

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

~ June 2021 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

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

Worship Notes:

*The parish has returned to "in-person" worship. Parish Covid19 precautions have been discontinued. We are now singing, unhindered by masks. Distancing and masking, while no longer required, can still be observed by those who think it is wise given their individual circumstances. If this is your decision, you will be respected.

Sunday worship will continue to be taped and posted online each week.

*Please note: On Sunday, June 27th, there will be one joint outdoor service, 10:30 a.m., at Highland Prairie. You are encouraged to bring your own lawn chair.

June Worship Schedule

+ 2 Pentecost, Sunday, June 6

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Genesis 3.8-15

Psalms 130

2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1

Mark 3.20-25

+3 Pentecost, Sunday, June 13

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Ezekiel 17.22-24

Psalms 92.1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 14-17

Mark 4.26-34

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+4 Pentecost, Sunday, June 20

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Job 38.1-11

2 Corinthians 6.1-13

Psalms 107.1-3, 23-32

Mark 4.35-41

+5 Pentecost, Sunday, June 27

Outdoor Parish Worship

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Lamentations 3.22-33

Psalms 30

2 Corinthians 8.7-15

Mark 5.21-43

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Pastor's Page

June 2021

Someone "in the know" will tell you that I do not start my day bursting with energy. I have been told that I look, and act, more like a "zombie" upon rising from slumber, than someone whose "on" switch has been triggered. This is most certainly true.

At daybreak, with a cup of coffee in hand, I often shuffle off to one of my favorite spots in the parsonage, the screened-in porch. It is from there that I revel in the beauties of creation.

As I sit, gazing out on God's stunning creation, I hear birds of many kinds announcing the arrival of another day. I see beads of water on grass and green plants sparkling like diamonds in the sun. I smell the old lilac bush that casts its aroma out, carried by the breeze for anyone to enjoy.

At daybreak, I hear, I see, and I smell. Hearing, sight, and smell---These are senses that receive their pleasure from a distance. But why? For whom? Or what?

The wonderful and grace-filled mystery of it all is that these sounds, aromas, and sights draw us from a distance, inviting us not only to hear, see, and smell. They also invite us to draw near to taste and touch. They initiate...(trigger!!)... a response...a response in kind... In Christian parlance, this song and dance is what we call "liturgy."

Yes, the beautiful cacophony of the birds of the air, the dance of the playful squirrels in the yard, and the smell of aromatic spring lilacs are part and parcel of a creation offering up praise to its Creator. And we, the Church, including human "zombies" at daybreak, participate in that cosmic liturgy --- with voices of delight in the sounds, sights, and aromas that are our sacrifice of praise to our Creator and Redeemer adding to the chorus already ascending to heaven.

Is there anything more wonderful?

plm+

Mission Table

Any monetary gifts to the ELCA World Hunger fund are a meaningful way to help make a difference. Designated donations to this cause can be placed in the offering plate of your congregation. Make your checks out to your congregation and write ELCA World Hunger Appeal on the MEMO line.

Members of both congregations are encouraged to continue supporting the local food shelves. Our area SEMCAC food shelves' addresses are: Rushford (113 E. Jessie St. Rushford), and Preston (515 Washington St. NW, Preston).

Youth Ministry

Pr. Luther is anxious to plan a few summer events for parish youth and he is seeking adults and high school youth to assist in planning. Please contact him as soon as possible as he would like to get them on family and youth calendars.

Vacation Bible School for parish youth, pre-k – grade 6, is scheduled for July 12-14, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at Highland Prairie. Parents are encouraged to register their son/daughter for VBS at lmmathsen@gmail.com by the end of June so the information can be passed on to the planning team. And yes, adult/older youth helpers are needed. Contact Pr. Mathsen or Michelle Rein, if you are willing to help.

Adult Christian Education

A 3-week June adult bible study will commence on Tuesday, June 8th, 1:30 p.m., at Highland Prairie. We'll be studying Paul's Letter to Galatians. If you're interested in participating in this study, please sign up with Pr. Luther.

Elstad Maintenance Items 2021

A sheet listing Elstad church building needs is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the nave. Should you desire to assist with a donation or with your time and skill. See council president, Dick Haight, or treasurer, Jennifer Nepstad, if you have questions.

Highland Prairie Maintenance Items 2021

Phase One of the parking lot repair (patching badly deteriorated areas) is complete. Phase Two, which is slated for next year, will include filling cracks and seal-coating and the painting of parking lines. Re-staining the church building is well underway. The re-configuring-to-code of waterlines from the shelter will take place during early June. Your financial contributions to the building fund are appreciated. See council president Gordon if you have questions.

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 is making in-person home and nursing home visits. He has received both doses of the Moderna vaccine. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of pastoral care or a pastoral visit, please let him know.

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Joint Council Meeting

May 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Highland Prairie President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members were all present except Krissy Overland and Tim Stensgard were absent.

A quorum was determined and a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Steve Howe, David Markegard seconded. Motion carried.

Devotions were given by Pastor Kay Wold.

There were no congregation members present.

There were no President's Reports.

Pastor Luther reported that it is good to know that with the restrictions being lifted he has been able to resume pastoral visits.

Pastor Luther has met with the Educational committees and major issue was Vacation Bible School to be held July 12-14. Looking for those willing to do activities with his guidance. Maybe community service, and Joyce Dahl mentioned Meals on Wheels.

Correspondence received: None.

Old Business: Church directory last done in 2016. Need coordinators from each congregation to schedule photo sessions if desired by the members and to follow up on current information. Aimee Rodger from Elstad and Mary Gudmundson from Highland Prairie volunteered to begin the process.

New Business: Parsonage Committee did a walk through and items were identified that need attention. They will meet again to prioritize.

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

A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer was made by at 7:18 p.m. Joyce Dahl, seconded by Amber Arends. Motion carried.

Next joint meeting will be on July 11th at 6:30 p.m. at Elstad.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

May 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 p.m. by President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members present were Robert Anfinson, Karen Bakken, Joyce Dahl, Mary Gudmundson, Gordon Johnson, Lyle Meldahl, Chris Hoiland, Steve Howe, and David Markegard, Tim Stensgard was absent.

A quorum was determined and a motion to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of ELCA Assembly was made by Joyce Dahl, Chris Hoiland seconded. Motion carried.

Devotions were given at Joint Council meeting.

There were no congregation members present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. Year to date information provided are income \$31,465.00 expenses \$24,297.00; income exceeded by \$7,168.00. A motion to approve as presented was made by Lyle Meldahl, Chris Hoiland, seconded. Motion carried.

The President's Report: None

Pastor Luther reported on improved worship attendance; May 2nd six students confirmed; premarital meetings for upcoming August 7th and October 2nd weddings; a reaffirmation of vows next weekend; book study; Education Committee contact regarding Vacation Bible School to be held July 12-14th; Assembly and Conference Clergy meetings; upcoming Bowl Services and fellowship. He will be on vacation May 30th and June 6th.

Correspondence received: None.

Committee Reports: Park and Bowl clean up needed, postponed until June.

Old Business: Parking lot repairs have been made; invoice has been received. There was discussion on whether to have the sealcoating done this year also or wait a year. David made the motion to pay the current invoice, Steve seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: Removing the tape for seating and masking discussion on the options and a motion to leave masking and seating up to attendee's discretion was made by Mary Gudmundson, Steve Howe seconded. Motion carried.

Water will be turned on for the cemetery and the line in the shelter following state inspection will need to have the pipes put underground. Robert will look into plumber options.

ELCA Assembly report from Ann and Lyle Meldahl said the online Zoom meeting was set up very well, three resolutions were voted for online, and all passed.

Golf cart batteries needed at the cost of \$800-\$1000, discussion on purchasing replacements came to the motion by David to replace the batteries, Steve seconded. Motion carried.

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

A motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. with a prayer by Pastor Luther was made by Joyce Dahl, Steve Howe seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next meeting will be on June 13th at 5:30 pm at Highland Prairie.

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday May 16th, 2021 ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Haight at 5:33.

Roll call: Krissy Overland is absent

Meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Luther.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Kay second by Kathy. Motion passed.

There are no congressional members present to address the council..

The Pastor's report was given.

A review of Holy Week was shared. Pastor Luther shares concerns about attendance. Good Shepard and Park Lane have allowed Pastor Luther to begin his services again in person. Pastor Luther discussed his recent funeral service and shares that he is preparing for 2 weddings. Pastor Luther also discussed the opportunity for vacation Bible school for the kids in July and would also like to see some summer activities for the children relating to services.

The treasurer's report was reviewed and placed on file for audit at a later date.

Jennifer shares that she does not have any concerns related to the budget at this time . The church is unable to book for fuel oil until August.

The president's report was given. Dick shares his recent zoom attendance of the Synod Assembly.

Correspondence received: none

Old Business:

A) Report on Synod Assembly

B) Church Repairs- Dick is still trying to connect with Jesse Rein on a quote for the sidewalk. Amber recommended Lance Papenfus. Jennifer recommended Home Depot for the products for the spray on the outside of the church. Dick would like to get together with Jennifer, Rich, and Tom to discuss more information on the spray.

C) Church Directory Committee- It has to be a joint project. It will be discussed more at the joint meeting.

New Business:

A) Face Masks - Dick Haight shares a written suggestion on face masks for the future of church at this time. If members are two weeks out from their vaccination, they may choose not to wear a face mask while in church. Unless under mitigating health circumstances, members should wear a face mask. Motion was made by Amber and second by Jennifer. Motion passed.

B) Parsonage Committee - Members include Gene Topness, Dick Haight, and Tom Dybing. The committee will take a walk through the parsonage and write down suggestions on fixes.

Secretary's report was given. Motion was given by Amber, second by Kay. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Jennifer to adjourn, second by Kay. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Closed in prayer by Pastor Luther.

Secretary's report submitted by Aimee Rodger

Prayer Corner

Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Deb Topness, Thora Lombard, Ione Hallum, Wendy Will, Robert Knutson, Dylan Ghoorah and all who are ill or in need in your prayers.



The Highland Prairie quilters extend an invitation to all Elstad women to join them in quilting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Elstad Budget for April 2021

April	\$ 7033.58
Received	\$ 6265.00
Under	\$ 768.58
Elstad budget YTD	\$ 28134.32
Received YTD	\$ 28076.00
Over YTD	\$ 58.32

Highland Prairie Financial for April 2021

YTD Income	\$ 31,465
YTD Expenses	\$ 24,297
Expenses exceed Income	\$ 7,168
YTD Budget	\$ 31,900
YTD Income	\$ 31,465
YTD Under	\$ 435

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@ymail.com



1~ Ron Stensgard
~ Madelyn Keller
~ 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
~ Jack Holger
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~ Julie 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
26~ Lucile Ask
~ Kim Halverson
27~ Dick Haight
~ Cathy Bakkum
~ Deb Topness
~ Andrew Nepstad
~ Emma Peck
28~ Kristi Berge
~ Avalon Jacobson

Happy Anniversary!

2~ David & Lori Bakke
4~ Todd & Michele James
7~ Mike & Brenda Chiglo
9~ Richard & Jennifer
Nepstad
15~ James & Viviane
Bearbower
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 2021

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
 Visit our websites at...
elstadlutheranchurch.org
highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bulletin Deadline	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	7	8 Adult Bible study 1:30 p.m.	9 HP WELCA Quilting 9:00 a.m. Bulletin Deadline	10 Pr. Luther @ Park Lane 9:30 a.m.	11	12
13 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP Highland Prairie Council meeting 5:30 p.m. @ HP	14	15 Adult Bible study 1:30 p.m.	16 Bulletin Deadline	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19
20 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	21	22 Adult Bible study 1:30 p.m.	23 Bulletin Deadline	24	25	26
27 Outdoor Parish Worship @ HP 10:30 a.m.	28	29	30 Bulletin Deadline			

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 6, 2021

ACOLYTES: CHEYANNE DAHLE, MICHAEL EVENSON
READERS: CHEYANNE DAHLE, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021

ACOLYTES: MICHAEL EVENSON, KENNA GUDMUNDSON
READERS: MICHAEL EVENSON, SHARON EHLE
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS
READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021 ~ OUTDOOR WORSHIP

READERS: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021

ACOLYTE: THEA ARENDS
READERS: J.T. REIN, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021

ACOLYTE: SARI REIN
READERS: ALISON FREESE, CAROL OVERLAND

SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021

ACOLYTE: JENSYN STORHOFF
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, CAROLYN SMITH

SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021

PARISH WORSHIP @ HP 10:30 A.M.

USHERS: VICKY TOPNESS, GENE TOPNESS,
STEVE STORHOFF, COLIN BAKKE,
MIKE CHIGLO, MATT NESLON