



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



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

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Eidsvold's Church Council

Jennifer Rogge, President
Karen Richardson, Secretary
Sharon Bristow, Treasurer
Merlin Boxwell
Anna Cleghorn
Larry Holliday
Tina Malkuch
Jan Vachal
Pastor: Andy Wendle
**Office Hours: Tuesday -
Thursday 9:00 to 2:00**

Happenings at Eidsvold!

Eidsvold's Annual Meeting

after worship
SUNDAY, FEB. 9

Be sure to pick up
your copy of
the annual report.

Congregational Meeting



A Journey through the Psalms

Sunday, Feb. 2nd, we will begin a study of the weekly Psalm reading during our adult education class. The narrative lectionary we are using appoints a Psalm reading each week and is a great way to ground and place ourselves in the hands of scripture.

Join us at 9:30 as we learn, reflect, and use this timeless resource for faithful growth.



Shouldn't Lent be starting sometime in February? YES!!!

Easter is late this year but not as late as last year. Easter is April 12th which means that Lent will begin on February 26th with our Ash Wednesday service.

**Ash Wednesday Worship
February 26 - 7:00 pm**

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our living and loving Savior Jesus Christ!

Ahhh, February. The month of amore! In honor of this month I offer you a meditation on Valentine's Day. Enjoy!



As you might have guessed Valentine's Day, or more properly St. Valentine's Day, does have some Christian origins. However these origins, like many within our world and lives, are convoluted at best. The name Valentine most likely comes from an early Catholic priest named, appropriately enough, Priest Valentio. Not much is known about this priest or even whether there was such a priest. The best guess is that he was an early priest in Rome, a bishop of Terni (an town in Italy) or a martyr in a Roman province in Africa. In either case a day honoring him first appears in 496. An act by Pope Gelasius I set forth February 14th as a date to honor Valentine among those "whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God."



From 496 on, St. Valentine's day toiled in relative obscurity. It wasn't until 1260 that St. Valentine was given more prominence in the Latin *Legunda Aurea*. There, Valentine was described as an early Christian persecuted by none other than Roman Emperor Claudius II himself. According to the *Legunda Aurea*, a study of the Saints published by Jacobus de Voragine, Claudius was impressed by Valentine and tried to convert him to paganism and when Valentine refused he was executed but not before healing the blind daughter of one of his jailers. St. Valentine's Day then remained a feast day in the Catholic Church until the Second Vatican Council in 1969.

And yet as exciting as that story is, it has absolutely nothing to do with the sentimental version of Valentine's Day that we celebrate on February 14th! So where did all that come from?

Well, since the time of 1260 and the publication of the *Legunda Aurea* the story has of course, like all good stories are, been embellished. Valentine came to be thought of as a priest who opposed the Roman law that required soldiers to be single. Valentine, out of his belief that this was against God's will, supposedly performed marriages for young men in secret thus defying Roman law for the sake of amore! And when this was found out Claudius threw him in jail where the rest of the events then unfolded. (Note: There is one more embellishment that was added much later which said that Valentine apparently fell in love with the daughter of the jailer he healed and sent her the very first valentine card on the day he was executed, February 14th, signed "From your Valentine.")

So there you have it, the convoluted origins of Valentine's Day. A day we now celebrate with almost 1 billion valentine cards being sent across the world. So send your cards, give your flowers and remember perhaps not just the man or men who were called Valentine but the human desire evident in this story to seek and find love. We find that love through the God who claims and calls us in Jesus the Christ. May we share that love through our lives this month, this Valentine's Day, as well.



In Peace,
Pastor Andy

Other fun Valentine's Day Facts:

73% of people who buy Valentine's Day flowers are men.

Cupid is a symbol of Valentine's Day. Cupid was associated with Valentine's Day because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty.

The oldest surviving love poem was written in a clay tablet from the times of the Sumerians, inventors of writing, around 3500 B.C.

On February 14th wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on Valentine's Day in Wales. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favorite Valentine decorations on the wooden spoons. This Valentine decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!"

Verona, the Italian city where Shakespeare's play lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters every year sent to Juliet on Valentine's Day.

Words from the Bishop: Following Jesus

What does it mean to follow Jesus? Not what *did* it mean, but what does it mean right now, in this time and place? That is the question that we in the Montana Synod will be exploring more deeply over the next months and years as we discern how to be the body of Christ in these changing times.



Essentially, following Jesus is about being in life-centered relationship with God in Christ through the power of the Spirit. This is a relationship that starts not with anything we do but with Jesus saying simply, “Come and See; Follow Me.” And when we take that first step of trust, of faith, we see in Christ a new way of life that is radically different than the world around us lives or preaches. This is a life that has all of its being, seeking, and doing, all of its thinking, feeling, and acting centered in God’s love “for you” in Christ. In inviting us to “Come and See, Follow Me,” Jesus calls us to follow him right into a life-newing relationship with God.

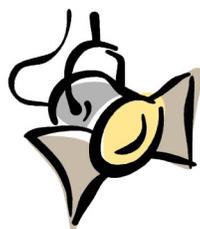


And this new life in relationship with the God who is love has consequences for how we live in this world. Following Jesus isn’t merely about getting into heaven someday or showing up in church occasionally. For the Kingdom has come near, now and today, and that matters for how Jesus calls us to live in relationship with God and with our neighbor...all of our neighbors including creation itself. As Jesus declares: “The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength... You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

(Mark 12:30-31)

Following Jesus is about living out these relationships of love with all our heart, spirit, mind and body. And we do so not from our own power, which is limited and tainted by sin, but through the power of the Spirit who enters and forgives us when we have the courage to let go and let God. When we can do that, the new life-changing love of God becomes our center and we can follow Jesus with a faith-filled vitality that seeks to live God’s Kingdom into the world around us.

And what does this following look like for us in our particular context and lives, you may ask? Well, that is what we’re going to explore together in various ways. And one significant way we will discern what it means to follow Jesus today is to start seeing it happen right in front of our eyes.



Beginning next week, the Synod News will be offering a new regular series entitled “Spotlight on the Synod.” In this series, we will tell a story about ministry taking place somewhere in the synod that makes “Following Jesus” visible to us. Jenny Kunka, our NRIT director, will be gathering and writing these stories of how the Spirit is working through you in your communities to love, welcome, and serve God and neighbor. These stories will be offered once a month in place of my article so that you can see some of the exciting and creative ways enthusiastic ELCA Lutherans around the Montana Synod are following Christ in their neck of the woods.

So, as we travel the synod, I invite you to tell us about the inspiring, distinctive and vital ways your congregation or ministry is “Following Jesus” so that we can shine a spotlight on it for the rest of the Synod to see.

Your fellow follower of Jesus,

Bishop Laurie Jungling

EIDSVOLD AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Educational Opportunities at Eidsvold

Bible Study

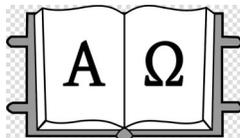


- New Sunday morning (9:30) Bible class on Psalms — See the information on the front page.

- A Wednesday evening Bible study has formed and is going to be studying the book of Haggai. This study will

look at the historical background of Israel returning from exile and the challenges they are presented with by God. It meets every Wednesday until Ash Wednesday, 6:45-8:00pm, in the upstairs study area of the church.

- Coming in March: Lenten reflections together over the book of Revelation. Its not what you've come to think it is!



Scholarship applications will soon be available!



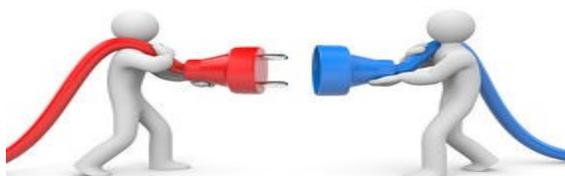
Eidsvold is gifted with the opportunity to offer scholarships each year to college-aged young adults seeking higher education. Watch our bulletins and emails for more information!

Secretarial Position Update



We are currently receiving and interviewing applicants and hope to have someone hired soon. We're excited to welcome this newest person to the Eidsvold team just as soon as we find them. Stay tuned!

Make Sure You're Connected!!!



Sermons online!

Miss a week? Want to hear something again? Want to share something you heard? Check out Pastor Andy's sermons online at www.eidsvoldlutheran.net.



Would you like to join Eidsvold's **Email Prayer Chain?**

Contact Karen Richardson or Rosella Thompson.

Weekly E-mail

As you may know, Pastor Andy sends a weekly email. It has current information about the life of Eidsvold.

If you would like to receive this email, let Pastor Andy know at 406-857-3529 or pastorandy2@charter.net.



Vanco Simply Giving: Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

We want to remind you that Eidsvold offers electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Simply contact the church office for the registration form and you can begin your direct giving to Eidsvold now. (Simply Giving is a service Eidsvold provides for its members and costs you, our valued contributors, nothing as a part of your gift.)



COMMUNITY NEWS AND OUTREACH



**Adult Spirituality Retreat:
God with Muddy Hands**

April 26-28, 2020 (Sunday- Tuesday)

As potters ply their craft to turn mud into master-pieces, so God shapes each precious person with gentle artistry. This retreat will help participants understand and experience the loving touch of our Potter through brief teachings, creative exploration and personal time with our Creator.



Join us for this retreat led by Beth Ratzlaff and Brenda Satrum.

\$220/person for the full weekend;
commuter rates: Sun = \$30, Mon = \$150, Tues = \$30

But now, O LORD, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.

Isaiah 64:8



Tea Party at FLBC

February 15, 2020
2-4 pm at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
\$10/person

Grandparents, guardians, parents, bring your kiddos to a Valentine's Day "Tea Party!" All ages are welcome; our programming will focus on children ages 4-12. Food, crafts, singing, and fun with a special "princess" guest!



THE MONTANA SYNOD
STEWARDSHIP TASK FORCE PRESENTS:

**TASTE AND SEE:
CULTIVATING
GENEROUS
CONGREGATIONS**

with Pastor Larry Strenge,
National Coordinator
for Generous Congregations

Saturday, February 29th, 10a.m. - 3p.m.
at a location near you!



Event is being held at Bethlehem Lutheran!

General Fund Treasurer's Report

(Year End figures from 2019)

	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income	\$193,717.10
General Fund Expenses	
World Mission	\$17,802.00
Pastoral Ministry	\$95,361.05
Worship	\$22,547.80
Church Property	\$23,338.04
Total Expenses	\$159,048.89



February Servants



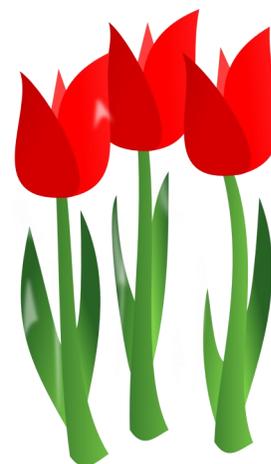
	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23
Assisting Ministers	Rosella Thompson	Karen Richardson	Pat Morgan	Jan Vachal
Readers	Grace Holm	Jack Watteyne	Anna Cleghorn	Jael Naw
Communion Set-up	Joy Baldauf	Sally Holand	Rosella Thompson	Joy Baldauf
Servers/ Counters	Joy Baldauf, Karen Richardson	Rosella Thompson, Jan Vachal	Anna Cleghorn, Tina Malkuch	Sharon Bristow, Jennifer Rogge
Accompanists	Suzi Wattteyne	Philip Brous	David Klassy	Suzi Watteyne
Tech Support	Jael Naw	Will Wendle	Rosella Thompson	Jim Heim
Greeters	Sally Holand	Jan & Fran VanRinsum	Jim & Linda Heim	Grace and Cindy Holm
Ushers	Howard & Fran Ruby	Howard & Fran Ruby	The Wendle Family	Tim & Jennifer Rogge
Coffee Hosts	Hollie Widdekind	Cindy and Grace Holm	Tim & Jennifer Rogge	Hollie Widdekind

February Birthdays

- 2/5 Joy Johnson
- 2/7 Sally Farhang
- 2/8 Pat Boxwell
- Connie Denman
- 2/11 Tim Rogge
- 2/22 Molly Zier McLaughlin
- 2/24 Fran Ruby
- 2/26 Harper Zier McLaughlin

Altar Flowers

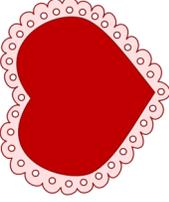
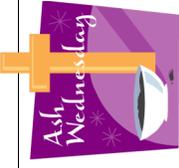
- 2/2 Joy Baldauf
- 2/9 Available
- 2/16 Pat Morgan
- 2/23 Available





February

Valentines Day

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:30 am Adult Class 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Worship 	3 1:00 pm Mutual Ministry Meeting 8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	4 10:30 am Worship Meeting	5 5:30 pm Confirmation Classes 6:45 Bible Study Haggai	6 13	7 14 	1/8 15
9 9:30 am Adult Class 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Annual Meeting after worship	10 1:00 pm Mutual Ministry Meeting 8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	11	12 5:30 pm Confirmation Classes 6:45 Bible Study Haggai	13	14 15	15
16 9:30 am Adult Class 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Worship	17  8:00 pm A. A.	18	19 5:30 pm Confirmation Classes 6:45 Bible Study Haggai	20	21	22
23 9:30 am Adult Class 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Worship	24 8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	25 4:00pm Church Council Meeting	26  Worship 7:00 pm	27	28	29 10-3pm Taste and See: Cultivating Generous Congregations Event Bethlehem Lutheran



**'God's Global Barnyard' –
Coming soon to a church near you!**

The season of Lent is close at hand and plans are underway for our annual adventure into ELCA Good Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. Our Wednesday evening meals will begin March 4. This year we will focus on a favorite childhood song, 'Old MacDonald'! Eidsvold will gift dollars to support livestock, agriculture and other sustainable development projects, which will help families and farmers with the resources they need to survive.

Remember: with a moo-moo here, a quack-quack there, a baa-baa here, and oink-oink there! E-I-E-I-O!



February 2020 Newsletter

Non-Profit Organization
Bulk Rate U.S. Postage
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Somers, MT 59932

EIDSVOLD
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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for a stronger community



Eidsvold Lutheran Church
5935 Hwy 93 South
Post Office Box 100
Somers, Montana 59932