

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

~ April 2020 ~

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

April Home Worship Resources

+In the likelihood that corporate worship will continue to be suspended into April, you are encouraged to use the parish social medium platforms (Facebook and the congregations' websites, respectively. Worship will be streamed online.

+The texts for each service of worship are listed below.

+Sunday, April 5th
Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah.50-4-9a
Psalm 31.9-16
Philippians 2.5-11
Matthew 26.14-27 – 26.66

+Thursday, April 9th
Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12.1-14
Psalm 116.1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11.23-26
John 13.1-17, 31b-35

+Friday, April 10th
Good Friday

Isaiah 52.3-53-12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10.16-25
John 18.1-19.42

+Sunday, April 12th
Easter Sunday

Acts 10.34-43
Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3.1-4
John 20.1018

+Sunday, April 19th
2 Easter

Acts 2.14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1.3-9
John 20.19-31

+Sunday, April 26th
3 Easter

Acts 2.14a, 36-41
Psalm 116.1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1.17-23
Luke 24.13-25

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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

When thinking of you in these days of isolation precipitated by the Coronavirus, I am recalling the words of St. Paul at the beginning of his first letter to the Thessalonians. Obviously he and his fellows, Silvanus and Timothy, are separated from them. He is writing to them from a distance. The kind of people they have become through God's love and mercy is a source of joy. "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 1.2-3).

Like Paul, as he thought about the church at Thessalonica, I, when thinking about you, am filled with gratitude for your public witness to the Lord of our life and all the ways you bring his light and love into the world. I want you to know how thankful to God I am for you. I want you to know that I am grateful for your presence in my life. Your Christian witness gives me strength and joy. And I want you to assure you that, living testaments to the power of Christ's love and mercy, you are making a positive difference in the lives of others. You are bearers of the Good News, his love in which we stand, in these days of anxiety, fear, and uncertainty.

I do not know when we will be able to meet face to face again. I don't think anyone knows. But when we have fellowship with Christ in his word and in prayer, we are bound together no matter the distance and circumstances which separate us.

In the meantime, let us continue to allow his presence in his word and in prayer. I will continue to offer the offices of the Daily Prayer of the Church and Wednesday and Sunday worship on the social medium platforms of the congregations (the Facebook pages websites of Elstad and Highland Prairie). And in response to the strength and assurance that comes to us in the promises of Christ which we will hear, and the fellowship that we will experience thereof, let us continue to reach out to one another and to others in "the work of faith and the labor of love and the steadfastness of hope (that we have) in our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love and mercy, I remain...

Your fellow pilgrim in the faith,

Pr. Luther+

Coronavirus, Church Worship and Church Activities

At the time of this writing, all onsite church worship services and activities are suspended, indefinitely. This difficult decision (May 14th) was made not out of fear, but out of love for our parish members, our family members, and the countless unknown others with whom we come in contact. We are to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. The joint church council will be in conversation in the near future. The most up-to-date information and recommendations from government and medical authorities will be assessed before any decision to lift the present suspension that is in place. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to speak with Pr. Mathsen, Gordon Johnson (Highland Prairie), or Larry Topness (Elstad).

Pastoral Care

Out of concern for our homebound, nursing home, hospitalized and other members who receive pastoral care, Pr. Mathsen will not be making any in-person visits. He is connecting with parishioners via telephone and the social media platforms that are available. Pastoral presence during parish emergencies will be considered on a situation-by-situation basis.

Weekly Offering

You have been faithful to support the congregation with your offerings that help the church continue its ministry and meet its financial commitments. We thank you! We humbly request that you continue to offer of your financial gifts for the congregation as you would if we would be meeting face to face every Sunday. If you are an Elstad member, please mail your offering to: Jennifer Nepstad, 201707 Co. 21, Lanesboro, MN 55949. Highland Prairie members should mail their offering to: Highland Prairie Church, 43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962

Gratitude

There are any number of persons whose vocations continue to support us during these trying days. We have members who are in the food and medical and mental health professions. We have teachers and administrators and support staff who continue to educate our youth under challenging circumstances. We have farmers and people in agriculture support vocations who continue to work to provide the most basic staples needed for our lives. We have people in law enforcement, the military, and government who see to the security of our communities and nation. We have people in a host of other service vocations who help support us and our day to day lives at all times. We have parents who are faithfully tending to the physical and emotional needs of their children. We have young adults, who in the midst of the chaos and uncertainty of these days---and in some cases deprived of long-awaited experiences in their lives, stand ready to share their gifts and contribute to the common good. We have our elders, who having years of experience in the ups and downs of life, comfort us with their wisdom and calming presence. We have children who bring us joy and who, in their innocence, show us, as Jesus reminds us, how life in the Kingdom of God is to be lived. Oh, such a cloud of witnesses that surround and support us. O how blessed we are in these days. God is good!!!

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 8 2020

The Meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church with Elstad president, Larry Topness calling the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Roll call was taken. A Quorum was called.

Others present: Pastor Luther.

Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda made by Nancy and second by Lyle. Motion carried.

Devotions were given by Larry Topness.

Congregation members present to address the council include: none.

Communication received regarding the Annual Synod Leadership meeting. This year it is on Sunday April 26.

President's report was given. There is no additional President's report in addition to Elstad or Highland Prairie council meetings.

The majority of the Pastor's report was given at individual council meetings.

- Lenten services have begun. Pastor is pleased with attendance and participation. Theme is our walk with Christ, the calling received in Baptism, and the strength we receive in promises from Christ.
- Pastor continues to provide services at several nursing facilities and continues to regularly visit shut ins.
- Pastor is planning Holy Week services.
- We continue to collect food items at both churches for our local food shelves.
- Confirmation classes will continue to meet prior to the Lenten services to help make up missed classes. They are walking through the gospel of Mark.
- During Easter season, Pastor will have a bible study. Material to be determined.
- Root River Conference Assembly was held last week in Chatfield. The chief goal of the synod office is to meet with congregations and leaders. The Synod Bishop is meeting with all the pastors she is shepherding. It has been a time to focus on the connection between the Synod and the Congregations.
- The Lutheran Disaster Fund is looking for donations to help those who have been affected by recent disasters.
- Pastor received a note from Synod Leadership regarding the Novel Corona Virus. This note encourages congregations to review a preparedness plan and follow recommendations from the department of health.

Joint Parish Youth:

- There is a youth mission trip being planned for June 14-19 in the Quad Cities, Iowa. Fundraisers are being planned.
- Confirmation is planned for Sunday May, 2020. Confirmation Review and Dinner is scheduled Wednesday April 29, 2020 at Highland Prairie.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

- The Parish copier needed to be replaced urgently since our last Joint Council meeting. The old copier was not able to be fixed, and it was required to be replaced. Due to the timing, a formal vote was not able to be taken during a formal meeting. Both councils agreed to the purchase.

New Business:

- There is no New Business to be addressed.
- Secretary's report was given. Motion to approve by Kay, and second by Nancy.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Lyle, and second by Jodie. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

Submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Council Secretary

Next Meeting is Sunday May 17, 2020 at Highland Prairie.

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday March 8, 2020

Elstad Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Topness at 7:21 p.m.

Roll call: all members were present. A Quorum was called.

The agenda was reviewed. We added discussion about offering/offering plates in the setting of potential illness exposure. A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Michelle second by Amber. Motion passed.

No congregational members were present to address the council.

The Pastor's report was given.

- Please see the Joint Council Meeting minutes.
- Pastor is willing to offer a "Station of the Cross" Devotional at 10:00am on Good Friday at Elstad.
- New Member Recognition Sunday is scheduled for Sunday May 17.
- Pastor is planning "Cottage Gatherings" at the parsonage to talk about the challenges the church faces in modern times as well as the challenges of being a rural parish. Pastor will reach out to the Synod for additional information and guidance. We would like to discuss forming a plan that helps us remain viable and relevant in the chaotic world we live in.

The treasurer's report was given and has been placed on file for future audit. Motion made by Michelle to accept treasurer's report Second by Krissy. Motion passed.

President's Report:

No additional Items

Correspondence received: A note of thanks was received from Pastor and Bobbi for remembering them during Christmas. A second note of thanks was received from Pastor and Bobbi for our support and the memorial given in remembrance of Bobbi's father. The council also received a reminder from MN Department of Health to update our water sample. We are already in compliance, and no additional action is needed.

Old Business:

- The breather for the well cover will be installed soon.
- Updated church signage for the ends of Dogwood Road will be reviewed again this spring. Larry will follow up with Rita.

New Business:

- The Parish copier needed to be replaced urgently since our last Joint Council meeting. The old copier was not able to be fixed, and it was required to be replaced. Due to the timing, a formal vote was not able to be taken during a formal meeting. Both councils agreed to the purchase.
- In order to protect each other from the spread of infections, such as the Novel Corona Virus, the council has recommended using a continuous offering instead of passing offering plates. We will also continue to use common sense measures to prevent the spread of infections including frequent hand washing, avoiding shaking hands, avoiding touching your face, staying home when ill, and coughing/sneezing into a disposable tissue.
- In order to improve communication and create another quick access option to access worship time/schedule, a picture of the worship schedule from the newsletter will be posted on Elstad's Facebook Group page. Amber will help keep this updated..
- Installation of the 2020 Elstad Council members was completed during the council meeting this evening by Pastor Luther

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

Motion was made by Michelle to adjourn, second by Kay. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Secretary's report submitted by Michelle Rein.

Next meeting to be held at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church, Sunday January 12, 2020.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

March 8, 2020

- I. Vice-president, Steve Howe, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call: Present: Steve Howe, Nancy Rustad, Joyce Dahl, Karen Bakken, Lyle Meldahl, & Dave Markegard. Absent: Mary Gudmundson, Chris Hoiland, Tim Stensgard, and Gordon Johnson. A quorum was declared.
- II. Meeting agenda approved: Dave Markegard made a motion to accept the agenda. Joyce Dahl seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- III. Karen Bakken gave the treasurer's report. Year-to-date budget: \$15,633. Year-to-date income: 13,168. Joyce Dahl made a motion to transfer \$500 from the LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization Fund) to the Sunday School to help defray expenses. Lyle Meldahl, seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Nancy Rustad made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Lyle Meldahl seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- IV. Pastor Report.
- A. The first midweek Lenten service was well attended. Participation was positive.
 - B. Pr. Mathsen continues to lead Sunday services at Good Shepherd Home, Rushford, and Bible study at Park Lane Estates, Preston.
 - C. Weekly communion distribution method will change beginning, Sunday, March 15. The family of Julia Jacobson has purchased a pouring chalice (with a lip), a ciborium (bread receptacle, paten, and flagon (pitcher) in her memory. Congregants will come forward per usual. Two ushers holding trays of empty glasses will be stationed near the rail. Each person will take a glass and kneel or stand at the table. Congregants will receive receive the bread per usual. Wine from the chalice will be poured into their glass. The symbolism: We, of one Lord and one faith, will be drinking from the same cup. Members are encouraged to speak with Pr. Mathsen if they have questions.
 - D. We continue to collect personal hygiene items for the local food shelf during the Lenten season.
 - E. Holy Week Worship schedule
 - i. Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020,
 - 1. Elstad, 9 a.m.
 - 2. Highland Prairie, 10:30 a.m.
 - ii. Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m., Elstad
 - iii. Good Friday, April 10, 2020.
 - 1. Station of the Cross, Elstad, 10:00 a.m.
 - 2. Tenebrae, Highland Prairie, 7:00 p.m.
 - iv. Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020
 - 1. Sunrise, Highland Prairie, 7:00 a.m.
 - 2. Morning, Elstad, 9:00 a.m.
 - H. Confirmation classes are making up missed instruction during January and February prior to mid-week Lenten services.

Highland Prairie Council minutes continued...

- V. Thank you correspondence from Pr. Luther and Bobbi Mathsen for the congregation's kind remembrance of them over the Christmas holiday and in the wake of the death of Bobbi's father.
- VI. The annual congregational leader's event, RENEW: Ministry Together-Hope for a New Day, will take place at Christ Lutheran Church in Preston on Sunday, April 26, 2020, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Church council members and any other interested congregation members are encouraged to attend.
- VII. Old Business
- A. The exterior wood of the church will be restained this spring. Dean Berland will do the work.
 - B. Tim Stensgard has been looking into repair of church entrance doors. Final recommendations are forthcoming. The endowment committee has agreed to put \$4,800 toward any repair/replacement that is needed.
- VIII. WELCA's annual meatball dinner will on Sunday, April 5th. Volunteers to help serve and clean-up will be appreciated.
- IX. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Nancy Rustad made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Joyce Dahl seconded. Motion approved.
- * Then next Highland Prairie council meeting will be Sunday, April 12, 5:30 p.m. at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church.

Prayer Corner

Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Michele Thompson, Eastyn Skala, Wendy Will, Kay Howe, David Lee, Sterling Stoker, Jeff Passow, Eric Johnson, Barbara Hatlevig and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.

Elstad members: Mabel Floral is offering tri-color mums at \$12.50, lilies at \$15.00 and 8" bulb gardens at \$25.00 for Easter. Signup sheet on usher's table. Deadline to order is Sunday, April 5th!

Root River Floral of Rushford is offering Lilies and Hydrangeas at a discounted price.

Easter Lilies, 6" pot/1 plant \$16.99, 8" pot/2 plant \$39.99 and Hydrangeas 6.5" pot \$31.99. Please contact them by April 8th to place your order. (507) 864-2381

Elstad Budget for February 2020

February	\$ 6718.42
Received February	\$ 3700.00
Under for February	\$ 3018.42
Elstad YTD Budget	\$13436.84
Received YTD	\$13449.00
Over YTD	\$ 12.16

Highland Prairie Financials for February 2020

YTD Income	\$ 13168.00
YTD Expenses	\$ 16448.00
Expenses Exceeds Income	\$ 3280.00
YTD Budget	\$ 15633.00
YTD Income	\$ 12168.00
YTD Under	\$ 2465.00

APRIL 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

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

1~ Sharon Rustad
~ Cora Olson
~ Grayden Knutson
2~ Matthew Soppa
~ J.T. Rein
3~ Krisit Rein
4~ Janet Todd
5~ Taylor Thompson
~ Kylie Woxland
~ Tyler Britson
6~ Erick Berland
~ Waylon Colwell
~ Chloe Peterson
~ Amber Eide
7~ Rodney Humble
8~ Lillian Gravos
9~ Vicky Topness
~ Sarah Bacon
~ Melissa Hallum
~ Chase Bakke
~ Colin Bakke
~ Linnea Schommer

10~ Jill Halverson
~ Hudson Stensgard
11~ Gary Rustad
~ Barbara Onomija
~ Hans Lind
~ MaKenna Peterson
13~ Tim Stensgard
14~ Richard Howe
15~ Marlys Paulson
~ Kody Bearbower
~ Hattie Grant
16~ Cindy Johnson
~ Dawn Steffes
17~ Darla Rislov
18~ Leah Jacobson
19~ Carrie Kelly
20~ Casey Howe
~ Hudson Keller
21~ Sharon Boyum
~ Jennifer Klug
~ Jenna Root
~ Chealsy Eide
22~ Tyler Chiglo
23~ Erik Sievers
~ Nick Wangen
24~ Jeffery Passow
26~ Christopher Nelson
27~ Robert Nelson

28~ Paul Halverson
~ Nicole Woxland
~ Jessica Woxland
29~ Jerry Dragvold
~ Suzanne Mueller
~ Michael Lee
30~ Steven Howe
~ Elizabeth Larson



1~ Larry & Deb Topness
7~ John & Carol Overland
8~ Mark & Cindy Johnson
24~ Glenn & Sandy Thomas

APRIL 2020

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>All worship services and church activities are presently suspended, indefinitely. Go to the Facebook pages and websites of both congregations for information regarding the resumption of worship services and activities.</p>			1 Bulletin Deadline	2	3	4
5 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. HP— 10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m. *Tentative*	6	7	8 Bulletin Deadline	9 Maundy Thursday Service—7:00 p.m. @ EL *Tentative*	10 Good Friday Service— 7:00 p.m. @ HP *Tentative*	11
12 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 7:00 a.m. Service @ HP 9:00 a.m. Service @ EL *Tentative*	13	14	15 Bulletin Deadline	16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18
19 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. HP— 10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m. HP Council 5:30 p.m. *Tentative*	20	21	22 Bulletin Deadline	23	24	25
26 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. HP— 10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m. *Tentative*	27	28	29	30		

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6

Address Services Requested



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020

LENTEN SERVICE 7:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020

ACOLYTES: LINDSEY HOINESS, KRISTINA STENSGARD

READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, SHARON EHLER

GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020

ACOLYTES: KRISTINA STENSGARD, DANA DEGEORGE

READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, SCOTT BESTUL

GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS

READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, SYLVIA PASSOW

GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

ACOLYTES: LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON

READERS: LACI SIEVERS, ARLENE JOHNSON

GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET, KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN

READERS: CADEN JOHNSON, BECKY LIND

GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

ELSTAD
ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020

ACOLYTE: MAKENZIE KNUTSON

READERS: J.T. REIN, CAROLYN SMITH

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN

READERS: ALISON FREESE, TOM DYBING

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS

READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

ACOLYTE: INDY QUALY

READERS: MACKENZIE KNUTSON, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN

READERS: MICHAEL REIN, LORI BAKKE

USHERS: DAVE LAWSTUEN, JOHN OVERLAND,
TOM SMITH, DICK HAIGHT, BRAD KELLY,
DAVID WATSON