

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
~ September 2014 ~*

*Pastor Dan Watland, Pastor Phone: (507) 864-2731 Cell: (507) 459-1141
Email: dwatland@gmail.com*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator Home: (507) 864-2086
Cell: (507) 459-5450 Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com*

Ponderings from the Parsonage....

"Pastor Dan, how are you?"

When I am asked, I can give a variety of answers depending on the situation, including the usual "just fine" that moves the conversation away from me. But there is something behind the answers I could give. You see I am filled with joy and gratitude as I serve as your pastor

The joy is not just a happiness that comes from how things are going from one day to the next. This joy I have is found in Jesus: "I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete" (John 15:11).

This joy found in Jesus is present in spite of external circumstances. Financial hardship, family squabbles, church divisions might suggest that joy would be gone. But not the joy found in Jesus. "So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

This joy is found in the mercy and grace of Jesus. This joy frees me to be grateful to the God who showers us with blessings every day. Even when things don't go as planned. Even when folks disagree with me. Even when I feel disrespected. God is there to free me to live into that joy through mutual forgiveness for each and every one of you.

One benefit of living into joy and gratitude is to be set free from the anxiety that leaves our expectations unfilled, the snarkiness that wounds our hearts, and the half-truths that might poison our relationships.

When my life flows from joy and gratitude that are found through God's grace and mercy, I can move forward with a trust and hope that God will continue to bless us in our mission together. May each of you know the blessing of joy and gratitude that we share in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Dan

ELSTAD NEWS

Elstad Prayer Partners

The reading for August 19th in Christ In Our Home, taken from 2 Corinthians, brings much to mind regarding boasting beyond our limits. August has been a month of celebration in our parish and it brings to mind a song by Andrea Crouch. To God be the Glory for the things He has Done! We wouldn't be here today were it not for the many things God has done for us, beginning in our childhood and continuing through adulthood and parish life. That is where our boast should be. As you pray for your prayer partner this month it is a good thing to give thanks for her life and what she means to our community of faith. Rejoice in the fact that she is your prayer partner and that you have this privilege of being a tiny part of her life for the past 8 months and the coming 4 months. It might be a good thing to stop and take inventory of all the beautiful people – just take a look around – and give your boast to the fact that there are no nobodies but everybody is a somebody because of our common bond which is through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Elstad WELCA

September is a “free” month for the Elstad WELCA members...of course don't forget a quilting day or two and regular Sunday worship services beginning early, early, early again. In July the officers met in front of their individual computers where we gathered to discuss the work of WELCA at Elstad. The meeting was short and everyone had a “voice” as we discussed that which has been and was to come. Thanks all around for the help at the May recognition service, the June bake sale at the Rhubarb Festival and the celebration of the 160th anniversary of the parish followed by the 2nd annual Music Festival. As people of faith we never know where we may be called to go in service. Circle the date of October 19th which is the date of our Thankoffer-ing service. There is a growing pile of quilts and blankets and kits are being prepared even as you read this message. Our next WELCA meeting will be on Sunday, November 9th after the worship service with the Leah circle presenting a devotional program of interest for us. This should also be a sort of “catch-up” on the workings of our unit. And of course our annual Christmas Tea will be Sunday, December 7th again after the worship service. Now is the time to be thinking of any changes you might desire for the year of 2015. New officers will be organizing to put together the program for the upcoming year. September is also the beginning of a new Gather Bible study in the circles. It is always good to learn more of the transformation in the lives of people in the Bible. We begin the study huge with the transformation of apostle Paul.

Elstad Budget for September

Budget for July	\$7772.50
Received for July	\$4005.00
Under for July	-\$3767.50
Budget YTD	\$54,407.50
Received YTD	44,002.00
Under YTD	-\$10,405.50

Circle Meeting

Esther circle will meet at Sylvan Park on Thursday, September 4th for our field trip to La Crosse. Meet at 10:30 a.m. and bring your Sep-tember Gather study and a few coins for lunch.

Elizabeth circle will meet on September 15th, 6:30 at Park Lane in Preston.

Thank You!

Thank you to the Sorum bothers for their donation of gravel and spreading it at Elstad. It is greatly appreciated.

Highland Prairie News

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Thrivent Choice Dollars are the charitable funds distributed by Thrivent as directed by members.

Directing your Choice Dollars to your church is a great way to support your congregation. Members often don't realize they have Choice Dollars available or that their church is enrolled and eligible to receive Choice Dollars.

You should receive notification from Thrivent asking how to direct your Choice Dollars. Funds can also be directed online www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling 1-800-847-4836.

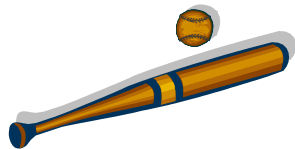
Thank you for your support.

Craft & Quilting Frolic

September 10, we will have our regular quilting day starting at 9:30 with potluck for lunch, anyone that is interested please join us, we always welcome more people.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Sharon and Chuck Ehler, Sharon Boyum and Nancy Rustad for painting the Highland Prairie Fellowship Hall.



Elstad—Highland Prairie

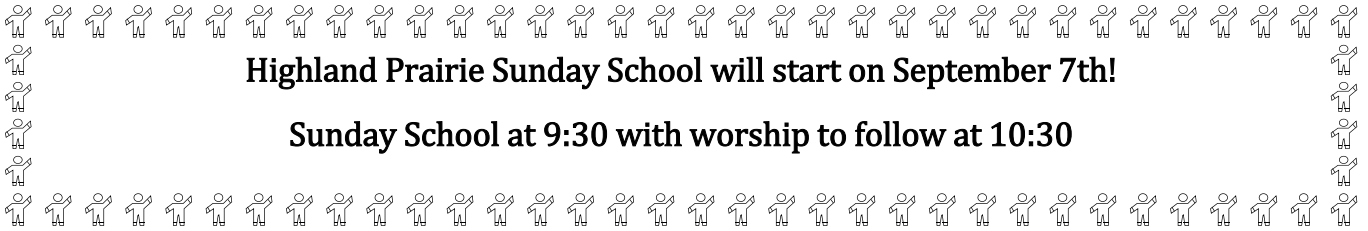
Another Vintage Baseball Game.....

How about another vintage baseball game between the Highland Prairie-Elstad Hayseeds and the Lanesboro Excelsiors? We might even be able to do a double-header with the La Crescent Apple Jacks vs the Rochester Roosters at 1:00 and the Hayseeds vs the Excelsiors at 3:00 p.m. A possible date for this World Series is Oct. 12.

Those of you that are interested in playing again and any newcomers, let me know and we'll start planning for the event and practicing. -Allan Skalet

~Good Earth Village~

YOUR LEGACY IS IMPORTANT. Good Earth Village is hosting FREE one-hour presentations on estate planning this fall. John Van Camp, Thrivent Foundation Representative, will discuss ways to develop a strategy to help ensure your legacy lives on. Please plan to attend one of the following three events, TUESDAY, September 23, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn of AUSTIN; TUESDAY, September 30, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Clarion Inn of ROCHESTER; or SATURDAY, October 11, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Good Earth Village in SPRING VALLEY. Complimentary Breakfast Included! RSVP at 507-346-2494 or info@goodearthvillage.org



Highland Prairie Sunday School will start on September 7th!

Sunday School at 9:30 with worship to follow at 10:30

The education committee (Sharon Ehler, Linda Bedney and Kristi Gudmundson) along with Sarah Bearbower and Pastor Dan met on August 11th. Sarah will be the liaison person for education and the church council. Sharon will be going off the education committee at the end of the year and we need to find out who is still on and how many years they have left to serve. Amber Eide and her family have decided to attend Rushford Lutheran and Amber is one of our education members that will need to be replaced.

Listed here are the items that were discussed –

Sunday school will start on Sept. 7th at 9:30. Children will meet their teacher and locate their room. A snack will be provided and there will be outdoor games for everyone.

We will be using the “Spark” curriculum from Augsburg for pre-school through 4th grade and the “Connect” curriculum from Augsburg for 5th through 8th grades. This curriculum follows the common lectionary where the lessons are the same for worship and the Sunday school hour.

We are hoping to have 2 teachers for each grade/grouping. We will have a pre-school room, kindergarten room, 1st/ 2nd/3rd grade room, 5th/6th grade room and a 7th/8th grade room. At this point we have no one in 4th grade. With the team teaching concept, this usually alleviates the need for substitutes. Kyle Chiglo will be involved with the 5th/6th grades, Linda Bedney and Kayla Volkman with 1st through 3rd grades, Kristi Gudmundson with one of the younger groups and Val Howe with 7th/8th grades. Contacts are still being made to fill the remaining positions.

The Christmas program will be on December 7th at 10:30. We will begin practice the first Sunday in November. That will give us 6 Sundays to practice. We will use part of the Sunday school hour for practice and part for lesson and activity time.

We are planning to have Bible presentations on Sept. 14th during the 10:30 worship.

We are hoping to be involved in the “Feed My Starving Children” cause again. Val Howe has offered to help with this event.

There are 83 kids on our class roster. Only 50% are fairly or quite active in attending. We have many children who are members but are either choosing not to attend or are attending elsewhere.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church
Special Council Meeting
August 3, 2014

A special meeting was called to order by President Gordon Johnson at 9:48 am following the worship service.

A quorum was called.

A motion was made by Jerry, second by David to offer the custodial position to the Kyle and Lisa Chiglo family at \$13.00 per hour. Motion passed.

Discussion concerning other items will be continued at the regular meeting scheduled August 10th.

Motion to adjourn by David, second by Karen. Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Submitted by:

Deb Book, Council Secretary

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
August 10, 2014

The meeting was **called to order** by President Gordon Johnson at 9:41 am following the worship service.

Roll Call:

Present: Gordon Johnson, Sarah Bearbower, Deb Book, Karen Bakken, Kaye Eiken, David Larson, Chuck Pederson, Steve Howe

Absent: Jerry Hallum, Lyle Meldahl

A **quorum** was called.

Others in attendance: Pastor Dan, Congregation member Paula Howe

Motion by Sarah, second by David to approve the **agenda**. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

A letter has been drafted to send to the confirmation families. Council members are asked to review and recommend additions or changes to the letter. A meeting is scheduled September 21st.

A handout regarding triangulation and addressing complaints was reviewed.

He will be leading a text based Bible study starting in September.

No longer have any cats to provide mice control in the parsonage and grounds.

Congregation Members wishing to address Council:

Paula Howe spoke to us about her confirmation experience. She likes confirmation with Pastor Dan and has had fun.

Secretary's Report:

The reports were read from the July 6 meeting, and the August 3 special meeting. Karen noted the outlet and switch in the rest house has not been replaced as reported. Correction made. Motion by Steve, second by Sarah to approve. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Karen reviewed the previous month and year to date income and expenses. She noted the special project envelope offering is now \$4363 and several special projects were completed and paid last month. The fee to participate in *Help My Starving Children* has been paid and a special offering will be collected at a later date to help with this expense. Parsonage expenses will be reviewed at the next parish council meeting. A motion to accept the financial report was made by David, second by Sarah. Motion passed. Report is available for review and subject to audit.

Correspondence:

Thrivent sent a packet of information encouraging members to direct their Choice Dollars.
The Good Shepherd annual "Celebrate Age" walk is September 6th.
A request for yield information has been received from Soil and Conservation.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church:

The window project which has been approved will be tabled until a decision on the design is made.
The fellowship hall was painted by Sharon and Chuck Ehler, Sharon Boyum and Nancy Rustad.
A thank you for their service as custodians will be sent to Gudmundsons.

Grounds:

The tree that fell into the bowl area has been removed.
The bowl building wall needs some reinforcement.
There will be a golf cart to assist people to the bowl area on August 17th.
Gordon Johnson will have his train to provide rides for kids on August 17th

Worship:

160th anniversary "Celebrating our Heritage" worship service in the bowl will focus on history including special guests and special music with Highland Prairie and Elstad members participating, followed by a noon meal with music in the band shell and the vintage baseball game at 2:00. A history display will be in the fellowship hall.

Thank you notes were sent to the pastors that led the July worship services.

Youth and Education:

Val Howe will be in charge of the *Feed My Starving Children* event.

Committee will meet to plan the upcoming Sunday School year.

Letter to confirmation families about the September 21st meeting will be sent. The survey previously discussed will not be sent at this time.

Council members should attend the September 21st confirmation meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

August 14th – Highland Prairie will host a rest stop for the "Bicycling Around Minnesota" group of approximately 300 riders and organizers as they tour SE Minnesota. WELCA will provide beverages and snacks for a free will donation.

The genealogy group will need secure storage for documents. *Motion by David, second by Chuck to purchase a lockable file cabinet for the documents that need to be secured. Motion passed.*

No further business.

Motion by Sarah, second by David to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, September 14th 7:00 Parish Council Meeting at Highland Prairie

Submitted by:

Deb Book, Council Secretary

Highland Prairie Financials For July

YTD Income	\$ 52,975	YTD Budget--- -----	\$ 57,033
YTD Expenses:	\$ 61,547	YTD Income-- -----	\$ 52,975
Expenses exc. Income	\$ 8,572	YTD Under--- -----	\$ 4,058

*Special Project Fund brought in \$4,363 Through July 31.



Southeastern Minnesota Synod Information:

Phone: 507-280-9457

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/semnsynod>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/semnsynod>

Website: <http://www.semnsynod.org>

As disciples of Jesus, we respond to his words of instruction and guidance. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus invites his followers to love and serve one another. "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all," he says in Mark 9:35.

This ongoing commitment to service provides the backdrop of "God's work. Our hands. Sunday." This annual event takes place on one Sunday every September throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). All 176 congregations of our synod and 10,000 congregations of our denomination are invited to participate. This year "God's work. Our hands." Sunday will be held on September 7. Steven Delzer, Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, encourages all congregations to participate: "We never know who might be touched by the Spirit as we let the love of God flow through our actions and words."

Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, reminds all families of faith that September 7 provides an intentional day to express that we are church for the sake of the world. She shares, "As you participate in the dedicated day of service, may you witness the love of God, who knows and loves each one of us."

On the morning of September 7, individual congregations are invited to worship first and then head out into the community to serve. There are endless possibilities for how this day dedicated to compassionate service might be spent.

Some congregations are choosing to partner together. In our synod, members of Grand Meadow Lutheran Church and Bear Creek Lutheran Church are teaming up for a joint venture. They will be starting off with a brief worship service followed by a morning of service projects around the community. Then they will join together at the local care center for a singalong and worship service. The day will wrap up with an ice cream social.

Rev. Beth Krolak, pastor of Grand Meadow Lutheran Church, is looking forward to the shared day of service. "It's such a great opportunity to be part of churchwide service to our neighbor...no matter where we live. Our small town can be part of something bigger on that one day, and that reminds us that we are part of something beyond our neighborhood every day."

The ELCA has put together a toolkit for congregational use. The downloadable document provides guidance related to organizing, planning, serving, and celebrating for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. A variety of success stories are also identified. To take a look at the toolkit, visit <http://www.elca.org/dayofservice>. Our synod is collecting stories about how congregations in southeastern Minnesota are celebrating on September 7. Visit our synod's website to see what other congregations are planning and to add your own: <http://semnsynod.org/gods-work-our-hands-sunday/>.

Doug Spiotta is a Diaconal Minister and member of Zion Lutheran Church in Stewartville. He participated in Zion's "God's work. Our hands." service opportunities last September and looks forward to this year. He describes last year's experience as "a true community of the Lord working in His creation for the benefit of all." May your family of faith find meaningful ways to participate in acts of service outside the church walls on September 7. It is an incredible opportunity to boldly reach beyond ourselves into a world of people God invites us to embrace.

This issue is designed for use anytime after September 1, 2014.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

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

Happy Birthday!!

2~ Norma Halverson
~ Treyten Chiglo
~ Regan Oian-Vust
4~ Naomi Wangen
5~ Aaren Dahl
~ Aubrey Wiley
6~ Julia Jacobson
~ Brenda Markegard
~ Shannon Rislov
~ Gabriel Becker
7~ Gordon Johnson
~ Todd James
~ Sara Bakkum
~ Sara Johnson
~ Kayla Rislov
~ Kaleb Kendhammer
8~ Carl Lawstuen
~ Richard Koop
9~ Maynard Rustad
~ Mark Lee
~ Bobbie Jo Eide
~ Trenten Chiglo
10~ Dennis Knutson
~ John Rein
11~ Susan Lind
~ Troy Storhoff
12~ Curtis Wangen
~ Larissa Ryan
13~ Timothy Johnson

~ Tonya Mensink
~ Kristina Stensgard
14~ Kristin Overland
~ Ryan Feine
15~ Gordon Gulbranson
~ Tyler Drinkall
16~ Lori Hundorf
17~ Gordon Gullickson
~ Lucas Gravos
18~ Marion Dahl
~ Michele Thompson
~ Hale Stensgard
~ Adalynn Quandt
19~ Cayden Lee
20~ Andrew Lee
~ Aubrey Daniels
21~ Gabriel Dybing
22~ Lyle Meldahl
23~ Doreen Semmen
~ Bonnie Hallum
~ Carol Dybing
~ Adam Kopperud
24~ John Overland
~ Ryan Jacobson
25~ Jerry Kopperud
26~ Russ Stadtmueller
~ Derek Dahl
~ Kayla Bakkum
~ Jordan Markegard
27~ Dick Lawstuen
~ Jill Quandt
28~ Gene Wangen
~ Jamie Wiley

~ Emma Eide
29~ Terry Blagsvedt
~ Jason Yontz
~ Mabel Thomas
30~ Kendall Bakkum
~ Corey Woxland
~ Erika Wangen
~ Katherine Halverson
~ Andrew Hoiness

Happy Anniversary!!

2~ Alex & Andrea Mierau
4~ Dave & Debbie Lawstuen
~ Charles & Sharon Ehler
6~ Marv & Carol Eggert
~ Gerrad & Amber Eide
10~ Nick & Sarah Wangen
11~ Brain & Sarah Paulson
14~ Jerry & Dorothy Evenson
~ William & Doreen Semmen
~ Bob & Paula Brand
~ Tom & Carol Dybing
15~ Mike & Norine Ask
16~ Dick & Diane Haight
17~ Myron & Phylliss Passow
23~ Christopher & Ann Hoiland
~ Elvin & Marlys Paulson
25~ Richard & Thora Lombard
~ Leigh & Kayla Volkman
27~ Gene & Vicky Topness
30~ Val & Mary Gudmundson

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bulletin Deadline	4 Esther Circle 10:30 a.m.	5	6
7 EL 8:30 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m.	8	9	10 Bulletin Deadline	11	12	13 Quilt & Craft Frolic 9:30 a.m.
14 EL 8:30 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m. Parish Council meeting @ HP 7:00 p.m.	15 Elizabeth Circle 6:30 p.m.	16	17 Bulletin Deadline	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
21 EL 8:30 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m.	22	23	24 Bulletin Deadline	25	26	27
28 EL 8:30 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m.	29	30				

*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, September 7, 2014

Acolytes: Hans Lind, Jack Kopperud
Readers: Hans Lind, Sylvia Markegard
Greeters: Gordon & Arlene Johnson

Sunday, September 14, 2014

Acolytes: Jack Kopperud, Paula Howe
Readers: Jack Kopperud, Scott Bestul
Greeters: Jerry & Shannon Kopperud

Sunday, September 21, 2014

Acolytes: Paula Howe, Collen Dahle
Readers: Paula Howe, Michele Thompson
Greeters: Lyle & Ann Meldahl

Sunday, September 28, 2014

Acolytes: Collen Dahle, Peyton Hoiness
Readers: Collen Dahle, David Larson
Greeters: Sharon & Paul Ehler

Elstad Acolyte/Reader/Ushers

Sunday, September 7, 2014

Acolyte: Chris Freese
Reader: Glee Clausen

Sunday, September 14, 2014

Reader: Peter Holm

Sunday, September 21, 2014

Acolyte: Kody Bearbower
Reader: John Overland

Sunday, September 28, 2014

Reader: Gene Topness

Ushers: Mike Ask, Robert Knutson, Jeff Freese, Jerry Evenson, Wayne Finnegan, John Smith