

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

~ July 2020 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com ~ Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator

Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

July Worship Schedule

**** Worship continues to be outdoors, weather permitting. If weather is inclement, worship will be indoors (all pertinent Covid19 protocols, i.e., masking, hand sanitizing, no singing, etc., will be observed... *under Parish Directives). We will continue to broadcast the service on the parish Facebook pages and congregational websites.**

+Sunday, July 5

Pentecost 5

Highland Prairie – 9:00 a.m.

Elstad – 10:30 a.m.

Zechariah 2.9-12

Psalms 145.8-14

Romans 7.15-25a

Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

+Sunday, July 12

Pentecost 6

*****Pr. Mathsen on vacation***online service only**

Isaiah 55.10-12

Psalms 65.1-13

Romans 81-11

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

+Sunday, July 19

Pentecost 7

Highland Prairie – 9:00 a.m.

Elstad – 10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 44.6-8

Psalms 86.11-17

Romans 8.12-25

Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

+Sunday, July 26

Pentecost 8

JOINT WORSHIP AT HIGHLAND PRAIRIE – 10:30 a.m.

1 Kings 3.5-12

Psalms 119.129-136

Romans 8.26-39

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

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Please remember your Elstad prayer partners during this time of isolation and stress.

All our lives are affected greatly during this time and how our future will look is unknown! Our whole country needs our prayers.

July Bible Study

An in-person Bible study on the book of Revelation will be held on the following Wednesdays in July: 8th, 22nd, and 29th, at 10:00 a.m., at Highland Prairie, in the fellowship hall. Mask are required and physical distancing will be observed. Sign-up with Pr. Mathsen.

Elstad Budget for May 2020

Budget for May	\$ 6718.42
Received	\$ 1378.00
Under for May	\$ 5340.42
YTD Budget	\$33592.10
YTD Received	\$24922.00
YTD Under	\$ 8670.10

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Of the life-long personal struggles that I face from day to day is the cultivation of the discipline to give space and time to God who longs to communicate with his Beloved, of which I, only through his mercy, am one. I am referring to the discipline of prayer.

To be sure, I have---and always have had---a need for God. That "need for God" seems to be revealed in spurts, most notably in those moments when my life has "gone south," when the cares and concerns of family and work and world overwhelm, or when I run smack-dab into my own sin and its hurtful consequence in the lives of others---including, yes!---those closest to me. Then, in the valley of the shadow of my sin and its wage, the likes of the Jesus' prayer falls from my lips. "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Then, I wait for his judgment to be addressed to me. I wait for Mercy, himself.

But what of the rest of my life?

In the mix of the day to day round of many and various cares and responsibilities of family and work, my struggle has been, and continues to be, carving out time for constant prayer (see 1 Thessalonians 5.15-16), the mark of Christian life; "to stand in God's presence with open hands, heart, and mind, naked and vulnerable, acknowledging to myself, others, and God that without Him I can do nothing" (Henri Nouwen). And this, when I, and the world, is telling myself that there are so many more pressing and important matters of "real life" that need my best attention, time, and action. There, my weakness, and the pitfall of the struggle of which I speak, arises. Fellow Christian pilgrim of blessed memory, noted above (Henri Nouwen), describes it well. He writes:

"When life is divided into "our best" and "God's rest," we have turned prayer into a last resort to be used only when all our own resources are depleted. Then even the Lord has become a victim of our impatience. Discipleship does not mean to use God when we can no longer function ourselves. On the contrary, it means to recognize that we can do nothing at all, but that God can do everything through us. As disciples, we find not some but all of our strength, hope, courage, and confidence in God. Therefore prayer must be our first concern."

So, what's the answer? How does rest come in this struggle? What will interrupt it, this day, at this moment? What merciful reality will break in and call me to lay aside the bucket of personal cares, concerns for family, friends, community and world, and all the vocational responsibilities in order that I may stand in the presence of the One who knows them all and desires my attention? My Lord...our Lord... will...and does. He desires to be present to me...and you. He beckons us with words of gracious invitation. He invites us to sit and listen to him as he addresses us with promises to give us all that we need. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give your rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11.28-30).

Oh, yes, there's hope in the hearing of those words. And in the One who speaks them, our Lord Jesus Christ, there is rest and renewal for each new day that dawns.

Your brother in Christ, Pr. Luther+

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Morning musing...

One of my daily devotion resources is a book entitled, *A Year with C. S. Lewis: Daily Readings from His Classic Works*. I like it because, not unlike the Church's Daily and Sunday Lectionaries, I do not select the readings. Nor do they necessarily address something that is on my mind or a particular up-front-and-center issue of the day. But one particular reading gave provocative fodder for both, recently.

I began the day by catching up with daily readings that had gotten by me over the weekend. The reading for Saturday, June 20th, was a passage from Lewis' book, *Miracles*. It is entitled, "Everythingism." In it, I believe, Lewis provides an offering to the discussion about *the nature of the human person*, a discussion that has too often devolved into strong-arm tactics and ad hominem attacks by those on all sides of the issue. I commend it for your consideration.

Lewis writes:

I mean by this (Everythingism) the belief that 'everything', or 'the whole show', must be self-existent, must be more important than every particular thing, and must contain all particular things in such a way that they cannot be really very different from one another---that they must be not merely 'at one', but one. Thus the Everythingist, if he starts from God becomes a Pantheist; there must be nothing that is not God. If He starts from Nature he becomes a Naturalist; there must be nothing that is not Nature. He thinks that everything is in the long run 'merely' a precursor or a development of a relic or an instance or disguise of everything else. This philosophy I believe to be profoundly untrue. One of the moderns has said that reality is 'incorrigibly plural'. I think he is right. All things come from One. All things are related---related in different and complicated ways. But all things are not one. The word 'everything' should mean simply the total (a total to be reached, if we knew enough, by enumeration) of all the things that exist at a given moment. It must not be given a mental capital letter; must not (under the influence of picture thinking) be turned into a sort of pool in which particular things sink or even a cake in which they are the currants. Real things are sharp and knobbly and complicated and different. Everythingism is congenial to our minds because it is the natural philosophy of a totalitarianism, mass-producing, conscripted age. This is why we must be perpetually on our guard against it. plm+

Weekly Offering

Covid19 has brought on a decrease in church attendance and giving. We continue to be grateful for the faithful support that has been offered to date for congregational and parish ministry. Your continuing consideration of your offerings that help the church meet its financial commitments would be most appreciated. Thank you! If you are an Elstad member, please mail your offering to: Jennifer Nepstad, 20707 Co. 21, Lanesboro, MN 55949. Highland Prairie members should mail their offering to: Highland Prairie Church, 43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962, or directly to Karen Bakken, 210 North Elm St., Rushford, MN. 55971.

Caring for Our Neighbor

If you are aware of any member (or acquaintance) who, because of the effects of the Coronavirus, is lacking food or any other daily provision/necessity, please be in touch with Pr. Mathsen. Also, if you know of someone who is suffering the loneliness, anxiety, and depression that may attend the physical distancing that is the order of these days, please let Pr. Mathsen know. We are called to care for our neighbor as we are able.

When will "indoor worship" be restored?

On Sunday, July 19, 6:30 p.m., the joint parish council will meet at Elstad. I will be encouraging parish leaders to consider again when and how we might restore "indoor worship" that is safe. At the time of this writing, the directive from Governor Walz regarding church worship "in doors" is occupancy at 50 percent capacity (with certain Covid19 safety protocols and building preparations in place). Of course, if there are virus flare-ups in Minnesota, present directives will change. So, please keep abreast of developments that will be provided at weekly outdoor worship services and on the Facebook and websites of both congregations. If you have questions, speak with Larry Topness, Gordon Johnson, or Pr. Mathsen.

Parish Directives for Outdoor Worship Continue

*Hand sanitizer or anti-bacterial wipes will be available onsite.

1. Anyone who is not feeling well or displaying symptoms of sickness (fever, runny nose, cough, body aching, etc.) should not attend worship.
2. Those persons of the designated ages of vulnerability, and those with comorbidities, should consider whether or not it is wise to participate in outdoor worship. We will understand and support your personal decision.
3. All worshippers are asked to bring their own chairs to sit on during worship.
4. All worshippers who arrive for worship are required to wear a mask. A limited amount of masks will be available for those who do not have one.
5. Physical distancing of no less than 6 feet between worshippers will be required. Families may sit together but must be properly separated from other individuals or families.
6. There is to be no personal contact (hand shaking or hugging) before, during, or after worship.
7. There will be instrumental music during worship, but no singing. (The virus is carried in aerosols that are increasingly emitted during singing.)
8. Those enjoying fellowship with others before or after worship must maintain the physical distance guideline of 6 feet. There will be no coffee or lunch after worship.
9. Holy Communion will be distributed. Pastor Mathsen will be masked. He will wash his hands before the distribution. All ministers who handle and distribute the host will do so with sanitized and gloved hands. Detailed directions will be provided prior to communion distribution. We understand if you, for obvious reasons, choose not to receive the sacrament at this time.
10. An offering receptacle will be provided near the bandstand (HP) or near the west entrance of Elstad church. There will be no collection of offerings by ushers.

Pastoral Care

Out of concern for our homebound, nursing home, hospitalized, and other members who receive regular pastoral care visits, Pr. Mathsen continues to refrain from making any in-person visits. He is making regular contact via telephone and the social media platforms that are available. Pastoral presence during parish emergencies is being considered on a situation-by-situation basis.

On other worship related matters...

Baptisms are being celebrated with family members and sponsors only. Funerals are being held at graveside. Indoors private services are possible. At both services, Covid19 protocols will be observed. Please...If you are parents of a newborn awaiting baptism, do not hesitate to call Pr. Luther to discuss possibilities (507-649-1650).

Confirmation 2020

Pr. Mathsen has met individually (on zoom) with all 8th graders (now 9th graders) awaiting a date to be set for the Rite of Confirmation. When that parish celebration has been scheduled after consultation with the joint council and the parents of the youth, the date will be published and broadcast on parish social media platforms.

HIGHLAND PRAIRE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

June 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by President Gordon Johnson. All members were present except Tim Stensgaard. A quorum was determined.

Devotions were given by Nancy Rustad.

Chris Hoiland moved to approve the agenda, Nancy Rustad second, motion carried.

There were no congregation members in attendance.

Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken, Lyle Meldahl moved to approve, Chris Hoiland second, motion carried.

Gordon Johnson gave the President's report with a big hearty thank you to Pastor Luther and Bobbi for going above and beyond with the production of services.

Pastor Luther gave his report suggesting the purchase of a production machine for Sunday services for long term use. Chris Hoiland will research options. Will reduce to two evening prayers each week on Mondays and Wednesdays, performed a wedding service in the Bowl, zoom meetings with confirmands, No date has been set for Confirmation service. He would like to start a Bible study in July. High School senior recognition will be June 28th. Synod zoom meetings, phone calls to many for pastoral care. Thankful for offerings, park and bowl cleanup, service set-up and take-down by members. Discussion on when to return to worship in the church building, with necessary precautions only in inclement weather and encourage members to use their own judgement to attend. Will be on vacation in July.

There was no correspondence.

Committee Reports were given with the Grounds Committee said shelter and bowl cleanup is needed, some stain and sealing of bowl boards. Nancy moved to proceed with the stain and sealing, Lyle Meldahl second, motion carried.

Old Business was the park items, playground equipment is operational, swings need attending to. Rest House needs old items cleaned out. The water leak in the furnace room is currently dry, but needs to be looked at. Security Light in lower parking lot was estimated at \$170 each for replacement, Joyce Dahl moved to purchase, Nancy Rustad second, motion carried.

There was no New Business.

Secretary's Report was given by Mary Gudmundson, Joyce Dahl moved to approve, Lyle Meldahl second, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 6:30 was made by Lyle Meldahl, Steve Howe second, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Gudmundson, Secretary

Next meeting will be moved from July 12th to July 19th due to Pastor's vacation.

JULY 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~Joey Stensgard
2~ Katy Redalen
~ Slade Pepin
3~ Mary Dunphy
5~ Peter Ask
~ Joshua Drinkall
6~ Rich Nepstad
~ Richard Johnson
~ Paul Peterson
7~ Beckett Hovland
~ Lincoln Bakkum-Mohwinkel
8~ Glenn Peterson
~ Caroline Anfinson
~ Christine Knuston
9~ Dean Berland
~ Kyle Chiglo
~ Calvin Bergen
10~ Arlene Johnson
~ Adleigh Brisebois
11~ Allison Bauer
~ Marguerite Abrahamson
12~ Kathy Abrahamson
~ Kristi Oman
~ Jeremy Pederson
13~ Kyle Bearbower

16~ Charles Pederson
~ Lyle Rustad
~ David Stockton
17~ Jade Grabau
~ Nicole Howe
~ Kreedon Wangen
18~ Elizabeth Abrahamson
~ Kristin Lawstuen
19~ Shelly Nelson
~ John Knutson
~ Autumn Humble
20~ Marilyn Soland
~ Joan Finnegan
~ Mary Gudmundson
~ Brent Storhoff
21~ Colby Lind
22~ Ken Jacobson
~ Jerod Chiglo
~ Nolan Eide
23~ Karen Bakken
~ Bobbi Mathsen
24~ Jimmy Sharpe Jr.
25~ Siri Dworschak
28~ Taylor Johnson
29~ Lori Bakke
~ Josie Bearbower
30~ Lee Johnson
~ Kayleigh Wangen
~ Palmer Root
31~ Susan Blagsvedt



7~ Allan & Marion Dahl

9~ Clair & Patty Olson

20~ Kenny & Cathy
Bakkum

21~ Richard & Pamela
Johnson

22~ Trinity & Emily Johnson

24~ Glenn & Olive Peterson

~ Adam & Jodie Daniels

28~ Charles & Karen
Mierau

JULY 2020

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bulletin Deadline	2	3	4
5 9:00 a.m.—HP 10:30 a.m.—EL	6	7	8 Revelation Bible study 10:00 a.m. (HP) Bulletin Deadline	9	10	11
12 9:00 a.m.—HP 10:30 a.m.—EL	13	14	15 Bulletin Deadline	16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18
19 9:00 a.m.—HP 10:30 a.m.—EL Council Meetings 5:30 p.m.—HP 6:30 p.m.—Parish 7:30 p.m.—EL	20	21	22 Revelation Bible study 10:00 a.m. (HP) Bulletin Deadline	23	24	25
26 Parish Worship at HP—10:30 a.m.	27	28	29 Revelation Bible study 10:00 a.m. (HP) Bulletin Deadline	30	31	

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

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Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6

July
Newsletter
2020

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020

ACOLYTES, READERS, AND GREETERS WILL BE ASSIGNED WHEN "IN HOUSE" WORSHIP RESUMES.

ELSTAD
ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020

ACOLYTES AND READERS, WILL BE ASSIGNED WHEN "IN HOUSE" WORSHIP RESUMES.

USHERS: JOHN OVERLAND, LARRY TOPNESS,
RICH NEPSTAD, ADAM DANIELS,
JOHN ABRAHAMSON, JOHN KNUTSON