

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

~ May 2021 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

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

Worship Notes:

*The parish has returned to "in-person" worship. Covid19 precautions (masking and physical distancing) continue to be observed for those in attendance. All Sunday services continue to be offered on the Facebook and website pages of both congregations.

*Thursday, May 13th, is the day the church celebrates Christ's ascension to heaven. On that day, Pr. Mathsen will be posting Morning Prayer on the Facebook pages and websites of both congregations.

*If there are folks who'd like to become members of the parish, Sunday, May 16th, is designated as reception Sunday. See Pr. Mathsen.

***NOTE:** In May, the parish worship schedule changes. See the schedule below.

May Worship Schedule

+5 Easter, Sunday, May 2

Holy Communion with the Rite of Confirmation

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Acts 8.26-40

Psalm 22.25-31

1 John 4.7-21

John 15.1-8

+6 Easter, Sunday, May 9

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Acts 10.44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5.1-6

John 18.1-19.42

+7 Easter, Sunday, May 16

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5.9-13

John 17.6-19

+Pentecost Sunday, May 23

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Acts 2.1-21

Psalm 104.24-34, 35b

Romans 8.22-27

John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15

+Trinity Sunday, May 30

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 6.1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8.12-17

John 3.1-17

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Pastor's Page

May 2021

One of my favorite passages in the Old Testament is the story about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3.1-18). As you may recall, the king at that time, King Nebuchadnezzar, made a humongous, glittering, image and ordered all his subjects to fall down and worship it at an appointed time. "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up." Furthermore, attached to his command were the consequences that would ensue for those who failed to obey his word. "(A)nd whoever does not fall down and worship (the image) shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace".

Now...I invite you to consider this question: "What is it like to be different from others?" It isn't easy, is it? There are consequences for being different. And if you are different, you had better be whole-heartedly committed to that difference if you want to maintain it, because otherwise the price you'll have to pay for it will lead you to compromise or even conform. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were different from others in that they were God-fearing persons that would not serve a graven image, or, for that matter, any other so-called "god" save the God of Israel. They did not compromise. They did not conform. They did not count their own lives more important than faithfulness to the one, living, true God. They refused to pay heed to King Nebuchadnezzar. In spite of his threat, they refused to serve his gods or the golden image which he had set up. "(I)f you do not worship (the image), you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace; and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, we are different. We are children of the one, living, and true God. And we are subject to the lures of all the gods of this world---to the temptation of our hearts to become their subjects. In the face of such temptation and its source, consider the response of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. *But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.*"

I'll just leave you to ponder their witness. And, I will do the same. And together, we can think about what our "differentness" means for our daily life and witness in this world of many gods and their demands. It's worthy of our consideration as we seek to live lives of faith and hope in *the one, living, and true God*. Who knows who may be strengthened by our witness? plm+

ELCA World Hunger Fund-The need continues...

Elstad congregation's appeal for springtime offerings for world hunger continues this month. Any monetary gifts to the ELCA World Hunger fund are a meaningful way to help make a difference. The Highland Prairie congregation is encouraged to participate as well. Designated donations to this cause can be placed in the offering plate of your congregation. Make your checks out to your congregation and write ELCA World Hunger Appeal on the MEMO line.

Local Food Shelves-The need continues.

Members of both congregations are encouraged to continue supporting the local food shelves during the Easter season. Our area SEMCAC food shelves' addresses are: Rushford (113 E. Jessie St. Rushford), and Preston (515 Washington St. NW, Preston).

Confirmation Instruction, 2021

Formal 7th and 8th grade confirmation instruction ceased for the 2020-2021 year on Wednesday, April 21st, for the 7th graders, and Wednesday, April 28th, for the 8th graders. The Rite of Confirmation for 8th graders will occur during Holy Communion on Sunday, May 2nd (see the worship schedule for correct worship times in this edition). Parish youth who will be confirmed are: Lindsey Hoiness, Laci Sievers, Larissa Ryan, Kenna Gudmundson, Caden Johnson, Michael Evenson, and Damon Hubbard. All are from the Highland Prairie congregation. Please remember these youth and their families in your prayers.

Adult Christian Education

The adult book study will commence on Thursday, May 6th, 1:30 p.m., at Elstad church. *Please note the date and time change.* We'll be reading a novel by Michael D. O'Brien, entitled, The Lighthouse. One reviewer of the book, and fellow author, writes: "Can a man be an island? Can he be the captain of his soul? And what's the difference between solitude and loneliness? Such questions are at the heart of this story of one man's quest to make sense of himself and the world in which he finds himself." If you're interested in participating in the study of this book, it's not too late to register.

Elstad Maintenance Items 2021

As with any historically significant building, Elstad church requires perpetual care and upkeep. The church council has identified some specific building and grounds concerns. Some are already being addressed. A sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the nave, should you desire to assist with a donation. or with your time and skill. See council president, Dick Haight or treasurer, Jennifer Nepstad if you have questions.

Some Highland Prairie Maintenance Items 2021

The arrival of springtime brings with it the annual task of cleaning up the park and the bowl of detritus left by "old man winter". So be on the lookout for an announcement of a clean-up date and time. Also, among items of repair/upkeep that will be taking place this year are parking lot repair and re-staining the church building. Your financial contributions are appreciated. See council president Gordon if you have questions.

Provisional Concerns of Congregational Life

Your continuing consideration of your offerings that help the church meet its financial commitments is most appreciated. If you do not attend communal worship, you are encouraged to mail your offering to: Jennifer Nepstad (Elstad Treasurer), 20707 Co. 21, Lanesboro, MN 55949, or Karen Bakken (Highland Prairie, Treasurer), 713 Johnson Court, Rushford, MN, 55971 or Highland Prairie Church, 43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962,

Pastoral Care

Pr. Mathsen is making in-person home visits, if desired. He has received both doses of the Moderna vaccine. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of pastoral care or a pastoral visit, please let him know.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

April 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members present were Robert Anfinson, Karen Bakken, Joyce Dahl, Mary Gudmundson, Gordon Johnson, Lyle Meldahl, and Tim Stensgard. Chris Hoiland, Steve Howe, and David Markegard were absent.

A quorum was determined and a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Lyle Meldahl, Tim Stensgard seconded. Motion carried.

Devotions were given by Pastor Luther.

There were no congregation members present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. Year to date information provided are income \$18,136.00 expenses \$19,837.00; expenses exceed income by \$1,701.00. A motion to approve as presented was made by Tim Stensgard, Lyle Meldahl, seconded. Motion carried.

The President's Report: None

The Pastor's Report was given by Pastor Luther: Pleased with Holy Week attendance and feeling people are coming back to services; Propose to discuss the singing of full liturgy at the next Parish meeting; Bulletin preparation is now back in Lisa's hands; May 2nd will be the Rite of Confirmation with 7 in our congregation Kenna Gudmundson, Lindsey Hoiness, Michael Evenson, Laci Sievers, Larissa Ryan, Caden Johnson and Damon Hubbard; Review on April 28th with no meal being served; Adult education course completed; 5th Grade Communion class is being offered; Upcoming Synod meeting; Home visits are being made as requested as well as nursing home visits; May 30th will be a vacation day. Read writing on the happenings in the church and the future of cooperatively moving forward.

Correspondence received: None

Committee Reports: Park and Bowl clean up needed

Old Business: Parking lot paving agreement received, signed and returned, begin date to be determined.

New Business: Locks on church, time to change and update the number of persons having keys and list of such. Tim Stensgard will get current info on door replacement/repair and costs of lock replacement.

Bark for rock garden: Bring in black dirt first and get wood chips.

Park and Bowl clean-up date will need to be set up.

Ball games and meals for Bowl services discussion on options of how to proceed.

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve was made by Lyle Meldahl, Joyce Dahl seconded. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer was made by Tim Stensgard, Mary Gudmundson seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next meeting will be on May 16th at 7:30 pm at Highland Prairie.

Prayer Corner

Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep all who are ill or in need of your prayers.

Elstad's Recognition Sunday will be held during worship on Sunday, May 16th. We will recognize our newly Baptized members, our Cradle Roll Graduates, our Confirmands, our High School Graduates and our new Members. Those being recognized will be personally invited. Please help us celebrate these milestones with them!

Highland Prairie will recognize high school seniors the same day during worship.

Congratulations to our parish 2021 high school graduates. They are: Alison Freese, Trenten Chiglo and Wilson Storhoff of Lanesboro High School. And Jens Lind, Jonah Sievers, Trey Olson, Brady Stensgard, and Hale Stensgard of Rushford—Peterson High School.

Elstad Budget for March 2021

March	\$ 7033.58
Received	\$ 6551.00
Under	\$ 482.58
Elstad budget YTD	\$ 21100.74
Received YTD	\$ 21811.00
Over YTD	\$ 710.26

Highland Prairie Financial for March 2021

YTD Income	\$ 18,136
YTD Expenses	\$ 19,837
Expenses exceed Income	\$ 1,701
YTD Budget	\$ 23,925
YTD Income	\$ 18,136
YTD Under	\$ 5,789

Technology Difficulties

Parishioners, I would like to apologize for any missed emails and missed newsletter information. I have recently been made aware of missing emails and I have discovered this is due to them being sent to my spam inbox. Please if I have not replied to your email within 24 hours do try to contact me via phone or text to make me aware of the email you sent. However, I do prefer to receive all church related information via email.

Thank you,

Lisa

(507) 459-5450

MAY 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~ Sawyer Wolfs
2~ James Mensink
3~ William Semmen
~ Eric Storhoff
6~ JoAnne Anderson
~ Daniel Storhoff
~ Bruce Thompson
8~ Hayven Dahl
9~ Pamela Johnson
~ Adam Rislov
10~ Sean Pederson
~ Carol Anfinson
12~ Robert Dahl
~ Kiah Halverson
~ Kiera Pepin
13~ Elaine Rygmer
~ Alexander Mierau
~ Morgan Nelson
15~ Fred Kiel
~ Aaron Topness
16~ Cashton Dahl
~ Jaxie Dahl
17~ Loren Flattum
18~ Jennifer Stensgard

18~ Kimberly Lee
19~ Martha Ferden
~ Yvonne Freese
20~ Mike Chiglo
~ John Peterson
~ Clara Hoiland
22~ Nicholas Bakke
~ Jana Boyum
23~ Kyle Daniels
24~ Carson Johnson
25~ Tina Westby
~ Harper Kanz
26~ Lisa Sievers
~ Jarad Olson
27~ Jordan Kiel
~ Quentin Daniels
~ Adelyn Pearce
~ Dylan Ghoorah
28~ Gavin Pearce
29~ Diane Haight
~ Bereket Rebhahn
31~ Katie Gellerson
~ Nicole Woxland
~ Brody Gellerson

11~ Peter & Shelly Stensgard
15~ Wayne & Joan
Finnegan
19~ Robert & Sharon
Knutson
22~ John & Michelle Rein
27~ Stan & Cindy Sveen
29~ Pastor Luther & Bobbi
Mathsen
31~ Doug & Becky Lind

MAY

2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Confirmation Sunday 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	3	4 Joint youth Ed. Com. Mtg. 6:30 p.m. @ EL	5 Bulletin Deadline	6 Adult book study 1:30 p.m. @ Elstad	7	8
9 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP Council Meetings @ HP 5:30 p.m.— EL 6:30 p.m.—Parish 7:30 p.m.—HP	10	11	12 Bulletin Deadline	13 Adult book study 1:30 p.m. @ Elstad	14	15
16 9:00 a.m.—EL Recognition Sun- day 10:30 a.m.—HP H.S. Senior Recognition	17	18	19 Newsletter Deadline Bulletin Deadline	20 Adult book study 1:30 p.m. @ Elstad	21	22
23 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP HP—Lind Recital 30 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	24 31	25	26 Bulletin Deadline	27 Adult book study 1:30 p.m. @ Elstad	28	29

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, MAY 2, 2021

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS
READERS: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021

ACOLYTES: LINDSEY HOINESS, LACI SIEVERS
READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021

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

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021

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

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, CHEYANNE DAHLE
READERS: LARISSA RYAN, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021

ACOLYTE: SARI REIN
READERS: MILEY KNUTSON, CAROLYN SMITH

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021

ACOLYTE: JENSYN STORHOFF
READERS: AUBREY DANIELS, TOM DYBING

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021

ACOLYTE: MILEY KNUTSON
READERS: SAWYER WOLFS, GENE TOPNESS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2021

ACOLYTE: AUBREY DANIELS
READERS: THEA ARENDS, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021

ACOLYTE: SAWYER WOLFS
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, LORI BAKKE

USHERS: LARRY TOPNESS, DICK HAIGHT,
PHILIP ABRAHAMSON, JOHN REIN,
ADAM DANIELS, ROBERT KNUTSON