

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

~ June 2018 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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**Pastor's Page, June 2018**

It's the time of year when parents are watching their sons and daughters prepare to leave the home and families and venture into the future.

It got me to thinking about the day I left home after my high school senior year to attend Concordia College. One late August, brutally hot day, my father, mother, and sister (who also attended Concordia) set forth. Seven hours later, we arrived in Moorhead, Minnesota.

After unloading all of the contents of that old Ford station wagon, including a wood stump my sister "just had to have" as a table in her dorm room (for she attended Concordia, too!), it came time for a final good-bye". My father's departing words to me were: "Remember who you are. Be faithful."

He couldn't have spoken more appropriate words. They came in one of those inspired moments that sometimes come to parents. Perhaps my father did not realize what a banner he unfurled, a banner under which every parent's son or daughter can march to the end. As I think back upon them, his words were not uttered in the form of a demand. No... They came in the form of an utterance of parental hope. They were not so much Law as Gospel. They pointed me to the One who, in holy baptism, chose me to be His own. They pointed me to the One for whom the significant word for "being his own" is not "successful", "competent", or "accomplished", but "faithfulness", born of His faithful and enduring lovingkindness.

And so to our high school seniors....indeed....to all our youth, whether in significant transition or not, I offer these words, anchored in the promise of Jesus Christ: "Remember who you are. Be faithful."

You are loved by the One, Jesus Christ, who loves you best. You are loved by your parents and family and members of your church parish. And you are in our prayers!

*Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of our children. As they go forth, give them strength to hold their faith in you and to keep alive their joy in your promise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

<b>ELSTAD BUDGET FOR APRIL</b>	8131.50
RECEIVED	4724.00
UNDER FOR APRIL	-3407.50
YTD BUDGET	32,526.00
RECEIVED YTD	23,418.00
UNDER YTD	- 9108.00

<b>Highland Prairie Financials for April 2018</b>	
YTD Income-----	\$28,846
YTD Expenses-----	\$24,708
Income exc. Expenses -----	\$4,138
YTD Budget-----	\$31,033
YTD Income-----	\$28,846
YTD Under-----	\$ 2,187

## **June Worship Schedule**

### **+Sunday, June 3rd**

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

### **+Sunday, June 10th**

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

### **Wednesday, June 13**

#### **Campfire Worship & S'More Fellowship**

7:00 p.m., Highland Prairie parsonage lawn

### **+Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

### **+Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Worship in the Bowl**

10:30 a.m.

\*followed by lunch in the park picnic shelter and a Hayseed baseball game on the baseball field

### **Parsonage Window Open House**

Pr. Luther and Bobbi extend an invitation to the parish to have a looksee at the new window replacements that have been installed in the parsonage, from noon to 1:00 p.m., on **Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**, the date of the first service in the Bowl.

### **Campfire Worship and Fellowship with S'Mores**

Another outdoor opportunity for worship will be offered during the summer months of June, July, and August. **On Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**, we'll gather around the parsonage campfire pit for Holy Communion. After worship, we'll linger in continued outdoor communion while feasting on those summer treats, s'mores. You are asked to bring your own lawn chairs or blankets on which to sit.

### **Vacation Bible School**

While registration numbers are low to date, we are going ahead with Elstad/Highland Prairie VBS on the following days: **Sunday, June 10 (Noon to 3:00 p.m.) and Monday and Tuesday, June 11-12 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)**. The theme will focus on baptism and the life that we get to live as Christ's holy people. Our time together will follow a simple agenda of studying three Bible stories, crafts and activities that underscore the meaning and joy of our baptism into Jesus Christ, and, of course, music that redounds to the joy of the gift of our baptism. The plan includes lunch on Sunday and supper on Monday and Tuesday. No fee is being required of registrants. However, an offering for our support of our friends in Haiti will be received. More information on this offering will be provided on the first day of VBS.

### **A Word from Pr. Marie on the Haiti Mission Work**

Pr. Marie sends the parish greetings. She is doing interim ministry at Grand Meadow Lutheran Church. She reports that she and her husband are delighted grand-parents of Ingrid as of March. She also reports that she is in the planning stages of her next trip to Haiti in March of 2019 and is inviting members of the parish to consider joining her. She writes: Besides running a VBS program, providing Bible study for women and continuing education for pastors, our trip will focus on building five more classrooms at the school in Bouyaha. Pastor Mioche needs these classrooms ASAP...\$11,000 builds a class room and equips it." She concludes her letter: "Even if your feet cannot leave Southeastern Minnesota you can be part of this mission trip through your prayers and financial support. Mark and I miss your hospitality, beautiful churches, and faithfulness to serving at God's hands and feet in SE MN." Be on the lookout for further information about this future trip.

# ELSTAD—HIGHLAND PRAIRIE NEWS

## WELCA Activities

\*Elstad WELCA- Bake sale at the annual Rhubarb Festival on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to bring baking to Sylvan Park by 8:30 a.m. for set up and pricing; help with the sale is appreciated.

\*HP WELCA- Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m. Meeting/Bible study

\*HP WELCA- Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. Quilting/Potluck

## **STRINGWOOD PRESENTS:**

### **An Evening of Chamber Music at the Elstad Lutheran Church Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ 7:00 pm**

Stringwood is a premier summer music festival that specializes in connecting young musicians to chamber music as an art form. A three-week immersion program for accomplished teens from all over the country, Stringwood features professional artist faculty members and world-class guest artists who extensively coach the student ensembles. 2018 marks the program's 19<sup>th</sup> year at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center. Young musicians who aspire to making a significant contribution to their art through in-depth study and meaningful performances experience music and nature side by side.

During the festival, eight string quartets and one piano ensemble will give free Young Artist concerts in Lanesboro, Winona, Spillville, La Crosse, Minneapolis—and now Elstad! Come join us for an inspiring evening of Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Dvorak... Refreshments will be served afterward in the fellowship hall.

The HP WELCA would like to support a project for our area homeless population. The project is called "Blessing Bags." It is very easy and simple and listed here are the items that could be included. The items are put in a gallon zip lock bag.

- Cold weather gloves
- Thermal socks
- Beef sticks
- Crackers
- Candy or granola bars
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Handiwipes
- Small bars of soap (hotel size)
- Small bottles of shampoo (hotel size)
- \$5.00 in cash

Anything someone homeless could use would be most appreciated. The zippered bags that bed sheet sets are packed in would work very well. When you are out and about shopping and you see these items, please remember our "Blessing Bags" project.

Elstad Members ~ Address change for...

Robert & Ellen Lawstuen  
Augusta Care Health & Rehab  
14650 Garret Ave.  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

(952) 236-2810

Eleanor Peterson  
Chosen Valley Care Center  
1102 Liberty ST SE  
Chatfield, MN 55923

*Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting*

Sunday May 20, 2018

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Haight at 5:37pm.

Roll call with Kay Wold, Michelle Rein, Jennifer Nepstad, Rita Kelly, Rachel Bearbower, Dick Haight, Jodie Daniels and Pastor Luther present. A quorum was called.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with following additions: New Business was added, 1) request for additional donations to support Sudan and Tanzania. 2) Also a request for hosting Artaria string quartet in June. Motion made by Jennifer to approve Agenda with additions, second by Michelle. Motion passed.

There were no congregation members present to address the council.

There were no committee updates.

The Pastor's report was given.

Many special celebrations were held in May including Confirmation, Ascension, Pentecost, and Recognition Sundays. Pastor continues to provide services in Park Lane and Good Shepard. We have baptisms upcoming for Elstad in June and August. There is also interest in a young family joining Elstad. Pastor wishes to remind us that services will be held at both churches this summer. We will review the possibility of having 3 additional alternative services, in addition to the bowl services. These would be informal services around a campfire at the parsonage. Pastor also hosted a 4 week bible study. There were 3 regular participants. Confirmation was completed in May with one confirmand from Elstad, JT Rein. Vacation bible school is planned in June at Highland Prairie Park grounds. The theme is around baptism and is titled Walking Wet. Sunday school has wrapped up for the year. Going into the next Confirmation year, Pastor is looking into alternatives in instruction throughout the Lenten season. In addition, a Confirmation Camp that allows an intensive time of learning and relationship building was suggested. Pastor Luther hosted the Root River Synod Conference clergy. The message was offered by the bishop who offered a time of question and answers. A decline in seminary enrollment is having a significant impact on churches and ministry. The cost of supporting a pastor is also an issue that affects congregations. Health insurance is a large contributor to the financial burden to the greater church. The burden of the cost of education and the debt load on new graduates is also impacting seminary enrollment. This is Bishop Delzer's last year, this year is a year of discernment regarding the type of leadership the synod requires. Pastor along with Tom and Carolyn Smith attended the Synod Assembly in May. There were representatives from our sister churches in Tanzania, Columbia and South Sudan that preached about the wider church and our connection to it. Pastor Luther has had some correspondence with Pastor Marie. She is planning a trip to Haiti in March 2019. She shared a letter that will be included in the Newsletter. Pastor continues to visit the homebound members of our congregation. Pastor also continues with general visitation to members of our congregation.

The Treasures report given and placed on file for audit at a later date.

The president's report was given. We would like to support the Haiti mission with fundraisers, prayers, and mission support.

There was correspondence received from Christ Lutheran Church addressed to Root River Conference, requesting additional giving to support key ministries in Sudan and Tanzania.

The secretary's report from the March 19, 2017 council meeting were reviewed and approved. Jodie and Rachel

Old Business:

Window T-Shirt and Sweatshirt fundraiser was completed. Proceeds were a bit over \$700. There were also private donations added for total proceeds a little over \$900.

There is continued water damage in the interior of the church and repair is needed. Priority is damage near the organ and then the bell tower. There is some money from the Improvement fund. We will be looking into options for repairs.

Parking lot gravel. There needs to be some balding to route water drainage, then gravel can be placed.

There is some cement repair that needs to be completed on the front steps. This was repaired years ago, but additional work is now needed. We will attempt to obtain bids.

New Business

Request in correspondence was received from Christ Lutheran Church requesting \$250 to be added to the Root River Conference key ministry in Columbia, South Sudan and Tanzania. Rita made a motion to support a onetime \$250 donation to Root River Conference in support of key ministries in Sudan and Tanzania. Second by Michelle. Motion carried.

Letter from Julie Ekstrom was received requesting the council consider hosting a young musician's festival by Artaria, a string quartet from St. Paul. Motion made by Jodie and

Motion was made by Rita to adjourn. Second by Rachel. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Lutheran Church council secretary

Reviewed and approved at the May 20, 2018 Elstad Council Meeting



# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



## Highlights from 2018 Synod Assembly

- The 2018 assembly was held on May 4-5 at the Verizon Center in Mankato. The theme was, “Celebrating Our Global Congregation.” Global guests were welcomed from Tanzania and Colombia including Bishop Atahualpa Hernandez, Pastor Angelica Bernate, Bishop Dr. Alex Mkumbo, Wilhelmina Pamba Augustine, Pastor Emmanuel Kaghondi and Pastor Deborah Lyanga.
- One resolution came before the assembly and was passed regarding minimum compensation guidelines for 2019.
- On Friday afternoon, attendees had the opportunity to participate in three sessions: 1) A Conversation with the Bishops, 2) Women of the Global South, and 3) Global to Local: Bringing it Home.
- A Global Banquet took place on Friday evening with amazing cuisine and entertainment from the St. Olaf South Sudanese Children’s Choir, Veselica, and the Kubisa Family.
- Worship services were held on Friday and Saturday morning as well as Friday afternoon. Pastor Deborah Lyanga preached on Friday, and Bishop Steve Delzer preached on Saturday. Pastor Benyam Kassahun, ELCA Program Director for East and Southern Africa Regions, shared a greeting from churchwide as well as updates on South Sudan. He also read this poem.
- There were two ballots voted on during assembly. Elections were held for synod committees/teams as well as 2019 churchwide assembly voting members. New council members were installed.
- Representatives from Portico, the Lutheran Campus Center – Winona, Crossroads Campus Ministry – Mankato and the Mission Investment Fund came to the mic to tell about the Spirit’s movement in their ministries.
- The 2019-2020 budget was passed.
- Rev. Mark Boorsma & Deacon Mary Kay DuChene introduced the current Committee on the Election of a Bishop. They also described the Landscape process which will be one of the tools our synod uses as we make our way to next year’s 2019 Synod Assembly on May 31-June 1 when a new bishop will be elected.
- Jodie Archer concluded her tenure as our synod’s secretary and expressed a special message of gratitude with the assembly.
- Bishop Delzer shared his annual report and highlighted the ways our synod is developing leaders, equipping congregations and accompanying global partners!
- \$55,961.14 was raised during the assembly offerings! This money will be directed toward specific ministries taking place in Colombia, South Sudan and Tanzania.
- Photo albums and resources at <http://semnsynod.org/archive>.

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### **A Brief Interview with Rev. Tim Ehling of the Synodical Leader Grant Team**

#### **What is the mission of your group?**

To provide funding for leaders at various intersections of their calling in ministry, and to support and encourage conversation with pastors and congregations on clergy and congregational health, wellness, and life-long learning.

#### **How might individuals and congregations in the synod support you and the ministry with which you are involved?**

Pray for us. Invite our team to your church for conversation and guidance on health, wellness, and life-long learning potential within the ministry settings you serve. Take advantage of the resources available to clergy and congregations for continuing education, debt reduction, seminary scholarships, and the amazing gift to pastor and congregation of a sabbatical. More information at <http://semnsynod.org/sabbaticals/>.

# JUNE 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@gmail.com](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@gmail.com)



1~ Ron Stensgard  
 ~ Janette Dragvold  
 ~ Madalynn Keller  
 3~ Glen Bakken  
 ~ Ruth Moraski  
 4~ Lynnette Pederson  
 ~ Kelly Bearbower  
 ~ Andrew Bacon  
 5 Tony Knutson  
 ~ Siena Heydt-Nelson  
 8~ Jason Dragvold  
 ~ Kortnie Woxland  
 9~ Richard Todd  
 ~ Christopher Berge  
 10~ Julie Koop  
 11~ Bob Brand  
 ~ Jessica Rebahan  
 ~ Lisa Chiglo  
 12~ Jay Dahl  
 ~ Elissa Beach  
 ~ Lakyn Lind  
 ~ Carter Ask  
 ~ Adam James  
 13~ David Lombard  
 14~ Riley Koop

15~ Wendy Will  
 ~ Tom Dybing  
 ~ Chris Schwichtenberg  
 ~ Andrea Waldron  
 16~ Paul Ehler  
 ~ Sawyer Nelson  
 17~ Tate Lind  
 18~ Alison Feine  
 ~ Wilson Storhoff  
 19~ Julien Dragvold  
 ~ Allyson Christian  
 20~ Gary Wangen  
 21~ Tony Semmen  
 22~ Kalin Dahl  
 ~ Annabelle Christian  
 23~ Scott Meldahl  
 ~ Rebekah Solum  
 ~ Lillian DeGeorge  
 24~ Jeffrey Self  
 25~ Cindy Howe  
 ~ Sari Rein  
 ~ Kyson Klug  
 26~ Lucile Ask  
 ~ Kim Halverson  
 27~ Dick Haight  
 ~ Cathy Bakkum  
 ~ Deb Topness  
 ~ Andrew Nepstad  
 28~ Kristi Berge  
 ~ Avalon Jacobson  
 29~ Charles Mierau

~ David Howe  
 ~ Kari Drinkall  
 ~ Jessie Rustad  
 ~ Joshua Howe  
 30~ David McHan  
 ~ Bryce Peterson



2~ David & Lori Bakke  
 4~ Todd & Michele James  
 7~ Mike & Brenda Chiglo  
 9~ Richard & Jennifer  
     Nepstad  
 17~ David & Barb Lee  
 20~ Ron & Martha  
     Stensgard  
 21~ Murton & Sharon  
     Boyum  
 21~ Erik & Lisa Sievers  
 25~ Truman & Pat Dahl  
 25~ Duane & Angel Bakke  
 27~ Steven & Lynn Ryan  
 29~ Glen & Karen Bakken  
 30~ John & Jennifer  
     DeGeorge

# JUNE 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 EL WELCA Bake Sale
3 HP- 9:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m.	4	5	6 HP- WELCA 1:30 p.m. meeting/ Bible study  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	7	8	9
10 HP- 9:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. VBS 12-3 HP- Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.  Baptism @ EL	11 VBS 6-8	12 VBS 6-8	13 HP- WELCA 9:30 a.m. Quilting/ Potluck  Campfire Worship 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17 HP- 9:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m.	18	19	20  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	21	22	23
24 Parish Worship 10:30 a.m. Parsonage Open House  31 HP- 9:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m.	25	26	27  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	28	29	30

*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, JUNE 3, 2018

ACOLYTES: KRISTINA STENSGARD, LINDSAY HOINESS  
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, SCOTT BESTUL  
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

ACOLYTES: ALYSTA KING, ANDREW HOINESS  
READERS: TREY OLSON, MICHELE THOMPSON  
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2018

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, CADEN JOHNSON  
READERS: NIKKI DAHLE, SYLVIA PASSOW  
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018

READERS: ALYSTA KING, ARLENE JOHNSON  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

ELSTAD  
ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, JUNE 3 2018

ACOLYTE: MAKENZIE KNUTSON  
READERS: KYLE DANIELS, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF  
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, LORI BAKKE

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2018

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018

PARISH WORSHIP @ HP 10:30 A.M.

USHERS: DAVID LAWSTUEN, ROBERT KNUTSON,  
STEVE STORHOFF, COLIN BAKKE,  
MIKE CHIGLO