



**AUGUST 2024**

**HILL AND VALLEY PARISH NEWS**  
**Svea and Eidsvold Lutheran Churches**



Greetings from the Parsonage!

First off, I want to thank everyone who attended and helped with the Mark Drama in June. That event was a big ask—only possible with people giving up their Saturday to rehearse and worshipers taking a chance to do something unfamiliar, but I am glad that this parish stepped up, invited friends, and showed up to support our wonderful team—together we made it a success. The Drama is a prime example of the incredible things we can do together as a parish. The benefit of being a two-point is that, while we maintain our own congregational identity, we have a much larger group of people to draw from for events and ministries. As we look forward to the fall, I wonder what else we could do together. Who better to ask than you—the members of this parish?

- Is there an event, service, or ministry that you've heard that another congregation does that you would like to see tried here?

- Is there an event, service, or ministry that no one else does but you've always dreamt of trying?

Beginning in August, there will be a box in the back of each sanctuary—a place for event and ministry ideas. Please, no comments, complaints, or critiques. I plan to collect the suggestions, type them up, and hang them in the back of our two sanctuaries. The hope is that, through conversation, interest may grow around a few of them. We can't commit to doing all of them but we can commit to discerning them. I honestly believe that we are large enough to be a formidable force in this community—it is easy to think of ourselves as a small country parish, but really we aren't that small, and there have been many country parishes that have set the tone, through their actions, to bring the Light of Christ into this world. Think of Vasa Lutheran and the children's home they founded, or Holden Lutheran who started St. Olaf College in their parsonage. Although I don't want college freshmen taking up residence in my home, I am open to us acting with confidence and taking a chance to serve God. What would you like us to do?

Al Aakre

*Vacation*

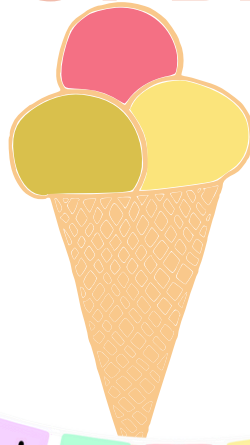
Pastor Al is on vacation in July  
July 29th-August 4th



Pastor Lucas at Our Saviors or Pastor Pete from English will cover while gone. If needs arise please let Tracie at Eidsvold know.  
Pastor Becker will lead us on August 4th.

# AUGUST Birthday

- 1- Andy Esterby
- 2- Jada Potts
- 4- Domenick Donley
- 5- Chris Peterson  
Cedrec LaFave
- 6- Fiona Andrews
- 7- Marlyce Bayer
- 10- Kathy Sears  
Megan Bignell
- 12- Frank Peterson  
Mark Girdeen
- 13- Marc Sears
- 15- Mason Regenscheid
- 17- Geraldine Hoffman
- 18- Daniel Langer
- 19- Brian Girdeen
- 20- Andrea Helseth
- 21- TriChelle Smaller  
Paisley Lewison
- 22- Martin Johnson-Cass
- 24- Spencer Peterson
- 25- Miles Pritchard
- 26- Emily Gregory
- 27- Mikael Andrews
- 31- LeRoy Langer  
Rich Lofgren



- 6th- Jim Bostrom
- 7th- Judy Bostrom



Confirmation Class info will be coming out soon. We wil start in September.



If a birthday was missed please email Tracie at [tracie.esterby@gmail.com](mailto: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 AS TRACIE HAS RESIGNED.



**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! Planning has started. We are looking at a fresh coat of paint and making a history book. Dates have been set. Sunday, June 22nd with a catered meal and the Bishop, and then Sunday, June 29th with a potluck to follow.



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.



Svea Quilters are looking for top sheets- any size will do!

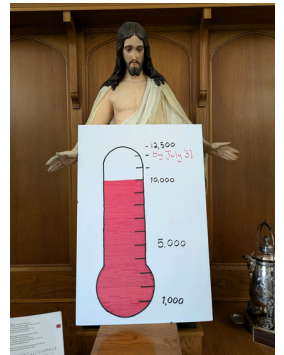


## ATTENTION SVEA CHURCH COMMUNITY "MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE"

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.

# EIDSVOLD HAPPENINGS



## **Eidsvold Council Meeting-July 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM**

**In Attendance:** Pastor Al, Tracie E., Anne G., Jason H., Kendra H.

Pastor Al led with a prayer.

Tracie read the minutes of the last meeting. Anne motioned to accept, all in favor. Approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

□ All is going well with the new color printer.

□ Vacation Bible School went well. There were about 60 kids who attended between the multiple area churches. Plan on doing it again next year the second week of June. Thanks to all the great volunteers from our church who assisted in helping out with the ministry and food.

□ Mark Drama had a great performance, with over 100 people in attendance. Thanks to all who volunteered to participate.

□ The Grove service at Svea went well. Pastor Al would like to see if our cordless mic will work with our current speaker setup.

□ Website and Facebook are going well. Anne will continue to manage these for us.

□ Music: The worship team has been picking the music for the whole month and then sending it to Jonah for him to practice. If anyone has comments about the music, please fill out a comment card and drop it in the offering plate.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

□ Summer attendance: approximately 30 people on average during the summer months when there is no Sunday School. But congregational giving stays consistent. June giving last year compared to this year has doubled.

□ VANCO: There has been a giving website set up through Vanco for people to contribute to the church online. There will be an introduction to this presented to the congregation on Rally Sunday, which is September 8th.

□ Discussed a thank-you gift for Alvin Eidem for all the extra work he does around the church.

□ Need new exit lights and want to get a fan in the balcony.

□ Tracie Esterby has put in her notice for the church secretary job. So we are looking to fill this position. This position is about 15 hours per week, and works with Pastor Al and music. \$14.33 per hour is the current pay. Tracie will rewrite the job description and then Pastor Al will post the position on the Synod website. If someone is interested in this position or knows of someone who is, please talk to Tracie or Pastor Al.

□ Confirmation: 5-week schedule for all age groups. 1 adult needs to attend class with their student.

□ No participation in Bay City Days this year. We will bring it up at the annual meeting to form a committee for next year.

### **FINANCIALS**

General Fund \$83,290.37

Memorial Fund \$24,485.26

Youth Fund \$2,590.95

Building Fund \$23,860.63

Parsonage \$30,595.74

These are the balances as of June 30.

**Joint Council Meetings:** August 15th at Svea at 6 PM. November 20th at Eidsvold at 6 PM. Service in the Esdaile Park:

□ July 28th at 10 AM, will move to the church in the event of rain. Mark and Anne Girdeen's family are buying the ice cream treats for after the service.

□ August 25th at 10 AM, potluck to follow.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned.

Meeting minutes submitted by Kendra Hanson, Council Secretary

**Hello, Faith Partners!**

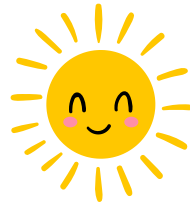
**I hope this email finds you well and that you are enjoying this beautiful weather!**

**Pierce County Public Health works with partners every three years to gather survey data on top community health concerns and priorities. Last round, our residents pointed us towards mental health and affordable housing as priorities, and we've done some great work with partners in these areas. It's now time for us to revisit our priorities. We would greatly appreciate it if you could help share our 2024 Community Health Survey with Pierce and St. Croix Counties residents. Please share the marketing materials with your clients, partners, and staff! QR forms and forms will be available at church as well.**

# Community Events

## Ruby's Pantry

First Saturday of the Month  
AUGUST 3RD  
10-11:30 at  
Pierce Pepin Co-op



## Women's Bible Study

Monday, August 19th 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 & Rock with  
Elvis is The Park*

*Sat. Aug 17th central Park in Red Wing  
4pm Worship, 5:30 Elvis Show*



### Bethlehem update:

The sale of the church building is complete – the sale closing was Friday, July 19th. The new owner plans to make it into a wedding venue (and possibly for women's retreats). The deed to convey the remaining property to the cemetery association will be recorded in a few days. Our attorney is working on the final closure documents. Pastor Mike is making some final touchups to the altar painting and it will soon be hanging at Eidsvold. The new owner informed me when I gave her the keys the day of the sale that she does not want the beautiful Bethlehem Lutheran Church stained glass window that hangs above the door and her carpenter will safely remove it for us. So I'll be looking for someone to repair, lead, and frame this stained glass window. If you know a skilled stained glass repairer, let me know. Phyllis

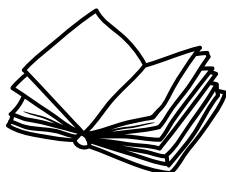
# Times and Talents:

## August Ushers:

### Readers:

#### Eidsvold

August 4-Fay Albarado  
August 11-Brenda Singer  
August 18-Rita Anderson  
August 25-Kari Aakre



**Eidsvold**  
August 4 DeLoris B and open  
August 11 Girdeen Family  
August 18 Phyllis and Karen B  
August 25 Esterby Family



### Church Cleaning:

#### Eidsvold

August 4 Open for you  
August 11 Bev Peterson  
August 18 Girdeen Family  
August 25 Open for you

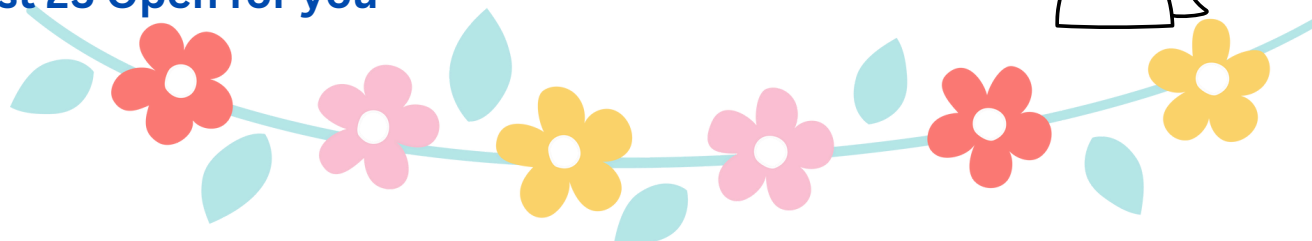


Altar Committee: Bev Peterson  
Communion Bread: Aug 4 Rita Anderson  
Aug 18-Open for you



#### Washing Communion Cups:

August 4 Mark Family  
August 18 Mark Family



### Summer Parish Women's Bible Study

Women of the Parish will meet for Bible Study on Monday, August 19th at 1:30 p.m. at Eidsvold. We will complete this 3 session study on living in times of uncertainty. In July we focused on the importance of community. In August we're focusing on love and compassion for our neighbors. For Jesus, love for God and neighbor is the center of faith. We'll examine compassion as a biblical principle that can ground and guide us as we seek to live faithfully in the personal and political spaces in our lives.

Come and join in the discussion.

My name is Cheri Stein and I am the Office Specialist for Pierce County Aging Disability Resource Center. I am reaching out to you today to see if you would be willing to help spread the word regarding the need for volunteer drivers for medical rides. Our program is run by 100% volunteer drivers and these drivers help our clients age 60 or older that need a ride to get to and from their medical appointments. We are currently struggling with getting and maintaining volunteer drivers. If you have any questions at all please call our agency at 715-273-6780.

Eidsvold



Svea



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

You can select between a one-time or a recurring donation (set to the frequency  
of your choice), and through credit card or your bank account.

There are also different funds that you can select from to allocate your donation.

We can even set up different links for various collections throughout the year!



The Rev. Martin R. Halom was elected June 8, 2024, to a six-year term as bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the synod's assembly June 7-8 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.



1“Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our  
light! Shine in your church gathered today.”

This refrain, from the song, Christ Be Our Light, will be my guiding principle. In all that I do, in all that I say, Christ will be the central purpose.

The bishop-elect is pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomer, Wisconsin where he has served since 2012. His installation as bishop will be September 15, 2024, at Hope Lutheran, Eau Claire at 3:00 p.m.

# Summer Retreat

## St. Croix Valley Conference

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Saturday, August 17, 2024  
Ezekiel Lutheran Church

202 S 2nd Street, River Falls, WI  
(on street parking only)

\$15 Admission Fee  
(includes program  
and lunch)

8:30am – 9:15am  
Registration and  
Coffee

9:15am—11:30am - Event  
Lunch to Follow



### The Kids Are Not OK:

“The effects of cell phone use on  
adolescents mental health and what  
families can do about it”

Lynne Silva-Breen, MDiv, MA, LMFT

Lynne was an ELCA Pastor in Wisconsin and Minnesota for 20+ years before returning to graduate school. She obtained her degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and has just recently retired from her practice in Burnsville, Minnesota.





## SCHOOL SUPPLIES ARE ON SALE!

**NOW** is the time to purchase school supplies for students in our community or Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

Local schools always appreciate donations of school supplies and are grateful to receive notebooks, glue, pens, erasers, crayons, colored pencils, markers, paper towels, Kleenex, and so on.

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS: PROVIDE HOPE AND FUTURE TO CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD.**

**The backpack bags are available at Eidsvold and Svea. They are in bundles of five school bags, but if you want less just take apart the bundles.**

**Items for SCHOOL KITS ARE:** 4 spiral-wire bound notebooks (70-80 pages), **one** 30-centimeter ruler(12 inches) **one** pencil sharpener, **one** blunt scissors, **5** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, **5** black or blue ballpoint pens(no gel ink), **one** box of Crayons (16-24 count) **one** 2 1/2 inch eraser  
All items should be new, Remove all excess packaging. Send only the items listed--DO NOT ADD EXTRAS

**PACKING INSTRUCTIONS:** PLEASE DO NOT PUT NOTEBOOKS UPRIGHT-PLACE THE 4 NOTEBOOKS DOWN IN THE BOTTOM OF THE BAG ALTERNATING THE SPIRAL EDGES SO THEY LIE FLAT. PUT THE RULER BETWEEN 2 NOTEBOOKS AT AN ANGLE. Place other items toward the bottom of the bag and close the drawstring. Small rubber bands are available at each church for bundling pencils and pens.

**Lutheran World Relief QUILTS.** The quilts help children grow up to be strong and healthy. Stunting is caused by chronic malnutrition in a child's early years. Children who are stunted are more likely to get sick, take longer to get stronger and they often experience developmental delays and have trouble learning. Stunting is more than just being short; it prevents a child from reaching their potential. Researchers looked into the cause of stunting in Tanzania and discovered that children were not only hungry, they were cold. Instead of using every last calorie to grow, they were burning significant energy just to keep their bodies warm.

So thanks to all the quilters and the work of their hands--children in Tanzania have quilts to keep them warm and help them grow up strong and healthy!

In times of disaster, LWR immediately distributes quilts and kits to help our neighbors when they are exhausted, homeless, grieving, and terrified,. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with others through personal car kits, school kits, and quilts.

If you just want to buy supplies and bring them to church we will assemble them as well. See Phyllis for any questions.



## Eidsvold Sunday School News!!

**Rally Sunday, Sept 8th. All children ages 4 through 5th grade are encouraged to come for our first day back. We will bless your backpacks during the children's service and then go downstairs for Sunday School Fun. If you have not attended before please reach out to Megan Franklin so she can add them to our list. Each Sunday during the school year we will have Sunday school during our church worship time. Megan will be in contact with families.**

**Megan Franklin**  
**meganmfranklin@yahoo.com**

