

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

*~ March 2021 ~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

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*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator ~ Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

**March Worship Schedule**

**Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Mid-week Lenten Prayer**

**Highland Prairie-7:00 p.m.**

Theme: Each Belonging to All

Ephesians 4.1-16

**+Sunday, March 7th**

**Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.**

**Elstad-10:30 a.m.**

**3 Lent**

Exodus 20.1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1.18-25

John 2.13-22

**Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Mid-week Lenten Prayer**

**Elstad-7:00 p.m.**

Theme: Constancy in Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5.16-17

**+Sunday, March 14**

**Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.**

**Elstad-10:30-a.m.**

**4 Lent**

Numbers 21.4-9

Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2.1-10

John 3.14-21

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**Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Mid-week Lenten Prayer**

**Highland Prairie-7:00 p.m.**

Theme: Ministry: Word & Service

Romans 12

**+Sunday, March 21st**

**Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.**

**Elstad-10:30 a.m.**

**5 Lent**

Jeremiah 31.31-34

Psalm 119.9-16

Hebrews 5.5-10

John 12.20-33

**Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Mid-week Lenten Prayer**

**Elstad-7:00 p.m.**

Theme: Living in Harmony

Colossians 3.12-17

**+Sunday, March 28th**

**Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.**

**Elstad-10:30 a.m.**

**Passion/Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50.4-9a

Psalm 31.9-16

Philippians 2.5-11

Mark 14.1-15.47

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**March 2021**

Pastor's Page

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

“As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle  
against everything that leads us away from the love  
of God and neighbor....”

You may recall that these words were part of the exhortation you heard on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. On the First Sunday in Lent, we heard the story the story of our Christ, Jesus, engaged in a the very same struggle, a struggle out of which he emerged victorious. His victory was accomplished for us. His victory is the source and summit which is our hope and stay---and because of which we may confidently continue the daily struggle of the Christian life, gladly engaging in its disciplines (repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love), not only during the season of Lent, but throughout the duration of our earthly life in this world.

I invite you to ponder this hopeful assurance as it is articulated in this commentary on the psalms by Saint Augustine.

**In Christ we suffered temptation,  
and in him we overcame the devil.**

*Hear, O God, my petition, listen to my prayer.*

***Who is speaking? An individual, it seems. See if it is an individual:***

*I cried to you from the ends of the earth while my heart was in anguish.*

***Now it is no longer one person; rather, it is one in the sense that Christ is one, and we are all his members. What single individual can cry from the ends of the earth? The one who cries from the earth is none other than the Son's inheritance. It was said to him:***

*Ask of me, and I shall give you the nations as your inheritance, and the ends of the earth as your possession.*

***This possession of Christ, this inheritance of Christ, this body of Christ, this one Church of Christ, this unity that we are, cries from the ends of the earth. What does it cry? What I said before:***

*Hear, O God, my petition, listen to my prayer; I cried out to you from the ends of the earth.*

***That is, I made my cry to you from the ends of the earth; that is, on all sides. Why did I make this cry?***

*While my heart was in anguish.*

***The speaker shows that he is present among the nations of the earth in a condition, not of exalted glory but of severe trial.***

***Our pilgrimage on earth cannot be exempt from trial. We progress by means of trial. No one know himself except through trial, or receives a crown except after victory, or strives except against an enemy or temptations.***

***The one who cries from the ends of the earth is in anguish, but is not left on his own. Christ chose to foreshadow us, who are his body, by means of his body, in which he has died, risen and ascended into heaven, so that the members of his body may hope to follow where their master has gone before.***

***He made us one with him when he chose to be tempted by Satan. We have heard in the gospel (Mark 1.12-13, Matthew 4.1-11, Luke 4.1-13) how the Lord Jesus Christ was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Certainly Christ was tempted by the devil. In Christ you were tempted, for Christ received his flesh from your nature, but by his own power gained salvation for you; he suffered death in your nature, but by his own power gained life for you; he suffered insults in your nature, but by his own power gained glory for you; therefore, he suffered temptation in your nature, but by his own power gained victory for you.***

***If in Christ we have been tempted, in him we overcome the devil. Do you think only Christ's temptation and fail to think of his victory? See yourself as tempted in him, and see yourself as victorious in him. He could have kept the devil to himself; but if he were not tempted he could not teach you how to triumph over temptation.***

*A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
Has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.*

*No strength of ours can match might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
Whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored,  
He holds the field victorious.*

*Though hordes of devils fill the land  
All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
In battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.*

*God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever.*

Your brother in Christ,

Pr. Mathsen+

#### **Worship Notes:**

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

\*Because we continue to abide Covid19 precautions, mid-week Lenten services WILL NOT be preceded with soup suppers.

\*With Covid19 precautions in place, Holy Communion in both kinds (bread and wine) will be offered even while those who wish only to receive in one kind (bread only) may continue to do so. The full benefit of the sacrament is present whether in reception of one kind or two kinds.

## **Mission Beyond Our Walls**

### **ELCA Disaster Relief Fund-The need continues...**

You are encouraged to make a gift to the fund. Please make your check out to your congregation and put ELCA Disaster Relief on the MEMO line.

### **Local Food Shelves-The need continues.**

Members of both congregations are invited to bring 2 food items each Sunday during the Lenten season. These items will be delivered weekly to the food shelves listed below. No outdated items will be accepted.

Our area SEMCAC food shelves: Rushford (113 E. Jessie St. Rushford), and Preston (515 Washington St. NW, Preston).

## **Confirmation Instruction, 2021**

Confirmation students are reminded that they are required to attend all Lenten services in lieu of regular class sessions. Confirmands should also be working on memorizing all parts of the Small Catechism and all the Meanings. I will see how it goes with you when regular class resumes on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please ... give this assignment some of your time....Pr. Luther+

## **Sunday School**

All parish parents are encouraged to access Elstad's Facebook and website pages for weekly at-home Sunday school lessons for children during the pandemic.

## **Adult Christian Education**

The 5-week adult study on the Luther's Catechism continues during the following Thursdays of Lent: March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m., at Highland Prairie. We are using Robert W. Jenson's book, A Large Catechism, at a cost of \$8.00. You can still join us. Books remain available.

An adult book study is being planned for the weeks after Easter. 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." Please let Pr. Mathsen know if you're interested in participating in the study of this book.

## **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 will make in-person home visits, if desired. He expects any visits will be under Covid19 precautions. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of pastoral care or conversation, please let Pr. Luther know. He wants the parish to know he is available for pastoral visits whether by telephone or other health safety means.

## Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

**February 14, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members present were; Joyce Dahl, Gordon Johnson, Tim Stensgard, Lyle Meldahl and Chris Hoiland.

Devotions were given by Pastor Luther.

There were no congregation members present.

The Council reviewed the treasurer's report, and will approve next month when Karen is available to answer any questions.

The President's Report: None

The Pastor's Report:

Pastor Luther thanked the congregation for the time off, it is appreciated. Today was the last Sunday after Epiphany, and Pastor Luther wanted to thank Martha for the music and Bobbi for the technical support. Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. Services will be at 5 PM at Elstad, and 7 PM at Highland-Prairie. The Highland-Prairie service will be taped. All midweek Lenten Services following Ash Wednesday will be at 7 PM. beginning with the service on 2/24/21 at Elstad. The theme for Lent this year is "Life together in Christian Community. Members are encouraged to bring canned goods for the local food shelves. Online prayer services will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Lent. A 5 week book study will begin this Thursday (2/18/21) on "A Large Catechism" by Robert Jensen. Confirmation instruction restarted in January with 14 great kids in class. There will not be classroom instruction during Lent, as the students are expected to attend Lenten Services weekly, and work on their memorization work from the small catechism. Pastor Luther attended the Synod meeting this afternoon, where routine business occurred, including electing persons to positions, in the meeting it was discussed that the Synod is having the same issues as congregations today in regards to restrictions, and providing digital access. Pastor Luther indicated that Pastoral Care continues, and communion is available for shut-ins, but strict safety protocols will be observed. Due to continued access restrictions, hospital visits are still not possible. Pastor Luther also noted that the Synod has a "40 days 40 dollars" campaign that will benefit the global mission. He will post the information on Facebook, and add it to the bulletin announcements for individuals whom would like to participate.

Correspondence received: None

Committee Reports: The education committee will be reviewing the online curriculum that Elstad is using, and if they would like to move forward we will be buying the appropriate licenses for Highland-Prairie.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Parsonage Committee needs to meet in the spring to determine what parsonage projects need to be

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:11 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Hoiland

# 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)



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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1~ Kaelynn Evenson       | 17~ Caryn Butler     |
| 2~ Sharon Knutson        | ~ Taylor Gravos      |
| ~ Mark Johnson           | 18~ Glee Claussen    |
| 3~ Kristopher Gudmundson | ~ Helen Jacobson     |
| ~ Rebecca Wangen         | 20~ Robert Anfinson  |
| ~ Gavin Wangen           | ~ Elizabeth McHan    |
| 4~ Tanya Wolfs           | ~ Jonah Sievers      |
| ~ Jeremy Berge           | ~ Liam Nelson        |
| 6~ Nicole Paulson        | 21~ Cammy Johnson    |
| ~ Treyton Wangen         | 22~ Sandy Sjarpe     |
| ~ Ava Fox                | ~ Sarah Bearbower    |
| ~ Brooks Fishbaugher     | ~ Kjersta Lind       |
| 8~ Aaron Dybing          | 23~ Sharon Ehler     |
| ~ Timothy Knutson        | ~ Julie Ekstrom      |
| ~ Isaac Freese           | 25~ Matthew Brookins |
| ~ Norah Eide             | 27~ Sandra Overland  |
| 9~ Philip Abrahamson     | ~ Ben Markegard      |
| ~ Miriah Mieru           | 28~ Tom Smith        |
| ~ Britney Fretland       | ~ Wendy Overland     |
| ~ Mathew Gudmundson      | ~ Naomi Howe         |
| 12~ Mitchell Lee         | ~ Channing Lind      |
| 13~ Mary McHan           | 29~ Brianna Koop     |
| ~ Brian Paulson          | 30~ Melissa Paulson  |
| ~ Tyler Dahl             | ~ Roman Ritter       |
| 13~ Hillary Eide         | 31~ Guthrie Johnson  |
| 14~ Ellen Shofner        | ~ Hattie Holst       |
| 15~ Quinn Nelson         |                      |
| 16~ Duane Bakke          |                      |

Happy  
Anniversary

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

# MARCH 2021

***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 Lent Service @ HP—7:00 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	4 Adult Book Study at HP/10:00 a.m.	5	6
7 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m.	8	9	10 Lent service @ EL—7:00 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	11 Adult Book Study at HP/10:00 a.m.	12	13
14 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m.  Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.—HP 6:30 p.m.—Parish	15	16	17 Lent Service @ HP—7:00 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	18 Adult Book Study at HP/10:00 a.m.	19  Newsletter Deadline	20
21 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m.	22	23	24 Lent service @ EL—7:00 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	25	26	27
28 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m.	29	30	31  Bulletin Deadline			

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

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Peterson, MN 55962

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

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021**

LENTEN SERVICE, 7:00 P.M. @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021**

**ACOLYTES:** KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS

**READERS:** KENNA GUDMUNDSON, ARLENE JOHNSON

**GREETERS:** SHARON & PAUL EHLER

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021**

**ACOLYTES:** LINDSEY HOINESS, DANA DEGEORGE

**READERS:** LINDSEY HOINESS, BECKY LIND

**GREETERS:** ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021**

LENTEN SERVICE, 7:00 P.M. @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021**

**ACOLYTES:** DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS

**READERS:** DANA DEGEORGE, SHARON EHLER

**GREETERS:** DOUG LIND FAMILY

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021**

**ACOLYTES:** LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON

**READERS:** LACI SIEVERS, SCOTT BESTUL

**GREETERS:** LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

**ELSTAD**  
**ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021**

**ACOLYTE:** AUBREY DANIELS

**READERS:** J.T. REIN, VICKY TOPNESS

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021**

LENTEN SERVICE, 7:00 P.M. @ ELSTAD

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021**

**ACOLYTE:** SAWYER WOLFS

**READERS:** ALISON FREESE, CAROL OVERLAND

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021**

**ACOLYTE:** THEA ARENDS

**READERS:** WILSON STORHOFF, CAROLYN SMITH

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021**

LENTEN SERVICE, 7:00 P.M. @ ELSTAD

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021**

**ACOLYTE:** SARI REIN

**READERS:** MAKENZIE KNUTSON, TOM DYBING

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