

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

*~ April 2024 ~*

*Pastor, Jackie Short*

*Phone (507) 517-0769 ~ Email: [pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com)*

*Church Office Phone: (507) 864-2731*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator ~ Email: [elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com](mailto:elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com)*

**April Worship Schedule**

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Elstad—9:00 a.m.**  
**Highland Prairie—10:30 a.m.**

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1—2:2

John 20:19-31

**Sunday, April 14, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Elstad—9:00 a.m.**  
**Highland Prairie—10:30 a.m.**

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Elstad—9:00 a.m.**  
**Highland Prairie—10:30 a.m.**

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Elstad—9:00 a.m.**  
**Highland Prairie—10:30 a.m.**

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

+++

# Pastors Corner

APRIL 2024

## Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The joyous refrain of Easter resounds once again, filling our hearts with hope, renewal, and the promise of new life. As we gather in worship and in fellowship to celebrate this holiest of seasons, let us pause to reflect on the profound significance of Christ's resurrection and its transformative power in our lives.

Easter is not merely a commemoration of past events. It is a living reality that continues to shape our faith and inspire us to embrace the fullness of God's love. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are invited into a journey of renewal—a journey marked by grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

In the midst of life's trials and tribulations, Easter reminds us that darkness does not have the final word. Just as Christ emerged victorious from the tomb, so too are we invited to rise above our own challenges and embrace the light of God's presence in our lives.

As we rejoice in the resurrection, let us also remember those who are still grappling with doubt, despair, and uncertainty. May we extend the hope and healing of Easter to all who are in need, offering compassion, support, and solidarity in their time of need.

This Easter, let us recommit ourselves to the values of justice, mercy, and peace that lie at the heart of the Christian message. In a world marred by division and strife, may we be the agents of reconciliation and instruments of God's love, working tirelessly to build a more just and compassionate society for all people.

As we gather around the table of the risen Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of salvation and the promise of eternal life. May the joy of Easter fill our hearts and homes, uniting us in faith, hope, and love now and always.

Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

In Christ's love, Pr. Jackie Short



## Prayer Corner

*Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Sharon Ehler, Emily Charlebois, Scott Bestul, Julian Highum, Mark Johnson, Eldon Dahl, Marilyn Soland, Robert Knutson, Sharon Knutson and all others who are ill or in need of our prayers.*

April is here again. This is the first of two month (April & November) that the Elstad congregation remembers world hunger. This year the ELCA World Hunger will realize 50 years of world hunger ministry. ELCA World Hunger works in communities in 64 countries—including the United States and reports that as many as 828 million people world wide live in hunger. The challenge is huge. Any helpful donations may be placed in the offering plates marked for world hunger and thank you for your support of this ministry.

The Highland Prairie WELCA will be having a meatball dinner on April 14th, 11:00—1:00 p.m. We are asking for everyone to volunteer with signing up for jobs and donating food items. This is WELCA's biggest fund raiser of the year, and we are hoping for a wonderful turnout.

Meatball Dinner Menu: meatballs, real mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, assorted salads, assorted desserts, pickles, bun, lefse and beverage. Adults \$12, children 6 –12 \$6, under 6 FREE. Carry outs are available.



# NOTES



### **A note from your parish secretary:**

**Here we go... in an amends to help us all have effective communication we have set up a new email address for the parish office ([elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com](mailto:elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com)); the old address will be checked daily until April 30th. Going forward please use the Gmail account.**

**In order to keep newsletters, bulletins, and council agenda's out in a timely manner we will be abiding by the deadlines posted in the monthly newsletter.**

**\* Bulletin deadline will be Wednesday by 3:00 p.m.**

**\* Agenda deadline for council meeting will also be the Wednesday before by 3:00 p.m.**

**\* Newsletter deadline will be the 19th of the month by 3:00 p.m.**

**Office hours: Monday afternoons after 3:00 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.**

**Thank you all for your patience during this time of transition.**

If you have a unfinished project or two join us on **April 19th & 20th** at Highland Prairie for the **Quilting & Craft Frolic!** The fun starts at 8:00 a.m. on Friday April 19th & continues on Saturday **8- 4:00pm**

**There is no registration fee just bring a dish to add to the potluck!** We will take a free will donation to cover the cost of the use of the fellowship hall. Grab your friends and join the Party!

**I SUFFER FROM M.P.D.**  
**MULTIPLE PROJECT DISORDER**  
**ALL crafting disorders are welcomed, scrapbookers, stampers, quilters, collectors, knitters & even finishers are WELCOME!**

**NORTH PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual**



**MEATBALL DINNER**

**“DINE-IN” OR “DRIVE-THRU”**

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**  
 Serving 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

**SERVING:** Meatballs, real mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, salad, rolls, bars, and beverage.



**TICKETS:** All Carry-outs OR Adults - \$ 13.00  
 Children under 12 - \$ 6.00, Under 6 - Free

Come in, enjoy dinner with friends. OR Drive up. We'll take your order and deliver it to you in your car.

**35957 State Hwy 30, Lanesboro, MN**



**FUNDS raised will support food shelves!**

**What CONCERT**  
**TRAMPOLINES**  
 WITH **BREAKFREE DANCE CREW MINISTRIES**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2024**  
**WYKOFF COMMONS GYM, WYKOFF MN**  
**DOORS OPEN @ 6 PM; CONCERT @ 7 PM**  
**FREE ADMISSION, FOOD AND GAMES**

FREE T-SHIRTS FOR THE FIRST 100 PEOPLE!

WHAT.CONCERT  
 WHATCONCERTS  
 WHATCONCERT@YAHOO.COM

SHARE IT WITH A FRIEND!



## Name the Newsletter

Our Parish Newsletter needs a name!

Put your thinking cap on help us find a name!

Send your ideas to the new parish email:  
elstahighlandprairieparish@gmail.com

Please put Newsletter Name in the subject line.

We will vote on the submitted entries in May

## Office Hours

**If you want to set up a time to meet with me, I am happy to add you to my calendar. Starting in April I will try to be in the office on Mondays 12-5 & Wednesdays 8-12 however I can arrange to be there whenever it works for you. Please feel free to give me a call or send me an email to set up a time to visit.**

## Bible Study & Circles

### Highland Prairie

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3  
BIBLE STUDY AT 1:30**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10  
DO DAY, 9:00 A.M  
FOLLOWED BY  
FELLOWSHIP AND A  
POTLUCK MEAL.**

### Elstad

**Esther Circle** - 2nd Thursday of the Month Meets 9:30

**Leah Circle** - Meets on 2nd Tuesday of the Month Meets in Lansboro @ 2:00

**Elizabeth Circle** - 2nd Wednesday at Park Lane in Preston @ 8:30

**Bible Study** - Meets at Bethlehem in Lansboro on Monday @ 9:30

## Highway Clean up

**APRIL 6 ~ 10-12**

**We will gather at the Church @ 10 am to get our supplies and then we will head out together to work on picking up the ditch and the side of the highway.**

**We will return to the church at 12 to have a pizza lunch.**

**\*\*\* parents, friends, siblings are welcome to join us as well the more hands we have the quicker the work.**

## Elstad—Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Elstad Lutheran Church

The meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church with Elstad's president, Gene Topness calling the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Roll call was taken. David Markegard, Sharon Ehler, and Mike Pepin were absent. A quorum was called.

Others present: Pastor Jackie Short

Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve the agenda made by Val Howe, seconded by Mary Gudmundson. Motion carried.

Devotions read by Pastor Jackie.

**Congregation members present to address the council:** None

**President's report:** Elstad council president Gene Topness welcomed new members to the Elstad—Highland Prairie councils—Tanya Wolfs (Elstad council secretary) and Kristi Gudmundson (Highland Prairie trustee). No additional president's report at this time.

**Pastor's Report:** Overall, Pastor Jackie feels things are going well. She has enjoyed connecting with people from both congregations whenever invited to do so. She has attended Bible studies, a quilting gathering and circle meeting. She feels very connected already and is excited to see where the future takes us. Looking ahead, Pastor Jackie would really like to get a joint youth group between parishes organized this summer. The group could participate in service events and fellowship gatherings rotating at each church. She would also like to give the youth more exposure to how each church worships and their traditions. She would love to see high school students participate more in the service and will work on getting participation in acolyting and reading.

**Correspondence received:** None

**Old business/committee reports:** None

**New business:**

### 1. Sunday's and Seasons

- A. Pastor Jackie requested a yearly subscription to Sunday's and Seasons, an online worship planning tool.
- B. The annual subscription is \$549. Jennifer Nepstad made a motion to purchase the subscription and share the cost between parishes. Amber Arends seconded. Motion Carried.

### 2. New parish email address

- A. The new parish email address is [elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com](mailto:elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com).
- B. Both Pastor Jackie and the parish secretary will have access to this account and will check it daily. You can also reach Pastor Jackie directly at [pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com).

### 3. Permissions/procedures

- A. Pastor Jackie asked about the procedures for submitting expenses for reimbursement. The council agreed if it is a major purchase (\$500+), it would need prior approval. Otherwise, she is free to purchase needed supplies and submit for reimbursement.

B. Pastor Jackie also asked permission for planting flowers and a vegetable garden around the parsonage. The council agreed she is free to garden as she wishes around the parsonage.

4. Administrative updates

A. Color copies—The total number of copies being printed at the church office does not add up to what we are being charged for by the copy company. Pastor Jackie isn't sure why and is working with the copy company on what may be causing the discrepancy.

B. Pastor Jackie will conduct staff review/check-in at the end of March or early April to identify gaps, as well as address issues/concerns and how to best resolve them.

5. Offering procedures

A. Pastor Jackie would like to implement a safe money-handling standard operating procedure (SOP) for the treasurer and volunteers that count the offering each week. It is best practice that can set us up for the future when our treasurers and volunteers turn over, or when they are gone on a particular Sunday.

B. Pastor Jackie will work with the council treasurers to write up the SOP and bring it to the next joint council meeting for review/approval.

The secretary's report was given. Motion to approve by Mary Gudmundson, seconded by Jennifer Nepstad. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Amber Arends, seconded by Christopher Nelson. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next joint council meeting is at Highland Prairie on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Tanya Wolfs, Elstad council secretary.

**Highland Prairie Financials for February 2024**

YTD Income	\$ 12,738
YTD Expenses	\$ 11,552
Income Exceeds Expenses	\$ 1,186
YTD Budget	\$ 18,584
YTD Income	\$ 12,738
YTD Under	\$ 5,846

**Elstad Financials for February 2024**

Elstad budget for February	\$8407.00
Received February	\$ 4622.00
Under February	\$ 3785.00
Elstad Budget YTD	\$ 16814.00
Received YTD	\$ 15975.00
Under YTD	\$ 839.00

## Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Elstad Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Gene Topness at 7:24 p.m.

Roll call: All members were present. A quorum was called.

Meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Jackie.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Amer Arends, seconded by Krissy Overland. Motion carried.

**Congregational member present to address the council:** None

**President's report:** No additional president's report at this time.

**Pastor's Report:** In her short time with us, Pastor Jackie is getting up to speed on Elstad's ministries, traditions and congregations. Right now she has a lot of questions and inquiries about these things. She spoke with the musicians at both churches to discuss music and liturgy settings. Her hope is to receive input from both Elstad and Hp musicians in order to work together to plan music selections. Pastor Jackie asked if Elstad has a confirmation policy. She would like to expand the program from 2 years to 3 years, offering her more time to develop a relationship with the confirmands and rally focus on the 3 pillars: education, discipleship/Bible, and service. Jennifer Nepstad advised her to bring the plan to the next joint council meeting for a vote. Pastor Jackie is working on putting together a list of committees and contact information for current leaders in each area of ministry.

**Correspondence received:** President Gene Topness shared a thank you card from Pastor Pete Reuss.

### Old business:

- Christopher Nelson will contact Yoder's Masonry to follow-up on the bell tower tuckpointing bid.
- Christopher will also contact Jason Drogemuller about repairing the church/steeple roof.

### New business:

- The church is planning to do a drive-thru meal again this year. More details to come as date and details are finalized.
- The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering is July 16-20 in New Orleans. Thea Arends, Jewels Lidke, and Amber Arends will be going with a group of area congregations.
- Easter Egg Hunt will be at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 30th at Elstad. Coffee, juice, and rolls will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Kathy Abrahamson motioned to accept, seconded by Krissy Overland. Motion carried. The report will be placed on file for audit at a later date.

The secretary's report was given. Motion to approve was made by Amber Arends, seconded by Krissy Overland. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Krissy Overland to adjourn, seconded by Amber Arends. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Tanya Wolfs, council secretary

## Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

March 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President Kyle Chiglo.

Council Members present were Robert Anfinson, Karen Bakken, Kyle Chiglo, Kristi Gudmundson, Mary Gudmundson,

Steve Howe, and Val Howe. David Markegard and Mike Pepin were absent.

Kyle Chiglo led us in prayer.

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

No congregation members present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. The year-to-date information provided was income of \$12,738.00

expenses \$11,552.00; Income exceeds expenses by \$1,186.00. A motion to approve as presented was made by Val Howe, Mary Gudmundson seconded. Motion carried.

No President's Report

Pastor's Report given by Pastor Jackie Short regarding some "housekeeping" items, offering return to passing the plates, council devotion sign-up, office hours – generally available, call to schedule a specific appointment.

Correspondence: Synod and Good Shepherd Lutheran Delegate meeting notice.

Committee Reports: Church – Dehumidifier with hose needed for lower-level Sunday School wing, reminder that for the air handling system to work properly all doors in the Sunday school wing should be closed when not in use.

Grounds Committee – Reminder Clean Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th 9:00 a.m. perennials will be needed for rock garden by parsonage.

Worship committee – Needs to meet with Pastor Jackie.

Youth and Education Committee – Needs to meet.

Old Business: None

New Business: Groundskeeping safety plan concerns were addressed and discussion led to requesting the Grounds

Committee develop procedures to include communication needs. Discussion included other areas where procedures should be put in place also.

HP Council minutes continued onto the next page.



Continued HP Council minutes:

Use of stone from old church foundation was discussed.

Worship service recordings were discussed and other options for a way to and/or have a substitute are being looked at.

Resignation of Sharon Ehler, due to moving out of state, was received. This becomes effective May 1, 2024 and a replacement until her term ends in January 2025 will need to be brought forward to Council.

Having Council Agendas available to council members and the congregation prior to meeting dates was discussed.

Council meeting change for April to the 2nd due to the meatball dinner was made by Val Howe, Steve Howe seconded. Motion carried.

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve was made by Val Howe, Sharon Ehler seconded. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 2:45 p.m. was made by Kristi Gudmundson, Karen Bakken seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next Meeting is April 21st following the 10:30 worship service.

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES:

[pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com) for Pastor Jackie Short

[elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com](mailto:elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com) for Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary

## Highland Prairie Grounds



**For the last couple of years we have been working on cleaning up brush and trimming dead branches off of the trees in the bowl. I am sorry for the smoke. We will not be burning anymore due to the burn ban . We have also been cleaning brush along the property lines and taking up old fence and putting three wires back up. So far seven trees have been planted on the grounds! If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please call Steve Howe (507-475-5460)**

**\*\*\* Grounds Clean up day May 18th**

# 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@yahoo.com](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@yahoo.com)



- 11 ~ Gary Rustad
- ~ Barbara Onomija
- ~ Hans Lind
- ~ Makenna Peterson
- 13 ~ Tim Stensgard
- 14~ Richard Howe
- 15~ Marlys Paulson
- ~ Kody Bearbower
- 16~ Cindy Johnson
- ~ Dawn Steffes
- ~ Elinor Schleper
- 18 ~ Leah Jacobson
- 20 ~ Casey Howe
- ~ Hudson Keller
- 21 ~ Sharon Boyum
- ~ Jennifer Klug
- ~ Jenna Root
- 22 ~ Chealsy Eide
- ~ Tyler Chiglo
- 23~ Erik Sievers
- ~ Nick Wangen
- 24~ Jeffery Passow
- 25~ Mason Yonts
- 27~ Robert Nelson
- ~ Matthew James
- 28~ Paul Halverson
- ~ Nicole Woxland
- ~ Jessica Woxland
- 29~ Jerry Dragvold
- ~ Michael Lee
- ~ Kassie Woxland
- 30~ Steven Howe
- ~ Elizabeth Larson



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

- 1~ Sharon Rustad
- ~ Zoey Rein
- ~ Cora Olson
- ~ Grayden Knutson
- 2 ~ Matthew Soppa
- ~ J.T. Rein
- 3 ~ Kristi Rein
- 4 ~ Janet Todd
- 5 ~ Taylor Thompson
- ~ Kylie Woxland
- 6~ Amber Eide
- ~ Erick Berland
- ~ Shelby Nelson
- ~ Waylon Colwell
- ~ Chloe Peterson
- 7 ~ Rodney Humble
- 8~ Lillian Gravos
- ~ Timothy Knutson
- 9~ Vicky Topness
- ~ Sarah Bacon
- ~ Melissa Hallum
- ~ Chase Bakke
- ~ Colin Bakke
- ~ Adeline Hungergolt
- 10~ Jill Halverson
- ~ Hudson Stensgard
- ~ Clayton Hungerholt

# April 2024

*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
	<i>1</i> Bible study @ Bethlehem in Lanesboro 9:30 a.m.	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> HP WELCA Bible study 1:30 p.m. Bulletin deadline 3:00 p.m.	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> <i>Highway clean-up 10-12</i>
<i>7</i> EL—9:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.	<i>8</i> Bible study @ Bethlehem in Lanesboro 9:30 a.m.	<i>9</i> Leah Circle 9:00 a.m.  <i>Conference/ Pastor's mtg. @ HP</i>	<i>10</i> HP WELCA Do Day—9:00 a.m.  Elizabeth circle 8:30 a.m. at Park Lane Bulletin deadline 3:00 p.m.	<i>11</i> Esther Circle 9:00 a.m.	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> EL—9:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.  Meatball Dinner @ HP 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	<i>15</i> Bible study @ Bethlehem in Lanesboro 9:30 a.m.	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Council agenda deadline 3:00 p.m.  Bulletin deadline 3:00 p.m.	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> HP Quilting & Craft Frolic 8:00 —?  Newsletter Deadline 3 p.m.	<i>20</i> HP Quilting & Craft Frolic 8:00—4:00  Trampolines Concert 6 p.m.
<i>21</i> EL—9:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m. HP Council mtg. after worship service	<i>22</i> Bible study @ Bethlehem in Lanesboro 9:30 a.m.	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>   Bulletin deadline 3:00 p.m.	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> EL—9:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.	<i>29</i> Bible study @ Bethlehem in Lanesboro 9:30 a.m.	<i>30</i>				

*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, APRIL 7, 2024

ACOLYTE: BENJAMIN RYAN, COLTON HORNING  
READERS: BENJAMIN RYAN  
GREETERS:

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

ACOLYTE: COLTON HORNING, TAHVEN PEPIN  
READERS: COLTON HORNING  
GREETERS:

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

ACOLYTE: TAHVEN PEPIN, BRODY GELLERSEN  
READERS: TAHVEN PEPIN  
GREETERS:

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

ACOLYTE: BRODY GELLERSEN, MATHEW GUDMUNDSON  
READERS: BRODY GELLERSEN  
GREETERS:

ELSTAD  
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

ACOLYTE:  
READERS:  
GREETERS:

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

ACOLYTE:  
READERS:  
GREETERS:

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

ACOLYTE:  
READERS:  
GREETERS:

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

ACOLYTE:  
READERS:  
GREETERS:

USHERS: JOHN & CAROL OVERLAND