



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



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

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**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**

## Happenings at Eidsvold!



We will be worshipping online through the month of September! Join us on our Facebook page (@eidsvoldlutheranmt) or on our website (www.eidsvoldlutheran.net) each week.

Also, due to our services being online our worship time for the month of September will **NOT** switch. We will stay with our **10:00am** worship service time.



See you then!



Thank you to everyone for your financial support over these trying months. We are carrying on our ministry to be builders of faithful and responsible lives for a stronger community thanks to you! Keep it up!

*New developments in our life together page 4!*

**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!



I've come to realize, after almost fourteen years of parenting now, that one of the truly sacred and unique trusts I have when it comes to my kids is with the school that they attend. This isn't with Lakeside Elementary or Somers Middle School per se, or even just with their individual teachers, but rather with the whole of the educational system that includes these local facilities but also goes beyond them. I willingly, and at my best intentionally, place the lives of those I love the most into their hands and expect that the schools will positively shape and inform the people that my children will become.

Part of my saying this is to acknowledge that these lives we bring into the world are not just ours to own but are rather ours to help shape and form. I love my children dearly, but one day they will leave home and become their own individuals and part of my charge is to help usher them on their way.

I bring this up now because through this very personal lens I've come to realize my own limitations. I am on the school board. I am, we are, involved parents. I am a person who actively believes and supports the notion that the school children in our area are our responsibility as a society, a community, as a body of faith. And I am utterly helpless to ensure their safety this fall due to COVID – 19.

Now, true, we could pull them out of school and keep them at home. The challenge with that is that there is important social learning and school learning that is cheapened when they are not with their peers. This situation has heightened the ways in which schools are well positioned to do that. Even those that homeschool their kids work at finding ways to do that important work with others.

And yes, there are ways that the schools are working to ensure the safety of the students when they enter. They are requiring face masks, implementing new policies and procedures around recess, class rotation schedules, dropping off school supplies, visitors in schools. They are also investing in infrastructure improvements like sanitizing fog machines, temperature check stations, hand washing stations, air filtration systems and more. And they are training their staff, teachers, principals and students in ways that are all designed to better ensure the safety of those in their charge. And yet I know it is not enough.



What I have learned over the past several months that we have been living with COVID-19 in our world is that all of our best safety and security procedures do not stop the virus from getting in. At best they help control the spread in a system but when the virus comes in, it just comes. This virus knows no boundaries and while it's impact can be mild for most, it can also be very severe for some.



Which brings me to the real topic of this article ... I want to invite you to pray. Pray for our administrators who have been working much more than their allotted hours on mitigating and planning for this situation. Pray for our teachers who are, in some cases, literally putting their lives at risk in teaching the kids of our community their ABC's and much more. Pray for our staff in the schools who are being paid far less for their efforts but are doing more and are essential for the "least of these" in our schools. And pray for our students. They come in from all walks, sizes and backgrounds and they will be challenged in ways that are above and beyond their ability.

I began by noting that my role as a parent involves a "sacred" trust in this system when it comes to my kids. That was intentional. In Jesus' day children were not seen as the treasure that we commonly want to see them as today, but he nonetheless challenged the notions of his world by taking the "children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them." Mark 10:16

School starts in our area September 8<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for our schools, our families, our children, all involved in our schools on that day. May we seek to bless all of God's children with our prayers.

In Peace,  
Pastor Andy



*Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
to keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills of this world in the next. (ELW 839)*



These words of gratitude from the well-known hymn “Now Thank We All our God” resonated with me during my vacation.

I have so much to be thankful for even in the midst of a pandemic and societal turmoil and the uncertainty facing our Church and world. Of course, I am grateful for my family and friends and that, so far, all have remained as healthy and safe as possible. Of course, I am grateful for God’s wonder-filled creation that I got to enjoy over the past few weeks, whether riding the Hiawatha Bike Trail on MT/ID border (Above)

Or hiking in and around our beloved Glacier National Park, including Firebrand Pass which you saw last week and Marion Lake pictured here.



I am grateful for the synod staff and their great work that made it possible for me to have this vacation time. And I am grateful for all of you and the ongoing ministry you are finding innovative and vital ways to do during these days. And this year, I am especially grateful that I don’t have to pack up my things into a U-Haul and move as I have been doing every year since moving to Montana to be an intentional interim pastor.



It’s hard to be thankful to God in the midst of a pandemic that is forcing us to let go of the old normal and discover new ways of doing things. As much as we praise God for making “all things new,” we don’t really want it, not if it means changing away from the old. And yet giving thanks to God with our hearts and hands and voices for the wondrous things God has done and yes, is doing right now, is an important and even nurturing part of our faith.

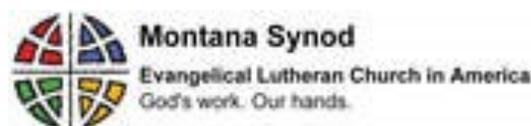
Walter Brueggemann writes about being grateful during a time of pandemic in his most recent book, *Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Grief, Loss and Uncertainty*. Brueggemann tells the story of Martin Rinkhart, the author of the lyrics for “Now Thank We All Our God,” who was a pastor in Eilenburg, Saxony in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Eilenburg was a walled-in city where people fled to escape the rampant war and pandemic that was ravaging Europe. During these difficult days, Pastor Rinkhart buried over 40 people a day, including his own wife. Yet somehow, in deep faith, Pastor Rinkhart was able to write the words that later became the hymn we sing each Thanksgiving and perhaps should pray more regularly.

As I read the words of this hymn again last week, I was reminded that indeed our bounteous God is near us through our life, keeping us all in grace, and guiding us when perplexed. Yes, even during pandemics and social strife and anxious times. God is still our God today and always will be. And with God’s help we will get through the ills of the day as painful as they are.

So let us give thanks and continue to pray in grateful faith and a certain hope for this God, our God, to “free us from all ills in this world and the next,” joining with the prophet Jeremiah as he proclaims, “Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for the Lord’s steadfast love endures forever!” (Jer 33:11)

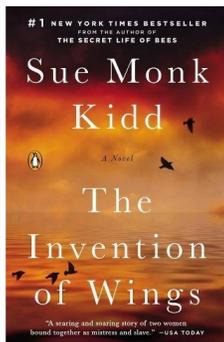
Blessings to you all as I return, very thankful for a rejuvenating vacation.

Bishop Laurie



## WHAT'S GOING ON AT EIDSVOLD?

### Adult Study Time



On Tuesday evenings a small book study group has formed and is meeting on zoom at 7:00pm to discuss The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd. It is not too late to join us. Get your copy of the book and contact Pastor Andy! We'd love to "see" you there.

### Confirmation retreat!

Confirmation classes will begin September 13th at 2:00pm with a fall retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. In addition to enjoying all the wonderful things that camp has to offer, we will finish with a BBQ meal and orientation to what families can expect this fall. RSVP to Pastor Andy with how many in your family can attend. We look forward to seeing you there!



### 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!



### Newsy News Is Coming

*We have missed each other during this unusual spring and summer. Our catch up time during coffee hour in the fellowship hall has come to a standstill. What have you and your family been up to? What are you doing to keep Covid-19 cabin fever at bay? Keep an eye on your mailbox for some newsy news to get us all up to speed with our friends at Eidsvold. Wondering what this is all about? When you receive your newsy news, you will quickly catch on!*



### Devotional Delivery

Look for a new devotional book for you and your household this fall. We will be ordering soon and will be looking to deliver to you in your home when they arrive. Just a little way for us all to keep together, centered on God's presence in our lives and live as one in God's name.

**COMMUNITY NEWS AND OUTREACH**

# Women's Retreat

*"You Are Enough."*

During seminary, Pastor Halcyon studied the topic of shame and wrote her seminary thesis on how we don't need to be held back by shame in our lives. She is excited to share with you how God calls us out from being held captive by shame into a life of abundant joy.

**Join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation!**

**Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**\$160/person**

**Saturday only: \$100**

*Non-refundable \$50 deposit due by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020*

Retreat begins with dinner at 6:15pm on Friday (check-in is from 5-6pm) and ends at 11am on Sunday.

CEU credits available through Northern Rockies Institute of Theology (NRIT).  
Sorry, no childcare provided.



Bible Study leader Pastor Halcyon Bjorn is serving at New Life Lutheran Church in Helena MT. She is a graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary. Pastor Halcyon grew up in Montana and is enjoying being back in the mountains again.



Ray and Janice Rogge's granddaughter!!

Worship leader: Savanna Sullivan serves as the Director of Young Adult ministries in the ELCA. She worked at FLBC in the summers of 2013 & 2014. Savanna is also a graduate of Wartburg!



**Contact Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for more information!**

**Registration & \$50 non-refundable deposit due by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**

Register online at [flbc.net](http://flbc.net), email [office@flbc.net](mailto:office@flbc.net), or mail to FLBC 603 S Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901

A list of what to bring, a schedule and additional documents will be sent to you prior to the retreat.

\*Visit our website or call our office for COVID-19 related information.\*

**406.752.6602 • 603 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901 • [office@flbc.net](mailto:office@flbc.net) • [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)**



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 is working to put together a team to play in the tournament and 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!)

Do you golf? Are you interested? All money raised goes to support FLBC's wonderful ministry. Also, Eidsvold is helping out by sponsoring a hole! It should be a great time. Contact Pastor Andy for more information.





**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 — 365 lbs. of food (through July)  
 Thrivent Action Team Grants — 1 approved so far  
 MT Synod congregational support — \$3700  
 Flathead Choir Piano Support—\$500  
 Toys For Kids Support—\$1500

**September Birthdays**

Linda Torgerson - September 1st  
 Donna Carie - September 7th  
 Jennifer Rogge - September 14th  
 Kenzie Griffin - September 15th  
 Brady Holliday - September 17th



**September Anniversaries**

Carol & Pete Nelson - September 5th  
 (Happy 50th Anniversary!!!)  
 Dave & Sally Holand - September 17th  
 Clay and Hollie Widdekind -  
 September 20th



**Assisting Ministers**

September 6th - Rosella Thompson

September 20th - Karen Richardson

September 13th - Jan Vachal

September 27th - Pat Morgan

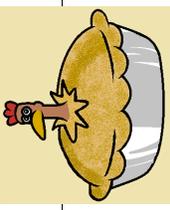
**General Fund Treasurers Report**

	<u>July 2020</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
General Fund Income	\$ 7,780.98	\$86,657.79
General Fund Expenses		
World Mission	\$3,409.00	\$7,579.00
(Note: we process this quarterly)		
Pastoral Ministry	\$7,870.18	\$40,723.06
Worship	\$2,188.48	\$11,497.10
Church Property	\$1,318.89	\$11,795.04
Total Expenses	\$14,786.55	\$71,594.20*

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

# September

# 2020

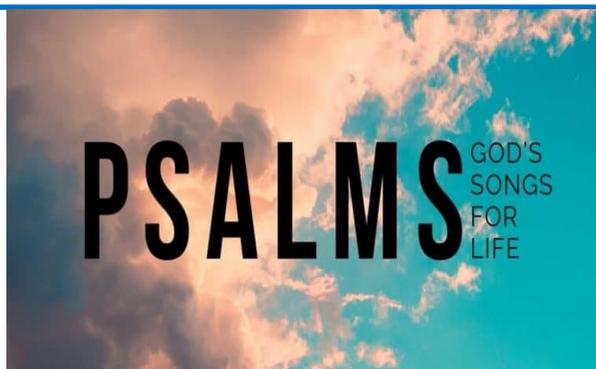
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm <u>The Invention of Wings</u> Book Study (Zoom)	2	3	4  National Wildlife Day	5
6 10:00am Online Worship National Read A Book Day	7 Labor Day	8 7:00 pm <u>The Invention of Wings</u> Book Study (Zoom)	9  NATIONAL GREAT AMERICAN POT PIE DAY	10 National TV Dinner Day	11  Patriot Day and Remembrance	12
13 10:00am Online Worship National Grandparent's Day	14	15 7:00 pm <u>The Invention of Wings</u> Book Study (Zoom)	16	17	18 National POW/ MIA Recognition Day	19 
20 10:00am Online Worship Council Meeting 4:00pm	21	22 7:00 pm <u>The Invention of Wings</u> Book Study (Zoom)	23	24	25	26 National Hunting and Fishing Day
27 10:00am Online Worship	28 National Family Day 	29 7:00 pm <u>The Invention of Wings</u> Book Study (Zoom)	30			

\*Food on the Fourth\*



### Psalms in the World

This is a weekly piece published to Facebook and our Website that shares the Psalm reading for the upcoming Sunday as it is read in one of the many beautiful spots in the Flathead Valley. We also welcome others to help us read the Psalm! Talk to Pastor Andy for a time to share in this simple way.



### Sign up for church emails!

Let Pastor Andy know at  
406-857-3529  
or [pastorandy2@charter.net](mailto:pastorandy2@charter.net).



### 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](http://www.eidsvoldlutheran.net).



# STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on Facebook! Look for:  
**Eidsvold Lutheran Church**  
or type  
**@eidsvoldlutheranmt** into any  
search engine!



Non-Profit Organization  
Bulk Rate U.S. Postage  
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