

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

*~ February 2017 ~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

*Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com—Cell: (507) 649-1650*

*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*

*Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

*Worship Schedule*

*February 2017*

*Sunday, February 5, 2017*

*8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*9:30 a.m. Sunday school*

*10:30 a.m. Elstad*

*Sunday, February 12, 2017*

*8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*9:30 a.m. Sunday school*

*10:30 a.m. Elstad*

*Sunday, February 19, 2017*

*8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*9:30 a.m. Sunday school*

*10:30 a.m. Elstad*

*Sunday, February 26, 2017*

*8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*9:30 a.m. Sunday school*

*10:30 a.m. Elstad*

*Prayer Corner*

*Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Elaine Holm, Frank Sievers, Gordon Paulson, The Family of James & Irma Wangen and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.*

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Mathsen invites all who are able to join him for Morning Prayer in the sanctuary Monday-Thursday at 9:00 AM



**Bible/Book Study**



Are you interested in an adult Bible study/book study? Please contact Pastor Luther if you would like to participate.

Highland Prairie is searching for a custodian. Interested person/persons should contact the Highland Prairie Council.

Pastor's Page

February 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

While Bobbi and I continue to look for certain items presumably packed away in one of the half-dozen boxes still waiting to be unpacked, we are well settled in the parsonage. It is a beautiful and history-laden place in which we are privileged to live.

Having gotten our feet planted on the terra firma of the parish (and with the rigor of Christmas and annual meetings in the rear view mirror), I have been thinking about critical matters of our life together. They are: 1) worship, 2) Christian education, 3) youth and family ministry, 4) mission and outreach, 5) stewardship, 6) infrastructure care and maintenance, and, 6) parish relations.

In the days, weeks, month, and years ahead, I look forward to being engaged in conversation, study, and prayer with you, corporately and individually, on these matters of our life together. And the fruit that such engagement bears will reveal who we are and to whom we belong to ourselves, to God, and to the world beyond the boundaries of our congregations and our parish.

Blessed by God....to be a blessing...to others for Jesus' sake.  
That is the point of our life together!

Your fellow sojourner in Christ,

Pr. Mathsen+

## **Faith Life Matters**

### 1) Prayer

Morning Prayer continues to be prayed Monday through Thursday at Highland Prairie Church from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. You are invited to begin your morning anchored in the Word of God and prayer with Pr. Luther and others.

### 2) Bible Study

A 3-week Bible study on the book of Colossians will be offered on the following Mondays @ 7:00 p.m., February 6, 13, & 20th. The study will be held in the parsonage. No prior Bible study experience is required. Study questions for your preparation will be offered. Please register with Pr. Mathsen by Wednesday, February 1st.

### 3) An Adult Learning Opportunity in March...

During 4 consecutive March Monday evenings (7:00 p.m.) of Lent, Pr. Mathsen will be leading a book study on the Christian classic, *The Hammer of God*, by Bo Giertz. The book's title comes from Jeremiah 23:29: "Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" Giertz was Bishop of the Diocese of Gothenberg in the Lutheran Church of Sweden. His preaching, teaching, and writing expressed his deep desire that the Word of God be shared in its fullness. He is remembered for being an outspoken apologist of the Christian faith. If you would like to participate, please inform Pr. Luther of your intention, and secure your own copy of the book. If you have questions, see Pr. Luther.

### 4) Learning for all ages on Sunday morning during Lent

Prior to Sunday the beginning of worship during Lent (8:30 or 10:30 a.m.), Pr. Mathsen will take a moment to answer to the question, "Why do we do what we do?" in regards to each rubric of our order of service. There is reason for and rhyme in our worship. Inquiring people want to know. And that is good!

### 5) Mid-school/high school youth event

On Sunday, February 5th, 3:00 p.m., the Highland Prairie/Elstad mid-high schoolers are encouraged to participate in a bowling outing at Nordic Lanes in Rushford. Youth are invited to encourage their parish peers to join us. Friends are welcome. But please: Register with Pr. Luther by Wednesday, February 1st.

**Elstad—Highland Prairie Parish Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, November 13, 2016**

1. Call to Order at 6:35 PM

2. Roll Call

Present: John Rein, Michelle Rein, Kay Wold, Chris Hoiland, Dick Haight, Tim Stensgard, Kyle Chiglo, Jodie Daniels, Kay Dahl, Becky Halverson-Lind, Jennifer Nepstad, Steve Howe and Rachel Bearbower. Absent: Sarah Bearbower.

3. A quorum was called.

4. Devotions read by Michelle Rein.

5. An item was added to the agenda.

The item was to review and discuss the secretary's salary. Michelle made the motion approve the amended agenda, seconded by Allan Skalet, motion carried.

6. Congregation members to address the council: none.

7. Pastor's Report:

A) Pastor Luther's Installation needs to be discussed with him as to his wishes.

B) Thanked the congregations for all the support received during her interim here.

8. Secretary's Report:

Michelle read the report. Lyle Meldahl made a motion to approve and Allan Skalet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. President's Report:

A) Highland Prairie President Kyle Chiglo had nothing to report.

B) Elstad President Dick Haight complimented the parish with the progress being made to parsonage to get ready for Pastor Luther.

10. Correspondence:

A) Michelle Rein shared a Thank You Note from Henrytown Lutheran Church for the contributions after the fire.

B) Kyle Chiglo had a letter from Pastor Luther, officially accepting our call.

11. Old Business:

A) The parsonage flooring upstairs have been refinished, however need to be done under the washer and dryer. Pastor Luther would like to have the downstairs painted as well. Michelle Rein made a motion to have the downstairs painted, Tim Stensgard seconded, motion passed.

B) There were additional blinds ordered for the parsonage. This was done by Gordy and Arlene Johnson. The total cost was around \$3,152. Highland Prairie WELCA would cover 60% of the cost with Elstad WELCA also contributing toward the cost. Jodie Daniels made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the blinds, motion was seconded by Steve Howe, motion carried.

C) There is an outlet upstairs in the room Pastor Luther's wife, Bobbi, would like to use for an office, which needs to be grounded. Kyle will see that it gets changed.

D) The fireplace will be replaced with a gas insert. This will be done by Pastor Luther and Bobbi. Kay Dahl made a motion to have the joint council support the gas insert replacement as it will be at Pastor Luther and Bobbi's cost, seconded by Michelle Rein, motion carried.

E) The Call Committee will be recognized with written "Thank You" notes, these will be written by Dick Haight.

12. New Business:

A) Proposed Worship Schedule for 2017 needs to be amended to reflect that a car show be held in conjunction with the August 20th Bowl Service. The rest of the schedule will need to be discussed with Pastor Luther.

B) There will be a review of the Parish Secretary's job description and salary in the new year. Allan Skalet made a motion to raise the secretary's salary to \$650 per month, motion was seconded by Jennifer Nepstad, motion carried.

13. Adjournments:

John Rein made the motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM, seconded by Dick Haight, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by Council Secretary, Rebecca Halverson—Lind.

## **Highland Prairie Church Council Minutes Sunday, November 13, 2016**

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:40 PM by Council President Kyle Chiglo.
2. Roll Call was taken with Kyle Chiglo, Chris Hoiland, Karen Bakken, Kay Dahl, Allan Skalet, Lyle Meldahl, Steve Howe, Sarah Bearbower., and Becky Halverson-Lind present. Members absent: Sarah Bearbowerpu
3. A quorum was called.
4. Devotions were given during the Parish Meeting.
5. Agenda submitted for approval. Allan made a motion to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Chris, no objections, motion carried.
6. Congregation members present: Pastor Marie AK Anderson.
7. Pastor's Report given by Pastor Marie at the Parish Meeting.
8. Secretary's Report was read by Becky. Chris made a motion to approve the Secretary's Report, seconded by Steve, motion carried.
9. Karen had previously e-mailed the Treasurer's Report to all members. Allan  
asked about the Maggelson Fund=\$20,000. Karen noted we leave it to collect money because of the high interest rate. Lyle mentioned looking into money market interest rates for better returns. There was a donation earmarked for the Sunday School Program from the Jennifer Lee Family. Kay made a motion to accept, Lyle seconded. No objections, motion carried subject to review and audit.
10. President's Report: Given at the Parish Meeting.
11. Correspondence: A request for donations from Lutheran Campus Ministries. There was discussion to budget for donations to such causes.
12. Committee Reports:
  - A) Church: Steve fixed the downspouts. Need to check expiration dates on the fire extinguishers.
  - B) Grounds Committee: Trees hopefully will be taken care of before winter. Water was shut off due to a leak, will be looked into in the spring.
  - C) Worship Committee: Look forward to meeting with Pastor Luther.
  - D) Youth and Education: The Christmas Program is coming along well.
13. Old Business: No Old Business to discuss.
14. New Business:
  - A) Three bids for rent of the Church's 40 acres were received. After some discussion as to the line items that need to be defined for next time: NPC's acreage and clearly stating proposed bid according to church's language, the three year lease was granted to Chase Bakke. Motion made by Tim and seconded by Steve, motion carried.
  - B) 2017 Budget preliminary proposal was stated that it is needed to budget for parking lot repairs at approximately \$6000 and should be added into the Grounds budget and voted on at the Annual Meeting.
  - C) Parsonage Funding for repairs, financially the budget is alright for now, however; necessary to budget for repairs and maintenance in the future.
  - D) In the need of a new custodian effective Dec.1, 2016.

E) Trees have not been removed yet, Kyle will call Norby's again.

15. Motion to adjourn made by Steve and seconded by Lyle, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Council Secretary, Rebecca Halverson—Lind.

***Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes***  
**Sunday September 11, 2016**

The meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church.

President Dick Haight called the meeting to order at 8:00pm.

Roll call with Rachel Bearbower, Kay Wold, Jodie Daniels, Dick Haight, John Rein, Michelle Rein, and Jennifer Nepstad present.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved.

There were no members present to address the council.

The secretary's report from the May 9, 2016 council meeting was given. Motion made by Jennifer, second by Rachel, to approve the minutes. Minutes approved and placed on file for review upon request.

The Treasures report was by Jennifer and placed on file for audit at a later date.

The President's report was given by Elstad president Dick Haight. He noted memorials received and the great summer joint parish services.

There was no further Pastor's report beyond what was shared during the parish meeting.

There was no correspondence.

There were no committee reports. Our water quality remains good.

There were no committee reports.

Old Business:

Tom Dybing, Rich Nepstad and John Rein are completing steeple window repairs.

Robert Knutson, Tom Dybing, and Kay Wold were nominated to the parsonage committee.

Traditionally, the Elstad Council VP has been on this committee.

New Business

Larry and Deb Topness will be stepping down from the worship planning committee so suggestions for replacements are requested. This may come from WELCA or the Life and Growth committee.

In order to make the worship service more comfortable for families with members requiring wheelchairs, it was suggested that 2 pews be modified to allow wheelchair accessibility. Motion by Kay, second by Michelle to modify 2 pews to allow wheelchair access.

Parking Lot

Fire extinguishers

Plexy glass for stain glass windows

Motion was made by John to adjourn. Second by Jennifer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Lutheran Church council secretary.

Reviewed, corrected, and approved at the November 13, 2016 Elstad Council Meeting.



# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



## **Candidacy: What is it?**

By Rev. Emily Carson  
carson@semnsynod.org

We all have unique gifts and abilities, and God calls all of us to use our time, talents, and passions in ways that reflect the love of our Creator. Some people discern that they want to serve God by becoming rostered leaders.

Within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the designation of “rostered leader” includes people who serve in a variety of environments. Rostered leaders often serve as parish pastors, but they can also live out their calling as specialized ministers and deacons in congregations, nursing homes, schools, and hospitals.

One of the core functions of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod is to partner with people who take the road that leads to rostered leadership. The process is called candidacy.

The candidacy process describes the journey of an individual from the moment he/she decides to become a rostered leader to the moment he/she is ordained. The candidacy process is a group effort and involves the ministry candidate, the seminary, and the synod’s Committee on Candidacy.

Our synod’s Committee on Candidacy is comprised of eleven individuals including lay leaders and rostered leaders. They meet periodically throughout the year to journey with ministry candidates through each of the candidacy stages as they make their way to ordination.

The two Office of the Bishop staff members most involved in the candidacy process are Mary Kay DuChene, Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation, Candidacy, and Leadership, and Kari MacIver, Executive Administrator – Candidacy and First Call Administrator.

About the life-giving nature of her work, DuChene reflects, “It is an amazing gift to listen to the faith stories of people when they begin candidacy. It reminds me every time that God is at work in the world in creative and brave ways. I appreciate the passion with which candidates talk about the gospel and ministry in general.”

MacIver finds this piece of her synod responsibilities to be energizing as well. “As the administrative support for the seminary students and the synod’s Committee on Candidacy, I get the pleasure of working directly with the students as they go through the process. I love accompanying them on this journey! It is amazing to see the growth they exhibit.”

Are you interested in rostered church leadership? Do you know someone who might be a great candidate? Are you interested in learning more about the candidacy process? DuChene believes that it is up to all of us to identify good candidates for ministry and let them know. She shares, “People need you to encourage them. Most people who are called to ministry ignore their first inklings from God. They need you to tell them you see their gifts for ministry. They need you to suggest to them that they would make a great pastor or deacon. If you feel someone has a gift for rostered ministry, tell them! And thank you for doing so!” To learn more about our synod’s candidacy process, visit <http://semnsynod.org/candidacy>. You can also contact MacIver ([maciver@semnsynod.org](mailto:maciver@semnsynod.org)) or DuChene ( [Duchene@semnsynod.org](mailto:duchene@semnsynod.org)) for additional information.

*Rev. Emily Carson serves as the Director of Communications for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.*

# FEBRUARY 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](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com)



1~ Glenn Thomas  
~ Noah Carlson  
~ Brady Stensgard  
2~ Jeff Mueller  
3~ Carol Sjarpe  
~ Paul Ryan  
~ Trent Eide  
4~ Megan Fox  
~ Kaylee Peterson  
6~ John Stadtmueller  
7~ Murton Boyum  
~ Andy Ask  
~ Delane Horning  
9~ Allan Skalet  
~ Robert Knutson  
~ Andrew Howe  
~ Courtney Dahl  
~ Cooper Hovland  
10~ Patty Olson  
13~ David Markegard

14~ Val Gudmundson  
~ Kristen Peterson  
~ Soren Eisner  
15~ Michael Halverson  
~ Emily Johnson  
~ Michael Rein  
17~ Rylee Nelson  
20~ Gerald Hallum  
21~ Truman Dahl  
~ Wayne Finnegan  
~ Sandra Kenney  
~ Erick James  
~ Ryan Maschka  
22~ Brandon Sjarpe  
~ Kenna Gudmundson  
23~ Ann Meldahl  
~ Linda Hundorf  
25~ Richard Gullickson  
~ Michelle James  
27~ Dorothy Evenson  
28~ Sharyl Bergen



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9~ Lyle & Ann Meldahl  
16~ Randy & Kari Drinkall



# February 2017

**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 9 AM Morning Prayer	2 9 AM Morning Prayer	3	4
5 Worship 8:30—HP 9:30—SS 10:30—EL Youth Group Bowling 3 PM @ Nordic Lanes, Rushford	6 9 AM Morning Prayer	7 9 AM Morning Prayer	8 9 AM Morning Prayer  <b>Bulleting Deadline</b>	9 9 AM Morning Prayer	10 9 AM Morning Prayer	11
12 Worship 8:30—HP 9:30—SS 10:30—EL  HP council meeting 5:30 PM	13 9 AM Morning Prayer	14 9 AM Morning Prayer	15 9 AM Morning Prayer  <b>Bulleting Deadline</b>	16 9 AM Morning Prayer	17  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	18
19 Worship 8:30—HP 9:30—SS 10:30—EL	20 9 AM Morning Prayer	21 9 AM Morning Prayer	22 9 AM Morning Prayer  <b>Bulleting Deadline</b>	23 9 AM Morning Prayer	24	25
26 Worship 8:30—HP 9:30—SS 10:30—EL	27 9 AM Morning Prayer	28 9 AM Morning Prayer				

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

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**HIGHLAND PRAIRIE**  
**ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2017**

ACOLYTES: TRENTEN CHIGLO, JENS LIND  
READERS: TRENTEN CHIGLO, ARLENE JOHNSON  
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017**

ACOLYTES: JENS LIND, BRADY STENSGARD  
READERS: JENS LIND, SYLVIA PASSOW  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLE

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2017**

ACOLYTES: BRADY STENSGARD, HANS LIND  
READERS: BRADY STENSGARD, BECKY LIND  
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017**

ACOLYTES: HANS LIND, TREY OLSON  
READERS: HANS LIND, SHARON EHLE  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**ELSTAD**  
**ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2017**

READER: CAROL OVERLAND

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017**

READER: GLEE CLAUSSEN

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2017**

ACOLYTE: J.T. REIN  
READERS: J.T. REIN, CAROLYN SMITH

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017**

READER: TOM DYBING

**USHERS:** MIKE CHIGLO, TOM SMITH, PHILIP  
ABRAHAMSON, JOHN ABRAHAMSON, MIKE ASK