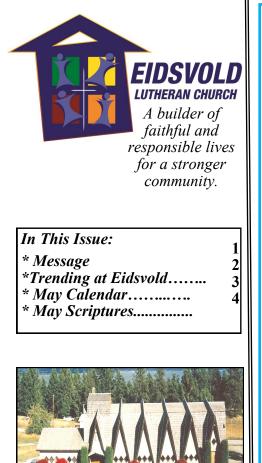


Somers, Montana ♦ Phone (406) 857-3529 ♦ www.eidsvoldlutheran.net ♦ email: office@eidsvoldlutheran.net ♦

May 2023



Eidsvold's Church Council

Tim Rogge, President Bill Schottelkorb, Vice President Anna Cleghorn, Secretary Jan Vachal, Treasurer Karen Richardson Merlin Boxwell Rosella Thompson

Office Hours:

Tuesday 1p-4p Leave message at 406-857-3529 or email: office@eidsvoldlutheran.net In February 2022, Eidsvold Lutheran Church formally recognized that significant change was needed in order for the church to sustain its mission and carry on its work. That day marked the start of a transformational journey for this congregation. At the upcoming Special Congregational Meeting on May 21st, 2023, Eidsvold will take another step in that journey. Transformation is hard. Letting go of what we know without knowing exactly what is to come can be scary. However, I feel that if we look to scripture we can see that it can lead us to new and better places that we could not imagine.

Throughout the scriptures transformation happens again and again – God spoke, and the creation emerged from the chaos of nothing. Moses, outside of his

awareness, had been preparing his whole life for the task of leading the Hebrew people out of Egypt. When he encountered God in a burning bush in the wilderness, he was able to respond because he had the tools he needed. The long wandering journey of the Hebrew people in the wilderness was a necessary part of their being shaped as the people of God. Even after they were in the Promised Land, their story is one of repeated unfaithfulness and the prophets calling them back. When the temple was destroyed and the Hebrews were sent into Exile, they learned that God was not just a local deity, but God of all and was to be found everywhere. The story of Saul on the road to Damascus is a dramatic story of transformation. Peter on the other hand experienced a gradual transformation as he lived with Jesus.

It is important to remember a few things while on your journey of change There are no experts in the area of transformation. Some things which produce amazing results in one setting can be totally ineffective in another. Your transformation journey requires people within this congregations who are willing be learners, help others learn, try new things and adapt resources to fit needs.

Transformation is a process not a program. Every journey is unique. No program can promise and deliver certain results, but there are tools and resources to help us on the journey. The process develops as we continue our journey.

Transformation isn't a quick fix. We might like to think a few minor changes will lead easily and quickly to transformation. In our world, our culture, and our

local neighborhoods and churches, we are living in a time of upheaval and change at an unprecedented rate. Our journey in this wilderness can be likened to journey of the Hebrew people in Exodus. Some might say, "We don't have time for such a long journey." However, during the years in the wilderness, the

Hebrew people grew both in numbers and their relationship to God. Transformation begins with a changing heart. Transformation is a gift from

God. We can't make it happen any more than we can make plants grow. However, we do have a part. It is important that we listen to God by continually engaging in the study of scripture and the practices of prayer and meditation. By opening our hearts to God, we can better discern to what and where he is leading us.

Courage, Clarity, and Commitment are essential to this journey.

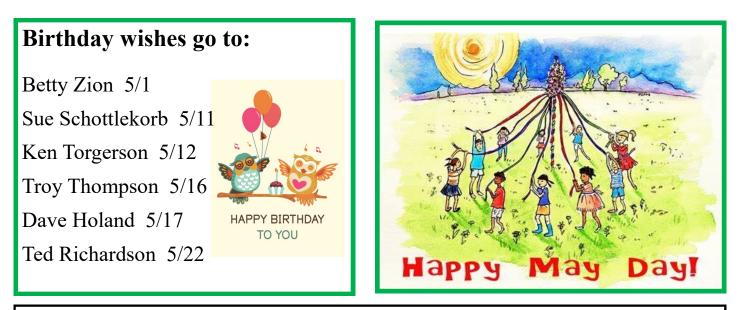
<u>Courage</u> – it isn't easy to step off familiar paths and go in a new direction, especially when the future is unknown.

<u>Clarity</u> – this takes a willingness to listen, explore, test, and focus on the work to which God is calling us.

<u>Commitment</u> – We may not know for some time what transformation is really occurring, but we will encounter markers we can use along the way. We need to continue to work and hope and trust that the fruit will come. Have faith that our God who acted in the past and acts in the present, will continue to act in the future.

Nearly 7 years ago, when my wife was called as a pastor to Montana, we left our home of 28 years in Minnesota and set out on a journey into the unknown. Giving up the comfort of what we had and what we knew for this new unknown life was scary. However, I remember telling people at the time that I was also excited about the journey we were embarking on. I think this is because I trusted that God was with us on our journey and would lead us to new places and new challenges. One of those places for me was the Lay Pastoral Associate (LPA) program. Becoming an LPA has allowed me to grow in faith and better understand God's will and purpose in my life. It has also equipped me with some of the skills that enable me to walk with you on your transformational journey. It is my pleasure to be with you during this time, and I will strive to do whatever I can to support Eidsvold during your journey into the unknown.

The peace of Christ be with you always, Steve



WHAT'S TRENDING AT EIDSVOLD?

A special congregational meeting on May 21st 2023 has been called by our church council. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a motion to jointly move forward with Bethlehem Lutheran Church to call a shared pastoral leader, and to explore other mutual ministry activities. A formal announcement of the meeting and the statement of intent (which includes the motion being voted on) have been sent out with the May 2023 newsletter.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7pm AA	2 10:30 Worship Committee	3	4	5	6
7 11:00 Worship with Steve Seilhymer LPA	8 7pm AA	9	10 7pm Church Council	11	12	13
14 11:00 Worship with Pastor Doug Nemitz	15 7pm AA	16	17	18	19	20
21 11:00 Worship with Pastor Al Jensen SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING	22 7pm AA	23	24	25	26	27
28 11:00 Worship with Pastor Scott Thompson	29 7pm AA	30	31			

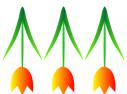
EIDSVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2023

VVV ↓↓ VVV **VVV VVV** MAY SERVANTS

Date:	May 7th	May 14th	May 21st	May 28th
Minister /Preacher	Steve Seilhymer	Pastor Doug	Pastor Al	Pastor Scott
	LPA	Nemitz	Jensen	Thompson
Assisting	Anna	Pat	Rosella	Karen
Ministers	Cleghorn	Morgan	Thompson	Richardson
Accompanists	Marlene	Marlene	Suzi	Phillip
	Anderson	Anderson	Watteyene	Brous
PowerPoint	Rosella	Anna	Sharon	Jim
	Thompson	Cleghorn	Bristow	Heim
On-line	Gage	Gage	Gage	Gage
	Thompson	Thompson	Thompson	Thompson
Ushers	Rosella	Anna	Sharon	Linda & Jim
	Thompson	Cleghorn	Bristow	Heim

May 2023 Newsletter







Somers, Montana 59932 Post Office Box 100 thus the year sees Eidsvold Lutheran Church