

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish*  
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
*~ September 2020~*  
*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*  
*Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com*  
*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*  
*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*  
*Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

**September Worship Schedule**

**\*\*\*All previously posted Covid19 precautions continue to be observed.**

**+Sunday, September 6**

**Pentecost 14**

**Elstad – 9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.**

Ezekiel 33.7-11

Psalms 119.33-40

Romans 13.8-14

Matthew 18.15-20

**+Sunday, September 20**

**Pentecost 16**

**Elstad – 9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.**

Jonah 3.10-4.11

Psalms 145.1-8

Philippians 1.21-30

Matthew 20.1-16

**+Sunday, September 13**

**Pentecost 15**

**Joint worship @**

**Highland Prairie Bandstand – 10:30 a.m.**

Genesis 50.15-21

Psalms 103.1-13

Romans 14.1-12

Matthew 18.21-25

**+Sunday, September 27**

**Pentecost 18**

**Rally Sunday**

**Elstad – 9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.**

Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25.1-9

Philippians 2.1-13

Matthew 21.23-32

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## September 2020

### Pastor's Page

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Included in this edition of the newsletter is a letter from a parish member inviting us to join her in ministry for the less fortunate beyond the walls of our parish. We know Kay Wold as an ordained pastor of the church. In which case---we might assume that this is a function of her calling as pastor. It's in the "wheel-house" of the pastor to make such an invitation. And, if that is what you are thinking, you are correct. But this holy passion for "the neighbor", while a part of her calling as pastor, precedes it. What you may not know is that I have known Pr. Kay for a long time. She, and her dear husband of blessed memory, Keith, were members of the church I served in Zumbrota, Minnesota. This was before she was ordained as a pastor of the church. Together they were passionate advocates for the plight of the poor, the disadvantaged, the oppressed---those living on the margins of society. They provided inspiration for social ministry in the community of believers. I have no doubt that Jesus Christ, the Lord of Keith's and Kay's life, was at the heart of their passion. And though Keith now lives among the saints in light, Kay continues to carry on in this ministry...this Jesus' born passion of her heart. She graciously invites you and me to join her. So... Pray that our gifts, be they of prayer or provision, be pleasing to God and of service for our neighbor. And let's thank God for Kay and her witness among us.

Your brother in Christ,

Pr. Luther+

### Highland Prairie WELCA

Where have our quilts and kits to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) gone since we began tracking in 2013?

Personal Care Kits: 1/2/2014 Yemen, 1/8/2015 Angola, 4/6/2016 Democratic Republic of Congo, 9/17/2019 Tanzania

New School Kits: 1/3/2014 Yemen, 1/8/2015 Georgia, 1/1/2016 Tanzania, 9/21/2017 Georgia, 1/1/2018 Peru, 11/22/2019 Djibouti, 2/28/2020 Honduras

Quilts: 2/28/2014 Lebanon, 1/8/2015 UNHRD Dubai Warehouse, 1/8/2015 Angola, 8/26/2016 Thailand, 9/21/2017 Niger, 7/16/2018 Per, 11/22/2019 Djibouti, 12/9/2019 Ukraine, 6/18/2020 Georgia

Baby Care Kits: 7/16/2018 Peru, 2/22/2019 Syria, 12/12/2019 South Sudan, 2/11/2020 Bahamas

LWR does not send to any place in the U.S.A. or its territories. If we wish our items to go to someplace in the U.S.A. there are other organizations that distribute there. Per the 2020 LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide: LWR no longer accepts bulk soap (only as part of kits), and no longer accepts fleece blankets. 2021 LWR will have a new tracking system.

WELCA Bible Study—September 2nd at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall (social distancing and masks will be required). Quilting and projects on September 9th will be discussed at the meeting following Bible study.

## **Worship Notes**

### **September Worship Settings**

At the time of this writing, we continue to observe Covid19 precautions for worship and other church gatherings. With the exception of the Sunday, September 13, joint parish worship at Highland Prairie, all other September worship services will be indoors (at both congregations). Be assured that Sunday worship services will continue to be provided online for those who choose not to attend worship in person for health reasons. For those who do worship in person, please abide our Covid19 guidelines out of respect and concern for the well-being of all other brothers and sisters in Christ.

### **Confirmation Sunday, September 20th**

On Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 parish youth will make public affirmation of the faith into which they were baptized. The rite of confirmation will be observed for the following youth in their respective congregations: Elstad youth, Kyle Daniels, Elizabeth Hageman, Indy Qualy, Michael Rein; Highland Prairie youth, Dana DeGeorge and Krista Stensgard. Please remember these fine youth, their parents,

## **Christian Education**

### **Confirmation Instruction, 2020-2021**

Wednesday evening confirmation instruction for parish 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will begin on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., at Highland Prairie. Class requirements will be discussed. A syllabus and schedule will be distributed to participants. Since all confirmation youth are required to serve as acolytes for Sunday worship, a brief lesson on the duties of an acolyte will be covered as well.

### **Rally Sunday, September 27th**

Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, has been designated as the Rally Sunday....the day Sunday school will resume for youth of both congregations. Because of concerns related to Covid19, the joint Christian education committee decided it is best for each congregation to observe this new beginning in its own setting. Covid19 precautions will be observed (masking, physical distancing, hand sanitizer, and good hygiene practices, etc.) A suggestion was made that classes meet outdoors when outdoor conditions permit. Discussion was held regarding curriculum with the concern that there be material available weekly for any family that decides not to send their child(ren) to in-person Sunday school (for Covid19 reasons). Sunday school times will be as follows: Elstad, 10:00 a.m., Highland Prairie, 9:30 a.m.

### **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), 210 North Elm St., Rushford, MN. 55971 or Highland Prairie Church, 43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962,

### **Pastoral Care**

Pr. Mathsen has begun making in-person visits on a limited basis. Those visits happen outdoors. He observes physical distance and is masked. If you would like such a visit, please feel free to contact him. Otherwise, he continues to make regular contact via telephone and the social media platforms that are available. Pastoral presence during parish emergencies is being considered on a situation-by-situation basis.

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the July council meeting Pastor Luther asked what we missed due to the changes in worship. People said they miss singing. We know that Elstad's music festival will be very different this year and I suspect there won't be the annual Advent Cantata either. Those musical events have been part of Elstad's identity. Then Pastor Luther wanted us to think about what our identity is now or how we would like to be known. It's a worthy question for the people of Highland Prairie as well. It's not possible to hold those wonderful church dinners at this time, at least not with a packed fellowship hall.

I would like to propose that we as a parish become known for our generosity.

Recently I received an ELCA publication entitled Boundless, Stories of Christ's Abounding Love and Grace. There was one story that caught my eye. It comes from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in New Orleans. I worshipped there in 2007 while on a mission trip to help clean up after Hurricane Katrina. Bethlehem is in the inner city, a mainly African-American congregation. At that time they had made repairs to their building after the water damage it sustained and they were giving out appliances to people in need. Bethlehem was not a financially wealthy congregation, but they had a wealth of trust in God's abundance. The article stated that before the pandemic the people of Bethlehem were serving their neighbors a free hot lunch every Sunday. Now they are providing hot meals to go to 150 people three times a week. I continue to be humbled by their generosity and trust in God's providence.

A while ago one of our members, who has a generous heart, proposed that we help support the school lunch and milk program, so that no child would be left out. That need continues and I want to support it. Local food shelves continue to help meet the needs of people too, especially those who have lost their jobs, or whose income is not adequate. Our own ELCA and its World Hunger appeal helps to meet the food needs of people in the wider world. I believe these are all worthy causes.

So, I'm issuing a challenge. I will match the first \$500 given to local schools, food shelves, or the ELCA World Hunger appeal. You may make out a check to either Elstad or Highland Prairie and use the memo line to indicate where you wish your gift to go. Let us be known as generous people of God and share what we have with grateful hearts. I also invite you to pray for this effort, for a greater degree of trust in God's goodness, and for our willingness to share what we have.

In Christ's peace and love,

*Pastor Kay*

## **SCHOOL KITS for Lutheran World Relief**

***WELCA members please be thinking of your Lutheran World Relief kits in the coming weeks. Our Thank Offering service will be on October 4th this year.***

**The following items are included in each school kit that we assemble and send to LWR:**

- \* Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper (no loose leaf paper)
- Five ballpoint pens, black or blue ink only (no gel ink)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- One pencil sharpener
- One eraser, approximately 2- 1/2" long
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 30-centimeter ruler (or with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)
- \* One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Project Promise School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford.

**Pencils and paper can help write a positive future.**

***If you wish to contribute to this WELCA project by purchasing items for the school kits, please take advantage of the back-to-school sales.***

**There is a basket in the narthex for donations of LWR School Kit supplies.**

**THANK YOU!**

Lists of items for the other Lutheran World Relief kits (Personal Care, Baby Care, Fabric) are on the website:  
[lwr.org](http://lwr.org)

### **Elstad Budget for July**

July budget	\$6718.42
Received	\$5858.00
Under for July	\$ 860.42
Elstad YTD budget	\$47028.94
Received YTD	\$35739.00
Under YTD	\$11289.94

### **Highland Prairie Financials for July 2020**

YTD Income	\$ 54,961
YTD Expenses	\$ 46,192
Expenses exceed Income	\$ 8,769
YTD Budget	\$ 54,717
YTD Income	\$ 54,961
YTD Under	\$ 244

# SEPTEMBER 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



2~ Norma Halverson  
4~ Naomi Wangen  
5~ Aubrey Wiley  
~ Teigen Johnson  
6~ Brenda Markegard  
~ Shannon Rislov  
~ Gabriel Becker  
~ Kenzie Woxland  
7~ Gordon Johnson  
~ Todd James  
~ Sara Johnson  
~ Kayla Rislov  
~ Kaleb Kendhammer  
8~ Carl Lawstuen  
~ Richard Koop  
9~ Maynard Rustad  
~ Mark Lee  
~ Trenten Chiglo  
10~ Dennis Knutson  
~ John Rein  
11~ Susan Lind  
~ Troy Storhoff  
12~ Curtis Wangen  
~ Larissa Ryan  
13~ Tonya Mensink  
~ Kristina Stensgard  
14~ Kristin Overland  
~ Ryan Feine  
~ Parker Root  
15~ Gordon Gulbranson  
~ Tyler Drinkall  
16~ Lori Hundorf  
17~ Lucas Gravos

17~ Lucas Gravos  
18~ Marion Dahl  
~ Michele Thompson  
~ Hale Stensgard  
19~ Cayden Lea  
20~ Andrew Kelly  
~ Aubrey Daniels  
21~ Gabriel Dybing  
~ Hailey Paulson  
~ Brogan Lee  
23~ Doreen Semmen  
~ Bonnie Hallum  
~ Carol Dybing  
~ Bobbi Mathsen  
~ Mitchell Paulson  
~ Jacob Paulson  
24~ John Overland  
~ Ryan Jacobson  
26~ Derek Dahl  
~ Kayla Bakkum  
~ Jordan Markegard  
27~ Lyle Meldahl  
~ Dick Lawstuen  
28~ Pastor Luther Mathsen  
~ Gene Wangen  
~ Jamie Wiley  
~ Emma Eide  
29~ Terry Blagsvedt  
~ Jason Yonts  
~ Mabel Thomas  
~ Miken Grabau  
30~ Kendall Bakkum  
~ Cory Woxland  
~ Erika Wangen  
~ Katherine Halverson  
~ Andrew Hoiness

## Happy Anniversary

4~ Charles & Sharon Ehler  
~ Dave & Debbie Lawstuen  
5~ Darrel & Ellen Highum  
6~ Marv & Carol Eggert  
8~ Gordon & Glee Claussen  
10~ Nick & Sarah Wangen  
14~ William & Doreen  
Semmen  
~ Bob & Paula Brand  
~ Tom & Carol Dybing  
15~ Mike & Norine Ask  
16~ Dick & Diane Haight  
23~ Elvin & Marlys Paulson  
~ Christopher & Ann Hoiland  
27~ Gene & Vicky Topness  
30~ Val & Mary Gudmundson

# September 2020

*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 HP WELCA 1:30 p.m. Bible study  Bulletin Deadline	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	7	8	9   Bulletin Deadline	10	11	12
13 Parish Worship 10:30 a.m. @ HP  Council Mtg. @ HP 5:30 p.m.—EL 6:30 p.m.—Parish 7:30 p.m.—HP	14	15	16 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. @ HP  Bulletin Deadline	17	18   Newsletter Deadline	19
20 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP Confirmation @ both congregations	21	22	23 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. @ HP  Bulletin Deadline	24	25	26
27 <b>Rally Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	28	29	30 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. @ HP  Bulletin Deadline	31		

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

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Permit No. #6



*September 2020*  
*Newsletter*

**HIGHLAND PRAIRIE**

**ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020**

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, KENNA GUDMUNDSON  
READERS: LARISSA RYAN, SHARON EHLE  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLE

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS  
READERS: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, SCOTT BESTUL  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**

ACOLYTES: LINDSEY HOINESS, KRISTINA STENSGARD  
READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, MICHELE THOMPSON  
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020**

ACOLYTES: KRISTINA STENSGARD, DANA DEGEORGE  
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, SYLVIA PASSOW  
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

**ELSTAD**

**ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS**

**SUNDAY, SEPTMEBER 6, 2020**

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN  
READERS: MICHAEL REIN, CAROLYN SMITH

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

PARISH WORSHIP @ HP 10:30 A.M.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**

ACOLYTE: PARKER SRORHOFF  
READERS: KYLE DANIELS, TOM DYBING

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020**

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS: INDY QUALY, GENE TOPNESS

**USHERS:** LARRY TOPNESS, ROBERT KNUTSON,  
JEFF FREESE, STEVE STORHOFF,  
WAYNE FINNEGAN, TOM SMITH