



Somers, Montana ✧ Phone (406) 857-3529 ✧ www.eidsvoldlutheran.net ✧ email: office@eidsvoldlutheran.net ✧ April 2020



<i>In This Issue:</i>	
* <i>Pastor's Message</i>	2
* <i>Words from the Bishop</i>	3
* <i>What's Going on at Eidsvold</i>	4
* <i>COVID-19 Info</i>	5
* <i>April Servants</i>	6
* <i>April Calendar</i>	7
* <i>Stay Informed</i>	8



Eidsvold's Church Council
 Karen Richardson, President
 Merlin Boxwell, Vice President
 Jennifer Rogge, Secretary
 Jan Vachal, Treasurer
 Bill Schottelkorb
 Tina Malkuch
 Larry Holliday
 Rosella Thompson
 Joy Baldauf
Pastor: Andy Wendle

**Office Hours: Tuesday -
 Thursday 9:00 to 1:00**

Remember! We are not currently worshipping together due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. We will communicate with you as soon as we are able to worship together again.

A word about this newsletter ...

We are living in a liminal time, a time between places. There is so much that is changing quickly these days that it makes it hard to publish a newsletter for a whole month. As such, some of the things in this newsletter are very much about the immediate days ahead while others are plans for the future. Obviously, those plans for the future may change and so may the information for tomorrow. So let this “news” be a sign that God’s work through us is continuing and that we will care for tomorrow and plan for the future with humility while we move forward with God as one.



April 9 at 7:00pm
 A traditional footwashing ceremony

April 10 at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 12
 Worship at 8:00 and 11:00 am



Note: These are all “as scheduled” but it is our intention to celebrate Easter just as soon as we can return to worshipping together again!

Grace and peace to you friends and members of Eidsvold. I pray you are well.

And I mean that. I both pray that you are well and I pray for you. And frankly, that is part of the reason why I had to break my Lenten discipline.

You probably don't remember, given all that is going on, that I made a Lenten commitment to take a break from the news. Yep, the news. This meant that I worked to not check the news on my computer at work or home, I tried to not check the news on my iphone and I tried to not watch the news on TV or read the newspaper at home. I'll not go into all the reasons why again, but had to break my Lenten discipline.

And I had to break it, of course, because **the most newsworthy and important event of recent memory**, the pandemic of coronavirus or COVID-19, demanded to be heard! Who knew a Lenten discipline could cause that to happen?!

I talked to Mark Gravrock about the time I was breaking my commitment. Mark was our friendly office assistant/retired Pastor/former Eidsvold member who now lives in Washington. Specifically, he lives in the Tacoma/Seattle area,, the epicenter of the outbreak. And he talked then about how most of their life has pretty much carried on normally. They go to the store, take walks in their neighborhood. And yet, he said, all around him there is this sense of unease as people have started wearing masks, as stores are wiping things down with antibacterial wipes, etc. And then, almost immediately after our phone call, he forwarded an email to me detailing how his congregation has now suspended all religious services to honor the directed response by the state of Washington. And of course, we have now done this too and much more.

**FEAR NOT,
FOR I HAVE
REDEEMED YOU;
I HAVE CALLED
YOU BY NAME,
YOU ARE
MINE.**

ISAIAH 43:1

And yet, what I also know is that we also need to remain who and whose we are, i.e. we are people of faith and so our heart and motivation is to care for the whole world that God has made. This means that: blood is needed in our area blood banks – donate if you can, be in touch with your neighbor or fellow member who might be in need – do they need you to run to the store for them? Call up a member of the church or member of the community to connect with them – how are they doing? Food banks and other social service groups are going to feel the pinch – what can you still do for them? Ease your anxiety and concern through prayer – what is God inviting you to be at this time?

One of the reasons that I gave up consuming the news was to be able to let good things emerge in my life rather than all the negative things that the world continually throws our way. And it worked. I saw again the beauty that comes when we live in community with one another. I saw again the possibility that exists when the faithful genuinely care for one another. I saw Christ alive in your lives and in mine. Do not let the fear and anxiety over this moment cause you to turn inward. Be prepared, yes! But do not live in fear. This can be a moment to extend the hospitality of Christ to those who are in need. Let us share the good news that God is with us even in this challenging moment.

In Peace,
Pastor Andy

Important places to check to stay informed on COVID—19:

National Information - www.cdc.gov

Montana Information - www.covid19.mt.gov

Flathead County - www.flatheadhealth.org

ELCA Information - www.elca.org

Eidsvold Information - www.eidsvoldlutheran.net, pastorandy2@charter.net,

406-857-3529



ELCA presiding bishop addresses concerns about COVID-19



In 1527 the plague returned to Wittenberg, Germany. Two hundred years earlier the plague had swept across Europe killing up to 40% of the population. Understandably, people were anxious and wondered what a safe and faithful response might be. In answer to this, Martin Luther wrote "Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague." In it, he emphasized the duty to care for the neighbor, the responsibility of government to protect and provide services to its citizens, a caution about recklessness, and the importance of science, medicine and common sense.



To provide care for the neighbor, Luther recommended that pastors, those in public office, doctors and public servants should remain in the city. Luther himself remained in Wittenberg to care for his people. He recommended that public hospitals be built to accommodate those with the plague. He condemned those who took unnecessary risks that put themselves and others in danger of contagion. Luther also encouraged the use of reason and medicine, writing, "God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence to guard and take care of the body. ... Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence" ("Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague," 1527).

We are living in the time of the coronavirus. We are also living in the time of social media and constant, relentless news coverage. Many of you have the same concerns as those in Luther's day. Many of us are anxious. Luther's counsel, based on Scripture, is still sound. Respect the disease. Do not take unnecessary risks. Provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the neighbor. Make use of medical aid. Care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

The churchwide organization recommends the following for churchwide staff: Wash your hands, stay home when you are sick, wear a mask if you have symptoms, consult your medical provider. Bishops and pastors will provide guidelines for worship and church gatherings.

Luther also reminded his people and us that we should trust God's faithfulness and promises, particularly the promise eternal life. Paul writes: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8).



In peace,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WHAT'S GOING ON AT EIDSVOLD?

Church Services Suspended

Reminder, church services are temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your church council is meeting weekly about this and will communicate with you when we can resume!

Church Council Corner

It has been a very difficult past two weeks, however, the unknowns that lie ahead can be even more difficult. For me the decision to end the Valley Voices choir for this semester, the closing of the West Shore Community Library for an indefinite period of time - were all difficult decisions. The hardest though was the decision to not hold worship at Eidsvold.

It has been difficult to learn new words such as Coronavirus and social distancing. Who had ever heard of that? What is happening out there?

We are needing to be held together, needing to know our Lord is beside us, holding our hand as we embark on a new journey which we do not know what the ending will be.

We are learning a new way of worship. Maybe not a way we really want but a way that will help to keep us strong. A way that will bind us together as the community of Eidsvold. Pastor Andy is sending out "inspirations -in-challenging times" e-mails for us during the week and on Sundays we will receive a worship service. We need to continue worshipping our Lord plus we need to continue our mission work in the community. We also need to continue meeting our regular obligations such as keeping the lights on. At this moment in time we have so many concerns, so many worries from our health to our finances. Please keep your giving in your prayers knowing that continuing the work God has put before us is so very much needed.

Keep well and strong. Keep holding your Eidsvold family in your prayers.

God bless, Rosella Thompson

How to get your offering to church?

Online - on our website we have credit card giving available.

Simply Giving - contact the church office for this automated way of giving directly from your checking account.

By mail - simply mail your offering to church - Eidsvold Lutheran, PO Box 100, Somers, MT 59932

Drop off at church - Wednesdays from 9-3 will be a drop off time, call ahead to confirm a time

New Office Staff:

We have a new addition to our Church Staff, Heather Masters will be our office assistant going forward. She has recently moved to Montana and is excited to be working with us. Heather has two cats Clarabelle and Orion. Her usual office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday 9-12pm, and Thursday 9- 1pm.



Scholarship applications are now available! Eidsvold is gifted with the opportunity to offer scholarships to young men and women attending college each year. This application is now available in the church office or by contacting Pastor Andy at pastorandy2@charter.net. The deadline for the scholarship application is April 26th. These are all need-based scholarships and funds awarded are based upon what is available each year.



COVID-19 (coronavirus) Realities

COVID-19 compared to other common conditions

SYMPTOM	COVID-19	COMMON COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES
Fever	Common	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Dry cough	Common	Mild	Common	Sometimes
Shortness of breath	Common	No	No	Common
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes*	No
Runny nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common

COVID-19: What to Do if You're Sick

High-Risk Populations:

- People 65 years or older, and/or people with medical issues, like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, high blood pressure or cancer, are at a higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.
- If you develop fever or symptoms, call your doctor.
- If you are not sick enough to be hospitalized, you can recover at home. Follow your doctor's instructions or refer to CDC recommendations for how to take care of yourself at home.

General Population:

- If you are in generally good health and have a mild illness, stay home and take care of yourself like you would for the flu. If symptoms worsen, call your doctor.

Your doctor will help make the decision whether you should get tested for COVID-19.

Assisting Ministers

4/05-Jan Vachal
4/12 8am- Karen Richardson
4/12 11am- Rosella Thompson
4/19-Karen Richardson
4/26-Anna Cleghorn

Scripture Readers

4/05-Linden Kron Wendle
4/12 8am- n/a
4/12 11am-n/a
4/19- Jim Heim
4/26- Jack Watteyne

Communion (Set Up/Clean Up)

4/05-Joy Baldauf
4/12 8am-Sally Farhang
4/12 11am- needed
4/19- Linda Heim
4/26- needed

Council Communion Servers/Counters

4/05- Karen Richardson, Sharon Bristow
4/12 8am- Merlin Boxwell, Joy Baldauf
4/12 11am- Tina Malkuch, Rosella Thompson
4/19- Jan Vachal, Larry Holliday
4/26- needed, Jennifer Rogge

Coffee Hosts

4/05- Hollie Widdekind
4/12 8am- Brunch
4/12 11am- Brunch
4/19- needed
4/26- Pat Morgan



Accompanists

4/05- Marlene Anderson
4/12 8am-Philip Brous
4/12 11am- Suzi Watteyne
4/19- David Klassy
4/26- Suzi Watteyne

Tech Support

4/05-Will Wendle
4/12 8am-n/a
4/12 11am- n/a
4/19-Jim Heim
4/26-Sharon Bristow

Greeters

4/05-Hollie & Clay Widdekind
4/12 8am- n/a
4/12 11am- n/a
4/19- needed
4/26- Jim & Linda Heim

Ushers

4/05- Beth & Jeff Frank
4/12 8am- David & Sally Holand
4/12 11am- Jerry & Sharon Bristow
4/19- Jim & Linda Heim
4/26- The Wendle Family

Altar Flowers

4/05-
4/12-
4/19- Vachal Family
4/26-

Thank you to all who grace our sanctuary with flowers!
These are a living reminder of Christ's life for us all.
There are still spaces available for April.
See the sign-up sheet downstairs on the bulletin board.



April Birthdays

April Anniversaries

4/01 Linda Heim
4/03 Jack Thompson
4/04 Pat Morgan
4/08 Toni Heckel
4/11 Bev Browne
4/19 Bailey Chollman



4/19 Donna Olson
4/26 Sally Holand
4/26 Jan VanRinsum
4/29 Philip Brous
4/30 Doug Daten

4/14 Philip & Julie Brous
4/21 Sharon & Jerry Bristow
4/27 Sam & Bev Browne



April 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 5:30 —7:30 pm Lenten Supper, Study, and Worship	2	3	4
Remember! Scholarship deadline is April 26th.			8	9	10 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday	11 7:00 pm Good Friday worship
5 9:30 Adult Study 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship	6 5:30 pm Council Partnership Meeting 8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	7 10:30 am Worship Meeting	14	15	16	17
12 EASTER 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am Brunch 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am Worship	13 8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	14	Pastor Andy at the Montana Synod Pastoral Conference April 14-17		17	18
19 Guest Preacher 9:30 Adult Study 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship	20 1:00 pm Mutual Ministry Meeting 8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	21	22	23	24	25
26 Food on the 4th 9:30 Adult Study 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship	27 8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	28 6:30 pm Giving Team Meeting	29	30		





The best way to stay informed about all things related to Eidsvold during this current situation is to be connected to Pastor Andy's emails, check online regularly, or expect a phone call from members of council seeking to touch base and stay connected. And if you have questions, please call Pastor Andy at the office or on his cell or Karen Richardson at home as well.

Pastor Andy's Email Address:

pastorandy2@charter.net

Eidsvold's website address:

www.eidsvoldlutheran.net

April 2020 Newsletter

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EIDSVOLD
LUTHERAN CHURCH
A builder of faithful and responsible lives
for a stronger community.



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