

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

~ October 2019~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com

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 be known as a praying congregation.
Please keep Marion Dahl, Wendy Will, Michele Thompson, Eleanor Peterson,
the family of Dee Westby, Gabby Brown, Denise Evans and all who are ill or in need
of your prayers.*

October Worship Schedule

+Sunday, October 6th

***WELCA Stewardship Sunday**

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

+Sunday, October 13th

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

+Sunday, October 20th

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

+Sunday, October 27th

Reformation Sunday

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

+++

The October Bridge page is printed and hard copies will be left at both congregations.

~Thank you!

Parish Men's Breakfast

The September men's prayer breakfast will take place at Highland Prairie on Saturday, October 26th, at 7:30 a.m. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary or narthex.

October Bible Study

A four-week Bible study on Jesus' parables of judgment will begin on Wednesday, October 16th, 10:00 a.m., at Elstad. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex or in the back of the nave.

October Book Study

A book entitled, *Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery*, by Richard Lischer will begin on Thursday, October 17th, 10 a.m., at Highland Prairie. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex or in the back of the nave. You may order it on Amazon.com. You may check with the public library for a copy, too.

Feed My Starving Children

All parish members are encouraged to participate in the annual *Feed My Starving Children* event at Riverstar in Winona. This is an event of intergenerational service for the hungry. The date is Saturday, October 5th. We will serve from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please sign up in the narthex or in the back of the nave.

Trunk or Treat

All parish youth are invited to join in the trunk or treat event that will take place on Halloween weekend, Sunday, October 27th. Come to Highland Prairie at 3:30 p.m. and/or Elstad at 4:00 p.m. Adults: Get ready. Get your costume on. Decorate your vehicle. Join the fun!

Pastor's Page, October 2019

In conversation some time ago, Bobbi and I talked about our upbringing. Most of you know, Bobbi was the child of missionary parents. She grew up in Papua New Guinea and was schooled away from family and home in an Australian boarding school in her early years. When she was seventeen, her family moved back to the States. I, spent the first eighteen years in the same town, in the same school, and, for the most part, in the same house. When I think of home, Spring Grove, the Spring Grove K-12 school, the church (Trinity), and the farm still come to mind.

It is a fact that we are a very mobile society. Some people move from place to place out of necessity. Some people go from place to place out of restlessness. I believe that some of the ills of our day stem from an abandonment of one's place, or from our unwillingness to grant that one must occupy any place at all---unless it is a place entirely of one's own choosing----unless it agrees with all the terms one determines are agreeable. Have you found such a place? Have I?

How many problems in life stem from a scorn of the idea of the ordinary, the pedestrian, the familiar? Aren't our lives----our relationships, our marriages, our family lives, our communal lives--- made up mostly of the ordinary---the routine---the daily round? Is a life of perpetual novelty possible? Is it desirable? Is it good? Is it real?

I think that we are all meant to occupy a modest place, in a family, in a community, in a church----all places which are seldom of our own making.

We have a God who likes ordinary people; a God who places us in the mix of a specific community of other ordinary people----to live in the mostly ordinary circumstances of life---- in a world of ordinary things. There's a peculiar beauty and blessedness in the ordinary of life. I am thankful that God has placed Bobbi and me in this particular place, among you people, and the things and events that are part of our life together.

A seminary professor, Gerhard Frost, once wrote a book with the title, Blessed is the Ordinary. In it he writes of the deep truth in the simple and ordinary events of life. He points to the insight of Christianity - - - that there is something wondrous about the ordinary---people, places, things, and circumstances of the daily round. The smell of freshly mown hay, a mother kneading her bread on a stool (a scene from my early life), the local pharmacist of a former community who loved wood and was an expert carpenter---and who often showed up at my office covered with sawdust---the toddler giving the preacher competition during worship on a Sunday morning, and on and on. Blessed is the ordinary!

The ordinary of place---happily and humbly occupying it---- and reveling in the blessedness of it all yields a grateful heart to its Author and Giver who made us for its obligations and its joys.

Pr. Mathsen+

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday September 22, 2019
Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Topness at 5:30 p.m.

Roll call: Present members were Larry Topness, Kay Wold, Rita Kelly, Jennifer Nepstad, Jodie Daniels, Krissy Overland and Pastor Luther Mathsen. Michelle Rein was absent. A Quorum was called.

The agenda was reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Jodie second by Jennifer. Motion passed.

No Congregation members were present to address the council.

The Pastor's report was given.

- Pastor Luther reported there are eleven confirmation youth, 4 of which are from the Elstad congregation, this started September 13th.
- First Communion, five children attended this summer.
- Pastor Luther will be hosting a bible study on October 16th, 10 a.m., at Elstad and a book study on October 17th, 10 a.m. at Highland Prairie.
- There are approximately four people who have expressed interest in becoming members at Elstad.
- Youth planner, there was not enough interest. Plans are to encourage youth to sign up for Feed the Starving Children which is scheduled for October 5th from 1-3 p.m.
- Hay ride is scheduled for next Sunday, September 29th.
- The Cantata's first practice was last Wednesday September 18th. Performance is scheduled for December 1st. This year will be the 30th anniversary of the Cantata.

The treasurer's report:

- Treasurers report was given and will be placed on file to be audited. Finances are falling short of the ability to fulfill commitments, \$5,000 was borrowed from the memorial fund.
- A notice will be placed in the newsletter and bulletin to inform the congregation of this concern and detailed information on how to do electronic automatic withdrawals. Jennifer will submit this information to the secretary and place on Elstad's website
- A list of expenses and request for sponsorship in addition to regular offering will be displayed. Jennifer will provide this information.
- Discussion was held questioning if a free-will offering could be offered at the Cantata to assist with Elstad's expenses. Pastor Luther will speak to the leadership of the Cantata to see if this is a viable option.

President's Report: No President's report submitted.

There was no correspondence.

Old Business:

- Church repairs: water leak under elevator, questioning if this is present from the increased amount of rain recently. Will continue to monitor. Shingles are beginning to curl, questioning if a Metal ridge cap will need to be placed. Will continue to monitor. Tom Dybing has been making repairs to the walls with plastering and painting, he is hoping to have this completed by the date of the Cantata. The Bell Tower is also being monitored in case it needs resealing.
- Implementation of the new sound system will begin the beginning of October. Tom Dybing will be rerouting the wiring. Larry and Debbie Topness are donating the expense to install the system.

Minutes Continued on the next page...

Elstad council minutes continued...

- 2019 Church goals: Rita Kelly will look into the expense of a 3x5 foot double-sided sign to be placed on each end of Dog Wood road. Larry will check with zoning to see what regulations there are for placement. A Donation/suggestion box to will be purchased by Rita Kelly. Discussion was held on the need to deliver Pastor Luther's sermon to other's who may not be able to attend the service. Pastor Luther will speak with the confirmation class to have them possible record the sermon and place on Elstad's facebook page.

New Business:

- Feed My Starving Children is scheduled for the first Saturday in October, \$500 donation from Elstad/ highland Prairie is requested. Pastor Kay Wold is donating Elstad's portion of this donation.
- LinkMe- Lanesboro project is requesting a \$250 donation by January 1st. Pastor Kay will obtain more information regarding this and will be discussed at next meeting.
- Tree removal: There are two ash trees in front of the church and some trees in the cemetary that need removed. Larry will speak with Duane Bakke on the Cemetary committee and then speak with Norby Tree Removal service.

Secretary's report was given. Motion to approve was given by Pastor Kay second by Krissy. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jodie, second by Krissy. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Secretary's report submitted by Rita in Michelle's absence.

Elstad budget for August 2019

August	\$ 7241.75
Received	\$ 4418.00
Under	\$ 2823.75
Elstad YTD budget	\$ 57934.00
Received YTD	\$ 39233.00
Under YTD	\$ 18701.00

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: Elsatd Lutheran Church
20707 County 21
Lanesboro, MN 55949

Highland Prairie Financials for August 2019

YTD Income	\$ 50,686
YTD Expenses	\$ 58,994
Expenses exc. Income	\$ 8,308
YTD Budget	\$ 62,867
YTD Income	\$ 50,686
YTD Under	\$ 12,181

OCTOBER 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*



1~ Charles Semmen
~ Brad Kelly
2~ Olive Peterson
~ Sylvia Passow
~ Kayla Volkman
3~ Jensyn Storhoff
6~ Valarie Howe
~ Maci Pontillo
~ Riley Pontillo
7~ Alyssa Berg
8~ Landon Volkman
9~ Beth Smith
~ Amy Jacobson
10~ Chris Hoiland
~ Jeremy Burt
12~ Amber Arends
13~ Mary Carlson
~ Jadye Butler
~ Carsen Nelson

15~ Cathy Bakke
~ Creighton Hoiness
~ Dominic Humble
16~ Casey Pestle
17~ Brandon Rustad
18~ Jerry Barrett
~ Larry Topness
~ Alison Freese
20~ Joyce Dahl
21~ Robert Olson
~ Dylan Evenson
22~ Gary Kiehne
~ Duston Brookins
23~ Sharon Howe
24~ Erik Nelson
~ Courtney Gravos
27~ Tyler Knutson
~ Fraya Hastey
28~ Merlin Halverson
29~ Karen Mierau
~ Rita Kelly
30~ Doris Dybing
~ Nicole Johnson
31~ Adam Woxland
~ Brittany Johnson
~ Hayden Stensgard

*Happy
Anniversary*

12~ Maynard & Sharon
Rustad

16~ Ken & Helen Jacobson
~John & Kathy Abrahamson

26~ Rick & Sandy Sjarpe



THE BRIDGE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR CONGREGATIONS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA
SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Our Common Witness

By Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

One of the distinct privileges of this call as presiding bishop is seeing the church at work at home and around the world. The Lutheran movement is alive and well, speaking the gospel in a distinctive voice. Sunday after Sunday the good news is proclaimed in accordance with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. In hundreds of languages and dialects, God's promise of grace, reconciliation and freedom is received and celebrated in places Martin Luther never knew existed. We are part of a worldwide family.

In many ways, and in the most important ways, we are alike. The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. A clear understanding of human brokenness and our inability to save ourselves sets us apart from societal and even some theological pressures that would try to draw us away from the source of our life and freedom. A world built on works and individualism promises salvation based on our own effort and denies salvation if we fail. The Lutheran movement points to another way. This is our common witness.

There are also glorious expressions particular to regions, countries and history: governance; organization; the role of laity, deacons, pastors and bishops; and the age for first communion, to name a few. And that's just the ELCA! Around the world the expression of Lutheranism takes on many different flavors—literally and figuratively.

In the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, porridge is a staple at all meals, so they pray, "Give us today our daily porridge." Spiritual healers are an important part of the life and ministry in the Lutheran church in Madagascar. Lutherans in Mexico celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which falls just a day away from the Swedish celebration of Santa Lucia. Lutherans around the world hold fast to the core and adapt to make the gospel accessible.

Part of Luther's genius was to make Scripture, preaching and worship available in the language of the people. All these variations make the Lutheran movement richer, especially when we share across borders and cultures.

Just two years ago we commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It was interesting to see the different ways congregations and synods marked the event. Luther roses sprang up everywhere, even on an NCIS episode. There were Luther movies and Luther seminars. Ecumenical worship services were held, notably with Roman Catholics. I think the Small Catechism made the best-seller list. I can almost imagine a Lutheran Y2K-like montage of celebrations as the sun rose on Oct. 31, 2017, across the globe. If Lutherans are allowed to be proud, we were.

Now it's time to move forward. It's good to remember the events of the 16th century, but we shouldn't get stuck there. We need to ask what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century. What it means for the Lutheran World Federation's 148 member churches, representing over 75.5 million members in 99 countries, that are exploring Lutheran identity. For some member churches with a state church tradition—Sweden, for example—Lutheran identity is a novel concept. The Lutheran church was "The Church," and there was no need to think about identity. Now many churches in Africa and Asia are forging an indigenous expression of what it means to be Lutheran. Yes, they still sing hymns set to German, Swedish and American hymn tunes, but they are also developing music and worship using traditional instruments and styles.

What will our Lutheran identity be in the ELCA? We still treasure our immigrant roots—and we should. But if our ethnic identities become synonymous with Lutheran identity, we are missing the mark. The gospel, and Luther's clear exposition of it, transcends human boundaries. When a single culture's vernacular becomes the established language of the people, we hinder the gospel's free course in the world. We can become an alternative face of Christianity in the culture—one that moves across divisions, is meant for all, and that is a free and liberating gift.

October 2019

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 HP WELCA— 9:00 a.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	3	4	5 Feed My Starving Children 1-3 p.m.
6 HP— 9:00 a.m. SS— 10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS— 9:30 a.m.	7	8	9 HP WELCA— 9:00 a.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	10	11 HP-Quilt & Craft Frolic 8:30 a.m.	12 HP-Quilt & Craft Frolic 8:30 a.m.
13 HP— 9:00 a.m. SS— 10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS— 9:30 a.m. HP Council 5:30 p.m.	14	15	16 Bible study 10:00 a.m. at EL No Confirmation Bulletin Deadline	17 Book study 10:00 a.m. at HP	18	19
20 HP— 9:00 a.m. SS— 10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS— 9:30 a.m.	21	22	23 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	24	25	26 Parish Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.—HP
27 HP— 9:00 a.m. SS— 10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS— 9:30 a.m. Trunk-or-Treat 3:30 p.m.— HP 4:00 p.m.—EL	28	29	30 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	31		

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, OCTOBER 6, 2019

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSAY HOINESS
READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019

ACOLYTES: KRISTINA STENSGARD, DANA DEGEORGE
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, MICHELE THOMPSON
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019

ACOLYTES: LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON
READERS: LINDSAY HOINESS, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET, KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, KENNA GUDMUNDSON
READERS: CADEN JOHNSON, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN
READERS: LIZ HAGEMAN, TOM DYBING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019

ACOLYTE: MAKENZIE KNUTSON
READERS: J.T. REIN, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN
READERS: ALISON FREESE, LORI BAKKE

USHERS: GENE TOPNESS, JOHN OVERLAND,
PHILIP ABRAHAMSON, TRENT EIDE,
NATHAN BAKKE, DICK HAIGHT