

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

*~ May 2017 ~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

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*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*

*Email: [highlandprairie\\_elstad@ymail.com](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com)*

*Worship Schedule*

*May 2017*

*Sunday, May 7*

*8:30 a.m. Elstad*

*9:30 a.m. Sunday school*

*10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*Sunday, May 14th*

*8:30 a.m. Elstad*

*9:30 a.m. Sunday school*

*10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*Sunday, May 21st*

*8:30 a.m. Elstad*

*10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*Sunday, May 28th*

*10:00 a.m. Parish Worship @*

*Highland Prairie*

**Prayer Corner**

*Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Elaine Holm, Scott Dixon, Kenny Peterson, the family of Stanley Oian and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.*

**Parish Happening for May...**

**Sunday, May 7, 2017**

Elstad & Highland Prairie Confirmation

EL- Alison Freese, Wilson Storhoff

HP-Trenten Chiglo, Jens Lind, Trey Olson, Jonah Sievers, Brady Stensgard and Hale Stensgard

**Sunday, May 21, 2017**

Elstad "Recognition Sunday"

HP- 12 graduating seniors will be recognized

**Sunday, May 28, 2017**

Parish Worship 10:00 a.m. at Highland Prairie

**Highland Prairie Prayer Chain News**

We're always wanting more volunteers to pray as people's needs arise. There are no meetings to attend. We only ask for moments of your time at home to say a prayer and keep that person in your prayers for a period of time. If you'd like to be added to our list—call Arlene Johnson 864-2345 or e-mail Arlene at [skippy@acegroup.cc](mailto:skippy@acegroup.cc) When there is a need for prayer-- an e-mail is sent to everyone on our list. If possible, try to check your e-mails at least twice a day. I ask that volunteers respond each time with "Got It". It helps me to know how quickly our Prayer Volunteers respond.

THANKS TO ALL WHO ARE SUCH FAITHFUL PRAYER WARRIORS FOR THOSE IN NEED!!!!

### **For His Mercy Endures Forever**

One of my favorite psalms is Psalm 136. It is a dialogic psalm in which the second line of each verse is the same: "For his mercy endures forever." In this expansive rendering of the salvation history of his chosen people, the God of loving-kindness is the God of wonders. He is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the Creator of the sun, moon, stars, and waters. He delivers his people from Egypt. He defeated kings---Sihon and Og---and gave their land as an inheritance. What mighty acts these are!

But the psalmist is not finished. God continues to remember and rescue his people. And finally how is it that this great God...our God...remembers his people? The psalm that begins with a "BANG!" of the aforementioned great acts seemingly ends with a whimper: "Who gives food to all creatures."

Yet is this act of giving food to all creatures so puny an act in comparison with all the other acts of his loving-kindness---creation, exodus, conquest? Or, has feeding his people and sustaining them...spreading a table where he prepares and gives food to *all creatures*... been his aim all along?

In the beginning God spoke creation into being for the nourishment and sustenance of his people. He freed them from their captivity in order to feed them in the wilderness. He gave them a land of abundance...a land flowing with milk and honey so that they might live. WOW!

Do you wish, at times, that you could have been at the dawn of creation? Do you sometimes wish you had been present among those who walked miraculously on dry ground through the sea whose waters were walled up on either side? If only.....

But do we not see god's wonders every day? What is the ordinary and everyday wonder of a daily table full of good things if it is not the revelation of the God of lovingkindness doing what he has been doing since creation, world without end?

This reminds me of a favorite hymn text that reads (prays and sings!).

Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your pow'ful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,

And so the God of loving-kindness does!!! We are recipients of the daily food that nourishes us at our tables. Furthermore, our tables are no less than an extension of the heavenly food of grace and mercy that we receive at another table....food that wells up to eternal life. And you know the Host at that table and the food which is received there. Jesus Christ!

So what are we to do in response to the great wonders he does every day? Well...The psalmist gives us the words with which to offer our full-throated response.

"Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his mercy endures for ever."

And I say, "Amen and Amen!" --plm+

## **Eastertide Exhortation**

Christian soul, brought to life again out of the heaviness of death, redeemed and set free from wretched servitude by the blood of God, rouse yourself and remember that you are risen, realize that you have been redeemed and set free. Consider again the strength of your salvation where it is found. Meditate upon it, delight in the contemplation of it. Shake off your lethargy and set your mind to thinking over these things. Taste the goodness of your Redeemer, be on fire with love for your Savior. Chew the honeycomb of his words, suck their flavor which is sweeter than sap, swallow their wholesome sweetness. Chew by thinking, suck by understanding, swallow by loving and rejoicing. Be glad to chew, be thankful to suck, rejoice to swallow. What then is the strength and power of your salvation and where is it found? Christ has brought you back to life. He is the good Samaritan who healed you. He is the good friend who redeemed you and set you free by laying down his life for you. Christ did all this. So the strength of your salvation is the strength of Christ.

--Meditation on Human Redemption

Anselm (1033-1109)

## **Meal and Review of the Confirmands and Holy Communion with the Rite of Confirmation**

Eight Highland Prairie and Elstad youth are preparing to affirm the faith into which they were baptized. They are: Alison Freese, Hale Stensgard, Trey Olson, Jens Lind, Wilson Storhoff, Jonah Sievers, Trenton Chiglo, and Brady Stensgard. On Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 p.m., the parish youth mentors will host a delicious meal for the confirmands and family members. That will precede the confirmands' review and the presentation of their final projects. This will take place at Highland Prairie. On Sunday, May 7 and the confirmands will be confirmed during Holy Communion. These are beautiful children of God, followers of Jesus Christ. The prayers, affirmation, and encouragement of the parish are requested for the confirmands and their families.

## **Bible Camp Summer 2017**

Have you registered your child for Bible camp at Good Earth Village? It is not too late to do so. There is money available to help finance this great experience for your son/daughter. See your child's Sunday school teacher or Pr. Mathsen for registration forms.

## **Ascension Day Morning Prayer**

The Ascension of Our Lord will be celebrated on Thursday, May 25, 9:00 a.m., at Elstad Lutheran Church. We will utilize Morning Prayer from the LBW. Following worship, all worshippers are invited to a time of coffee and fellowship in the church basement.

## **Adult Study**

A study series on the Apostles' Creed has begun. While the first session has taken place, it's not too late to participate. We will meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.: May 1<sup>st</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, and May 15<sup>th</sup>. This four-part DVD study is presented by Dr. James Nestigen, Professor Emeritus of Luther Theological Seminary. The study takes place at Highland Prairie.

ELSTAD WELCA MEETING

APRIL 2, 2017

Elstad WELCA met April 2, 2017 at 9:30 am

Dorothy Evenson opened the meeting in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our statement of purpose was read together.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Correspondence – A thank you was read from Marilyn Soland

Sunshine committee reported sending cards to the Gordon Gullickson family, Julie Dragvold, Heidi Evenson, Lori Smith and they also reported that Kenny Peterson recently had a heart attack.

Old Business: The project of finding new round tables is being worked on and also will be getting some new chairs.

Pastor Kay Wold Parsonage committee members thanked the WELCA for supporting the window treatment project at the Parsonage.

New Business: The Root River Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Tri-annual WELCA convention will be in Minneapolis in July of this year.

Announcements:

Recognition Sunday will be May 21, 2017

Rhubarb Festival – Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion made to adjourn meeting. We closed with praying the Lord Prayer.

Our servers today were Angel Bakke and Jodi Daniels

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Soland

Elstad Financials for March 2017

Budget for March	\$ 7,425.67
Received in March	\$ 5,898.00
Under for March	-\$1,527.67
YTD Budget	\$ 22,277.01
YTD Received	\$ 20,001.00
YTD Under	-\$ 2,276.01

Highland Prairie Financials for March 2017

YTD Income	\$ 18,839
YTD Expenses	\$ 21,699
Income exe. Expenses	\$ 2,860
YTD Budget	\$ 23,475
YTD Income	\$ 18,839
YTD Under	\$ 4,636

## Highland Prairie Council Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2017

1. Call to order at 12:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call:  
Present: Kyle Chiglo, Tim Stensgard, Allan Skalet, Joyce Dahl, Kay Dahl, Karen Bakken, Gordon Johnson, Becky Halverson-Lind, Christ Hoiland –Absent: Sarah Bearbower
3. A quorum was called
4. Devotions read by Tim Stensgard
5. Approval of the agenda. Motion made by Tim to add item to the agenda in old business: Tree removal, Seconded by Chris, motion carried.
6. Congregation members to address the council: None
7. Treasurer's Report: Karen had submitted the report earlier via email to be reviewed by the council prior to the meeting. Gordy made the motion to accept the treasurer's report, Allan seconded, motion carried. Subject to review and audit.
8. President's Report: Kyle reported there is still a misunderstanding with the county as to who is responsible for the old county road which runs through our campus. He will look into this matter further and report back.
9. Pastor's Report: Pastor Luther reported that with the Lenten season he has been quite busy with services and pleased with the attendance. He is diligently preparing for the upcoming Holy Week. Pastor Luther would very much like to reach out to younger families and welcomes ideas/suggestions as ways he may connect and address their needs. He relayed that the last Wednesday of Confirmation will be April 26th. Confirmation is slated for May 7th; with a meal to be held for the Confirmands and families/mentors on May 3rd. The seven 8th grade confirmands will be reviewed by Pastor Luther on memory work, a Faith Statement and a visual representation of their Faith Journey. He will also be leading a Bible study at a time to be set after Easter.
10. Correspondence: None
11. Committees:
  - A. Church: LYO will be gathering for Frisbee golf on April 23rd.
  - B. Grounds: to be addressed in old business
  - C. Worship: Holy Week is next week
  - D. Youth & Education: Would like to encourage the youth to attend Good Earth Village Camps. Pastor expressed interest in assisting with Vacation Bible School if there is interest in holding a session.
12. Old Business:
  - A. Parking lot repair/maintenance: JC Nerstad is working on preparing a bid. Chris is checking with Pete from Caledonia as to if his bid would have changed since last year. Council will compare the bids when they come in.

- B. Mowing contracts: Gordy made a motion to continue with Cutting Edge Services for a three year contract. Seconded by Tim. Motion carried. Gordy and Kyle will look into putting a formal contract together with Cutting Edge.
- C. Grounds clean-up: Clean-Up is set for April 22 at 7:30 a.m. Tree removal: Kyle will touch base with Norby's Tree Service as to when they can remove the Ash trees along with a few others around the campus.

13. New Business:

- A. Confirmation: Pastor Luther will submit his recommendations of Confirmands via email to be voted on by council members at that time.
- B. Baseball and Summer Outdoor Service Posters have been "mocked up" and Allan brought to council for approval. Allan mentioned his wife Kay Eiken volunteered to pay for the posters.

14. Secretary's Report: Becky read the secretary's report for April 9, 2017 and respectfully submitted them for approval. Gordy made a motion to approve, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.

15. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m. with a motion made by Kay Dahl and seconded by Joyce Dahl, motion carried. The Lord Prayer was said.

### Highland Prairie WELCA News

April 5th, the WELCA met in the church basement for the study of Matthew 13:1-23, the parable this month was of the sowing of seeds that landed on different soils. We also enjoyed a delicious lunch. The next bible study will be on Wednesday, May 10, studying another parable from Matthew and quilting will be on May 17. The change is due to the Confirmation banquet at 6:30 on May 3rd.

**THANK YOU**

The Highland Prairie WELCA would like to say a big THANK YOU! for all the scrumptious desserts, home baked buns, and pickles that were brought for the Dinner on Sunday.

The WELCA would also like to say THANK YOU! to all who helped the past week, Saturday and Sunday. We also want to thank the men and youth that helped, we truly appreciated all of your help. It is always so much easier when more are helping. Thank you to all who could not work, but still contributed.

Also THANK YOU! to all who brought baked goods for the bake sale. We had such a wonderful selection of food and other articles.

We are truly blessed to have such a loving and caring congregation that can work so well together for such a huge event.

Information from Marion Dahl: We served over 350 people of which 85 were carryout's

Meatball Dinner income	\$4190.00				
Bake Sale	<u>\$ 540.00</u>				
	\$4730.00	Total			
Expenses:	-1195.40				
	- 250.00	(Sylvia M. Thrivent card)			
Final expense:	<u>- 45.40</u>				
<b>Profit:</b>	<b>\$3784.60</b>				Thanks to one and all!



# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



## **Leading Together: What is it?**

By Rev. Emily Carson  
carson@semnsynod.org

The people of Juba, South Sudan will have access to health care because of your generosity! In 2016, the people of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod contributed nearly \$66,000 to the new Lutheran Center which is home to a community center, worship space, and clinic. This work was accomplished by financial gifts made through Leading Together, the synod fund that individuals and congregations give to in order to contribute directly to the developing of leaders, equipping of congregations, and accompanying of global partners.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is transforming lives in South Sudan, Colombia, Tanzania and right here in southeastern Minnesota. The ministry of the synod is accomplished through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the generosity of our 174 congregations and 121,000 members.

There are two primary ways the ministry of the synod is funded: mission support (dollars from congregations) & Leading Together (dollars from either individuals or congregations). One way your congregation makes financial contributions to the synod is through something called mission support. The leadership of each congregation discerns together what dollar amount they feel called to share with the synod. These dollars are very impactful because together as the 4 million members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we do so much more than we can do alone!

Congregations contribute their mission support dollars according to whatever schedule is most convenient for them: monthly, quarterly, or annually. Approximately 48% of the mission support dollars that come to the synod go directly to support the ministries funded through the churchwide expression of our denomination, the ELCA. These dollars support important work nationally and abroad! The portion of mission support that stays within the synod supports all the core aspects of our functioning including (but not limited to) call process, candidacy, rostered minister support, and faith formation.

Recognizing the need to build sustainable and expanding revenue streams in order to increase our impact, the leadership of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod felt compelled to explore new ways to empower individuals and congregations to give! Leading Together is the synod fund that individuals and congregations can give to in order to contribute directly to the developing of leaders, equipping of congregations, and accompanying of our global partners. 100% of these dollars go toward supporting specific initiatives identified by the synod. The people of the synod are generous! Leading Together provides another avenue for people to express that generosity.

In 2017, Leading Together dollars will be directed toward three main areas: (1) identifying 35 new candidates for ministry over the next three years, (2) equipping congregations including the launching of the Small Church Vitality Project to empower the synod's smaller congregations, and (3) supporting Rev. Wal Reat, ELCA Missionary to South Sudan. More details about this year's focus areas are available online at <http://semnsynod.org/leadingtogether>.

Thank you for your congregational or individual financial gifts in support of God's work through the Southeastern Minnesota Synod! Mission support dollars and Leading Together dollars are a crucial way we collectively respond to the Spirit's call in this time and place. To learn more, email Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Pete Reuss (reuss@semnsynod.org), visit <http://semnsynod.org/leadingtogether>, or call 507-280-9457.

PS: The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly offering dollars on May 6-7 will be directed toward Leading Together in support of identifying 35 new candidates for ministry. Bishop Delzer encourages all congregations to take-up a special offering to send along with voting members to this year's assembly.

# 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](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com)



1~ Sawyer Wolfs  
2~ James Mensink  
3~ William Semmen  
~ Eric Storhoff  
5~ Carol Eggert  
6~ JoAnne Anderson  
~ Daniel Storhoff  
~ Bruce Thompson  
9~ Pamela Johnson  
~ Adam Rislov  
10~ Sean Pederson  
~ Carl Anfinson  
12~ Robert Dahl  
~ Kiah Halverson  
13~ Elaine Rygmer  
~ Alexander Mierau  
15~ Fred Kiel  
~ Aaron Topness  
16~ Cashton Dahl  
~ Jaxie Dahl

17~ Loren Flattum  
18~ Jennifer Stensgard  
~ Kimberly Lee  
19~ Martha Gudmundson  
~ Yvonne Freese  
20~ Mike Chiglo  
~ John Peterson  
~ Clara Hoiland  
22~ Nicholas Bakke  
~ Jana Olson  
23~ Kyle Daniels  
24~ Carson Johnson  
25~ Tina Westby  
~ Harper Kanz  
26~ Lisa Sievers  
~ Jarad Olson  
27~ Jordan Kiel  
~ Quentin Daniels  
28~ Gavin Pearce  
29~ Diane Haight  
~ Bereket Rebhahn  
30~ Paula Brand  
~ Mike Ask  
31~ Kate Gellerson  
~ Nicole Woxland  
~ Brody Gellerosn



3~ Brad & Rita Kelly  
11~ Peter & Shelly Stensgard  
14~ Fred & Sandy Kiel  
15~ Wayne & Joan Finnegan  
19~ Robert & Sharon Knutson  
22~ John & Michelle Rein  
27~ Stan & Cindy Sveen  
29~ Pastor Luther & Bobbi Mathsen  
31~ Douglas & Becky Lind



# MAY 2017

**Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish**  
 Visit our websites at...  
[elstadlutheranchurch.org](http://elstadlutheranchurch.org)  
[highlandprairielutheranchurch.org](http://highlandprairielutheranchurch.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  <i>Adult Study</i> 7 p.m.	2	3 Confirmation Banquet and review 6:30 p.m. @ HP (pictures will be after the banquet-HP)	4	5	6
7 EL-8:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m.	8  <i>Adult Study</i> 7 p.m.	9	10 HP-WELCA Meeting/Bible study  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	11	12	13
14 EL-8:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m.  Lind Recital @ HP	15  <i>Adult Study</i> 7 p.m.	16	17 HP-WELCA quilting  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	18	19  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	20
21 H.S. Senior Recognition EL-8:30 a.m. HP-10:30 a.m.	22	23	24  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	25 Ascension Day of Prayer @ Elstad 9 a.m.	26	27
28 <i>Parish Worship</i> 10:00 @ HP	29 <i>No office hours</i>	30	31  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>			

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

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**HIGHLAND PRAIRIE**  
**ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS**

**SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2016**

ACOLYTES: JONAH SIEVERS, TRENTEN CHIGLO  
READERS: JONAH SIEVERS, SHARON EHLE  
GREETERS: JERRY & BONNIE HALLUM

**SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2016**

ACOLYTES: TRENTEN CHIGLO, JENS LIND  
READERS: TRENTEN CHIGLO, MICHELE THOMPSON  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLE

**SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2016**

ACOLYTES: JENS LIND, BRADY STENSGARD  
READERS: JENS LIND, ARLENE JOHNSON  
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

**SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2016**

ACOLYTES: BRADY STENSGARD, HANS LIND  
READERS: BRADY STENSGARD, SYLVIA PASSOW  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**ELSTAD**  
**ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS**

**SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2016**

READER: LORI BAKKE

**SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2016**

ACOLYTE: WILSON STORHOFF  
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

**SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2016**

READER: CAROL OVERLAND

**SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2016**

PARISH WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

**USHERS:** LARRY TOPNESS, GENE TOPNESS,  
PHILIP ABRAHAMSON, JOHN REIN, FRED KIEL