

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

~ August 2016 ~

Interim Pastor, Pastor Marie AK Anderson

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Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator

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Worship Schedule

August 2016

Sunday, August 7th

10:00 a.m. @ Highland Prairie

Sunday, August 14th

10:00 a.m. @ Elstad

Sunday, August 21st

*10:00 a.m. "Bowl Service"
Highland Prairie*

Sunday, August 28th

*10:00 a.m. @ Elstad
Music Festival*

Confirmation Orientation
Wednesday, September 7th
6:30 p.m. @ Elstad

All 7th and 8th grades students
and parents are
expected to attend.

Rally Sunday

HP- Sunday, September 11th

EL- Sunday, September 18th

The Bridge page can be found in
the newsletter online or a few
copies will be located next to the bul-
letins for the following two weeks.

Parsonage 100th Anniversary Celebration

August 21 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Highland Prairie and Elstad parsonage with an open house. For that celebration we are looking for photos that show the parsonage inside and out over the years. Other church-parsonage artifacts from that time period like the original floor plans or a hymn book are also being sought.

Elstad's Annual Music Festival
Music Fest in Our Old Country Church

Please join us for a special music festival at Elstad on
Sunday, August 28th at 10:00 a.m.

Plan to be entertained and uplifted by the musical talents of Rev. Ann Siverling who will lead us through worship telling God's story using The Word, humor and lots of music. We will also hear from our own Eckstrom children, as they share their musical gifts.

Potluck lunch provided by the Elstad WELCA and lots of fun for all participating in the Silent Action!

Elstad families are encouraged to bring items for the Silent Auction, held after the Music Fest on August 28th. If possible please have them to the church by Sat. the 27th. All Elstad families are asked to provide for the potluck lunch. Servers are Carol Overland, Carolyn Smith, Carolyn Freese, Rita Kelly, Jodie Daniels, Beth Storhoff, Darlys Storhoff and Amber Arends

Buffalo Bill Days will be hosting an Ecumenical church service Sunday, August 7th at 10:30 am in Sylvan Park at the gazebo. "Highway 30" will lead the service. Free will offering/canned food items will be given to Fillmore County Food Shelf. Bring a lawn chair and join us for Praise and Song!

Message from Pastor Marie...

Pastor's letter,

As I write this letter to you, the thermometer is rising to record setting numbers, we are preparing for the second outdoor worship of this summer and the call committee is holding the first round of interviews, which will lead to the next called pastor for Elstad and Highland Prairie. The Gospel text for the outdoor worship is Luke's story of Jesus teaching the disciples how to pray thru the use of the Lord's Prayer. Today Christians around the world use this prayer so often we can pray without thinking about what we are saying, unless we are using a new translation or language. I think it is sometimes OK to pray without thinking, as it gives the Holy Spirit more space to be at work.

In my personal life, my recent prayers have been very specific and I know exactly what I think God should be doing. As so many of you know, my Mother, Joan (JoAnn) had heart surgery on May 12. You prayed for her before, during and after her surgery. I remember one of you saying to me, "You and your mother are on my Must Pray list each day." Surgery did not go as planned for Mother. So many things went so wrong. God's hands and feet at work in the operating room were busy that day and the next. And since. I can't say it was your prayers that kept Mother alive then and healing now, God could do that without you. However, you certainly influenced God with the strength and frequency of your prayers. Now that Mother is really beginning to heal and I am no longer focusing on clinical details and shooting off demanding prayers to God, informing God ***I am NOT ready to be without my mother***, I have time to understand that Mother and I along with the rest of our family were being held up by your prayers. Your prayers that were not so demanding-your prayers that left room for the Holy Spirit to be at work in mothers healing.

As things return to "normal" my prayers are specific (for the concerns of these congregations and those dear to us) general (for peace) and even leave space for the Holy Spirit to be at work. Now, that I and my personal concerns are no longer the major focus of my prayers, I remember Bible verses that I was too anxious to rely on earlier, but you continue to rely on and remember.

Pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live. Thessalonians 5:17-18

I ask you to turn the intensity of prayer you shared with my family, toward the work of the Call Committee. Pray for the Call Committee members; their work is on behalf of all of you and God's kingdom on Earth. Pray for the interviewing pastors; that they might feel the Holy Spirit calling them to serve God here in beautiful Southeastern Minnesota. No matter what the reason and for no reason; keep praying.

Shalom Pastor Marie AK Anderson

Prayer Corner

Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Eric Johnson, Ashley Bergen, Jennifer Lee, Eastyn Skala, Jim Wangen, Irma Wangen, Gordon Gulbranson, Joan Kuhlman and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE WELCA ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, August 3rd – 9:30 AM meet at church for Rochester Outing ~ Lunch with Pastor Marie and Assisi Heights Tour (***Please let Cathy Bakkum know if you will be going***)

Wednesday, August 10th – 9:30 AM Quilting & Projects/Potluck

Sunday, August 21st – Outdoor Worship/Parsonage Centennial Open House/Lunch in the Park/Car Show ~ Food needed for August 21st Lunch:

10 people to bring chicken sandwich filling (recipe will be provided)

12 people to bring salads

12 people to bring 3 dozen cookies

Please reply to WELCA email or contact Cathy Bakkum.

SCHOOL KITS for Lutheran World Relief

August is the month for back-to-school sales and the best time to buy supplies for our LWR school kits!

The following items are included in each school kit that we assemble and send to LWR:

- * Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper (no loose leaf paper)
- Five ballpoint pens, black or blue ink only (no gel ink)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- One pencil sharpener
- One eraser, approximately 2- 1/2" long
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 30-centimeter ruler (or with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)
- * One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Project Promise School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. **Pencils and paper can help write a positive future.**

If you wish to contribute to this WELCA project by purchasing items for the school kits, please take advantage of the back-to-school sales this month.

There is a basket in the narthex for donations of LWR School Kit supplies.

THANK YOU!

Lists of items for the other Lutheran World Relief kits (Personal Care, Baby Care, Fabric) are on the website: lwr.org

Elstad/Highland Prairie Parish Council Meeting Highlights

Sunday May 9, 2016

The Pastor's report was given with many updates:

- 1) The call committee is currently working and interviewing. Please remember that we need to maintain confidentiality regarding the names and information of pastors being interviewed.
- 2) Pr Marie recently attended the synod meeting, which she felt was very good.
- 3) Confirmation went well this year. Pastor Marie wanted to thank the mentors for all their support and encourage other who may wish to participate in future classes. Dick spoke as a mentor indicating he enjoyed the experience very much.
- 4) Pr Marie will be on vacation over the next 2 weeks.
- 5) Pr Marie reminded us of the summer worship schedule and encouraged attendance.

Members were present wishing to address the parish council regarding the 100th anniversary of the parsonage. Please see business item #1.

Business Items:

- 1) Parish members addressed the parish council suggesting grounds clean up and the building of flower boxes as a means of commemorating the 100th anniversary of the parsonage. This group requested suggestions of who they may contact to assist in building the flower boxes. The council will get back to them with any suggestions.
- 2) Parsonage floors have been refinished by Aaron Dybing. They look amazing!
- 3) As part of the preparation for the anticipated parsonage open house, there are lots of beetles that need to be swept up and further upstairs cleaning is needed.
- 4) It was suggested that posters be made to encourage attendance during summer worship.
- 5) A golf cart was donated to Highland Prairie and is in need of a permanent parking location. This space is yet to be determined. The golf cart will be helpful in assisting people around the grounds and to the 'bowl'.
- 6) The next parish council meeting will be held Sunday July 10th at Highland Prairie.

The meeting was adjourned.

Full minutes will be made available for review upon request after formal approval by the Parish council.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Lutheran Church council secretary.

Highland Prairie Financials for June 2016

YTD Income	\$ 39,060.00
YTD Expenses	\$ 31,921.00
Income ex. Expenses	\$ 7,139.00
YTD Budget	\$ 44,770.00
YTD Income	\$ 39,060.00
YTD Under	\$ 5,640.00

Elstad Budget for June 2016

Budget for June	\$ 7081.50
Received in June	\$ 4660.00
Under for June	\$ 2421.50
YTD Budget	\$ 42489.00
YTD Received	\$ 32513.00
YTD Under	\$ 9976.00

Highland Prairie Church Council Minutes
Sunday, May 12, 2016

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Council President Kyle Chiglo.
- 2) Roll Call was taken with Kyle Chiglo, Chris Hoiland, Karen Bakken, Kay Dahl, Allan Skalet, Lyle Meldahl, and Becky Halverson-Lind present. Members absent were Steve Howe, Tim Stensgard and Sarah Bearbower.
- 3) A quorum was called.
- 4) Devotions were given by Chris.
- 5) Agenda was submitted for approval. Lyle made a motion to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Chris, no objections, motion carried.
- 6) Congregation members who were present were Deb Book, Sharon Ehler, Sharon Boyum and Pastor Marie AK Anderson.
- 7) Pastor's Report was given by Pastor Marie. Pastor Marie reported that she spoke to Jerry Hallum as to the dedication of the carillon system which is set for July 24th. The worship committee is going to plan the anniversary of the parsonage. Pastor Marie also reported she had attended the Interim Pastor meeting. Also, due to Pastor Marie being gone for the June 26th outdoor service she has enlisted Daryl Thompson to fill in for her. Pastor Marie and Lisa Chiglo have been working on the Parish Secretary job description and getting prepared for the upcoming July joint council meeting. Lastly,, Pastor had reported as to the Continuing Education Units she has signed up for and is required to attain. Karen will be taking care of the expenses for this as they are received.
- 8) Becky read the Secretary's Report, motion to approve was made by Chris and seconded by Kay. No objections, motion carried.
- 9) Karen has previously e-mailed the Treasurer's Report to all members to read and make notes before the meeting. The item of the golf cart's insurance was going to be looked into further. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Allan and seconded by Chris, no objections, motion carried.
- 10) President Kyle had noting to report at this time.
- 11) Correspondence from Feed My Starving Children, as to signing up for the next year was read and discussed. All members feel this is a worthwhile event for confirmands, parents and mentors in which to participate.
- 12) Committee Reports:
 - A) Church: Deb Book reported on behalf of the church committee. Deb reported as such:
 - i. The need for reviewing committee descriptions.
 - ii. Establishing a bulletin board with Church Council Members pictures and information as to make it easier for people to contact council members.
 - iii. Changing of WELCA meeting times to the evening to accommodate more members wishing to attend.
 - iv. Reported that the Highland Prairie WELCCA has cleaned some of the parsonage and is leaving some of the other cleaning for the Elsatd WELCA to complete.
 - v. Painting of the church kitchen is complete and valences are installed. Would like to have someone make a rosemaling piece for the above counter. This item will be worked on.
 - vi. Would like to kitchen floor stripped and re-waxed.
 - vii. The non-working phone in the kitchen was removed; would like a shelving system installed perhaps.
 - viii. WELCA will be serving Norwegian Food at Gammel Dag Fest, they are getting paid to be there and are allowed to keep their profits. Also, they made a quilt for the silent auction which will be held there as well.
 - ix. WELCA will provide lunch after the outdoor service.

B) Grounds Committee:

- i. Kyle reported the carpet glue outside the basement doors is not removed yet due to the “stubbornness” of the glue. Kyle is looking into other options.
- ii. Worship times will be discussed at the Parish Meeting due to members voicing their dislike of current times.
- iii. Outdoor Service Special Music will be provided in July by Ron Haugen and in August by Carla Burton.
- iv. Membership Review has been a challenge due to the member list not being allowed to update properly because of software problems. This will be looked into, most likely by Sarah when she is able.
- v. Seek more help with Bowl Services. The earlier help can get there the better, however, preferably by 9:00 a.m. the day of services.

D) Youth & Education:

- i. Possibly have a Sunday School gathering to finalize the year.

13) Old Business;

- A) Golf Cart Policy/Training needs to be set up and perhaps add others to the insurance policy.
- i. Getting another set of keys.

14) New Business:

- A) Grounds Clean up for the Bowl service is set for June 25th at 9:00 a.m.
- B) Mowing: Kyle will discuss issues of when and how mowing is done with Koenen’s
- C) Church Parking Lot: the cracks probably need to be sealed again. Chris will get estimates for this task.
- D) Water Line: the leak was found by Robert Anfinson who told Kyle who then fixed it. Kyle relayed to the council the line should probably be replaced. Chris and Kyle volunteered to repair the line.
- E) Little Church Chapel Steeple: rotted wood has caused part of it to fall off the church. Allan is going to contact Phil Holtegaard to see if he is interested and Becky is going to contact Carrol Tudahl to see if he is interested.
- F) Review Policy as to how Council Minutes are Distributed:
- i. Website to be updated and minutes posted as soon as approved at the next meeting.
 - ii. Minutes to be printed in the Newsletter after approval instead of highlights.
 - iii. Need to look into getting new software.
 - iv. If Sarah would like help with the website Deb Book volunteered to assist.
- G) Preparing for Pastoral Candidate Interviews:
- i. Be respectful of church use and confidentiality when church is being used for interviews.
 - ii. Please be mindful of keeping the church and grounds clean.

15) Meeting Adjourned at 8:08 p.m. with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Halverosn-Lind, Highland Prairie Council Secretary.

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday May 9, 2016

The meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church.

President Dick Haight called the meeting to order at 7:53pm.

Roll call with Rachel Bearbower, Kay Wold, Jodie Daniels, Dick Haight, John Rein, and Jennifer Nepstad present. Michelle Rein was absent.

The Agenda was reviewed. Motion was made by Kay second by Rachel, to approve the modified Agenda. Motion carried.

There were no congregation members present to address the council.

The secretary's report from the March 13, 2016 council meeting was given. Motion made by Kay, second by Jennifer, to approve the minutes. Minutes approved and placed on file for review upon request.

The Treasures report was by Jennifer and placed on file for audit at a later date.

The President's report was given by Elstad president Dick Haight. He noted Elstad's constitution has been accepted by the SE MN Synod.

There was no further Pastor's report beyond what was shared during the parish meeting.

Treasurer's report noted that giving has increased with attendance remaining stable.

There was no correspondence.

Michelle Rein gave a brief report from the department of education. The Elstad Sunday school continues to use the Spark curriculum. In addition we are using game, movies, and some crafts.

There were no committee reports.

Old Business:

- A) The Elstad Lutheran Church constitution was accepted by the synod.
- B) Elstad's membership lists are being updates. A committee will present the updated membership list to the council for review.
- C) We discussed our existing contract with Waste Management which extends through 2018. Contract changes cannot be made until after that date without substantial penalty.
- D) The church steeple is in need of repair. The south and east windows are gone and need to be replaced. Dick will check with Larry and Tom Dybing regarding the plans made for replacement. This was tabled until spring due to safety.
- E) The elevator is working correctly; please make sure to note correct instructions.

New Business:

- A) The parish MSP (Ministry Site Profile) is complete and interviews will se scheduled.
- B) The council formulated a draft of an updated Mission Statement, facilitated by Jodie Daniels and Pr Marie.
- C) Further discussion about needed steeple repairs included replacing steeple windows with plexi-glass for long term durability and replacing/repairing steeple trap door.

Parking Lot

- A) Fire extinguishers
- B) Plexy glass for stain glass windows

Motion was made by John to adjourn. Second by Jodie. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Lutheran Church council secretary.

Reviewed, corrected, and approved at the July 10, 2016 Elstad Council Meeting.



THE BRIDGE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR CONGREGATIONS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA
SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Witnessing Christ Among us

By Rev. Pete Reuss, Director for Evangelical Mission & Assistant to the Bishop

Pastor Marsha, near the end of an adult forum, walked to the window. She turned to the room. “Scripture is clear. God has called us out of these doors to be in the world. Look out there at the woman pushing a stroller down the sidewalk. How can we respond?”

Richard chimed in first. “I see a woman who needs to hear about Jesus. I want to get out there and tell her my faith story so she can believe.”

Mary replied, “From the age of that stroller I suspect this woman needs some financial help. She needs to know that we have a food pantry here that can help feed her and her family.”

Ron piped up, “This church really needs young families with kids. Maybe I can go convince her to come to worship sometime! Wouldn’t it be great to have a baby crying in church or another kid in Sunday School?”

Sarah looked thoughtful. “I see a child of God. I want to know her name. I want to hear her story. She looks like a neat person.”

Bishop Delzer has clearly articulated his desire for congregations to move outside their walls to engage in the community around them. Richard, Mary, Ron, and Sarah provide different mindsets that exist as people venture out.

Richard and Mary fit into an old concept of how the church has interacted with the world. The assumption is that the people in the church have something that people in the world need. Ron thought, “I have Jesus, let me bring Jesus to her,” without knowing a thing about her or the ways that God had already worked in her life. Mary thought, “I have money, let me help her with food” without having a clue as to whether the woman with the stroller wanted or needed financial assistance. Without realizing it, both Richard and Mary’s ways of interacting assume an ‘us’ and ‘them’ perspective. ‘We’ have something ‘they’ need. It does not allow for equality in the relationship. ‘We’ will always be the patrons; ‘they’ will receive what we have to offer. It’s a way for ‘us’ to feel good about doing things for other people without ever having to get too close to them.

Ron fell into a trap of desperation. While Richard and Mary focused on the woman’s perceived needs, Ron focused on the needs of the congregation. He had little concern for the woman, her story, her wants, or her desires. People ‘like her’ were needed to keep attendance up and finances stable. The church wouldn’t survive without ‘new people.’ She became a means to an end.

Only Sarah looked out the window and saw an actual woman, a person with a real life and a history, a person with real joys and sorrows, a person with real gifts and real needs. She saw a child of God worthy of a relationship. Sarah didn’t have an agenda. For her, loving her neighbor meant walking alongside her neighbor and knowing her neighbor.

How can we truly get to know our neighbors, not as objects for us to do something to, not as people who will ‘save our church,’ but truly as Christ among us?



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

All Birthdays & Anniversaries are listed according to the information on file. If you see an error please contact...
Lisa Chiglo ~ Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com



- 1~ Lori Keller
- 2~ Trinity Johnson
- 3~ Tyler Schafner
- ~ Abigail Bacon
- 4~ Jodie Daniels
- 5~ Larry Dahl
- ~ Michael Gudmundson
- 6~ Steven Good
- ~ Kayla Nelson
- 7~ Ione Hallum
- ~ Anna Kiel
- ~ Jens Lind
- 8~ Brittany Olson
- 9~ Norm Overland
- 10~ Gerrad Eide
- ~ Brady Boyum
- 11~ Barb Soppa
- ~ Shelley Berg
- ~ Bennett Vitse
- 12~ Jordan Johnson
- ~ Lindsay Hoiness
- 13~ Karen Schumacher
- ~ Keith Halverson

- 14~ David Larson
- ~ Rhonda Good
- ~ Matthew Ehler
- ~ Amy Kelly
- 16~ Kenny Peterson
- ~ Cheryl Halvorson
- ~ Tanya Self
- ~ Denise Evans
- ~ Chellsey Olson
- ~ Lace Sievers
- 17~ Erik Topness
- 18~ Pat Dahl
- ~ Daniel Lind
- ~ Ella Dammen
- 19~ Debbie Lawstuen
- ~ Monica Lee
- ~ Brianna Horning
- 20~ Norine Ask
- ~ Thea Arends
- 24~ Sanna Pederson
- ~ Aimee Nelson
- ~ Adeline Johnson
- 25~ Sander Michel
- 26~ Gene Topness
- 27 ~ Dagny Anderson
- 31~ Steve Storhoff
- ~ Nicole Blagsvedt



- 1~ Steven & Valarie Howe
- 9~ Jeffery & Sylvia Passow
- 6~ Roger & Sarah
Bearbower
- 9~ Ryan & Leah Jacobson
- 14~ Terry & Susan Blagsvedt
- 15~ Erik & Kallee Nelson
- 16~ Daryl & Michele
Thompson
- 20~ Tim & Jennie Stensgard
- 21~ Dave & Brenda
Markegard
- 22~ Pastor Marie AK Anderson
Ordination Anniversary
- 26~ Tanya & Abe Wolfs
- 29~ Jerry & Joyce Dahl
- 31~ Kyle & Lisa Chiglo

August 2016

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Rochester Outing with Pr. Maire	4	5	6
7 Worship @ HP 10:00 a.m.	8	9	10 HP-WELCA quilting 9:30 a.m.	11	12	13
14 Worship @ EL 10:00 a.m.	15	16	17 Newsletter Deadline Bulletin Deadline	18	19	20
21 Worship @ HP 10:00 a.m. "Bowl" Car Show 1:00 p.m. Parsonage Open House 100 years EL-Storhoff Reunion	22	23 Bulletin Deadline	24	25	26	27
28 Music Festival Worship @ EL 10:00 a.m. with lunch & silent auration	29	30	31 Bulletin Deadline	28	29	30

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
43267 Bowl Drive
Peterson, MN 55962

Address Services Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016

ACOLYTES: PAULA HOWE, BRADY STENSGARD

READERS: PAULA HOWE, BECKY LIND

GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2016

READERS: BRADY STENSGARD, ARLENE JOHNSON

GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2016

ACOLYTE: ALISON FREESE

READERS: ALISON FREESE, GLEE CLAUSSEN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2016

READER: CAROLYN SMITH

USHERS: MIKE CHIGLO, JOHN OVERLAND,
CHASE BAKKE, CHRISTOPHER NELSON,
MIKE ASK