

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

~ April 2017 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator

Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

Worship Schedule

April 2017

Sunday, April 2nd

8:30 a.m. Elstad

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

Palm Sunday, April 9th

8:30 a.m. Elstad

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

Maundy Thursday, April 13th

7:00 p.m. Highland Prairie

Good Friday, April 14th

8:30 a.m. Elstad

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

Easter Sunday, April 16th

7:00 a.m. Elstad

9:00 a.m. Highland Prairie

Sunday, April 23rd

8:30 a.m. Elstad

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

Sunday, April 30th

8:30 a.m. Elstad

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

Prayer Corner

Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Elaine Holm, Scott Dixon, Dagny Anderson, Pernella Landsverk, the Family of Gordon Gullickson and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.

Highland Prairie Financials for February 2017

YTD Income	\$12,576	YTD Budget	\$15650
YTD Expenses	\$13,908	YTD Income	\$12576
Expenses exc. Income	\$ 1,332	YTD Under	\$ 3074

Highland Prairie WELCA

Sunday, April 2, 2017—Annual Meatball dinner 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12, 2107—quilting/projects/potluck

Elstad Budget

February budget	\$ 7425.67	YTD Budget	\$14851.34
Received	\$ 5101.00	Received YTD	\$14103.00
Under for February	\$ 2324.67	Under YTD	\$ 748.34

Elstad WELCA

April 2, 2017, meeting after worship

April 6, 2017, 12 noon— Quilting day, eat lunch at home and bring a snack to share with coffee

All are welcome to hip put together quilts, tie quilts and sew them together, thank you!

Elstad Members: Mabel Floral is offering 6" Lilies for \$15.00 and Bulb Gardens for \$17.50 for Easter.

Please sign up at the ushers table by 4/9/2017.

Thank you.

What Wondrous Love is This?

I have grown to love the strange and gripping wonder of the three days of Holy week (otherwise known as the Triduum). The drama contained therein reveal the supreme and final definition of true Love, Jesus Christ, crucified, whose resurrection represents the vindication of such love over that which undoes all our loves...death. So we, with the whole Christian church on earth, have the gracious opportunity to be bathed in the story of His suffering, death and resurrection (a message of “undefeatable hope”) and just so, to be “the band of those sent into the world to say by word and action: “Jesus the Israelite is risen, and has death behind him.” And what does that mean but that “nothing can now overcome his will for (us); what will come of the human enterprise, and of (our) participation in it, is in the hands of this man of hope and no other” (1). Robert Jenson, one of the 20th century’s great Lutheran teachers, once pointed out that far from being something that is “in the eye of the beholder”, beauty is the reality revealed when “our thinking and willing are grasped by reality beyond themselves.” We don’t grip, but are gripped by, the intense colors of those early spring sunsets, the soaring voice of a woman singing the Mary’s Magnificat, the heavenly stillness of our church nave. God’s love in Christ is wondrous, indeed. And it surprises, even stuns us. Yet is it not strangely beautiful too?, So, come, behold, sing, and sing of the wonder and the beauty of Love in the flesh of our crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1) Lutheranism: The Theological Movement and Its Confessional Writings.
Eric W. Gritsch and Robert W. Jenson. Fortress Press.

Holy Week at Highland Prairie/Elstad Parish

- 1) April 9, Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, “It is finished..” During this service we will process (children and adults who are willing and able) with Palms. We will begin outdoors and move into the sanctuary, if the weather is favorable. **Elstad (8:30) and Highland Prairie (10:30).**
- 2) April 13, Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion with the Rite of Foot Washing, **Highland Prairie, 7:00 p.m.** *If you are willing to have your feet washed, please contact Pr. Mathsen.
- 3) April 14, Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, **Elstad, 9:00 a.m.**, Good Friday Tenebrae, “...into your hands I commit my spirit.” **Elstad, 7:00 p.m.**
- 4) April 16, Easter Sunday, festival Holy Communion, **Elstad, 7:00 a.m., Highland Prairie, 9:00 a.m.**

C.S. Lewis on Easter

The miracles that have already happened are, of course, as Scripture so often says, the first fruits of that cosmic summer which is presently coming on. Christ has risen, and so we shall rise. St. Peter for a few seconds walked on the water, and the day will come when there will be a re-made universe, infinitely obedient to the will of glorified and obedient persons, when we can do all things, when we shall be those gods that we are described as being in Scripture. To be sure, it feels wintry enough still: but often in the very early spring it feels like that. Two thousand years are only a day or two by this scale. A man really ought to say, "The Resurrection happened two thousand years ago" in the same spirit in which he says, "I saw a crocus yesterday." Because we know what is coming behind the crocus. The spring comes slowly down this way; but the great thing is that the corner has been turned. There is, of course, this difference, that in the natural spring the crocus cannot choose whether it will respond or not. We can. We have the power either of withstanding the spring, and sinking back into the cosmic winter, or of going on into those "high mid-summer pomps" in which our Leader, the Son of man, already dwells, and into which He is calling us. It remains with us to follow or not, to die in this winter, or to go on into that spring and that summer. —an excerpt from God in the Dock.

Mid-High School Youth Group News

The next mid-high school youth gathering, weather permitting, will take place Sunday, April 23rd, from 1:30—4:30 p.m., at Sweet 16 Farm, located between Rushford and Houston on Highway 16. We will play disc (Frisbee) golf. We will depart from Highland Prairie church at 1:00 p.m. and be back by 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person. Adult drivers are needed. So you haven't ever played the game? Well, you can learn with the rest of us. Begin practicing throwing your Frisbee. You'll need it to play that day. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Pr. Mathsen.

Bible Camp Summer 2017

Parents of Highland Prairie and Elstad youth: Now is the time to get registered for summer 2017 Bible camp at Good Earth Village. Financial help is available for participation children. See your child's Sunday school teacher or Pr. Mathsen for registration forms.

Confirmation Note

Confirmation instruction for 7th & 8th graders resumes on Wednesday, April 19th, 6:30 p.m. at Elstad. Come prepared to show you have worked on your memory work assignments. 8th graders: Please be working on your final projects. And, remember...Christians worship.

1st Communion

Seven parish youth have completed 1st Communion instruction. They are Kenna Gudmundson, Lindsey Hoiness, Isabelle Eckstrom, Daniel Eckstrom, Nils Eckstrom, and Laci Sievers. They will be welcomed to the Lord's Table on Maundy Thursday, April 13th. Praise God!

Adult Study

A study series on the Apostles' Creed will be held the following Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.: April 24th, May 1st, May 8th, and May 15th, at Highland Prairie. This four-part DVD study is presented by Dr. James Nestigen, Professor Emertus of Luther Theological Seminary. Discussion will follow each session. Please let Pr. Luther know if you are planning to participate.

ELSTAD—HIGHLAND PRAIRIE NEWS

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE WELCA

MEATBALL DINNER AND BAKE SALE

Sunday, April 10 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy,
glazed carrots, coleslaw,
rolls, lefse, dessert, beverage

Adults – \$10.00 Children 6-12 - \$5.00

Children 5 and under – Free

WELCA Members: The volunteer sign-up sheet is in the dining room. Bake sale items should be brought to church on Saturday or early on Sunday morning.

Prayer partners of Elstad

At long last we find ourselves being tempted by spring birdsongs and hopeful, and perhaps confused perennials.

Question of the day...have you heard from your prayer partner yet this year?

If so or if not, spring might be a good time to sent an anonymous note to her so she can enjoy the experience of being remembered.

Easter will have oodles of lovely cards on the shelves of the card stores. Be encouraged to pick one up next time to share a bit of cheer.

Handmade cards are always welcome in the mailbox as well. Here is a line from a 1955 autograph book (remember those anyone?)

“U R 2 good 2 B 4gotten.” (Was that texting in long-hand?) Happy springtime and happy carding.

World Hunger at Elstad

March found our congregation making a huge collection of paper products for the local food shelf.

What a great sight. April gives opportunity to continue the gift giving to ELCW World hunger.

A sentence taken from the world hunger campaign literature: “Today, 1 in 9 people face hunger and 1 in 7 live in extreme poverty.”

The goal for the ELCA 2017 campaign during the season of Lent is \$1.5 million.

Any offerings that you might wish to share will be gladly accepted. Gifts may be given to the treasurer or placed in the offering plate.

Someone somewhere on the earth will be thankful.

Highland Prairie Council Minutes

March 19, 2017

1. Call to Order at 5:34 PM

2. Roll Call

Present: Chris Hoiland, Tim Stensgard, Joyce Dahl, Kay Dahl, Becky Halverson-Lind, Sarah Bearbower, Allan Skalet and Kyle Chiglo. Absent: Gordy Johnson and Karen Bakken.

3. A quorum was called.

4. Devotions read by Pastor Luther Mathsen.

5. An item was added to the agenda.

The item was to review and discuss was Good Earth Village Campership. Sarah made the motion to add this item. Seconded by Allan to add the item to New Business. Motion carried.

6. Congregation members to address the council: Robert Anfinson on behalf of the cemetery board to discuss damage to headstones caused by lawn mowing. This will be addressed in New Business as well.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Sarah motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed subject to review and audit. Joyce seconded. Motion carried.

8. President's Report:

None

9. Pastor's Report:

Pastor Luther updated the council on his activities on behalf of the congregations. Pastor Luther stated he appreciates all the musical talent from our members and their willingness to share them with the rest of us. Pastor Mathsen also mentioned his desire to honor the rich history of our congregation. He stated how impressed he is with our grounds and various service work. He stated these are all definite assets.

10. Correspondence:

None.

11. Committee Reports:

A. Church: Nothing to report.

B. Grounds: To be discussed in New Business.

C. Worship: Holy Week Services: Good Friday Services at both churches. Easter Service at 7:00 AM at Elstad, 9:00 AM at Highland Prairie.

D. Youth and Education: Attendance for Sunday School has been doing alright. March 29th's Lenten Supper will be served by the older (Kyle's) Sunday School students.

12. Old Business:

- A. Parking Lot: J.C. Nerstad, Four Seasons Services expressed interest in working on our parking lot. We will wait to hear his proposal.

13. New Business:

- A. Mowing: We received three proposals each for 1 year. Robert Anfinson stated concern over damaged headstones on behalf of the Cemetery Board. Robert stated the Cemetery Board will go with the council's recommendations concerning the mowing contract.
- B. Grounds clean-up, tabled until the April meeting
- C. Good Earth Village Campership: Sarah motioned to cover Good Earth Village Campership fees for 75% from the Maggelson Fund. Seconded by Joyce, motion carried.

14. Secretary's Report:

Becky read the Secretary's Report, Kay motioned to accept the Secretary's Report as read. Seconded by Tim. Motion carried.

15. Adjournment:

Motion made by Chris to adjourn at 6:38, seconded by Tim. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Halverson-Lind

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Secretary

The Gospel According to St Mark,
Saturday, April 8, 2017, 1:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Lanesboro

We are excited to begin Holy Week with the presentation of *The Gospel According to St Mark* by professional actor, Tom Stolz. Tom is a former member of the Old Log Theater, Excelsior, MN, where he performed in over 150 productions. He is also the founder of Promised Land Productions, which is dedicated to spreading the Gospel message through the theater arts. Tom has performed his one-person presentation in churches, colleges, art centers, prisons, and theaters throughout the United States, Canada, Switzerland, and Jerusalem. It has become an ongoing Lenten tradition in the Twin Cities and is currently in its third year at Chanhassen Dinner Theaters. The performance takes 90 minutes with one brief intermission. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for admission. A free will offering will be received for Bethlehem's roof restoration fund and to provide Bible camperships for Bethlehem youth.

Refreshments will be served following the performance.

Please join members of the Parish who plan on attending. See Pr. Mathsen if you plan to attend.



THE BRIDGE



A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod

2017 Synod Assembly: What is it?

By Rev. Emily Carson
carson@semnsynod.org

The people of the synod gather yearly for a time of worship, Bible study, fellowship and the business of the church. This event is called the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly. This year's assembly will be held at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester on May 6-7. The theme is "Equipping congregations to follow Jesus into a changing world." Additional event information and online registration is available at <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2017>.

There are three expressions that form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA): congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. Churchwide refers the staff and elected officers who work at the Lutheran Center in Chicago and in other locations around the world serving as administrators, advisors, conveners, partners and resource people for the ELCA and its ministries. Each year a representative from the churchwide expression of the ELCA attends the synod assembly and brings updates from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the wider church. The churchwide representative will be Rev. Stephen Bouman who serves as Executive Director for Domestic Mission, ELCA. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Gladys Moore. Rev. Moore serves as senior pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Summit, New Jersey. Prior to her tenure at St. John's, she was the Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life and Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Mount Holyoke College. Rev. Moore has been pastor, an assistant to the bishop of the New Jersey Synod, and has served as a chaplain, preacher, and Bible study leader at many events. Rev. Dr. Eric Barreto, Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, will serve as Bible study leader. His focus will be in the New Testament book of Acts.

The Saturday afternoon portion of assembly is a [Learning Event](#). The Learning Event will feature a variety of workshops to equip participants with ideas, actions, techniques, and strategies to live into their faith. This portion of the gathering is included in the registration fee for general assembly voters. **New this year: all are welcome to participate in the Learning Event!** People who would like to attend the event on Saturday afternoon but aren't voting members are invited to register online (<http://semnsynod.org/assembly2017>). The fee is \$25 and includes two workshops, a forum with Bishop Delzer, and closing worship on Saturday.

This year's assembly will take place on a Saturday-Sunday instead of the usual Friday-Saturday schedule. This is an experiment to see if the alternative schedule makes attendance more convenient. In that rostered ministers are required to attend, they will be at the assembly and unable to officiate that day in their local congregations. A variety of resources have been compiled to facilitate worship planning for congregations for Sunday, May 7. Available resources include: (1) an order of worship, (2) a printed version of Bishop Delzer's sermon for that day that can be read by a church member, and (3) a video recorded version of Bishop Delzer's sermon that can be used in your congregation. The Sunday morning worship service can be viewed live online for congregations able to stream from the Internet. Whether using the printed materials or viewing live online, Sunday, May 7 will be a special morning as people throughout the synod participate in worship together.

The Pre-Assembly report is an interactive document full of stories, photos, and engaging information about the synod's ministries. To view this year's report and discover more details about the assembly, please visit <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2017>. All preliminary printed and digital materials will be available by the afternoon of April 3.

APRIL 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~ Sharon Rustad
~ Cora Olson
2~ Matthew Soppa
~ JT Rein
3~ Krisit Jacobson
4~ Janet Todd
5~ Taylor Thompson
~ Kylie Woxland
6~ Erick Berland
~ Waylon Colwell
~ Chloe Peterson
~ Amber Eide
7~ Rodney Humble
8~ Lillian Gravos
9~ Vicky Topness
~ Sarah Bacon
~ Melissa Hallum
~ Chase Bakke
~ Colin Bakke
10~ Jill Halverson
~ Hudson Stensgard

11~ Gary Rustad
~ Barbara Onomija
~ Hans Lind
~ MaKenna Peterson
13~ Tim Stensgard
14~ Richard Howe
15~ Marlys Paulson
~ Kody Bearbower
16~ Cindy Johnson
~ Dawn Steffes
17~ Darla Rislov
18~ Leah Jacobson
19~ Carrie Kelly
20~ Casey Howe
21~ Sharon Boyum
~ Jennifer Klug
~ Jenna Root
~ Chealsy Eide
22~ Tyler Chiglo
23~ Erik Sievers
~ Nick Wangen
24~ Jeffery Passow
26~ Christopher Nelson
27~ Robert Nelson
28~ Paul Halverson
~ Nicole Woxland
~ Jessica Woxland
29~ Jerry Dragvold
~ Suzanne Mueller

~ Michael Lee
30~ Steven Howe
~ Elizabeth Larson



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1~ Larry & Deb Topness
7~ John & Carol Overland
8~ Mark & Cindy Johnson
24~ Glenn & Sandy Thomas
27~ Robert & Ellen
Lawstuen

APRIL 2017

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
 Visit our websites at...
elstadlutheranchurch.org
highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 EL 8:30 a.m. S.S. 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m. EL-WELCA mtg. after worship HP-Meatball	3	4	5 Bulletin Deadline	6	7	8 Root River WELCA spring gathering 8:30-1:00p.m.
9 EL 8:30 a.m. S.S. 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m. HP Council 5:30 p.m.	10	11	12 <i>HP-WELCA quilting</i> Bulletin Deadline	13 <i>Maundy Thursday @ HP- 7:00 p.m.</i>	14 Good Friday @ EL- 7:00 p.m.	15
16 Easter Sunday EL- 7:00 a.m. HP- 9:00 a.m.	17	18	19 Newsletter Deadline Bulletin Deadline	20	21	22
23 EL 8:30 a.m. S.S. 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m. 30 EL 8:30 a.m. S.S. 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m.	24 Adult study 7:00 p.m.	25	26 Bulletin Deadline	27	28	29 HP-Stanley Oian Memorial service

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

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HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

ACOLYTES: JENS LIND, BRADY STENSGARD
READERS: JENS LIND, SHARON EHLER
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017

ACOLYTES: BRADY STENSGARD, HANS LIND
READERS: BRADY STENSGARD, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2017

ACOLYTES: HANS LIND, TREY OLSON
READERS: HANS LIND, MICHELE THOMPSON
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2016

ACOLYTES: TREY OLSON, NIKKI DAHLE
READERS: TREY OLSON, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

ACOLYTES: NIKKI DAHLE, HALE STENSGARD
READERS: NIKKI DAHLE, SYLVIA MARKEGARD
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

ACOLYTES: HALE STENSGARD, JONAH SIEVERS
READERS: HALE STENSGARD, SHARON EHLER
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

ELSTAD
ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

READER: GENE TOPNESS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017

READER: ALSISON FREESE

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017

READER: LORI BAKKE

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2017

READER: CAROL OVERLAND

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017

ACOLYTE: ALISON FREESE
READERS: ALISON FREESE, TOM DYBING

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

READER: PETER HOLM

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

READER: VICKY TOPNESS

USHERS: DAVID LAWSTUEN, ROBERT KNUTSON,
STEVE STORHOFF, COLIN BAKKE, MIKE CHIGLO