

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

~ March 2019~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

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

Prayer Corner

Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's me known as a praying congregation. Please keep Marion Dahl, Wendy Will, Michele Thompson, Lucile Ask, Steve Lee, Bob Olson, the family of Freddie Arnold and all who are ill or in need or your prayers.

ROOT RIVER CONFERENCE SPRING EVENT



**ROOT RIVER CONFERENCE WELCA
2019 SPRING GATHERING**

Saturday, April 13th

St. Paul's Church - Lewiston, MN

8:00am - Registration, Coffee Fellowship, Displays, Vendors

9:00am - Program 12:30pm - Lunch

\$10.00 - includes Program & Lunch

"CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE - BOTH FAMILY AND SPIRITUAL"

Guest Speaker: Janet Martin



Janet is from Hastings, Minnesota and is one of "Those Lutheran Ladies". She has co-authored several books including "Growing Up Lutheran". She will share humorous experiences of growing up Scandinavian-Lutheran in Midwestern farming communities.



Elstad—Highland Prairie

Elstad WELCA Prayer Partners

Three months ago, we gathered to enjoy our annual Christmas Tea. Soon after, each of us received the envelope that held the name of our new prayer partner for 2019. The mystery of who that might be was a little like holding a gift about to be opened. Or perhaps it was exactly like opening a gift! We are now gifted with the identity of a specific sister-in-Christ to pray for! The opportunity is ours to remember this person as we go about our day. The chance is ours to surprise her with a card or note whenever we wish. The joy is ours when we realize that someone is likewise holding us in thought and prayer.

As we approach this season of Lent, pray earnestly for your prayer partner and this life she is living in 2019.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

A is for action, you can each do your part
 B is for Bible study, for your peace of mind
 C is for conventions, and D is for devotions
 E is for eating, and feeling emotions
 F is for family, include them when you can
 G is for God, the center of our plan
 H is for helping hands, I is for inclusive
 J is for Jesus, his love is not exclusive
 K is for the kits, health, school and sewing
 L is for literacy, and leadership that's growing
 M is for missions, N is for needy
 O is for our offerings, come on, let's not be greedy

P is for peace and justice, and prison ministries
 Q is for the quilts that we send overseas
 R is fro retreats, and S is for singing
 T is our ThankOfferings that we all bringing
 U is for unexpected things that we do
 V is for the video's that we can all view
 W is fro workshops and worship, too
 X is the x-tra special things that we do
 Y is for youth, they can be really fun
 And Y is for YOU, we need everyone
 Z is for zebra? Because as you can see
 we could not think of anything that begins
 with the letter Z!



**Annual all church Birthday Party at Elstad...
 Sunday March 10th after the morning worship service.**

Pot luck noon luncheon, cupcakes and beverage will be provided. During and following the noon meal amusements will be provided by The Magic of Isaiah. Isaiah will present a family friendly program for everyone who has ever had a birthday. There are no fire or animals used in his program. Come one...Come all. We would love to see that every seat is filled...both in the worship service and in the celebration that follows. The only entry requirement is that you have a birthday to celebrate.

Elstad budget for January	\$7214.75
Received	\$9300.00
Over for January	\$2058.25

Highland Prairie Financials for January 2019	
YTD Income	\$4,552
YTD Expenses	\$6,550
Expenses Exceed Income	\$1,998
YTD Budget	\$7,858
YTD Income	\$4,552
YTD Under	\$3,306

Pastor's Page, March 2019

Lent and the Gift and Discipline of Repentance

A few days ago, while driving through the countryside, a familiar aroma greeted my proboscis. There, next to a barn, was a pile of manure, steaming to high heaven. It brought to my memory many a-winter Saturday mornings during my adolescent years when I was awakened to the thunderous voice of my father. "It's 8:00 a.m. and half the day is over. It's time to get up. We have calf pens to clean!" My muffled, pillow-head reply, "But we cleaned them last Saturday," never worked. It was only met with my father's rejoinder, "Nowhere is it true that calf-pen-cleaning is a "once-and-done-deal. Now get up!" Truth be told, I miss those mornings of calf pen cleaning with my father, may he rest in peace. Indeed, there was something good going on in the never-ending discipline of ridding those calf pens of the muck and mess with him.

Well, we are on the cusp of the season of Lent, again. It is a season wherein we focus on the peculiar Christian act of repentance. The Latin word from which the word repentance is derived is *metanoiein*. In the New Testament it appears 34 times, almost always in the sense of repentance from sin and turning to the Lord. Nowhere in the New Testament are we told, "Repent and get it over with!" or "Repent and be done with it!" We sin every day. All sin and fall short of the glory of God. Just so, repentance is ongoing. It is the prayerful response of confessed sinners that occurs again and again in the face of the Lord God, almighty and merciful. It also is identified as one of the disciplines of Lent, a specific act of decision, to be cultivated and practiced day after day.

Interestingly, in the church's Great Litany, we pray that our lives may be brought to an end in faith and repentance. Indeed, we may even say that our death is our climactic end of repentance. Our plea is that our last breath embody the words of the thief on the cross to the right of Jesus; a plea for mercy and forgiveness: "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

We have a good and gracious God. His steadfast love and boundless mercy is the source and summit of lives lived in daily repentance. So, strengthened by his promises, during the season of Lent we seek to heed the call "to struggle against everything that leads us away from God and neighbor." And we pray that in "repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love---the discipline of Lent---we may, with God's help, "wage our *spiritual warfare*."

I invite you to join me in prayerful penitential response to the God of all mercy and consolation within the life of the Church in the Lenten days ahead, and beyond.

Your brother in Christ,

Pr. Mathsen+

March Worship Schedule

+Sunday, March 3rd

Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

Wednesday, March 6th

Ash Wednesday

5:00 p.m. Elstad

7:00 p.m. Highland Prairie

+Sunday, March 10th

1 Lent

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

Wednesday, March 13th

Holden Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m., Elstad

*Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m.

+Sunday, March 17th

2 Lent

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

Wednesday, March 20th

Holden Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m., Highland Prairie

*Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m.

+Sunday, March 24th

3 Lent

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

Wednesday, March 27th

Holden Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m., Elstad

*Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m.

+Sunday, March 31st

4 Lent

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m. Elstad

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Confirmation Class and Mentor Notes

During the Lenten season, Pr. Mathsen will be meeting with each confirmation student for a one-on-one session of instruction. These meetings will happen in the confirmands the confirmand's home or, if can be worked out, a local coffee shop.

Parish Men's Breakfast

The next parish men's breakfast will take place at Elstad on Saturday, March 30th, 7:30 a.m. We will be taking a look at Psalm 139 and we will pray together.

First Communion Instruction is Coming!

Pr. Mathsen will be providing first communion instruction on the following Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Elstad: March 9th, 16th, & 23rd. This instruction is open to all youth 5th grade, and older. Also, younger children are welcome, provided their parents have spoken with Pr. Luther, and believe their child is ready to receive the sacrament. Sign your child up in the back of the church. See Pr. Luther if you have questions.

Parish Youth Snow Tubing Outing

Parish youth! Are you interest in going snow-tubing at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville? Let's set a date! The cost is \$12.00 per person. Make your checks out to your congregation. Put SNO-TUBING on the MEMO line. Children ages 3 and under are free when accompanied by a paying adult. Pre-tubing sign-up is required as advanced payment is required by Ironwood Springs. Sign-up in the narthex, or the rear of the sanctuary. Parent supervisors and drivers are needed.

Adult Bible Study Days Revision

The Bible study day has been changed. Pr. Mathsen will be offering the 4 week Bible study on the Book of Job on consecutive Wednesdays: February 27th, March 6th, 13th, and 20th @ 10:00 a.m., at the parsonage. Sign up in the back of the church.

2019 Lenten Focus is Set

Our Lenten Wednesday evenings will include meditations on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from Matthew, chapter 5. Mark your calendars. Ash Wednesday worship is March 6th (Elstad, 5:00 p.m. & Highland Prairie, 7:00 p.m.) The Wednesdays of Lent are March 13th (Elstad), 20th (HP), 27th (Elstad), April 3rd (HP), and April 10th (Elstad). As always, the evenings will begin with a light soup supper at 6:00 p.m., followed Holden Evening Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Mid-school/High-school Milwaukee Mission Trip is On

The June 9-14, 2019 parish youth Milwaukee mission trip is on. As of this writing 3 parish youth are committed to participate. I encourage parish youth to give this opportunity a second-thought as there may still be room for more youth to join us. See Pr. Mathsen immediately if you are interested. A \$50 deposit is required. Also, we are looking for a female adult who may be interested in accompanying the group. She will serve as an adult leader with Pr. Mathsen.

Vacation Bible School 2019

It's not too early to be thinking about and planning for summer Vacation Bible school for our parish. I am seeking adults who would like to be involved in planning a great summer learning experience for our youth. See Pr. Mathsen, if you are interested.



What are the Major Challenges We Face as We Seek to Follow Jesus into a Changing World?

By Bishop Steven Delzer
delzer@semnsynod.org

During the first week of January, I attended the Bishops' Academy, an annual continuing education event for ELCA bishops. The theme of this year's academy was: "Caring for Our Common Home." The presenters were Dr. Larry Rasmussen and Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, two of the ELCA's creation care and climate change experts.

One of the first statements they made was, "Climate change changes everything." They described our present age as the "anthropocene age" – an epoch in which human dominance influences everything, an age in which everything turns on human choice and action. They stressed that we must see climate reality for what it is. But they also expressed the recognition that when we do see, we may have a sense of powerlessness to do anything about it.

A lament in the midst of this presentation was that during the 2018 midterm elections there was little to no mention of the three greatest threats we face: climate change, inequality and poverty, and untamed gun violence. I would also add racism and anti-immigration sentiment. These are the major challenges we face as we seek to follow Jesus into a changing world.

As Dr. Moe-Lobeda stated, "Never before has the world so needed the Church to be the Church. The work of the Church is to see what's going on, to see what could be, and to see more fully the power and presence of God leading us from what is to what could be."

In the midst of the challenges we face, Dr. Moe-Lobeda emphasized five seeds of hope and power:

1. Our Lutheran theology of the cross—God's promise that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).
 2. Luther's paradoxical understanding of who we are: Beloved children of God; Broken, sinful human beings; the Body of Christ and Bearers of God's love.
 3. Luther's theology of neighbor love; my neighbor is whoever my life affects; neighbor love seeks the welfare of the one who is loved.
 4. Luther's insistence that God is in and through all creatures and creation.
 5. God's promise that life in God is more powerful than all forms of death.
- Dr. Moe-Lobeda emphasized that "the Church is not dying, but by the power of the Spirit is erupting in new and exciting ways." The challenge for us is: How do we, as the Church, follow Jesus into this changing world? A word of encouragement and invitation from Dr. Rasmussen was: "Creation care and environmental justice is an important inroad into relevance in society, especially among millennials. How can we place this at the heart of ministry rather than it just being another add on to ministry?"

I don't have amazing answers to all the challenges. But as we seek to follow Jesus into this changing world, I often turn to a favorite source of reassurance that God will be with us and guide us—Isaiah 43:

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, he who formed you:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

When you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

And the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, your Savior.

You are precious in my sight, and honored,

and I love you. Do not fear, for I am with you.

Peace & Joy in Christ,
Steve Delzer, Bishop

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



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
15~ Quinn Nelson
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~ Pernella 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 2019

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 HP-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m.	4	5	6 Bible study-10:00 Parsonage Ash Wed. Service EL- 5:00 p.m. HP- 7:00 p.m.	7	8	9
10 HP-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m. Council Mtg. @ HP 5:30 p.m.—EL 6:30 p.m.—Parish 7:30 p.m.—HP	11	12	13 Bible study-10:00 Parsonage Lent Worship— EL- 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper 6:00 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.	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Bible study-10:00 Parsonage Lent Worship— HP- 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper 6:00 Bulletin Deadline	21	22	23
24 HP-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m.	25	26	27 Lent Worship— EL- 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper 6:00 Bulletin Deadline	28	29 HP- Quilt & Craft Frolic	30 HP- Quilt & Craft Frolic Parish Men's Breakfast 7:30- Elstad
31 HP-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m.						

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, MARCH 3, 2019

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, KRISTINA STENSGARD

READERS: NIKKI DAHLE, BECKY LIND

GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, MARCH 6, 2019

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

ACOLYTES: ANDREW HOINESS, LACI SIEVERS

READERS: JENS LIND, SHARON EHLER

GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LARISSA RYAN

READERS: HALE STENSGARD, MICHELE THOMPSON

GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019

6:00—SOUP SUPPER

7:00— HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS

READERS: ANDREW HOINESS, SYLVIA PASSOW

GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

ACOLYTES: ANDREW HOINESS, KRISTINA STENSGARD

READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, ARLENE JOHNSON

GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN

READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, VICKY TOPNESS

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, MARCH 6, 2019

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF

READERS: MACKENZIE KNUTSON, GLEE CLAUSSEN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

6:00—SOUP SUPPER

7:00—HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019

ACOLYTE: MACKENZIE KNUTSON

READERS: MICHAEL REIN, CAROL OVERLAND

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN

READERS: KYLE DANIELS, CAROLYN SMITH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

6:00—SOUP SUPPER

7:00—HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS

READERS: LIZ HAGEMAN, TOM DYBING

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