

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

~ April 2018 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator

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Prayer Corner

Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Elaine Holm, Jerry Evenson, David Ask, the Family of Sharon Asleson and all who are ill or in other needs in your prayers.

April Worship Schedule

+Easter Sunday, April 1st

7:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

9:00 a.m., Elstad

+Sunday, April 8th

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

+Sunday, April 15th

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

+Sunday, April 22nd

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

+Sunday, April 29th

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

+++

Sunday school will resume on April 8th,
Highland Prairie Sunday school at 9:30 a.m.
Elstad Sunday school at 10:00 a.m.

Parsonage Window Replacement News

All of the replacement windows for the parsonage have been now been installed. As soon as the weather becomes more springtime seasonable, an open house will be scheduled so that parish members may see the work that has been completed.

Confirmation Instruction Resumes

Students: Wednesday evening confirmation instruction resumes, Wednesday, April 4, 6:30 p.m., at Elstad. You are to come prepared to review your memory work in the Small Catechism. **Mentors:** You will meet your student on Wednesday, April 11th and April 25th, 7:00 p.m., at Elstad. Regular class will be shortened so you will have time to visit.

Vacation Bible School Planners Requested

It's time that our parish offer summer Vacation Bible School again. With the human resources and the resource of our location, we ought to be able to engage in a time of Christian learning and fun for our children. Volunteers to aid in planning and carrying out VBS are essential. Please see Pr. Mathsen if you are willing to help us carry out this ministry. We will need to be meeting within the first two weeks of April.

Saturday or Sunday at the Movies

There is a new movie about St. Paul entitled, **Paul, Apostle of Christ**, that is being shown on area big screens. If you are interested in seeing this movie with Pr. Mathsen and members of the parish, please sign up in the narthex of either Highland Prairie or Elstad no later than April 8. It probably won't be in the theaters very long. The trailer indicates the movie is appropriate for ages 13 and up.

Eastertide Bible Study

A three week Bible study on the first three chapters of the book of Genesis will be held in mid-late April and into May. The exact dates and time will be decided by those who desire to participate in the study. Please let Pr. Mathsen know if you are interested and when is the best day and time for you to study in the week.

Post-Lenten Gratitude

I am most grateful for all who participated in our Wednesday midweek Lenten soup suppers and prayer. It was salutary parish communion. Special thanks to all who prepared and served the delicious food and to those who helped clean up after all was said and done. Also, thanks to the musicians and readers of both congregations. Pr. Mathsen+

People of Hope...People of God's Workmanship

It doesn't seem that long ago that we celebrated the Incarnation of God in the Christ-child, Jesus. "And the Word became flesh," according to the Gospel of St. John. Stupendous good news it is! God in Christ assumed everything that our flesh is heir to; all our weakness, all our sorrows, all our brokenness, all our sin and god-forsakenness, he took to himself. He, "though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking on the form of servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2).

Indeed, Jesus took on our flesh not merely to identify or sympathize with us as though a matter of "misery loves company." Rather, he became incarnate...assumed our flesh...so that he might save us. He went to the cross in perfect and loving obedience to God "for us." And God raised him from the dead in order that we might have the firstfruits of his Spirit.

But do we not still live in the flesh? Does not the messiness of our fleshliness still afflict us? Are we not still broken, sorrowful, weak, and shattered? Yet what is absolutely crucial is what we celebrate and proclaim in this joyful Easter season...and indeed...each and every Sunday: resurrection of Christ and his victory over death! He died and rose not so we could slough off our fleshliness, but in order to transform our fleshliness by the power of his Spirit; so that his power might be manifest in our weaknesses, our brokenness, and forsakenness; so that we might live as people of hope...Easter people...who indeed have "the firstfruits of the Spirit" even as we groan inwardly...waiting eagerly for adoption as daughters and sons, the redemption of our fleshly bodies (Romans 8).

Preach it, St. Paul! Don't stop now!

For "God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ---by grace you have been saved---and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2).

Now there's a promise of eternal springtime and the power to live in its joy now and unto ages of ages. Amen. Pr. Mathsen+

ELSTAD—HIGHLAND PRAIRIE NEWS

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE WELCA

MEATBALL DINNER AND BAKE SALE

Sunday, April 8 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 narthex. Bake sale items should be brought to church on Saturday or early on Sunday morning.

Elstad WELCA

Elstad WELCA meeting will be Sunday April 8, 2018 after church services.
The servers will be Darlys Storhoff and Sharon Knutson.

Parsonage Window Fundraiser

The Elstad and Highland Prairie churches will be selling t-shirts and sweatshirts to raise money for Elstad's portion of the parsonage windows. The shirts will have the theme 'Opening Windows to Christ's Love' with images of the Elstad Lutheran Church and Highland Prairie Lutheran Church in a window. This will be a great way to advertise the churches we adore. Please look for upcoming displays and order forms to purchase a shirt. Thank you in advance for supporting the Elstad Lutheran Church. If you would like to get a jump on ordering contact Rita Kelly.

Highland Prairie Council meeting

Sunday, April 8th, 5:30 p.m. at Highland Prairie

Elstad budget for February 2018

February	\$ 8131.50
Received February	\$ 4423.00
Under	\$ 3708.50
Budget YTD	\$ 16263.00
Received YTD	\$ 13447.00
Under YTD	\$ 2816.00

Highland Prairie Financials

February 2018

YTD Income-----	\$12,288
YTD Expenses-----	\$10,471
Income exc. Expenses -----	\$1,302
YTD Budget-----	\$15,516
YTD Income-----	\$12,288
YTD Under-----	\$ 3,228

Elstad-Highland Prairie Church Council Meeting Minutes ~ Sunday, March 11, 2018

The meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church with Elstad President Dick Haight calling the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Roll call was taken with Michelle Rein, Sarah Bearbower and Becky Lind absent. A quorum was called.

Devotions were given by Joyce.

Agenda was reviewed and approved with the addition of New Business item funding parsonage windows. Motion to approve by Tim, seconded by Chris. Motion passed.

Presidents report was given. The congregation presidents met with Pastor Luther for a performance review on March 7th. Both parishes are pleased with Pastor Luther's performance and contributions.

Pastors report was given.

Pastor Luther is working on improving his delivery of the children sermons, he is also working with the youth and visiting young family members.

Youth: The movie 'The Lion' was viewed at the parsonage with about 5 youth attending and 'Charlottes Web' was viewed on March 11th at the Parsonage with approximately 5 youth attending. Confirmation students are required to participate in the 5-6 Lenten services which decreases the instruction class time. Pastor Luther will be looking at options for next year to include instruction time as well.

Looking at options to have vacation bible school at the church this summer. Any suggestions or volunteers to help with vacation bible school, to please contact Pastor Luther.

There was no correspondence.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

Parsonage window update. The windows arrived on a Monday and were installed the following Thursday. The attic windows were the wrong sizes and two windows were damaged which have been reordered and will be replaced. The windows look very nice. The old leaded glass windows have been placed in the basement of the Parsonage.

Fundraising for parsonage windows. Highland Prairie has met their goal for paying for their portion of the window debt. Elstad parish will be selling t-shirts and sweatshirts that have both churches pictured. 'Opening Windows to Christ's Love'. Motion was made by Kyle to have Highland Prairie help sell the shirts. The shirts will be sold and distributed at both churches, all funds would be put towards Elstad's window debt. Motion seconded by Joyce. Motion carried. An order form will be created and sent out at each church to preorder apparel. Deadline for ordering will be set at May 1, 2018. Contact Rita for more details.

Secretary's report was given. Motion to approve by Nancy second by Jodie. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Kyle, second by Dick. Motion carried.

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Rita in Michelle and Becky's absence.

Next council meeting will be held at Highland Prairie with Elstad meeting at 5:30 p.m., Parish meeting at 6:30 p.m., Highland Prairie meeting at 7:30 p.m. on May 20, 2018.

**HIGHLAND PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING ~ March 11, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Kyle at 5:31 p.m. Roll call was taken: All present with the exception of Becky Lind and Sarah Bearbower. A quorum was declared.

Gordon made a motion to add discussion of electrical issues at the church and parsonage, and Joyce brought up the discussion of pictures of the council and posting it at the church. The agenda was then approved with a motion by Gordon and second by Chris.

Karen gave the treasurer's report (it was e-mailed to all members previously. When comparing income to the budget, we are under by \$3,228.00. Motion by Chris and second by Joyce to accept the report; motion carried.

The president's report was given by Kyle. He said it was exciting to get a new member today (Emma Peck was baptized). He and Dick Haight met with the pastor on March 7 for a review of the pastor's job on March 7. This will be discussed more at the joint meeting.

Pastor Luther gave his report. He talked about worship; we are headlong into Lent, and he is pleased with the parish attendance at services. He is very thankful for the people who take part in both the services and the soup suppers. He is preparing for Holy Week. The Maundy Thursday service will be at Elstad, and those who took part in first communion classes will be recognized: Lucas Redalen, Emma Peck and Brianna Horning. There has been a hiatus with the confirmands during Lent. They have been asked to attend Lenten Services and have been good to attend. He is trying to decide how to do this differently next year so there won't be that gap of time. There are three confirmands: Nikke Dahle, Alysta King and J.T. Rein. He is still conducting the book study on Mondays with a few women. The book "The Hammer of God," which is a study of the life of the church and its pastors has been used. He would like to offer other adult education. He is continuing with his pastoral care with visiting weekly shut-ins, people who are sick, nursing home residents. For the administrative part of his job, he relies on the leaders of the congregation, and he is very thankful for that. He attends the area clergy meetings; Highland Prairie will host in May. He will be attending the synod assembly in Mankato this year. He said it is expensive to go; he will decide if he will stay over and drive back and forth. This is a shared expense for both congregations. He is concerned with the ministry to young families and youth; he will continue to offer events for them to attend. We have had people visiting our church, and he encouraged us to make them feel welcome. Also, we are to let him know of anyone who he might need to visit. He is hoping to have something special on Mother's Day, Father's Day, Ascension Sunday, Rogation Sunday (where we could drive tractors to worship and end the service in the field), etc. He would also like to offer a campfire worship during the week for those who are unable to attend services on the weekend.

There was a discussion of the council committees; it was decided that members can contact anyone on the council for any concerns they have. Our new mission teams will affect some of the jobs of the committees. Joyce will contact someone to see about getting a picture taken of the council.

There was no correspondence. Pastor said he will be offering Vacation Bible School this summer and would like to get a committee set up for this. Pastor had talked with Sharon E., and it will be difficult to get the Mission Teams going by May, so it was suggested we wait until the fall.

The position of Auditor was table for now. The new scholarship process report was also tabled, because Sarah Bearbower was not at the meeting.

For new business Kyle talked about the bylaws of the endowment committee which were sent to the synod for review. The council was asked to read through them, and he will ask the endowment committee to attend the next meeting.

Gordon talked about changing lightbulbs in the church. For the new LED bulbs, some are white and some are yellow; we need to have all the same color. It was discussed about putting an extra switch in the overflow, so some lights can be used for funerals, and others for meeting.

There was a discussion of new doors for the church. The proceeds from soup suppers has been marked as going to the door fund. Kyle made a call, and Kendall Doors quoted him an estimate of \$7,797 for one pair of doors. To some extent, the old doors could be repaired for now.

The secretary's report was read; motion by Gordon and second by Chris to approved. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Tim and second by Mary to adjourn the meeting.

Nancy Rustad, Acting Secretary

Next Highland Prairie Council meeting will be held on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday March 11, 2018

Elstad Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Haight at 7:30 p.m.

Roll call: Present members were Dick Haight, Rita Kelly, Jodie Daniels, Kay Wold, Jennifer Nepstad, Rachel Bearbower and Pastor Luther Mathsen. Michelle Rein was absent. A Quorum was called.

The agenda was reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Jennifer second by Pr. Kay. Motion passed.

The Pastor's report was given.

Appreciative and pleased with attendance at Lenten services.

Short-term goals are to promote youth participation by making learning educational yet fun and to visit informally with young congregation members.

Long-term goals to stabilize pastoral leadership focusing on unity for the congregations.

Looking at the possibility of holding informal campfire services every other week in the middle of the week during the summer months in order to provide worship to those who are gone during the weekends.

Discussed communication and scheduling ideas for youth.

The treasurer's report was given and will be placed on file to be audited.

Mission: Soup supper funds will be distributed to Pastor Mioche. Outreach Mission Mary Circle was discussed, inviting young members to attend monthly meetings.

There was no correspondence.

Old Business:

Sanctuary repairs: Dick will contact Tyler Johnson to have him inspect the bell tower to see if another coating is recommended. Currently there has been no noticeable leakage. When confident that the repairs are maintained, will look into repairing the interior damage. Rachel motioned to have Tyler Johnson inspect the bell tower, Pr. Kay second.

Parking lot will be addressed after the frost.

Exterior step repair: Dick will contact Doug Johnson to receive bids on the repair and replacement of steps. Temporary repair of the steps have been done previously.

New Business:

WELCA generously donated \$3000 to be placed towards the parsonage window debt leaving a balance of approximately \$5000. Screen-printed t-shirts and sweatshirts with the Elstad and Highland Prairie churches pictured will be sold to help pay for the window debt. Highland Prairie has graciously offered to donate any funds H.P. raises from the shirts to go towards Elstads window debt.

Sound system upgrade is currently on hold.

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

Motion was made by Jodie to adjourn, second by Rachel. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Secretary's report submitted by Rita in Michelle's absence.

Next meeting to be held at Highland Prairie Church, Sunday May 20, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.



THE BRIDGE

A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod



An Interview with Burton and Nancy Svendsen, Synod Assembly Co-Managers

Burton and Nancy Svendsen are members of Trinity Fellowship in Rushford. They are serving as the co-managers of this year's 2018 Synod Assembly. The assembly theme is "Celebrating Our Global Congregation." To learn more about assembly, visit <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2018>. The event is being held in a new location this year – the Verizon Center in Mankato.

The Svendsens play key leadership roles in bringing this engaging, life-giving event into reality! The preparations for assembly last all year round. We give great thanks for their willingness to serve in this important way!

How long have you been serving a the assembly co-chairs?

2018 will be our fifth assembly as co-managers.

How did you first feel the Spirit's nudge to explore this leadership opportunity?

We had been on the implementation committee for a couple of years. We knew that the previous manager was retiring. We work well together. We know how to organize. We believe in giving back to the Lord.

What do you most enjoy about the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly?

Being/working with other people of faith. Seeing a bigger picture of our church. The worship and the music. Being with the people. Being part of the leadership team. Seeing and hearing all the positive things going on in our corner of the world.

What advice would you give to someone who was considering attending assembly as a voting member for his/her congregation?

Be open to seeing/hearing the new and different ways God is at work. Be willing to talk to strangers. Yes, the business really has to be done.

What might surprise the 121,000 people of our synod about the behind-the-scenes aspects of assembly?

The number of people, from staff, AV, catering, technology, maintenance, presenters, speakers, musicians, who all come together like a well oiled machine to make the magic of a smooth assembly happen.



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
~ Tyler Britson
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 2018

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p><i>Easter Sunday</i></p> <p>7:00 a.m. (HP)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. (EL)</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>HP-WELCA mtg./ Bible study</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>EL- 9:00 a.m. SS 10:00 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m. SS-9:30 a.m.</p> <p>EL- WELCA mtg. after services HP-Meatball Dinner HP-Council mtg. 5:30 p.m.</p>	9	10	<p>11</p> <p>HP- Quilting & projects 9:30 a.m. With Potluck</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>EL- 9:00 a.m. SS 10:00 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m. SS-9:30 a.m.</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline!</p>	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>EL- 9:00 a.m. SS 10:00 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m. SS-9:30 a.m.</p>	23	24	<p>25</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>EL- 9:00 a.m. SS 10:00 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m. SS-9:30 a.m.</p>	30					

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6

Address Services Requested



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018

ACOLYTES: ALYSTA KING, ANDREW HOINESS
READERS: ANDREW HOINESS, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2017

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, CADEN JOHNSON
READERS: JONAH SIEVERS, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LACI SIEVERS
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, BECKY LIND
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, NIKKI DAHLE
READERS: TREY OLSON, SHARON EHLER
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

ACOLYTES: KRISTINA STENSGARD, LINDSAY HOINESS
READERS: NIKKI DAHLE, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

ELSTAD
ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018

ACOLYTE: MAKENZIE KNUTSON
READERS: J.T. REIN, CAROLYN SMITH

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF
READERS: ALISON FREESE, TOM DYBING

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN
READERS: KYLE DANIELS, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, LORI BAKKE

USHERS: DAVE LAWSTUEN, JOHN OVERLAND,
TOM SMITH, DICK HAIGHT, BRAD KELLY,
DAVID WATSON