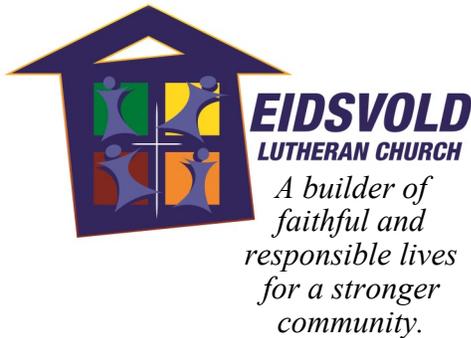




Somers, Montana ✧ Phone (406) 857-3529 ✧ www.eidsvoldlutheran.net ✧ email: office@eidsvoldlutheran.net ✧ October 2020



## Happenings at Eidsvold!

**The Minions are coming to Eidsvold!**  
**What does this mean? Keep watch along the highway throughout October to find out! And if you have old blue jeans, old shirts, old gloves for this special project there is a blue bin outside the main door to donate them!**



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Sadly, due to rising cases through the early parts of the month of September, we will continue worshipping online through the month of October. Join us on our Facebook page (@eidsvoldlutheranmt) or on our website (www.eidsvoldlutheran.net) each week.

Our worship service will also continue to be live at 10:00am on Sunday mornings both on Facebook and on Eidsvold's website.

Thank you to all for your financial support over these trying months. We are carrying on our ministry as builders of faithful and responsible lives for a stronger community! Thank you!



### 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**

### Our Mission continues...

**Food on the Fourth!!! We will collect a food donation on September 27th!**  
 The most requested food for donations:



*If you are interested in making a monetary donation for food and operations, please send to:*

*West Shore Food Bank, PO Box 192, Lakeside, MT 59922.  
 EIDSVOLD IN ACTION - COMMUNITY MINDED  
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,  
 The Giving Team*

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

*Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.*

Matthew 24:4-8



This passage, which comes as the disciples and Jesus have entered Jerusalem leading ultimately to his death, is a pastoral passage from Jesus to his disciples and other followers about what the end will look like. I say “pastoral” because it is meant to reassure the disciples that even though they are going to experience tremendous challenge, difficulty and likely even death themselves, God has a purpose and direction for them. God’s story will be larger, wider, longer than whatever momentary persecution or upset is going on in their world. In the spirit of Jesus, I want to offer you a similar word today.

If the past few years, and likely longer, have taught us anything it is that we are not in normal times. People make a lot of what 2020 has been and there is certainly a lot there, however while the COVID-19 pandemic is new, the civil unrest and challenge we’ve been seeing this year is not. We, in the United States of America, have entered a period of transition and turmoil, and it is just a hard time to figure out exactly where we can turn for stability and security right now. In short, life right now is just tough.

In the midst of this tough environment we are also about to elect a whole new slate of public servants at the end of this next month (on my birthday to be exact!). If you’re anything like me maybe keeping it all straight has been a bit confusing. We have a former governor running for the US Senate, a US Congressman running for governor, a former governor candidate running for Congress and a former candidate for Congress also running to be governor. And this is to say nothing about the Presidential election.

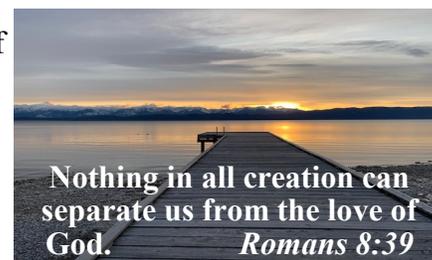


The pastoral word I have for you in this is that while we may know the results of the more local elections on the evening of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we are unlikely to immediately know the national results. And it is even more likely, given the national fervor that I spoke of above, that we will have protests amid celebrations, riots amid calls for unity, marches – violent and peaceful – amid calls for settling down and political court battles while many long for an end. In short, it is likely to be as tumultuous if not more after November 3<sup>rd</sup> as it has been recently. There is just too much built up animosity and unrest on all sides for it to just end when one side wins the election and the other loses.

However, my fellow disciples of Jesus, followers of God’s way, people who pick up your cross – God’s ultimate guiding of our lives will see us through this time of tumult too. God’s purpose will be larger, wider and longer than whatever momentary persecution or upset goes on in our world. I can’t tell you what this will look like for us as a country ... The elections and everything else will have to play themselves out, but what I can tell you is that God’s grace will still guide us, God’s love renew us and we can, centering on God’s revelation to the world in Jesus Christ, still be **one** as God’s people after the election as well.

It is with this in mind that I want to invite you to vigil on the evening of the election. Due to the pandemic I don’t know exactly what this will look like yet, whether it will be inside our sanctuary or in the parking lot in our cars, but we will be hosting a service of prayer and communion that evening to draw us together, reassure us with hope, and let ourselves not be swept away by however it is that people respond after the election. Let us not forget whose and who we are and gather together to live under the one name that resounds in heaven and earth.

In Peace,  
Pastor Andy



p.s. Look for more information about our election evening worship service to come in the next few weeks.

“What does God’s call to love our neighbor as ourselves mean for us today?” How would you respond to this question? How would your congregation?

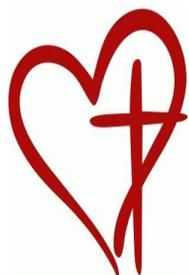
## From the Bishop's Desk

Given what we’re seeing in the behavior of some folks across our country right now, including Christians, this question does seem a good one for we who name ourselves as followers of Christ to ask. After all, this is God’s second greatest commandment to us: love your neighbor as yourself. And we as Christians are called to live this command to the best of our ability through the power of God’s forgiving grace.



I wonder what would happen if we dedicated a year to studying, exploring and practicing God’s call and command to love one another? I wonder what might that look like in our congregations, our synod, our personal lives, our wider ELCA? Stop and imagine for a moment spending a whole year talking about, praying about, listening for, and discerning new and continuing ways to live Jesus Way of Love in this world today.

I wonder how many of us might dismiss this idea as too boring, too “been there, done that,” too “well, duh.” I also wonder how many of us would think that it was a great idea...for those people over there. “I don’t need to learn anything more about Christian love,” I may find myself thinking, “but ‘they’ do!”



...And yet love is the center of Jesus’ way of life. Jesus doesn’t shut up about love. In fact, Jesus talks about love all the time. Loving God and loving our neighbors (all of them) permeates Jesus’ call, his teachings, his actions.

And Paul talks about God’s love and neighbor-love all the time too, teaching us again and again how God’s love for us in Christ calls and commands us to live our lives driven by love for all of God’s people and creation.

And the prophets love talking about God’s steadfast love and mercy while calling us to live out that love, justice and mercy into the world.

Even the Torah – the law found throughout the Hebrew Scriptures -- is centered on God’s command and call to love God and neighbor.

What are the Bible texts that pop into your mind when you think of loving your neighbor as yourself?

For many it may be Paul’s famous love sermon from 1 Cor 13 that is often read at weddings but is actually meant to teach a conflicted community what it means to love one another. “Love is patient and kind, not boastful, arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it’s not irritable or resentful. Love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things.”

Jesus too teaches us love, both God’s love for us and how we ought to share that love with others. Often he does so through parables like the story of the Prodigal Sons or the Good Samaritan. Then there is the parable of Kingdom sorting in Matthew 25 in which Jesus declares bluntly what it looks like for the nations to love of both Christ and neighbor: “Come you (plural) that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you all gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...”

What are your “love” texts from the Bible, the passages that inspire you to love?

Love is the core, the focus and the engine behind everything Christians, including Lutherans, are and do and seek in the world. Love is everything, for God is love.



As I consider the Christian Church today, even us ELCA Lutherans, I wonder if we’ve lost the love. Have we ignored God’s deep, abundant, abiding love for us in Jesus as a cheap gift to shove into the back of our closet so we can keep living as we always have? Have we forgotten what it really means to love our neighbors as ourselves (if our sinful selves ever knew)? I don’t know...I merely wonder.

Maybe if we dedicate a whole year across the Montana Synod to studying, exploring, and living out God’s call to love our neighbors as ourselves, we will discover what Jesus-love really means for us today. I wonder what the Holy Spirit would do with that!

Bishop Laurie

## WHAT'S GOING ON AT EIDSVOLD?

### Adult Study Time

Our Tuesday evening book study group has just about finished studying The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd. This has been a great time to be with one another and discuss not only an engaging book but faithfully explore an important topic for our world at this time. Do you have a book or idea for what we could read next? Get in touch with Pastor Andy and let's discuss this together.



### Confirmation retreat!

Confirmation classes will continue with our retreat based schedule for the fall. We will have class at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp on October 4th, November 8th and December 13th. We are tentatively planning on having classes last from 2-6pm. Look for more information to come via email and we will see you there! RSVP to Pastor Andy with how many in your family can attend.



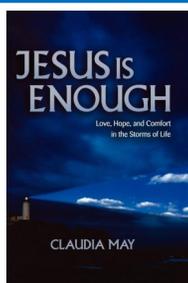
### Stories for faithful living!

Each Wednesday morning Pastor Andy (or someone from his cadre of Eidsvold storytellers) will offer a children's story for you and for all who tune in. These stories will be interpreted through a faithful lens but will not necessarily all come from strictly religious backgrounds. Have a favorite children's story you'd like to hear or read? Let us know. We're always looking for more stories to share that reach even the more senior children of God in our world! You can catch this new feature on Facebook or on Eidsvold's web page!



### Devotional Delivery

Look for a new devotional book for you and your household early this month. The devotion is called—Jesus Is Enough - and is hopefully a way for us all to move through these challenging days. Written by Claudia May, this resource seeks to help us access the Bible in new ways so that our emotions and life can be held up within the light of scripture. We hope that this is a rewarding resource for you!



### A New Computer!

Through an ELCA technology grant from the MT Synod and a generous gift, Eidsvold will soon be using a new computer to broadcast our online worship service. Thank you for the anonymous gift and thank you to the MT Synod for helping to make this happen. It will strengthen our online platform and offerings!



**COMMUNITY NEWS AND OUTREACH**



**ELCA and Lutheran World Relief partner to fight COVID-19 around the world**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has worked with Lutheran World Relief (LWR) to repurpose \$160,000 in project funding for emergency responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

In Latin America, the funding will be used for food assistance in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, which have been hard-hit by the coronavirus and the resulting economic disruption that is causing increased hunger. In Africa, the support will provide improved water, sanitation and hygiene, along with personal protective equipment, to displaced communities in South Sudan. And a project in Nepal will ensure that quarantine facilities are hygienic and comfortable, and that households economically affected by COVID-19 are able to cultivate their crops and sustain their small-scale businesses.

"Thanks to the flexibility and rapid action of our ELCA partners, Lutheran World Relief has been able to quickly ramp up these emergency responses to COVID-19," said Daniel Speckhard, LWR president and CEO. "This is so important because COVID-19 is a major threat to the resilience and well-being of the communities where we serve. Lives will be saved as a result of this support."

"The ELCA has a tradition of standing with our global neighbors in good times and in bad," said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA. "Our partnership with Lutheran World Relief is a reflection of that strong commitment and allows us to deepen and extend it in this time of extreme crisis."

The ELCA and LWR share a long, historical relationship and a mutual commitment to companionship in mission. Through its [ELCA World Hunger](#) program, the ELCA has provided \$1 million in annual support to LWR for projects that serve people and communities in various regions around the world, including Latin America, Asia and Africa.



***Gifts can be given through Eidsvold to LWR, simply designate your gift to COVID relief. Gifts can also be made online at [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org).***

Immanuel Lutheran Communities  
 Annual Meeting via Zoom  
 Sunday October 11th, 1-2:00pm

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp  
 Annual Meeting  
 Saturday  
 October 10th  
 2:00pm



Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp is also hosting their first annual "FLBC Golf Classic" on Friday October 9th at Eagle Bend Golf Club in Bigfork. Pastor Andy, Doug Scott and a few others are playing. They will endeavor to bring home the trophy for Eidsvold! (Ok, we're really not sure if there is a trophy but it should be fun as long as it isn't snowing!)





**MINISTRY UPDATE @ EIDSVOLD**

***“BUILDING A...STRONGER COMMUNITY”  
EIDSVOLD’S OUTREACH ~ 2020***



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

West Shore Food Bank — 420 lbs. of food (through August)  
 Thrivent Action Team Grants — 1 approved so far  
 MT Synod congregational support — \$3700  
 Toys For Kids Support—\$1500  
 Anti-Bullying—\$250

**October Birthdays**

Ivan O’Neil - October 1st (92!)  
 Lucille Ritter—October 15th (98!)  
 Ray Rogge—October 17th  
 Karen Richardson—October 18  
 Dan Vachal—October 25  
 Rosella Thompson—October 27  
 Bill Schottelkorb—October 28



**October Musicians**

October 4th - Marlene Anderson  
 October 11th—Suzi Watteyne  
 October 18th—David Klassy  
 October 25th—Suzi Watteyne

**Assisting Ministers**

October 4th - Anna Cleghorn  
 October 11th - Rosella Thompson  
 October 18th - Jan Vachal  
 October 25th - Karen Richardson

**General Fund Treasurers Report**

	<u>August 2020</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
General Fund Income	\$ 6,269.35	\$92,955.08
General Fund Expenses		
World Mission	\$0	\$7,579.00
(Note: we process this quarterly)		
Pastoral Ministry	\$7,776.61	\$48,491.17*
Worship	\$1,306.42	\$12,764.72
Church Property	\$ 285.97	\$12,081.01
Total Expenses	\$ 9,369.00	\$80,915.90*

\*A PPP loan helped pay for Pastoral Ministry expenses for part of May, June and July.

# OCTOBER

# 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	3
All Holidays are taken from <a href="http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com">www.nationaldaycalendar.com</a> !							
4 10:00am Online Worship 2-6pm Confirmation	5  8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous	6 7:00 pm The <u>Invention of Wings</u> Book Study (Zoom)	7	Fluffernutter Day 	9 FLBC Golf Scramble 	10 FLBC Annual Meeting 	
11 10:00am Online Worship Sausage Pizza Day 	12 8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous	13 7:00 pm The <u>Invention of Wings</u> Book Study (Zoom)	14 <i>Be Bald and Free Day</i> 	15	16	17	
18 10:00am Online Worship 4pm Council Meeting	19 8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous	20 7:00 pm The <u>Invention of Wings</u> Book Study (Zoom)	21	Nut Day 	23	24	
25 10:00am Online Worship Reformation Day	26 8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous	27 Black Cat Day 	28	29	30	31 Halloween 	



Remember all the toys and gifts Eidsvold collected last year for children in need in our area through the 'Light Up Christmas for a Child' program?

We're going to carry it on this year again!

The program will be adjusted to follow COVID-19 precautions to keep both workers and families as safe as possible. Families will turn in a wish list, Eidsvold Elves will shop,

then families will be contacted for package drive-by pick-up at ELC parking lot or home delivery. We will work closely with schools to reach local families in need. We welcome monetary donations from congregation and community members. Stay tuned for more details as Christmas is coming!



Non-Profit Organization  
Bulk Rate U.S. Postage  
Permit #1  
Somers, MT 59932

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



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