

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

~ June 2014 ~

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Ponderings from the Parsonage...

If you have been to any of the tourist destinations you have likely seen the “photo stand ins”. You know the place where your face sticks through a hole in a picture so it appears you are part of the picture. So this got me wondering....

In John’s Gospel, John the Baptist introduces two of his own disciples to Jesus.

The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus walking along he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, "What are you looking for?" They said, "Rabbi (which is translated Teacher), where are you staying?" He replied, "Come and see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Christ). He led him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). (John 1:35-42 CEB)

Notice in this story that one of John’s disciples was named Andrew. But the other disciple of John with Andrew remains unnamed.

Right after this story, Philip meets Jesus and then he finds his friend Nathaniel and brings him to Jesus. At the end of chapter one of John there are five disciples with Jesus: Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathaniel, and the “unnamed disciple.”

We can all venture a guess about who that disciple WAS. But today I would invite you to think about who that disciple IS. I invite you to consider that the unnamed disciple is YOU, the reader of the Gospel. Like Andrew, Jesus invites us to “come and see” throughout the Gospel of John. We are invited into a relationship with Jesus through reading the Gospel of John.

By the end of the John’s Gospel, the author is addressing us directly.

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name. (John 20:30-31 CEB)

As you read the Gospels, I invite you to place yourself in the story. See yourself in the picture as the unnamed disciple. And participate in the life Jesus has to offer.

Pastor Dan

ELSTAD NEWS

Elstad Prayer Partners

In the “working” world Wednesday is often called the “hump” day, midway through the work week (for those who work from 8 to 5!)

Suddenly we find June to be nearing the end of the first half of 2014. We have made it so far...so good. Here is a good prayer for the beginnings. You may have read it before but it is good to read again. Titles given to it are “Morning Prayer” or “So Far, So Good.”

Dear Lord,

So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped. Haven't lost my temper. Haven't been greedy, grumpy or nasty, selfish or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that. BUT, in a few minutes, God, I am going to get out of bed and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Thank you Jesus. Amen.

Pray for your prayer partner that the month of June will bring her strength and joy and happiness for the beginning of the summer season.

Elstad WELCA

Saturday, June 7th in Sylvan Park at Lanesboro...the annual Rhubarb Festival. Elstad is having a bake sale that day and we have a great opportunity to make it HUGE. Some have already been looking for interesting and fun rhubarb recipes for this occasion in anticipation of fun in the kitchen leading to fun in the park. A good fund raising event for our treasury. Bring your food items wrapped and labeled for easy pricing and tempting purchasing. Come early rather than later as the shoppers are there for the selections that best catch their eye. This is one event where leftovers are not wanted!!!

Elstad Budget

Budget for April \$7772.50

Received for April \$7913.00

Over for April \$140.50

YTD Budget 31090.00

YTD Received thru April \$26859.00

Under YTD budget \$4231.00

Circle Meetings

Elizabeth circle will meet Wednesday, June 11th; 6:30 at Park Lane in Preston. Will be studying chapters 8 and 9.

Good Earth Village on the Road

Lanesboro, MN June 22 - 26

“On the Road is a great Day Camp program for children completing grades K-5”

Where: Sylvan Park in Lanesboro

Time: Sunday 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. for registration and games. Staff led program runs 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday. Closing program at 4:00 p.m. Thursday.

Cost for this program is \$75 per camper. Registration info: Please register through Good Earth Village online: goodearthvillage.org
Or call us at: 507 - 346-2494

Hope, Healing and Food presented by Joyce Mtinda

Joyce is the Palliative Care Program Director for the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Tanzania.

This program was started in 2006 with 5 clients and a team of 3 caregivers. They had their first child enrolled that year in their AIDs treatment program. Now in 2014 they have 645 clients in 22 villages. Five hundred thirty of these are HIV positive, 63 have cancer and 52 others. Seventy three of these are children.

The office they work out of has no office equipment. The team meets here about every 3 months to get reports from the 44 volunteers in the 22 villages. The services they provide include home care and daycare.

Once a month they have a kid's day for the children that are orphans. The children meet each other, cook, play and do Bible study.

The churches in the villages are an important part of the program. They provide a space for the team to work. The team conducts public meetings in the churches to educate the people about HIV. The speakers may include villagers that have the HIV virus. They inform the people about the disease, the treatment available and how it works.

One of the challenges that the team faces is transportation. They have very few actual paved roads, so much of their travel is done by foot.

Tanzania is a very poor country. There is a lack of enough support for the Palliative care team to reach all who need it. The team does get some medications from the government. NELC provides some of the care medication and supervision. They get support from the United States. The Vermont Hospital FHSSA is a major contributor. Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Rochester is also a major contributor. Over 40% of the health care is delivered by the Lutheran and the Catholic religious organizations.

Morphine is the main drug used for pain management for cancer patients and is not that expensive. It's about \$7 for a 5 liter bottle that has a shelf life of 3 months. However, transportation to get it is expensive. There is a 5 day journey to pick it up. They use holistic medicine along with the morphine. One of the things they do is to sing soothing songs to comfort the clients and family.

In Tanzania there are 50,000 cancer patients without medication to treat their pain. There are 150,000 AIDs patients without medication for pain, both physical and spiritually.

The workshop was very informative and Joyce closed the workshop with one of her favorite folk songs that she frequently sings with her clients.

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Sunday, March 9, 2014

The Meeting was held at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church with President Larry Topness calling the meeting to order following the Joint Council Meeting with Highland Prairie.

Roll call was taken with Larry Topness, Jerry Evenson, Michelle Rein, Jennifer Nepstad, Carol Overland and Vicky Topness present. John Rein was absent. A quorum was called.

Ruth Abrahamson, WELCA president, was present to address the council regarding plans for the parish's 160th Anniversary celebration being planned with Highland Prairie.

Secretary's report was given and approved.

Treasure's report was given and approved. We are still short funds given the high LP costs this winter.

President's report was given. Energy Audit was performed February 1, 2014.

There was no correspondence.

There were no committee reports.

Old Business:

High nitrates in the water continue to make drinking water an issue. We will continue to work with the state requirements to resolve this issue. It is anticipated that appropriated treatment options will be expensive. Working with water treatment systems seems to be the best option at this time. We will continue to pursue available options.

Sealing the church steeple also needs to be addressed to prevent further water damage to the church. Due to access and safety, this will be readdressed in the Spring.

New Business:

The Parish 160th Anniversary Celebration is currently being planned as a joint celebration held at the Highland Prairie grounds. The celebration will likely include a Bowl Service in August, with a "Heritage Wall" in the Highland Prairie church basement for everyone to enjoy. Invitations or previous parish pastors will be sent, and a lunch will be planned. Elstad WELCA will offer assistance to the Highland Prairie Planning Committee.

There are areas of cracking tile in the kitchen that need to be repaired. We will check with Tom Dybing to see if any extra tiles remain to be used for repairs.

There are currently no reserved parking areas for Pastor Dan or reserved handicapped parking areas. Previously, there were signs posted to reserve parking areas for this purpose. We will check with Tom Dybing to see if these signs can be replaced.

The council had been approached regarding the possibility of purchasing round tables for the church basement. It was felt round tables may better facilitated conversation during dining. After discussion, it was felt that the church recently purchased new rectangular tables, and additional tables were not necessary at this time, especially given our current financial strain. In addition, storing round tables may be more difficult, as they would not fit in the current storage area under the front steps.

There has been black mold noticed near the basement swinging doors. This problem should be resolved with sealing of the steeple. In the mean time, this needs to be cleaned aggressively with bleach to reduced risk of inhalation and health issues. We will talk to Carolyn Freese about cleaning this area.

We were addressed by the Highland Prairie council to consider support of a Rushford native, Carina Schiltz, as she pursues her studies at Trinity Fellowship ELCA to become a pastor. We would be happy to offer her opportunities to preach when a substitute pasor is needed in Pastor Dan's absence.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Michelle Rein, Secretary

Approved by the Elstad Lutheran Church Council, Sunday May 18, 2014

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Sunday, May 18, 2014

The Meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church with Elstad President Larry Topness calling the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Roll call was taken with John Rein, Sarah Bearbower, and Chuck Pederson absent. A quorum was called.

Devotions were given by Jerry Hallum.

Agenda was reviewed and motion by Gordon and second by Carol to approve the agenda.

Secretary's report was given and approved as read.

President's report was given. The recent SE MN Synod meeting was attended by Lyle, Larry, and Pastor Dan. The program focused on "G-Local", a synod program working on eliminating hunger locally and worldwide. In addition, "Resolution 2014-01: Minimum Compensation and Benefits Guidelines" was reviewed. A copy of this document was shared with the council.

Pastors Report was given (please see attached notes of accomplishments). Monday June 30 is ELCA day at Valley Fair. The confirmation class is considering a group outing.

There was no correspondence.

There were no committee reports.

Old Business:

Energy audit for the parsonage was reviewed. Recommendations included replacing weather stripping of doors and adding attic insulation to reduce energy cost. Cost savings would be seen in around 10 years. There were also recommendations to improve basement insulation, with significant additional cost. Motion was made by Gordon to proceed with weather stripping and attic insulation, but wait to do basement insulation at a later date. Motion was seconded by Vicky and carried. .

Parsonage repairs continue. The new roof looks great. No water leakage was seen after the recent heavy rains. There are cracks in the external stucco that may need to be repaired using latex caulk in cracks and seams. There are several windows that will need to be addressed. The parsonage committee will continue to review needs and priorities.

Up to date CO monitors and fire detectors need to be placed in the parsonage near the bedrooms. The parsonage committee will pursue this.

Water drainage between parsonage and garage continues to be a problem. Drain tile to direct water flow away from the garage may need to be placed. This will also be addressed by parsonage committee.

New Business:

Schedule for special services was reviewed. Historically we have rotated Holy week services (Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday) between Elstad and Highland Prairie. Pastor Da suggested we could consider keeping services designated at a specific site. This would encourage traditions and predictability for services, especially for any community members wishing to attend. Pastor referenced Elstad's Cantata as an example of a successful tradition. We will table this for now and consider this again prior to the annual meeting.

Attendance for Joint Services. How can we facilitate or encourage a feeling of "oneness" between our parishes. Confirmation students have participated in Lenten services at each parish. In the past, joint youth groups have helped combine the parishes. Ideas and suggestions are appreciated.

Nitrates at HP and parsonage are OK. Keep records for 10 years,

160th Anniversary Celebration. Highland Prairie worship committee is leading the planning. Ruth Abrahamson, Elstad WELCA President, is the Elstad contact. As the Highland Prairie worship committee moved ahead, they will contact Ruth to coordinate further plans.

June 22 and July 20 are the set bowl dates. The July 20th date conflicts with Rushford's community celebration. A request was made to move the July bowl service date from July 20th to July 13th. Motion was made by Deb to move the July bowl service date to July 13th, second by David. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Jerry E, second by Lyle. Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Council Secretary

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE NEWS

Circle Meetings

Tabitha circle will meet Tuesday, June 3rd, 1:00 p.m. at Lyndon Bridge

Attention Highland Prairie Members:

An email contact-list for members would provide better communication opportunities. If you would like to submit your email please send your name and email address to...

highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

Thank You!

Highland Prairie Financials For April

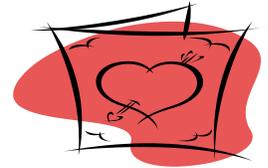
YTD Income	\$ 32,397
YTD Expenses	\$ 29,481
Income exc. Expenses	\$ 2,916
YTD Budget	\$ 32,590
YTD Income	\$ 32,397
YTD Under	\$ 193

Special Project Fund brought in
\$2,669 for April.



Greeting Cards:

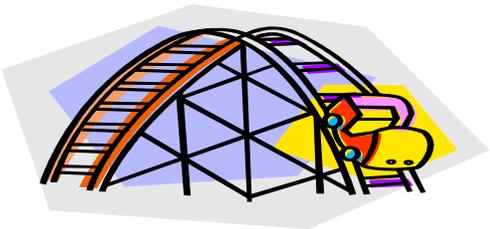
Highland Prairie WELCA now has boxes of greeting cards for sale. Unless otherwise marked, the price is \$5 per box. Make checks payable to H. P. WELCA. Cards will be on a table in the narthex of the church.



Elstad & Highland Prairie

ELCA Day at Valley fair—Monday, June 30th

(Park is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.)



Enjoy a day at Valley fair at a discounted rate! Groups of any size and age are welcome!

Please contact Pastor Dan if you are interested in going. He is trying to organize a bus to go up if there is enough interest. (507) 459-1141 or (507) 875-2731 Email: dwatland@gmail.com

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
April 13, 2014

Note: Meeting notes are incomplete due to information lost when hard drive failed in computer.

The meeting was **called to order** at 11:37am by President Gordon Johnson.

Roll Call:

Present – Gordon Johnson, Sarah Bearbower, Karen Bakken, Deb Book, David Larson, Chuck Pederson, Steve Howe, Lyle Meldahl

Absent – Kaye Eiken, Jerry Hallum

A **quorum** was called.

Congregation members wishing to address the Council: Tristen, Treyten and Kyle Chiglo

The Chiglo family presented information about a mission trip that Tristen and Treyten would like to participate in with a youth group from Faith Lutheran Church in Winona to the Sunbeam Boys Home, an orphanage in Jamaica. Estimated costs were reviewed. Discussion was held about providing financial support for the trip and it was noted that the Magelssen Fund is for youth programs. **Motion by Sarah, second by Deb to pay 75% of the mission trip cost for Tristen and Treyten with money from the Magelssen Fund. Motion passed.** There will also be a “noisy offering” at a worship service with proceeds used to buy shoes for the Sunbeam Boys Home residents.

The Secretary’s Report from the March meeting was read and approved.

The Treasurer’s Report was given with a review of recent expenses and year to date income and expenses. The report was approved, and is available for review and subject to audit.

President’s Report

Gordon was contacted about placing an ad in the area Visitor Guide. Discussion about this as a marketing opportunity was held and a decision will be made by the Worship Committee.

Pastor’s Report (copy attached)

Correspondence: A thank you letter was received from Ronald McDonald House for the donation sent in March.

Committee Reports/Old Business:

The parsonage energy audit report was reviewed. Additional review will be done with the parish council.

Another estimate for a lift has been received.

Repair estimates for the rest house and park entrance were reviewed. The Grounds Committee will decide who to hire for this work.

Spring cleanup dates were scheduled for April 27th and May 4th following the worship service.

A draft of the list of committee participation opportunities was distributed for review and completion.

New Business:

Create a list and prioritize projects

Meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm

Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting at Elstad - Sunday, May 18th 7:00 pm

Submitted by Deb Book, Council Secretary

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

May 18, 2014

The meeting was called to order following the parish council meeting at Elstad Lutheran Church.

Roll Call was taken at the parish meeting. A quorum was called.

Secretary's Report was read and approved.

Treasurer's Report was given by Karen reviewing recent expenses and year to date income and expenses, noting the land rent was received. The report was approved, is available for review, and subject to audit.

The President's Report was given at the joint meeting by Gordon focusing on parsonage repairs. He also asked to have specific projects designated for fundraising to encourage more interest.

The Pastor's Report was reviewed at the parish meeting. He added that the confirmation mentoring program has been very well received by those involved. He noted that there were some green LBW hymnals left in the parsonage that were recently found and donated.

Committee Reports/Old Business:

Grounds:

Trees should be removed and the field cleaned up south of the cemetery to clear it for planting.

Cemetery water is on.

A bid was received to remove stumps from the drain field.

The bowl building has shifted causing the roof to separate from the soffit.

Garden shed needs siding repair and broken window panes replaced.

Jerry H. did some mowing in the ditch by the entrance, and other mowed areas have been extended.

A light will be placed on the well head to show pump is running.

Projects in progress: Rest House repairs, Park entrance pergola, Log Cabin restoration, Bowl repairs

The park will be used as a stop during the tractor ride on September 13th.

Breaker and circuit changes will be needed for use of the outlets in the shelter.

Church:

Two wheelchair lift bids have been finalized along with fees for a service contract, state permit and testing. A business in La Crosse that is replacing their lift with an elevator will consider our interest in purchasing their lift, also.

The outdoor water faucet will require repair and may need to be replaced. A bid was also received to add a faucet on the north side of the church.

The existing door on the south side that is not used could be replaced with a window. A bid was received in 2012 for this project and we will get an updated bid.

The Waste Management contract termination notice will be submitted by Karen in June.

Historian assistance with genealogy records is needed.

Marketing our church as historic was discussed to attract new members and visitors. Pastors that met recently at Highland Prairie expressed interest in having activities here. It is imperative that the website is updated regularly to have current information for anyone interested in our church.

Light bulbs for our ceiling fixtures have been donated by Norm's Electric.

Worship:

We will not place an ad in the Visitor's Guide or pursue any marketing of our church until we have someone responsible for keeping the website information current.

May 1st Meeting – Reviewed plans for upcoming Worship Services:

May 11th - Mother's Day/Sunday School Memory Work/Teacher Recognition

May 18th – High School Senior Recognition

June 2nd, July 13th - Outdoor services

August 17th - 160th Anniversary "Celebrating our Heritage"

New Business

Jerry H. requested assistance with physical tasks he has been doing.

Motion by David, second by Karen to repair the outside faucet, and replace it if it is not able to be repaired. Motion passed.

ELCA Day at Valley fair is June 30th. Bus transportation will be arranged if we have enough people planning to attend.

Suggestion was made that the mid-level landing door removal with a window to replace it be our next fundraising project after we get an updated bid.

Adjournment

No further business. Motion by Kaye, second by Lyle to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Next Meeting: Sunday, June 8 following the 8:30 am worship service.

Submitted by: Deb Book, Highland Prairie Council Secretary

April Pastor's Report by Pastor Dan

Accomplishments

Participated in the SE MN Synod Bishop meeting on Thursday March 27th.

The Root River Conference has been selected by Bishop Delzer to initiate discussion of a book by Stephen Bouman: "The Mission Table: Renewing Congregation and Community."

Confirmation students and parents are worshipping at every Lenten Service. They participate in distributing grape juice at the end of the service and have also collected the offering.

Met with the confirmation students for movie night on Sunday March 30th.

Attendance has averaged around 50 for Lenten Services, with a high of 80 at Elstad.

Led worship at Good Shepherd Nursing Home on March 30 with a 90 minute notice.

Met with Root River Pastor's Conference in Chatfield on March 11th and at First of Highland on April 8.

Met with Rushford Ministerium on March 19th.

Continue to meet weekly with a pastor's text study group in Rushford. Group has grown to 8 clergy.

Many home and hospital visits recently.

Helped introduce and initiate fundraisers at both churches in April through the 100 envelope program.

Participated in the meatball dinner at Highland Prairie.

Plans

Easter services are at Elstad at 6:30 am and 8:30 am, and Highland Prairie at 10:30 am. Grandchild of the Nepstad's will be baptized at the 8:30 service.

Hosting the Root River Pastor's meeting on May 13 at Highland Prairie. Bishop Delzer will be attending to discuss the book "The Mission Table."

Registered for the Festival of Homiletics Preaching Conference May 19-23 in Minneapolis.

Should have our first grandbaby later this week. Plans are to have her baptized on Father's Day at Elstad.

We need a confirmation mentor to replace Glen Kopperud beginning this week.

May Pastor's Report by Pastor Dan

Accomplishments.

Changed visit times to Friday evening at all those in the nursing homes on May 16th. Went much better than mid day visits with fewer conflicts with other activities.

Hosted the First Call Colleague Group on Thursday May 15, 2014 at Highland Prairie.

Attended the synod CYF brown bag gathering in Rochester on Thursday May 15.

The last confirmation class for this school year was held on Wednesday May 14. We honored the mentors with a flower and the students enjoyed ice cream bars.

Hosted the Root River Pastors Conference on Tuesday May 13, 2014 at Highland Prairie. A big thank you to WELCA for serving the meal and morning coffee, to Arlene Johnson for the Highland Prairie history presentation and Karen Bakken for playing for the worship service.

Made recent hospital visits to Winona and Rochester.

Led worship at Good Shepherd Nursing Home on May 4th. Thanks to Karen Bakken for playing the piano for the service.

Attended the farewell open house for Pastors Ron and Janet Warnes on May 4th at North Prairie.

Rushford text study group now meets at Jessie Street Java every Wednesday instead of Trinity Fellowship.

Highland Prairie worship committee met at Jessie Street Java.

Many home and hospital visits recently.

Very pleased with attendance at Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the 8:30 and 10:30 Easter services.

Plans

Attending the Festival of Homiletics Preaching Conference May 19-23 in Minneapolis.

Our grand daughter will be baptized at Elstad on Father's Day.

Plan to take vacation during the month of July. Supply preacher is scheduled for July 20th, Pastor Corrine Denis, campus pastor at Winona State. Still need coverage for the other Sundays in July.

I will lead the Bible study during June at Good Shepherd.

I will write the devotional column for the Tri-County Record in mid June.

Hope to have a church float in the Rushford Days Parade (if they have the parade.)

Special Edition: Synod Assembly 2014



The 2014 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly was held on May 2-3 at the Mayo Civic Center. The event's theme was "We Are Called." A special highlight this year was the leadership of the Glocal Formation Team. Glocal is a combination of the words global and local. The mission of the Glocal Formation Team is to encourage God's people to love and serve on both a global and local level.

The Glocal Formation Team is comprised of staff members from the churchwide offices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and musicians from around the country. On both Friday and Saturday, the team shared music from around the world. The gathered assembly, made up of more than 600 registrants, sang and danced to the sounds of maracas, bongos, and guitar.

The event's schedule included worship, Bible study, fellowship, workshops, and shared meals.

Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, who serves as Executive Director for the ELCA Division for Global Mission, presented three Bible studies and one presentation over the course of the weekend. Drawing from the book of Genesis, Rev. Malpica Padilla emphasized the importance of communication and connection in our shared life of faith. He shared, "The essence of God is relationships."

On Saturday, Rev. Malpica Padilla presented a report and video on behalf of Elizabeth Eaton, the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.

Two large group presentations were facilitated by Rev. Sunitha Mortha, Director of Mission Formation for the ELCA. Rev. Mortha focused on themes of accompaniment, culture, and hunger to encourage those gathered to think about mission and community in new ways.

Rev. Nick Fisher-Broin and Rev. Beth Krolack presented a video highlighting the trip that youth from around the synod took to Tanzania in 2013.

Bishop Steven Delzer shared a sermon during worship on Friday. He presented his report on Saturday afternoon. Bishop Delzer rooted both of his messages around the synod's six-year initiative "Enough Food for All." The goal of the initiative is to end food insecurity in southeastern Minnesota by 2020.

Two videos highlighting food-based ministries happening in the synod were presented. The videos were created by Rev. Paige Whitney, Rev. Jonathan Davis, Rev. Lindsay Stolen, and Rev. Charlie Leonard.

Saturday morning centered around eight different workshops for synod participants to choose from. The workshops, focused on issues of advocacy, food, and justice, were facilitated by leaders from a variety of organizations.

Rev. Emmanuel Kaghonda and Joyce Mtinda were special guests at the assembly, both from Tanzania. Rev. Emmanuel preached during Saturday's worship service, and he also wrote a special musical composition for the assembly called "Tunaomba Huruma" which means "we ask for your mercy."

Joyce Mtinda serves as the Palliative Care Program Director for the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. In addition to sharing a greeting with the full assembly, Mtinda also facilitated one of the workshops on Saturday morning.

There were opportunities over the course of the weekend to lift up congregations and individuals for their ministries in the synod. Time was set apart for the recognition of those celebrating ordination anniversaries and those who have retired. Affirmation was also expressed to outgoing council members and synod staff members. Special awards were presented by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota and the synod's Hunger Task Force. The Endowment Committee presented debt retirement awards as well.

During the Assembly, individuals were elected to participate on a number of boards and tables throughout the synod. No new nominations were received from the floor, so a vote via ballot was not required.

One resolution was discussed and approved. The approval of Resolution 2014-01 confirms the minimum compensation guidelines for 2015 which apply to Pastors, Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, Diaconal Ministers, and lay professionals in the synod.

The Synod Secretary, Jodie Archer, shared a report. Her report uplifted a variety of bylaw amendments required by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

The Synod Treasurer, John Petersburg, shared a report during the assembly. The 2015 budget was passed at a dollar amount of \$2,002,600. Petersburg also shared reflections on the positive progress that has been made on the audit which is being facilitated by Hawkins Ash CPAs of Rochester, Minnesota.

As the assembly drew to a close, Bishop Delzer laid out a six-year vision for the synod. The vision highlights "Enough Food for All" as one of the many ways congregations can re-root in their communities. Bishop Delzer encouraged all those in attendance to read "The Mission Table" by Rev. Stephen Bouman. This book inspired much of Bishop Delzer's hopes for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. An intentional focus on deep listening and community engagement will play a pivotal role in serving as the Body of Christ in this region.

The people of God are at work in powerful ways throughout the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. This year's assembly served as a meaningful, enriching time to engage on a local and global level with the activity of the Holy Spirit.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

All Birthdays & Anniversaries are listed according to the information I have. If you see an error please contact me
@ highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com ~ Thank You!

Happy Birthday!!

1~ Ron Stensgard
~ Janette Dragvold
~ Marley Benedum
3~ Helen Kopperud
~ Ruth Moraski
~ Glen Bakken
~ Glen Johnson
~ Elizabeth Benedum
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 Rebhahn
~ Lisa Chiglo
12~ Irma Wangen
~ Jay Dahl
~ Elissa Beach
~ Lakyn Lind
~ Carter Ask
~ Adam James

13~ Kathy Dahl
~ David Lombard
14~ Riley Koop
15~ Tom Dybing
~ Andrea Waldron
~ Chris Schwichtenberg
16~ Paul Ehler
18~ Alison Feine
~ Wilson Storhoff
19~ Julie Dragvold
~ Allison Lee
20~ Gary Wangen
21~ Tony Semmen
~ Karl Bergen
22~ Agnes Koenings
~ Kalin Dahl
23~ Scott Meldahl
~ Rebekah Solum
24~ Jeffrey Self
25~ Cindy Howe
~ Sari Rein
~ Kyson Klug
26~ Lucille Ask
~ Annemarie Pederson
~ Kim Halverson
27~ Dick Haight
~ Cathy Bakkum
~ Deb Topness
~ Andrew Nepstad
28~ Kristi Berg
~ Avalon Jacobson

29~ Charles Mierau
~ David Howe
~ Kari Drinkall
~ Jessie Rustad
~ Josh Howe
30~ Sherrie Nurkala
~ David McHan
~ Bryce Peterson

Happy Anniversary!!

2~ David & Lori Bakke
4~ Todd & Michelle James
5~ Michael & Kristi Gudmundson
7~ Mike & Brenda Chiglo
9~ Irving & Marge Abrahamson
~ Richard & Jennifer Nepstad
~ Collin & Ashlee Pontillo
12~ Casey & Shannon Ingvalson
14~ Travis & Melissa McCabe
16~ Russ & Sheryl Stadmueller
17~ David & Barb Lee
~ Adam & Bobbi Jo Eide
19~ James & Irma Wangen
20~ Ron & Martha Stensgard
21~ Murton & Sharon Boyum
~ Erik & Lisa Sievers
25~ Duane & Angel Bakke
~ Truman & Pat Dahl
27~ Mike & Barb Soppa
~ Steve & Lynn Ryan

JUNE 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HP @ 8:30 a.m. EL @ 10:30 a.m.	2	3 HP Tabitha circle 1:00 @ Lyndon Bridge	4	5	6	7
8 HP @ 8:30 a.m. EL @ 10:30 a.m. HP Council Meeting	9	10	11 EL- Elizabeth cir- cle 6:30 @ Park Lanes in Preston Bulletin Deadline	12	13	14
15 HP @ 8:30 a.m. EL @ 10:30 a.m.	16	17	18 Bulletin Deadline	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 Bowl Service 10:30 a.m.	23	24	25 Bulletin Deadline	26	27	28
29 HP 8:30 a.m. EL 10:30 a.m.	30 ELCA Day at Valley fair!!	31				

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

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Peterson, MN 55962
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Newsletter

Highland Prairie Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, June 1, 2014

Acolytes: Jack Kopperud, Paula Howe
Readers: Jack Kopperud, Arlene Johnson
Greeters: Allen & Kay Howe

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Acolytes: Paula Howe, Collen Dahle
Readers: Paula Howe, David Larson
Greeters: Charles & Lynnette Pederson

Sunday, June 15, 2014

Acolytes: Collen Dahle, Peyton Hoiness
Readers: Collen Dahle, Scott Bestul
Greeters: Roger & Sarah Bearbower

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Bowl Service at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Acolytes: Peyton Hoiness, Chealsy Eide
Readers: Peyton Hoiness, Sharon Ehler
Greeters: Gordon & Arlene Johnson
Head Usher: Glen Bakken

Elstad Acolyte/Reader/Ushers

Sunday, June 1, 2014

Acolyte: Chris Freese
Reader: Tom Dybing

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Reader: NEEDED!

Sunday, June 15, 2014

Acolyte: Kody Bearbower
Reader: Tom Dybing

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Bowl Service at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Acolyte: Caleb Gravos
Reader: Carolyn Smith
Ushers: Mike Chiglo, John Abrahamson, David Lawstuen, Steve Storhoff, Colin Bakke