

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish  
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
~ March 2018 ~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

*Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com—Cell: (507) 649-1650*

*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*

*Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

**Worship Schedule**

**March 2018**

**Sunday, March 4, 2018**

9:00 a.m. Elstad

10:00 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.

HP—Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, March 11, 2018**

9:00 a.m. Elstad

10:00 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018**

Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.

EL—Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, March 18, 2018**

9:00 a.m. Elstad

10:00 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018**

Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.

HP—Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, March 25, 2018**

9:00 a.m. Elstad

10:00 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

**Wednesday, March 28, 2018**

EL—Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday, March 29**

EL—Service 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday, March 30**

HP—Service 7:00 p.m.

**Prayer Corner**

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



**ELSTAD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>**

AFTER CHURCH, ENTERTAINMENT

"BALLOONS BY KEVIN" WITH

A POTLUCK LUNCH TO FOLLOW

PLEASE JOIN US!

**Highland Prairie WELCA**

Wednesday, March 7th, 1:30 p.m., Bible study

Wednesday, March 14th, 9:30 a.m., Quilting, projects, and crafts

**March Council Meetings at Elstad**

**Sunday, March 11, 2018**

5:30 p.m.—Highland Prairie meeting

6:30 p.m.—Parish meeting

7:30 p.m.—Elstad meeting

ELSTAD BUDGET FOR JANUARY	8131.50
RECEIVED	9024.00
OVER	892.50

"We are what we eat." This statement takes on particular significance for the Christian. We eat and drink Christ, so we become "little Christs" to the world (Martin Luther). We eat bread and drink wine, so we become bread of life and elixir of joy for the world.

This is the meaning behind the harvest scene at the end of Revelation 14. One like the Son of Man reaps the grain and gathers the grapes. This is not a judgment of the wicked. It is a harvest of the saints, a people made into a sacrificial offering for the world.

Literally, Revelation 14 is describing the martyrdom of the 144,000.

On earth, they are being tortured and killed for their faith. (It continues to this day!) From the perspective of heaven, their witness has ripened, and they are ready to be gathered into the kingdom.

We are what we eat. We eat and drink Christ's meal, his body and blood, and we become a holy sacrifice to and for the world. We eat broken bread, and we become broken bodies. We drink wine outpoured, so that we can pour ourselves out as a drink offering.

We eat and drink to proclaim the death of Jesus Christ. That is what we do. We eat and drink to be conformed to Christ's death, as living witnesses, prepared for the harvest. For that is who we are and what we await.

Carry on....then ye martyrs and ye holy ones!

"For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Pr. Luther+

## **March Worship Schedule**

### **+Sunday, March 4th**

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

### **+Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, (Highland Prairie)**

6:00 p.m., Soup Supper

7:00 p.m., Holden Evening Prayer

### **+Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

### **+Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, (Elstad)**

6:00 p.m., Soup Supper

7:00 p.m., Holden Evening Prayer

### **+Sunday, March 18th**

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

### **+Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, (Highland Prairie)**

6:00 p.m., Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

### **+Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday), March 25th**

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

### **+Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, (Elstad)**

\*NO SOUP SUPPER

7:00 p.m., Holden Evening Prayer

### **+Maundy Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, (Elstad)**

7:00 p.m.

### **+Good Friday, March 30th**

10:00 a.m., Stations of the Cross (Highland Prairie)

\*followed by coffee fellowship with hot-cross buns)

7:00 p.m., Tenebrae (Elstad)

\*NOTE: Offerings will be received at all Wednesdays during Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

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## **Parsonage Window Replacement News**

The replacement windows for the parsonage have now been installed. Two of the installed windows will be replaced due to minor damage. The window *replacements for the attic were the wrong size. All are on order and will be installed* when they arrive from the window company. As soon as more favorable weather arrives, an open house will be scheduled so that parish members may see the work that has been completed.

## **Holy Week**

- 1) Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) – On this morning we will commemorate the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Weather permitting, the service will begin outdoors. After the reading of the Processional Gospel, we will process into the church (persons of all ages) waving our palm branches foreshadowing when Jesus will lead his people into the new Jerusalem, the heavenly city in which the Easter celebration will find its fulfillment.
- 2) Wednesday marks the last of our meditations on the 10 Commandments (Holden Evening Prayer only-7:00 p.m., Elstad----NO SOUP SUPPER PRIOR).
- 3) Maundy Thursday – "The emphasis of this service is not so much the anniversary of the institution of Holy Communion as the new commandment of love; Maundy is the English form of the Latin word for commandment, *mandatum*" (*Manual on the Liturgy, LBW*). *Jesus said that we should love one altar.*
- 4) Good Friday – The day will begin with Stations of the Cross (Highland Prairie). This service is a series of short reflections and meditations on the various episodes of Jesus' journey to Calvary. The day will end with a Tenebrae service (Elstad), a service of readings and reflection on Christ's crucifixion.

(See the worship schedule on page 2 for time and place information)

## **Lenten Food Shelf Collection**

During the season of Lent, Highland Prairie and Elstad congregations are invited to collect food items for their local food shelves. You are invited to bring a food item (or food items) each Sunday or Wednesday. (Please: No expired food items.) Monetary gifts are also appreciated. Please make your checks out to your congregation with a designation on the MEMO line.

## **Movie Afternoon at the Parsonage for our younger youth, Age 5 and Up**

Yes, it's another movie offering at the parsonage for youth, age 5 and up. On Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m., we'll be watching a classic, *Charlotte's Web*. It's a movie about a livestock pig named Wilbur who was born a runt. His owner farmer, Mr. Arable, decides to butcher him but his daughter, Fern, begs him to let the little pig live. The story develops around the friendships Wilbur makes including a spider named, Charlotte. Parents are encouraged to attend with their younger children. But please, sign up with Pr. Mathsen, if you intend to participate.

## ELSTAD WELCA 02-11-2018

The Elstad WELCA met February 11, 2018 at 10:15 am.

President Jennifer Nepstad opened the meeting in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our statement of purpose was read.

The WELCA officers for 2018 were installed by Vicky Topness. The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Correspondence: Thank you's were read from the Dagny Anderson family, Pastor Luther and Bobbi Mathesen, Women of the ELCA and the Luther Campus Center.

Sunshine Committee reported sending cards to Cathy Bakke, Dagny Anderson and Julie Dragvold. It was reported the Joy (Gullickson) Hundley is now in a nursing home.

There was no old business.

New Business: The 2018 budget was reviewed and approved by all present.

A discussion was held on donating to the parsonage window project. Ruth Abrahamson made a motion that the WELCA donate \$3,000.00 to the project, motion seconded by Kathy Abrahamson. The motion carried.

The spring conference will be held April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Henrytown Church. More information will be coming.

Jennifer asked if there were any questions on our 2018 program. Everyone said it looked good.

The Sunday School will be serving the February 28<sup>th</sup> Lenten service and WELCA will serve the March 14<sup>th</sup> Lenten service.

Our annual Birthday party will be March 11th after services. Jennifer has someone coming to prepare and display balloons. The Sunday School bell choir will be playing along with a couple of Kathy Abrahamson's piano students. It will be a potluck with beverage and dessert being furnished.

Our young women's circle will be meeting this afternoon.

There no further business. Our meeting closed with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Our servers today were Dorothy Evenson and Marilyn Soland.

Respectfully Submitted, Marilyn Soland Secretary.

## Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting 2-11-18

1. Call to order: 5:34 p.m. by President Kyle
2. Roll Call: Kyle Chiglo, Nancy Rustad, Mary Gudmundson, Pastor Luther Mathsen, Sarah Bearbower, Becky Halverson-Lind, Gordy Johnson, Karen Bakken, Joyce Dahl, Member absent: Chris Hoiland, Tim Stensgard.
3. Quorum called.
4. Devotions: Pastor Luther Mathsen gave devotions.
5. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Sarah to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.
6. Congregation Members wishing to address the council: Joyce Dahl read a letter from one of our congregation members. JoAnn Anderson was seeking clarification as to if the Annual Report could be given out a least a week prior to the annual meeting so the congregation would read through it and come to the meeting with any questions, comments they may have. Also there was discussion as to whom and how the \$1000 scholarship are disbursed. The council will have it clarified in the upcoming meetings. Also suggested, in the proposed annual budget to have the salaries separated into individual columns.
7. Treasurer's Report: Karen sent out the Treasurer's report and balance sheet via email prior to the meeting to be reviewed by the council. Motion to accept Treasurer's report subject to audit and review by Sarah, seconded by Joyce. Motion carried.
8. President's Report: Kyle will discuss his report under New Business and correspondence.
9. Pastor's Report: Lenten Season will begin this Wednesday with Ash Wednesday Services. Pastor will lead us through the Lenten Season with meditation on the Five Bonds: Family, Marriage, Property, Life and Speech. Also, he will talk about "Why do we do what we do during our services?" Explaining there is logic and flow to what we do. There has not been enough interest in the Summer Mission Trips, in such case the Mission Trip will not be an option this summer. We will try again for another time. Confirmation is looking at the Catechism memorizing the meaning of the 10 Commandments. Book study and Pastoral visits continue. Pastor Luther attended The Root River Conference Assembly in Chatfield which was held today, Sunday, February 11, 2018. Pastor Luther also relayed the next gathering will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna and is open to church council members.
10. Correspondence: Kyle received a letter from Good Shepherd. They are seeking a list of the number of voting delegates.
11. Youth (Pr. Luther): Shared in Pastor's Report.
12. Committee Reports:
  - A. Church: Gordy reported on the lights in the church. Discussion as to the need to replace/eliminate the need for ballasts by using LED lighting. This will save the church money and can be done gradually. Sarah made a motion to have Gordy and Tim move forward with the replacing of the bulbs, seconded by Nancy. Motion carried. The island in the kitchen is going to be raised approximately 10 inches. The ceiling has been painted. Gordy will be getting salt for the ice around the church.

B. Grounds: None

C. Worship: None

D. Youth and Education: Pastor would entertain the idea of having a Vacation Bible School and will visit with the Youth and Education Committee.

13. Old Business:

A. Park Dumpster: Karen will let the company know when to begin pick-up as it gets closer to spring/summer.

B. Parsonage Window Update: Parsonage windows will begin being installed tomorrow (Monday, February 12, 2018).

14. New Business:

A. Committees: Discussion of how Mission Team concept will be handled/implemented

B. Meeting times: Discussion of moving Highland Prairie Church Council meeting times. Decided to leave times as are.

C. Root River Conference Assembly Report: Pastor reported on this in his Pastor's report.

D. Endowment Fund earned interest: monies earned will remain in the Endowment Fund until a need to revisit arises in the future.

15. Secretary's Report: Becky read the Secretary's report. Next council meeting will be held at Elstad with Highland Prairie meeting at 5:30 and Parish meeting at 6:30. Respectfully submitted for approval by Becky Halverson-Lind. Motion to approve by Sarah, seconded by Karen. Motion carried.

16. Adjournment: (The Lord's Prayer) Motion to adjourn by Gordy, seconded by Sarah. Motion carried.



# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



## **An Interview with Jodie Archer, Secretary of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod**

Jodie Archer, a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spring Valley, has served two terms as the secretary of the synod. Her tenure will be completed this spring, and a new secretary of the synod will be elected at the Synod Assembly in May. Archer recently took time to reflect on the ministry and leadership lessons she's learned over these years.

### **How did you first feel the Spirit nudging you to be open to this possibility of serving as synod secretary?**

The first time I felt the Spirit nudging me was when the then current Vice President, Shirley Gangstad, was sitting on my couch and sharing with me information on a sheet of paper she had with her that had the "specifics" of what the synod secretary's responsibilities were. When I asked her why she was sharing this with me, she smiled and said, "We have been watching you and we think you would be a good fit for this." I thought about it, I pondered it, I prayed about it. I couldn't come up with a reason to say no.

### **What have you learned about the wider church through this position?**

The wider church isn't scary or something to be feared. That group of people wants the same things that we in a congregation want. We are not a top-down organization. We are side-by-side working together to spread the word and do the work of Jesus Christ. We each have our part in this journey and benefit from the other.

### **What have you learned about yourself through serving as secretary?**

If you know me, you will appreciate this – I have learned that I can go for several hours without speaking a word. I have learned about my style of leadership and how my gifts can serve a group. Everyone is not the same and that is very intentional. It's a God thing and it is most definitely a GOOD thing. We all bring something to the table, something of value and of purpose. If we are not at the table, we will never fully know the potential or possibility of what could be.

### **What might surprise someone about council?**

We have had meaningful and difficult conversations in a respectful manner. It still surprises me that all of the people around the table are normal, regular people. We all share the same faith and we all believe that God is truly at work. We ask questions and we listen. The council is an eclectic or diverse group of people that changes every two years and yet at a specific moment, the gifts that are needed are around that table. We are not a rubber stamp council. We question things, we research things, we disagree; we pray for guidance and direction.

### **What is a positive memory you'll take with you from this experience?**

The most positive memory that I will take with me is of the people I have been privileged to meet. I have new friends in the congregations I have visited. I have met people from other countries and other walks of life and I was honored to listen to their story. I am humbled by whom I have met and how blessed I continue to be because of this opportunity.

### **What is your advice to someone considering serving in this way?**

Go for it! What have you got to lose? You won't regret it and you will be amazed at what you learn. Being able to see things outside the four walls of your congregation brings new insight. There is not a specific requirement for serving – there is not a mold that you are expected to fit in to. If I can do it, anyone can do it. You will be blessed beyond measure. Your experience will be more than you could ever imagine it to be. You'll never know what you will know if you say no.



# Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish 2018 Staff

## **Elstad:**

President- Dick Haight  
V-President- Pr. Kay Wold  
Secretary- Michelle Rein  
Treasurer- Jennifer Nepstad  
Trustees- Rachel Bearbower (19)  
Rita Kelly (20)  
Jodie Daniels (21)

## **Board of Education:**

Jodie Daniels (19)  
Krissy Overland (20)  
Amber Topness (21)

## **Board of Life & Growth:**

Carolyn Smith (19) Darlys Storhoff (20)  
Diane Haight (21) Larry & Deb Topness (21)

## **Synod Assembly Voting Members:**

Tom & Carol Dybing

## **Synod Assembly Alternates:**

Larry & Deb Topness

## **Head Ushers:**

John Overland—Gene Topness-Dave Lawstuen-  
Robert kuntson-Larry Topness

## **World Hunger Representatives:**

Philip & Ruth Abrahamson (19)

## **Auditors:**

Tom Dybing (20) John Abrahamson (19)

## **Cemetery Board:**

David Lawstuen (19) Rich Nepstad (20)  
Duane Bakke (21)

## **Highland Prairie:**

President- Kyle Chiglo  
V-President- Mary Gudmundson  
Secretary- Becky Lind  
Treasurer- Karen Bakken  
Trustees-  
Tim Stensgard (19) Chris Hoiland (19)  
Gordon Johnson (20) Joyce Dahl (20)  
Sarah Bearbower (21) Nancy Rustad (21)

## **Board of Education:**

Ann Hoiland (19) Kristi Gudmundson (20)

## **Synod Assembly Voting Members:**

Daryl & Michele Thompson

## **Good Shepherd Delegates:**

Norma Halverosn – JoAnn Anderson

## **Head Ushers:**

Elvin Paulson

Kenny Bakkum

## **Endowment Committee:**

Val Howe (19) Maynard Rustad (21)

## **Auditors:**

Jennifer Stensgard (19)

Mary Gudmundson (20)

# MARCH 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)



happy  
birthday!

2~ Sharon Knutson  
~ Mark Johnson  
~ Lexus Volkman  
3~ Kristopher Gudmundson  
~ Rebecca Wangen  
~ Gavin Wangen  
4~ Tanya Wolfs  
~ Jeremy Berge  
6~ Nicole Paulson  
~ Treyton Wangen  
~ Ava Fox  
8~ Aaron Dybing  
~ Timothy Knutson  
~ Isaac Freese  
~ Norah Eide  
9~ Philip Abrahamson  
~ Miriah Mieru  
~ Britney Fretland  
~ Mathew Gudmundson  
12~ Jerry Evenson  
~ Mitchell Lee  
13~ Mary McHan  
~ Brain Paulson  
~ Tyler Dahl

13~ Hillary Eide  
14~ Ellen Shofner  
16~ Duane Bakke  
17~ Daryl Bergen  
~ Caryn Butler  
~ Taylor Gravos  
18~ Glee Claussen  
~ Helen Jacobson  
19~ Kay Howe  
20~ Robert Anfinson  
~ Elizabeth McHan  
~ Jonah Sievers  
21~ Cammy Johnson  
22~ Sandy Sjarpe  
~ Sarah Bearbower  
~ Kjersta Lind  
23~ Sharon Ehler  
~ Julie Ekstrom  
~ Ora Yontz  
25~ Matthew Brookins  
27~ Sandra Overland  
~ Ben Markegard  
28~ Pernela Landsverk  
~ Tom Smith  
~ Wendy Overland  
~ Naomi Howe  
~ Channing Lind  
29~ Brianna Koop  
30~ Melissa Paulson  
31~ Guthrie Johnson



Happy  
Anniversary

20~ Robert & Caroline  
Anfinson  
24~ Robert & Shelly Nelson

# MARCH 2018

*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	2	3
4 Worship 9:00a.m.—Elstad 10:00a.m.—EL S.S. 10:30—HP 9:30 a.m.—HP S.S.	5	6	7 HP WELCA— Bible study 1:30 p.m.  Lenten Service @HP Soup supper 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	8	9	10
11 Worship 9:00a.m.—Elstad 10:00a.m.—EL S.S. 10:30—HP 9:30 a.m.—HP S.S.  EL-All Church Birthday Party after worship  Council Mtg @ EL 5:30-HP mtg. 6:30-Parish mtg. 7:30-EL mtg.	12	13	14 HP WELCA— 9:30 quilting and projects  Lenten Service @EL Soup supper 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m.  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	15	16	17
18 Worship 9:00a.m.—Elstad 10:00a.m.—EL S.S. 10:30—HP 9:30 a.m.—HP S.S.	19	20	21 Lenten Service @HP Soup supper 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m.  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	22	23	24
25 Worship 9:00a.m.—Elstad 10:00a.m.—EL S.S. 10:30—HP 9:30 a.m.—HP S.S.	26	27	28 Lenten Service @EL Worship 7:00 p.m.  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	29 EL-Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.	30 HP-10:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross followed by coffee hour  HP-Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.	31

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

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**HIGHLAND PRAIRIE**

**ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018**

ACOLYTES: ALYSTA KING, ANDREW HOINESS  
READERS: BRADY STENSGARD, MICHELE THOMPSON  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018**

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, CADEN JOHNSON  
READERS: ANDREW HOINESS, ARLENE JOHNSON  
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018**

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LACI SIEVERS  
READERS: NIKKI DAHLE, BECKY LIND  
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

**SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018**

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, NIKKI DAHLE  
READERS: JENS LIND, SHARON EHLER  
GREETERS: JERRY & BONNIE HALLUM

**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018**

ACOLYTES: KRISTINA STENSGARD, LINDSAY HOINESS  
READERS: HALE STENSGARD, SCOTT BESTUL  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

**ELSTAD**

**ACOLYTE/READERS/USHERS**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018**

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS: J.T. REIN, CAROLYN SMITH

**SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018**

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS  
READERS: ALSION FREESE, TOM DYBING

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018**

ACOLYTE: MACKENZIE KNUTSON  
READERS: KYLE DANIELS, VICKY TOPNESS

**SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018**

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF  
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, LORI BAKKE

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018**

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS; PARKER STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

**USHERS:** GENE TOPNESS, ROBERT KNUTSON,  
DAVID BAKKE, TOM DYBING,  
KYLE BEARBOWER