

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

~ November 2019~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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Prayer Corner

*Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation.
Please keep Wendy Will, Michele Thompson, Eleanor Peterson, Pernella Landsverk,
Loretta Semmen and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.*

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November Worship Schedule

+Sunday, November 3rd

All Saints' Sunday

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

*****NOTE: This change is only for this Sunday**

in order to facilitate the Highland Prairie WELCA Bazaar

+Sunday, November 10th

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

+Sunday, November 17th

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

+Sunday, November 24th

Christ the King

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

Wednesday, November 27th

Thanksgiving Eve

7:00 p.m., Elstad

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The headline on the new study by the Pew Center reads: "In U.S., Decline in Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace." What follows are two excerpts that are worth our consideration as we look to the future of the Christian church and our life as a Christian parish. Excerpts:

"The religious landscape of the United States continues to change at a rapid clip. In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christians when asked about their religion, down 12 percentage points over the past decade. Meanwhile, the religiously unaffiliated share of the population, consisting of people who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic, or "nothing in particular," now stands at 26%, up from 17% in 2009."

"Both Protestantism and Catholicism are experiencing losses of population share. Currently, 43% of U.S. adults identify with Protestantism, down from 51% in 2009. And one-in-five adults (20%) are Catholic, down from 23% in 2009. Meanwhile, all subsets of the religiously unaffiliated population---a group also known as religious "nones"---have seen their numbers swell. Self-described atheists now account for 4% of U.S. adults, up modestly but significantly from 2% in 2009; agnostics make up 5% of U.S. adults, up from 3% a decade ago; and 17% of Americans now describe their religion as "nothing in particular," up 12% in 2009. Members of non-Christian religions also have grown modestly as a share of the adult population."

For most of us, this information comes as no surprise. As one Christian writer put it, "The storm clouds have been gathering for decades, but most of us believers have operated under the illusion that they would blow over." Let's not kid ourselves. Those clouds are over us and our parish and they will continue for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, the decline is happening in every church body even while every church body and, I daresay, every congregation is seeking "seven ways to Sunday" to stop the hemorrhaging. Serious thinking about the brute fact of what is happening, and how we will respond faithfully to the crisis, is needed right here and right now.

So I intend to bring the prospect of what such an intentional conversation to the church councils of our parish. I will seek their wisdom and participation. I will ask them to pray about establishing a means of parish engagement about our faith and our future as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Is that a scary prospect? Yes, but....fear not! My scripture reading for yesterday included a psalm that gave encouragement and a reason for hope. It was Psalm 90. Consider the paraphrase of that passage in a noteworthy hymn that can stiffen our spines, voice encouragement, and spur us on in hope.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight, are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

Pastor's Page continued...

Yes! We are a community that lives to hear and rehearse the promises of our Christ. Nothing in all creation can separate us from his love (Romans 8.31ff). Furthermore, as a member of our parish stated in a recent men's breakfast, "This (crisis) is nothing new. The church and her members have been in a place like this before" (a rough paraphrase of his words). As Jesus said to Peter upon his confession, ("You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,") "...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16-18).

So, fear not! And onward for the sake of Christ, his church, our parish and the world!

Your brother in Christ,

Pr. Mathsen+

Go to www.pewforum.org. Find the article and read it for yourself.

Parish Men's Breakfast

The November men's prayer breakfast will take place at Elstad on Saturday, November 23th, at 7:30 a.m. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary or narthex.

November Bible and Book Study Update

The four-week Bible study on Jesus' parables of judgment will gather for the last on occasion, November 6th, 10:00 a.m., at Elstad. Even if you have not attended the previous study times, you are welcome to join us. The study on the book, *Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery*, by Richard Lischer will meet for the last time on Thursday, November 7th, 10 a.m., at Highland Prairie.

All Saints' Sunday

Sunday, November 3rd, is All Saints' Sunday. During worship, the names of our faithful departed loved ones will be listed on a bulletin insert. Names submitted via the bulletin insert (October 27th), to the church office (October 30), or to Pr. Mathsen (November 2), will be included. You also be invited to light a votive candle in memory of your loved ones. (A free-will offering of an extra dollar in the offering place will help defray the cost of the candles.)

A Pre-Advent Study

A study on a number of the scriptural texts, themes, and signs of the upcoming season of Advent will be offered on the following Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.: November 19th and 26th. Sign up in the back of the nave.

Thanks!!

The parish's annual participation in the Feed My Starving Children food drive was a blessing. Approximately 25 adults and youth participated. Deep gratitude is extended to all participants who gave of their time and talent, to the individuals who provided monetary support, and to both congregations for their generous contribution. Also, we extend our thanks to all individuals and families that participated in the parish trunk or treat event that took place on Halloween weekend, Sunday, October 27th. Great creativity was on display. And all for the fun of it!

More Thanks!!

Each and every month there are people who perform service which benefits the life and ministry of the congregations of the parish. There are too many of you to list and I fear someone would be left out. So...On behalf of the parish, please know your gifts of time, talent, and treasure, are greatly appreciated.

New Member Sunday

The new member reception Sunday at both congregations has been changed to Sunday, November 17th. Those who have been worshipping with either congregation for some time will receive a letter within a week inquiring if you are ready to formally join. However, if you would be so kind as to speak with Pr. Mathsen about the possibility of membership, it would be greatly appreciated.

All are invited to attend the

30th Annual Advent Cantata

“Joy of Heaven and Earth Come Down”

Presented by the Elstad Community Choir

Sunday, December 1st, 5:00 pm, at the Elstad Lutheran Church

(Musical prelude begins 4:30 pm)

World Hunger

The ELCA reports that more than 800 million people – about 11% of people in the world today – are hungry.

November has been designated as a time to consider a gift to the world hunger at Elstad.

Any donations towards this ministry can be given to the church treasurer or labeled for world hunger and placed in the offering plate.

Any food donations to the local food shelves may be brought in to the church until November 24th.

Elstad is short on funds this year and we are wondering if members would be interested in setting up donation to the church using the on line bill paying system of your bank. You can choose to send only when you want to or you could set up automatic payments to the church with a schedule that works for you. We are encouraging you to think about this if it would help you.

Send to: Elstad Lutheran Church
20707 County 21
Lanesboro, MN 55949

Parish 40 Land Contract

The “Church 40” land contract is open for bids. All bids should be submitted by noon, November 10th. Those persons with questions should contact a member of either church council.

Highland Prairie Financials for September 2019

YTD Income-----\$ 63,168

YTD Expenses-----\$ 68,402

Expenses exceed Income-----\$ 5,234

YTD Budget-----\$ 70,725

YTD Income-----\$ 63,168

YTD Under-----\$ 7,557

Elstad Budget September 2019

Budget	\$ 7241.75
Received September	\$ 4885.00
Under for September	\$ 2356.75
Elstad budget YTD	\$ 65,175.75
Received YTD	\$ 44,118.00
Under YTD	\$ 21,057.75

October 13th, 2019

5:30pm

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

- 1) Call to Order- 5:32pm by Gordon
- 2) Roll Call – Joyce, Mary, Scott and Chris were absent.
- 3) Quorum - Yes
- 4) Devotions – Pastor
- 5) Approval of Agenda – Lyle motion to approve, Tim seconded – motion passed.
- 6) Congregation members wishing to address Council – Allen Skalet – outdoor service coordination for baseball games – June 28th & July 26th would be the preferred dates. Rally Sunday Sept 13th 2020.
- 7) Treasurer's Report - Highland Prairie Financials for September 2019 YTD Income-----\$ 63,168 YTD Expenses-----\$ 68,402 Expenses exceed Income-----\$ 5,234 YTD Budget-----\$ 70,725 YTD Income-----\$ 63,168 YTD Under-----\$ 7,557 – Nancy motioned to approve, Sarah seconded, motion passed, subject to audit
- 8) President's report - None
- 9) Pastor's Report – Next major festival will be All Saint's Sunday. We will have name submission pages in the next couple of bulletins. DayLight Savings Nov. 3rd worship will be flipped 10:30am for HP, 9am for Elstad (one Sunday only). Julia Jacobson memorial discussed. Confirmation classes are in session they are memorizing the Lord's Prayer, petitions and meanings. They are also working on the catechism. They met with mentors the first time last week. This week a bible study is starting on 4 parables of judgement. Also a Book study will start this week. Sunday school children received 1st bibles today. Youth ministry went to Feed my Starving Children, 20-25 parish participants packed enough food for 79 people to eat for a year. Hayride on the 6th of Oct was successful. Trunk or Treat Event will be happening at both churches at the end of the month. Gordon and Larry will meet with pastor to review 2019 ministry. Updates related to our new Bishop, new personnel, and questions that occurred at the meeting at Good Earth Village this last month.
- 10) Correspondence – MN Dept. of Health well test results – minimal nitrates. Semcac Thank You for Food shelf funds.
- 11) Committee Reports
 - A. Church – north side furnace, exhaust motor was full of water, Gordon dried it out and it is working now. Furnace filters have been changed.
 - B. Grounds – Still need to meet with Kyle to pull out the merry go round. Water is shut off at park. Robert and Jerry will blow out lines this week. Cemetery water can be shut off anytime. Should call on port-a-potty earlier in the spring.
 - C. Worship - none
 - D. Youth and Education - none
- 12) Old Business
 - A. Shelter roof & posts – The roof will be taken care of later this fall or early spring.
 - B. Church staining – Nancy has done some in the car ports. We will finish the rest after the spring.
 - C. Old furnace room – will be cover it with dirt after the ground is frozen.
 - D. Tree removal – Norby's has the trees down. They will still need to be split and removed. Tim will take care of it once the ground is frozen.
- 13) New Business
 - A. Install heat tape on rain gutters of the church – Look for recommendation on what would be the best solution that will work with our circuit availability.
 - B. Church Doors – discussed options related to repair.
- 14) Secretary's Report – submitted by Sarah Bearbower. Nancy motion to approve, Lyle seconded, motion passed.
- 15) Adjournment – 6:28pm Lyle made a motion, Tim seconded, motion passed.

Next meeting November 10th, 2019 5:30pm at Elstad.

NOVEMBER 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

Happy
Birthday!

13~ Phil Dybing
~ Crystal Soppa
~ Ashlee Pontillo
~ Cody Ryan
~ Mason Wolfs
15~ Finn Patrick
17~ Jerry Dahl
~ Dana DeGeorge
19~ Trina Overland
~ Adam Daniels
~ James McHan
~ Sarah Wangen
~ Katie Hackbarth
~ Daryn Eisner
~ Grant DeGeorge
~ Ryder Colbenson
20~ Melanie Przybylski
~ Kyle Lawstuen
21~ Eric Howe
22~ Kenneth Sjarpe
~ Peyton Hoiness
~ Caden Johnson
23~ Adam Overland
~ Danielle Kingsley
24~ Taylor Ask
26~ Doris Westby
~ Rebecca Lawstuen
~ Katrina James
27~ Jennifer DeGeorge
~ Emarie Jacobson
28~ Kasey Nelson
~ Sandy Thomas

Happy
Anniversary

1~ Jennifer Dahl
~ Tiffany Humble
2~ Kenny Bakkum
~ Amelia Dohlman
~ Miley Knutson
~ Kelsie Woxland
3~ Darlys Storhoff
~ Ethan Rislov
4~ Sylvia Markegard
~ Doug Lind
~ Rick Sjarpe
~ Shelly Stensgard
5~ Scott Bestul
~ Derek Grimsrud
~ William Maschka
6~ Kaye Eiken
~ Ann Dolalie
~ Andrew Larson
9~ Tim Dahl
~ Seth Humble
10~ Rebecca Lind
11~ Randy Drinkall
12~ Thora Lombard

6~ David & Cindy Howe
6~ Cory & Nicloe Woxland
23~ John & Christine
Knutson
24~ Jeff Boland & Gretchen
Engstrom
26~ Michael & Jill
Halverson
27~ Gary & Nancy Rustad

NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Daylight savings
3 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m.	4	5	6 Book study 10 a.m. @ Elstad Confirmation 6:30 Bulletin Deadline	7 Book study 10 a.m. @ HP	8	9
10 HP—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m.	11	12	13 Confirmation 6:30 Bulletin Deadline	14	15	16
17 HP—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m. Council Mtg. @ Elstad 5:30—HP 6:30—Parish 7:30—EL	18	19 Pre-Advent study 10:00 a.m. Newsletter Deadline	20 Confirmation 6:30 Bulletin Deadline	21	22	23 Men's Parish breakfast @ EL 7:30 a.m.
24 HP—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m.	25	26 Pre-Advent study 10:00 a.m.	27 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 p.m.—Elstad Bulletin Deadline	28	29	30

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

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HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019

ACOLYTES: LINDSEY HOINESS, KRISTINA STENSGARD
READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, BECKY LIND
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, SHARON EHLER
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN
READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS
READERS: CADEN JOHNSON, MICHELE THOMPSON
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019

ACOLYTE: INDY QUALY
READERS: MAKENZIE KNUTSON, GLEE CLAUSSEN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN
READERS: MICHAEL REIN, CAROL OVERLAND

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF
READERS: KYLE DANIELS, CAROLYN SMITH

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019

ACOLYTE: MAKENZIE KNUTSON
READERS: INDY QUALY, TOM DYBING

USHERS: DAVE LAWSTUEN, ROBERT KNUTSON,
MIKE CHIGLO, JOHN REIN,
ROBERT NELSON, DAVID WATSON