third group is different. What are the gods that we don't know that we know?

A “god” doesn't have to control the wind and the rain, it just has to control you. Humans can deify nearly anything—by giving away our time, attention, loyalty, love, devotion, and energy—we create false gods in this world. “Idol” is another name for them but something about that term masks its true danger. Money, politics, sports, drugs, consumerism, cars, fitness, and even birding can become our chosen savior. I doubt that Joshua believed in the existence of any of the gods that he warned the people about but he recognized their danger. Even the people, whom God delivered out of Egypt, who had seen the power of the Lord firsthand, doubted and strayed. See we can have certainty in our faith but still slip into worshiping other gods—hoping that they will deliver us from ourselves. This is not an attack on hobbies or collections; Martin Luther was an avid bowler and beer stein collector. It is ok to find happiness outside of the Church just as long as that source does not banish the God that has formed and claimed you.

How do you spend your time? Your energy? What gives you hope in this life? The dream of any minister is that the congregation they serve becomes a place of hope. Hope is the message of the Gospel: hope over hate, over fear, over Sin, over death. But what distinguishes our Hope from others is that it has been made certain in the life and death of Christ Jesus. And although Joshua paints a dramatic picture, one where the people gather in a field and profess their devotion to the Lord, choosing between God and a god happens in the mundane moments of our life. It happens when we rise in the morning, or have the chance to speak to our neighbor, or the opportunity to live out our vocation—what deity do we allow to guide us then?

Al Aakre

Vacation

Pastor Al is on vacation in July
July 8th-14th and then July 29th-August 4th

Pastor Lucas at Our Saviors or Pastor Pete from English will cover while gone. If needs arise please let Tracie at Eidsvold know.

Pastor Jae will lead us on July 14th and Pastor Becker will lead us on August 4th.



July Birthday

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



HAPPY
Birthday

2-Adam Peters
6-Neil Bostrom
9-Jeff Albarado
11- Joey Emery
12 Myrt Knutsen
Tammy Rieck
13-Susan Albarado
22-Darlene Anderson
23-Mavis Flack
Doug Carlton
29-Jim Swenson

If a birthday was missed
please email Tracie at
tracie.esterby@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICE INFO: CONTACT INFORMATION

**EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
W6111 COUNTY RD EE
BAY CITY WI 54723
SUMMER SERVICES AT 9AM

SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
N2610 770TH ST
HAGER CITY WI 54014
SUMMER SERVICES AT 10:30
AM

WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN OFFICE
ASSISTANT AT THE PARISH. SEE
JASON, MANDY, OR PASTOR AL IF
YOU ARE INTERESTED.



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



**JUNE- JULY- AUGUST- SEPTEMBER
WORSHIP TIMES**
9 AM AT EIDSVOLD
10:30 AM AT SVEA
JOINT SERVICES WILL BE AT 10 AM

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.

Anniversary

Svea's 150th Anniversary will be in 2025! The Svea Council would like to form a committee to plan this celebration. If you are interested please see Yvonne Manore or Pastor Al

thank you

The Emery family is doing a nice job of mowing the cemetery, but any donations to the mowing cost and upkeep would be appreciated.



We are looking for several volunteers to help with the altar guild at Svea. Let Pastor Al or Bonnie Hasenberg know if you can help.



The Svea annual potluck get-together will be held Wednesday, August 7th at the home of Kathy Schuh at W7628 161st Ave., Hager City. The time is 5:30 and eating at 6.

ATTENTION SVEA CHURCH COMMUNITY "MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE"

If Svea can raise \$12500.00 by July 31, 2024, a benefactor will match Svea's \$12500.00 with another \$12500.00!!

The funds would be used to help Svea Church become more accessible to physically handicapped people.

Please mark your donation "Svea Matching Fund". For further information contact a Svea Council Member.

Vanco is now ready at Svea Church. Details will be attached to newsletter.

Svea's Memorial Day Service 2024



EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS



VBS COOKS AND SERVERS

THANK YOU TO ALVIN EIDEM FOR ALL OF YOUR OUTSTANDING WORK ON KEEPING OUR EIDSVOLD CHURCH BEAUTIFUL! THE FRESH MULCH IS BEAUTIFUL!

JOINT PARISH WORSHIP



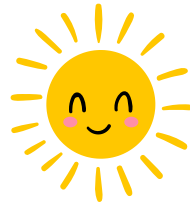
*Sunday, June 23rd
Tree Grove Service at
Svea*



Community Events

Ruby's Pantry

First Saturday of the Month
July 5th
10-11:30 at
Pierce Pepin Co-op



Women's Bible Study

Monday, July 15, 2024 at 1:30 pm
At Eidsvold

Parish Social Media

Facebook
Church Website

<https://www.eidsvoldsvea.com>

Svea Quilters

2nd & 4th
Tuesdays 9 am-noon



No experience is needed. All are welcome.



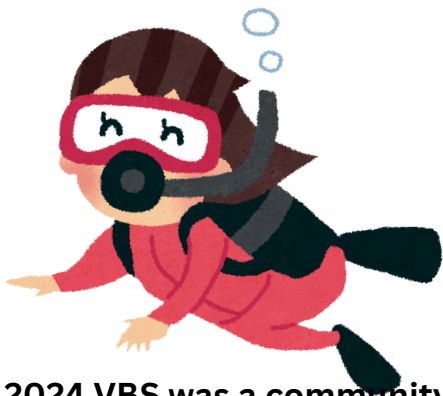
Worship

at Preferred Living and Ellsworth Care Center

July 24th

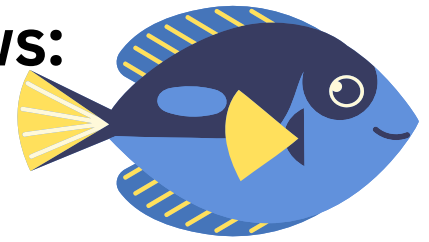
Ukraine Hearts and Minds School Supply Fundraiser - EHS Students are working on a school SUPPLY DRIVE. THEY ARE CONNECTED WITH TWO UKRAINIAN SCHOOLS THAT HAVE COLLECTIVELY OVER 1000 STUDENTS. THESE STUDENTS DEAL WITH THE TRIALS OF LIVING IN A WAR ZONE, FREQUENTLY GOING INTO UNDERGROUND BUNKERS AND DEALING WITH SHORTAGES OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES. THE EHS HEARTS AND MIND UKRAINE ARE ASKING SUPPORTERS TO BUY ITEMS OFF THEIR AMAZON WISH LIST OR DONATIONS TO HELP WITH SHIPPING. IF YOU'D LIKE TO BUY SOMETHING OFF THE WISH LIST, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE ATTACHED. IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE FOR SHIPPING, CHECKS CAN BE MADE TO EHS HEARTS AND MIND UKRAINE.

Andrea Esterby is one of the members of this Capstone Project You can go to the Ellsworth High School Page for the QR code.



Sunday School News:

Vacation Bible School



Summer Vacation Bible School

2024 VBS was a community event held the week of June 10-13th from noon till 3:30 at English Lutheran Church. Along with English Lutheran members, Eidsvold and Our Saviors joined In the fun for the week. We had about 60 children from ages 4-5th grade along with some awesome teens being crew members. Students had a yummy lunch each day after arriving from summer school on a bus or with parents who dropped them off. Then headed upstairs for opening worship and singing. Then each day they dove deep into the ocean with their hearts and imaginations to explore all the fun that God has for them. Either with Bible study, Sticky videos, games, or science. They had a break halfway through the day and were able to have a creative snack or color their swag bags. Each day they ended the day with a skit/worship and singing. We look forward to partnering with these churches for future youth events and VBS. Next year the theme will be True North! Keep this in mind when making summer plans during the second week of summer school 2025!

Special thank you to Anne and Kaitin Girdeen, Fay Albarado, Rita Anderson, Lorna Eidem, Dodie BloomstrandRaynee Farrell, Andrea Esterby, Megan Franklin, and all of Our Saviors and and English Lutheran Staff!



SCUBA diving into
friendship with God

Times and Talents:

July

Readers:

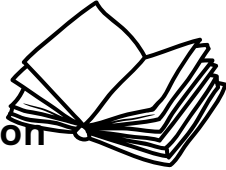
Eidsvold

July 7 Carol/Angie Peterson

July 14 Justin Mandelkow

July 21 Judy LaCroix

July 28 Phyllis Beastrom



Ushers:

Eidsvold

July 7 Girdeen Family

July 14 DeLoris B. and Open

July 21 Karen B and Open

July 28 Esterby Family



Church Cleaning:

Eidsvold

July 7 Phyllis Beastrom

July 14 Kathy Sears

July 21 Girdeen Family

July 28 Esterby Family



Altar Committee: Karen Brostrom

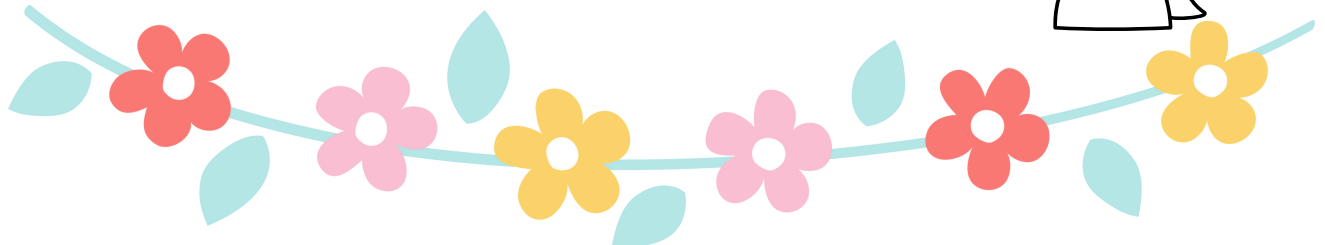
Communion Bread: Phyllis Beastrom



Washing Communion Cups:

June 2-Open for YOU

June 16 Open for YOU



Summer Parish Women's Bible Study

Eidsvold at 1:30 pm on Monday, July 15. This month we are introduced to Martin Luther. Luther treasured the gift of community – his household included his wife and their children, extended family members, and students. God calls us into a community where we as members of Christ's body can learn from and depend on one another, and where we grow as members of the Body of Christ. Luther trusted the community of Christ to carry on after him. Come, and share in the discussion about our gift of community.

Assembly summary:

- Elected the Reverend Martin Halom as Bishop of the Northwest Synod of WI on the 4th ballot.
- Resolutions adopted:
 1. Grace Driven Generosity for All Creations urges congregations that close and congregation and individuals that receive large monetary gifts or inheritances to give a tithe to the Synod Endowment Fund so that all may know the love of Jesus in generations to come
 2. Supporting and Celebrating Children and Young Families asks congregations to provide during worship child care for pastors who have children as well as for young families in the congregation, and that all synod events offer childcare for children of pastors and attendees
 3. Adopted the 2025 minimum standards for compensation and benefits for pastors and church full-time employees
 4. Adopted the synod budget
- Bright Spot awards were given to 5 congregations
- 5. Our Savior's Lutheran in Menomonie for becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation (welcomes everyone)
- 6. Spirit Creek Lutheran Church changed its name when they learned from their Indigenous neighbors that their name was offensive to the Indigenous community
- 7. Grace Lutheran in Eau Claire along with Habitat for Humanity built in an unused part of their building housing for Veterans
- 8. 4 congregations in Superior are worshipping together and also sponsored and supported a refugee family from Afghanistan
- 9. Pigeon Lutheran, Pigeon Falls and Ezekiel Lutheran, River Falls have added solar panels to their facilities to conserve energy
- Offerings received from congregations and individuals for synod assembly
- 10. Friday afternoon worship offering \$7,263.52 which is split between the Synod Endowment Fund and the Neighbor to Neighbor program which supports Hispanic communities in Amery, Osseo, and Eau Claire as well as providing scholarships for Hispanic students at Chippewa Valley Technical College and the UW-Eau Claire and hope to provide scholarships soon at UW River Falls and Stout, Menomonie. This synod strongly supports the Hispanic community.
- 11. Endowment Offering \$7,900
- 12. Water is Life Campaign to provide solar wells in Malawi (each costs \$2000). Funds for this campaign raised in June totaled \$24,211.60 and since the announcement of the project \$66,074.84. Clean water is essential for everyone. In poor countries like Malawi, animals and humans use the same river or lake without access to safe wells.
- We also honored and celebrated Bishop Lori Skow-Anderson for her 10 years of ministry in our synod, 4 years as Evangelical Director, and 6 years as Bishop.
- I also learned about youth as we heard from the Synod Youth Board, the Bible Camp ministries, and the Lutheran Campus Ministries and ways we can encourage and galvanize faith formation and journey alongside them.
- Submitted by: Phyllis Beastrom