

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

~ June 2020 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen ~ Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com

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Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator ~ Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

Pastor's Page, June 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I took an early morning walk around the church grounds this morning. There were glorious signs of springtime's arrival. The bluebird and chickadee boxes now hold the arrivals of little bluebirds and chickadees. Garden produce is beginning to spring forth from the soil. The mixed voices of the countless bird species give testimony to a creation that cannot keep silent. The praise of our Creator can be heard as well as seen.

And yet, what is so glaringly and obviously missing are the people of this parish, whose voices are meant to join this cosmic chorus of praise, and who are yearning to respond to the exhortation of the psalmist: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150). It is, therefore, with great anticipation that we look forward to gathering together again for parish corporate worship.

The joint church council, therefore, has established Sunday, June 7th, as the day of a great reunion. It is our judgment that outdoor worship (with established practices designed to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus recommended by the CDC and the MDH, and suggested by the SE MN Synod) offers the safest way for us to gather together at this time. We are planning for worship in the Highland Prairie park (around the bandstand) and under the trees on the west side of Elstad church.

Please take note of the directives (printed in this edition of the parish newsletter) that have been set for our worship together. They have been established out of concern for the health and well-being of all worshippers, particularly those most vulnerable in our midst. And we respectfully and kindly ask that you abide by them. Even if you don't consider yourself to be among those who have the characteristics of those most vulnerable, please abide by the directives for the sake of those who are.

Also, we know that there will continue to be dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ who, out of concern for their health, will not feel safe attending outdoor worship. Be assured that online worship options will continue to be made available.

I sincerely hope that this is a step in the direction of future "in church building" worship. In any case, how great it will be to be together! I so look forward to seeing many of you and worshipping with you again.

Your brother in Christ,

Pr. Luther+

June Worship Schedule

**** Worship will be outdoors for the time being, weather permitting.**

If weather is inclement, worship will be broadcast on the parish Facebook pages and congregational websites

+Sunday, June 7th

Holy Trinity Sunday

Highland Prairie – 9:00 a.m.

Elstad – 10:30 a.m.

Genesis 1.1-2.4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13.11-13

Matthew 29.16-20

+Sunday, June 14th

Pentecost 2

Highland Prairie – 9:00 a.m.

Elstad – 10:30

Exodus 19.2-8a

Psalm 100

Romans 5.1-8

Matthew 9.35-10.8

+Sunday, June 21st

Pentecost 3

Highland Prairie – 9:00 a.m.

Elstad – 10:30 a.m.

Jeremiah 20.7-13

Romans 6.1b-11

Matthew 10.24-39

+Sunday, June 28th

Pentecost 4

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

****There will be neither potluck lunch, nor outdoor baseball game, after worship.**

Jeremiah 28.5-9

Psalm 89.1-4, 15-18

Romans 6.12-23

Matthew 10.40-42

+++

Parish Directives for Outdoor Worship

*Hand sanitizer and 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 in one-kind only (wine). Pastor Mathsen will be masked. He will wash his hands before the distribution. He will handle and distribute the host with 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.

Elstad Budget for April 2020

Budget for April	\$ 6718.42
Received	\$ 5406.00
Under	\$ 1312.42
Budget YTD	\$26873.68
Received YTD	\$23544.00
Under YTD	\$ 3329.68

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 contacts. He is making regular contact via telephone and the social media platforms that are available. Pastoral presence during parish emergencies will be considered on a situation-by-situation basis. But please, if you know of anyone in need of pastoral care, please call him (507-649-1650).

Weekly Offering

Financial support of our parish congregations has diminished significantly given the Covid19 cessation of corporate worship. Its effect on household circumstances may well be dictating this for some. 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

Once again, 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 required radical social 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.

High School Graduates

The parish has two high school graduates for 2020. On Sunday, June 7th, Highland Prairie will honor and give thanks for Hans Lind (RPHS) and Paula Howe (RPHS). Your cards and accolades for these two young persons will be appreciated. Collection boxes will be placed near the bandstand.

Confirmation 2020

Pr. Mathsen has been meeting via Zoom with the confirmation class of 2019-2020. The participating youth are: (8th) Kristina Stensgard, Dana DeGeorge, Michael Rein, Kyle Daniels, Elizabeth Hageman, Indy Qualy, and (7th) Caden Johnson, Kenna Gudmundson, Lindsey Hoiness, Laci Sievers, and Larissa Ryan. This is a fine group of young persons. Please remember them in your prayers. Meanwhile, the Rite of Confirmation for the 8th graders, which was to have happened on May 3, is still on hold. 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.

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 17, 2020

The Meeting was held via Zoom with Elstad president, Larry Topness calling the meeting to order at 5:39 PM.

Roll call was taken. A Quorum was called.

Others present: Pastor Luther.

Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda made by Lyle and second by Kay. Motion carried.

Devotional prayer given by Pastor Luther.

Congregation members present to address the council include: none.

Communication: none

President's report was given. There is no additional President's report in addition to Elstad or Highland Prairie council meetings. Larry and Gordon continue to meet with Pastor Luther to discuss issues as they arise, including thoughts about returning to corporate worship.

The majority of the Pastor's report was given at individual council meetings.

Pastor continues to lead online Worship services, which are posted on both of the websites and Facebook pages of each church. Services include Daily prayer, Prayer at the End of the Day, Sunday Worship and messages for children. He is grateful for the assistance and support of Bobbi. He prays these services have been helpful. It has been difficult not having conversations face to face during this time. He prays for us all, knowing God knows our struggles.

-Pastor continues Zoom meetings with the bishop and recently met with the Minneapolis Synod whose guest speaker was Dr. Michael Olsterholm.

-Pastor has been making pastoral care visits via telephone. Please share any who need additional pastoral care services.

-Not being able to meet in worship is a huge emotional loss. How can we gather and support one another during this time? It was helpful to hear thoughts from Dr Olsterholm. This virus is aerosolized and therefore the virus can spread more readily in close contact and enclosed areas. Singing can greatly increase the amount of aerosolized virus. Communion can be managed safely, with precautions put in place. Outdoor worship may be a safer option. June 7 is a target date for outdoor worship, based and dependent upon the Governor Walz's recommendations. Using the HP park area is preferred over the Bowl to allow for more distancing. At Elstad, a lawn service would be the safest option. If we return to corporate worship, churches are encouraged to review their insurance liability coverage. We would ask those who choose to participate in corporate worship to abide by protective recommendations (for example, no handshakes or hugs, requesting facemask use). Pastor would continue online worship services for those who choose not to participate in corporate worship due to increased health comorbidities.

-Pastor expresses concerns about the financial wellbeing of our parish members. Please continue to support one another and reach out to each other.

Joint Parish Youth:

A date for the Rite of Confirmation has not yet been set. Elstad has 4 Confirmands, and Highland Prairie has 2. At this time a date will be deferred.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

A. None

New Business:

A. The land rent agreement may need to be reviewed and some clarifications made, especially regarding clearing debris prior to alfalfa seeding.

B. Bids may be needed to safely clear gutters at the parsonage.

Secretary's report was given. Motion to approve by Lyle and second by Kay.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Nancy, and second by Jodie . Meeting was closed with the Lord 's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Council Secretary

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday May 17, 2020

Elstad Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Topness at 6:34 p.m. via Zoom.

Roll call: all members were present. A Quorum was called.

Meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Luther.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve the revised agenda including Old Business, church repairs, was made by Jodie second by Krissy. Motion passed.

No congregational members were present to address the council.

The Pastor's report was given.

The treasurer's report was given and has been placed on file for future audit. Very little monies are coming in at this time. We did receive Payroll protection loan for \$6800. It covers payroll for a little over 2 months. The loan is forgiven if payroll is maintained and offerings are decreased compared to last year. Currently, we are meeting payroll and utilities. Prepay fuel contract and insurance expenses will be due upcoming in August. Motion made by Kay to accept treasurer's report Second by Krissy. Motion passed.

President's Report:

Gordon, Larry, and Pastor Luther continue to meet regularly and discuss issues during this time. It is good to be able to meet in a small group.

Pastor asked about how teachers and students are faring during the challenge of distance learning. It is hard for teachers not to have students in the classroom, it is also challenging for students to continue social interactions.

Correspondence received: none

Youth:

Confirmation continues to meet weekly for about 25 minutes. Much of this time is spent touching base with students, it does not allow a lot of time for teaching. It has been meaningful to do this for both Pastor Luther and the students. Pastor Luther would like to continue through May if possible.

Old Business:

- Estimates for church repairs have been received for the steeple repair, ridge cap repair, and updated signage.
- Well breather has been installed and we are in compliance with Minnesota Department of Health.
- Fire Safety reviewed fire extinguishers and we are up to date.
- Rita has followed up on signage for the church. Larry will reach out to Rita to discuss finalizing details.
- Estimate from Shorty Byler for ridge cap repair including metal ridge cap is \$600, including shingle cap is \$700. All ridge caps will be replaced and shingle repair would be completed. He would also assess a leaky area above the elevator to see if repairs can be made. An estimate from Tyler Johnson for tuck-point repair and ridge cap repair is pending. He will mail estimate to Larry. Once this is received, we can review further.

New Business

- As we discuss returning to corporate worship, Jennifer will reach out to our insurance carrier to see if we have liability coverage in the setting of a pandemic.

Secretary's report was given. Motion was given by Jodie, second by Amber. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Kay to adjourn, second by Krissy. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.

Closed in prayer by Pastor Kay.

JUNE 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~ Ron Stensgard
~ Janette Dragvold
~ Madalynn Keller
3~ Glen Bakken
~ Ruth Moraski
4~ Lynnette Pederson
~ Kelly Bearbower
~ Andrew Bacon
5 Tony Knutson
~ Siena Heydt-Nelson
8~ Jason Dragvold
~ Kortnie Woxland
~ Kristi Chiglo
9~ Richard Todd
~ Christopher Berge
10~ Julie Koop
11~ Bob Brand
~ Jessica Rebahan
~ Lisa Chiglo
12~ Jay Dahl
~ Elissa Beach
~ Lakyn Lind
~ Carter Ask
~ Adam James

13~ David Lombard
14~ Riley Koop
15~ Wendy Will
~ Tom Dybing
~ Chris Schwichtenberg
~ Andrea Waldron
16~ Paul Ehler
~ Sawyer Nelson
~ Tenley Qualy
17~ Tate Lind
18~ Alison Feine
~ Wilson Storhoff
19~ Julie Dragvold
~ Allyson Christian
20~ Gary Wangen
21~ Tony Semmen
22~ Kalin Dahl
~ Annabelle Christian
23~ Scott Meldahl
~ Rebekah Solum
~ Lillian DeGeorge
24~ Jeffrey Self
25~ Cindy Howe
~ Sari Rein
~ Kyson Klug
26~ Lucile Ask
~ Kim Halverson
27~ Dick Haight
~ Cathy Bakkum
~ Deb Topness
~ Andrew Nepstad
~ Emma Peck

28~ Kristi Berge
~ Avalon Jacobson
29~ Charles Mierau
~ David Howe
~ Kari Drinkall
~ Jessie Rustad
~ Joshua Howe
30~ David McHan
~ Bryce Peterson



2~ David & Lori Bakke
4~ Todd & Michele James
7~ Mike & Brenda Chiglo
9~ Richard & Jennifer
Nepstad
20~ Ron & Martha
Stensgard
21~ Murton & Sharon
Boyum
21~ Erik & Lisa Sievers
25~ Truman & Pat Dahl
25~ Duane & Angel Bakke
27~ Steven & Lynn Ryan
29~ Glen & Karen Bakken
30~ John & Jennifer
DeGeorge

JUNE 2020

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bulletin Deadline	4	5	6 Nelson/ Anderson Wedding
7 9:00 a.m.—HP 10:30 a.m.—EL	8	9	10 Bulletin Deadline	11	12	13
14 9:00 a.m.—HP 10:30 a.m.—EL HP Council 5:30 p.m. HP Park Shelter Hongerholt Reunion	15	16	17 Bulletin Deadline	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
21 9:00 a.m.—HP 10:30 a.m.—EL	22	23	24 Bulletin Deadline	25	26	27
28 Parish Worship 10:30 a.m.—HP	29	30				

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

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HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

ACOLYTES: LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON
READERS: LACI SIEVERS, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN
READERS: CADEN JOHNSON, SHARON EHLER
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, KENNA GUDMUNDSON
READERS: LARISSA RYAN, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020

BOWL WORSHIP
READERS: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, MICHELE THOMPSON
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

ELSTAD
ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN
READERS: ALISON FREESE, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, LORI BAKKE

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020

ACOLYTE: MAKENZIE KNUTSON
READERS: MAKENZIE KNUTSON, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020

BOWL WORSHIP @ HP

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