

January 2025



HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches

Greetings from the Parsonage,

“New year, new me!” I have said those silly words before—just as the clock strikes 12 and I welcome in a new year. They are typically paired with some plan for a better or healthier life—a New Year’s resolution. I call the words silly not because change is something to be discouraged but because we create arbitrary start times for that change to occur. “Well, 2025 will be different—no more lies.” “I’ll start going back to church in January.” “Maybe I’ll sign up to serve Communion in 2025.” “I’ll be a whole new person then!” All good ambitions but ones unnecessarily pushed into the future. As Christians, we need not wait for the start of January—God grants us a new beginning, a new life, through the waters of baptism.

And to this you may think, “Well that’s swell but it’s been quite some time since my baptism.” To which I say, “Remember your Catechism!” In his Explanation of Baptism, Martin Luther reminds us that our baptism is ongoing. We may have begun the act as a baby but it will only be completed by Jesus Christ at our grave. In this endless washing, God offers the Church a chance to be reborn each day—each moment if you truly wish. Luther writes that in the waters of Baptism “the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” Now those are dramatic words, but God’s action in the Sacrament of Baptism is just as extreme and dramatic—we die and are born again. In living, there is no arbitrary start time for us to wait for, we simply live. In our desire to repent, to see our neighbors as ourselves, to worship God, there is no time for us to wait for, we simply can at any moment. Luther’s reminder has power on the bad days; the days we lie and cheat or feel distant from God or our neighbor. We need not wait for a sign or day because we have already been invited by God into a blessed union with Him

As you think about a New Year’s resolution for 2025, remember that although the first of a month may be a good time to start a gym membership or subscription to a cheese of the month club—there is no need to wait for matters of faith and service.

Pastor Al

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



Svea



CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR AL AAKRE 608-799-9703

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CHURCH: BELUTHER@BEVCOMM.NET

OFFICE 715-594-3182

LEAVE A MESSAGE



January Birthdays

Eidsvold

- 1 - Doris Halverson
- 2 - Kaylene Nielsen
- 4 - John Beaström
- 5 - Larry Gerdes
- 6 - Austin Langer
- 6 - Jacob Willenbring
- 8 - Carol Peterson
- 12 - Andrea Esterby
- 12 - Heather Brown
- 13 - Carley Albarado
- 14 - Kimberly O'Reilly
- 16 - Savanna Hoyer
- 16 - Leah Johnson
- 18 - Nancy Fick
- 20 - Kristen Mandelkow
- 21 - Molly Langer
- 21 - Olivia Kuesel
- 22 - Madelyn Nielsen
- 24 - Preston Sears
- 26 - Avery Alms
- 26 - Ann Whipple
- 27 - Taylor Bierbrauer
- 30 - Stephanie Potts
- 30 - Diane Hines
- 31 - Bev Peterson

Svea

- 11 - Jerry Hasenberg
- 28 - Cara Churchill
- 29 - Ruth Carlson
- 30 - Herb Enberg



If a birthday was missed or is incorrect, please let me know.
Tana at langerlt@att.net



CHURCH SERVICE INFO

EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH
W6111 COUNTY RD EE
BAY CITY WI 54723
**DECEMBER SERVICES AND
SUNDAY SCHOOL**
10:30AM

SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
N2610 770TH ST
HAGER CITY WI 54014
DECEMBER SERVICES
9:00 AM



Parish Social Media

Facebook
Church Website
<https://www.eidsvoldsvea.com>

A Conversation about Climate Change as it relates to our Faith will be presented by the NW Synod of WI Synod Care Team on **Saturday, January 25th at 10 a.m.** at English Lutheran Church of Bateman, rural Chippewa Falls. The Event is FREE. Dr. James Boulter from UW-Eau Claire will have a thought-provoking presentation and conversation on the pressing issues of climate change. Come, ask questions of an expert and share ideas and explore solutions to address climate change. **Posters have been posted at each congregation.**

If you have concerns about Climate Change, this is an opportunity to learn more and how to make a difference in our community. Phyllis has heard him and he's the expert with a wealth of knowledge and information to share.

Let Phyllis know if you'd like to go - 715-821-5847 you can ride with Phyllis.

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 contact Mary Shaver, Pastor Al, or another council member. Training will be provided.

150th Anniversary
Celebration will be in June, 2025.

Svea members, it was discussed at the Annual Meeting to have one person be the contact to get items to the Parish secretary for the newsletter. Please contact me by the due date (usually the 3rd Sunday of each month - newsletters are handed out the last Sunday).

The best phone number to reach me at is **612-720-7411** as we go to Texas in the winter. Summer I can be reached at home our phone **715-792-2875**.

Bonnie Hasenberg

Thank You

EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS



Annual Meeting will be Sunday, **January 26**

Please have your reports submitted
by Sunday, January 19

Financial
Sunday School
Eidsvold Women
Cemetery

THANK YOU!

Portals of Prayer are available!

Please take for your daily devotion. Eidsvold will be trying the Word in Season daily devotional starting in April. This will be replacing our current Portals of Prayer.

It is time to fill open council positions for 2025

Officers are elected for a 2-year term and should be replaced after serving 2 terms.

Elections are in January at the annual meeting.

Due to the volume of work by the Treasurer, this is a paid position.

Other officers are on a volunteer basis.

Thank you in advance for considering to fill an open position.

Annual Meeting will follow service on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**.

**- President - Treasurer - Nominating Committee -
- Sunday School Superintendent - Head Usher -**

Community Events

Ruby's Pantry

First Saturday of the Month
January 4

10-11:30 at

Pierce Pepin Co-op



Svea Quilters

2nd and 4th Tuesday

January 14th

January 28th

9 am-noon

No experience is needed. All are welcome.



Euchre

The first Friday of the month.

January 3

7:00 pm at Eidsvold

Bring a snack to share, coffee will be provided.

Don't know how to play? Come and learn!



PRAYER LIST

Prayers for Healing:

Ron Peterson, Alvina Girdeen, Wendell Manore, Kelly Snyder, Dave Ericson, Mick Borst, Bev Vinge, Ruby Dailey, Maisley Maxwell, Missy Dailey, Elwyn Manore, John O'Keefe

Prayers for Sustained Strength and Comfort:

Terrence Emery, Jim Nelson, Naomi Ruth, Chris Larson, Jim Larson, Rose Ann Powers, Gerry Hoffman, Connie Rieck, Mavis Flack, Julie Patterson, Jim Swenson, Paul Curry

Prayers for our Ministry Partners:

Bishop Martin Halom, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Debi Emery (CRU), Isaac and Isabella Thrill, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

Prayers for those serving in the military: Carson Anway, Tyler Ballman

New Community Outreach

FREE Monthly Shopping

at Bethel Covenant Church's Basement

W8405 Cty Rd KK, Ellsworth WI

715-792-2397



Shopping will be held each month on the 3rd Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2 PM - 7 PM

Current DONATIONS NEEDED:

Gently Used & New Clothing (especially infant - college students), shoes, boots, hats, gloves, diapers, bottles, toys, books, games, coloring books, school supplies, blankets, bedding, toiletries, towels, storage containers.

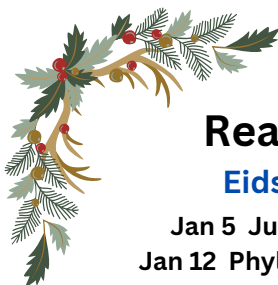
*Food pantry items:
unopened, non-expired.



SHOPPERS NEEDED

ALL ITEMS ARE **FREE**

Come shop each month for clothes & items your family can use as inventory will always be changing and always **FREE!**



Thank you for your Time and Talents

Readers

Eidsvold

Jan 5 Judy Lacroix
Jan 12 Phyllis Beastro
Jan 19 Fay Albarado
Jan 26 Brenda Singer

January

Altar Committee

Kathy Sears

Bake Communion Bread

Tana Langer

Jan. 5, 19

Church Cleaning

Eidsvold

Jan. 5 _____
Jan. 12 _____
Jan. 19 _____
Jan. 26 _____

Ushers

Eidsvold

Jan 5 DeLoris B & _____
Jan 12 _____
Jan 19 _____
Jan 26 Mary Williams & _____

Washing Communion Glasses:

Jan. 5 DeLoris Bloomstrand

Jan. 19 Heather Mark



thank you!



Eidsvold Sunday School News!!

The Sunday School program was a huge success!!

The "hide and seek" theme made for an exciting performance by the group! A special thank you to Megan Franklin, Superintendent; all the Sunday School teachers and helpers; Melody Perrin, pianist; parents for bringing your children to practices; and all the children for participating and sharing the nativity story!!



If you have questions regarding Sunday School, please contact Megan Franklin. meganmfranklin@yahoo.com

Sunday School resumes Jan 12.