

NOVEMBER 2026

Two Churches, One Faith

Rooted Together: Elstad–Highland Prairie Parish

Pastor: Rev. Jackie Short ~ (507) 517-0769 ~pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@ gmail.com
Parish Administrator: Courtney Lee
Parish Office: (507) 864-2731 ~ elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com

Highland Prairie Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Office Hours

Pr. Jackie: Thursday & by appointment.
Courtney Lee: Sundays 12-2p & by appointment.
Please call or email to schedule a time.

Elstad Sunday Worship 9:00 am

A MESSAGE FROM THE EHP PARISH OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR COURTNEY LEE

As we turn the calendar to November, I can hardly believe how quickly this year has flown by! It seems like we were just welcoming summer, and now we are preparing for Thanksgiving and looking ahead to the Advent and Christmas season.

November is a wonderful time to slow down, reflect, and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Here at Elstad–Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish, we have so much to be thankful for. From our dedicated volunteers and Sunday School teachers to those who help with worship, prepare meals, care for our church buildings, and lend a helping hand wherever needed, each of you plays an important part in keeping our parish going.

I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has given their time, talents, and financial support throughout the year. Whether your contribution is big or small, please know that it matters and is appreciated.

As we approach the busy holiday season, I encourage everyone to find a little time to reconnect with one another, lend a helping hand, and remember the true meaning of the season. Sometimes the smallest acts of kindness make the biggest difference.

Please continue to watch your bulletins, newsletters, and our Facebook page for upcoming events, worship opportunities, and ways to get involved. There is always something happening within our parish, and we would love for you to be a part of it!

Finally, I want to say how grateful I am to be a part of this parish. It is a blessing to work alongside so many wonderful people who care deeply about their churches and communities.

Wishing you and your families a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving! May your hearts be filled with gratitude, your homes with love, and your days with God's many blessings.

With gratitude and blessings,
Courtney Lee, Parish Administrator

PASTORS CORNER

There is something special about being part of a community. It is found in the familiar faces that greet us on Sunday morning, the helping hands that show up when something needs to be done, the meals prepared, the prayers offered, the laughter shared, and the quiet ways people care for one another.

As I think about our congregations, I am reminded that gratitude is about more than saying thank you. It is about recognizing the gifts God has placed around us and taking time to appreciate the people who make our community what it is.

We have much to be thankful for. We are blessed with people who give their time, share their talents, volunteer their hands, support our ministries, care for our neighbors, and faithfully show up. Sometimes these gifts are easy to see. Other times, they happen quietly behind the scenes, without much recognition. But every act of kindness, every prayer, every conversation, and every willingness to serve makes a difference.

Community isn't built in one big moment. It is built in the little things we do together, day after day. It grows when we celebrate one another's joys, carry one another through difficult seasons, welcome new faces, encourage our children and youth, and remember that we are better together than we are alone.

The apostle Paul reminds us in **1 Thessalonians 5:18,** "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Giving thanks in all circumstances doesn't mean that everything is easy or that we don't experience challenges, grief, or uncertainty. It means that even in the midst of life's ups and downs, we can recognize God's presence and the blessings found in one another.

As we move into this season of thanksgiving, I encourage you to take a moment to look around. Notice the people sitting beside you. Think about the hands that serve, the hearts that care, and the many ways God is at work among us. Perhaps take a moment to tell someone thank you. A simple word of appreciation can mean more than we realize.

I am grateful for this community, for the ways you care for one another, for your willingness to serve, and for the many ways you share God's love with our neighbors. May we continue to be a community rooted in gratitude, strengthened by faith, and connected by love. And may we never forget that one of God's greatest gifts to us is each other.

With gratitude,

Pr. Jackie Short

Parish Happenings

Birthdays

1: Tiffany Humble, Sadie Neigum
2: Kenny Bakkum, Kelsie Woxland
3: Darlys Storhoff
4: Sylvia Markegard, Doug Lind, Shelly Stensgard
5: Nolan Short
6: Kaye Eiken
9: Tim Dahl, Seth Humble
10: Becky Lind
11: Randy Drinkall
13: Cody Ryan, Crystal Soppa, Mason Wolfs
15: Finn Christian
17: Dana DeGeorge
19: Adam Daniels, Grant DeGeorge
21: Eric Howe
22: Gordon Claussen, Peyton Hoiness, Caden Johnson
23: Adam Overland
25: Margo Aakre
26: Katrina James
27: Jennifer DeGeorge, Emarie Jacobson
28: Kasey Anderson, Sandy Thomas, Aric Stensgard, Kainen Klug
29: Curtis Gudmundson
30: Ben Ryan

Anniversaries



6: David & Cindy Howe
6: Corey & Nicole Woxland
14: Tyler & Morgan Knutson
22: Megan Neptstad-Fox & Michael Fox
26: Michael & Jill Halverson
27: Gary & Nancy Rustad

We love to celebrate with you, if we have missed somebody's Birthday or Anniversary, please email the church office so we can add them to the list!



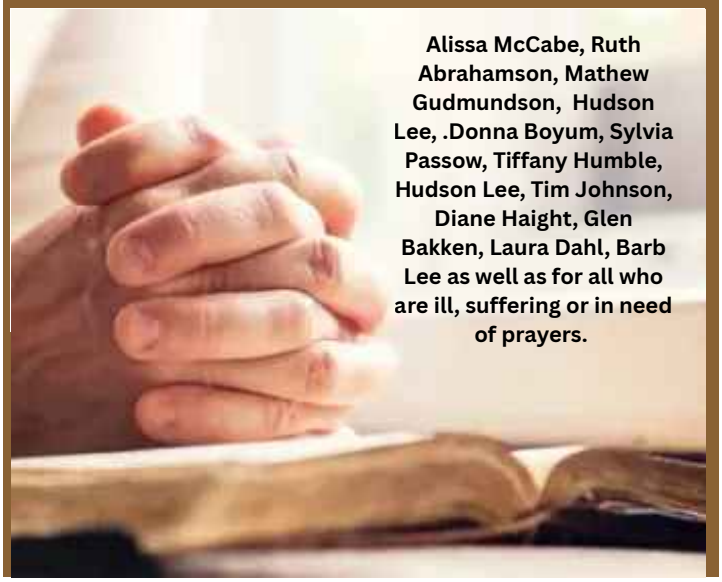
Council Meetings ...

November Joint Council Meetings @ Elstad

Sunday November 22nd
Highland Prairie Council Meeting: 4:30 pm
Parish Meeting: 5:30 pm
Elstad Council Meeting: 6:30pm



In our Prayers



Alissa McCabe, Ruth Abrahamson, Mathew Gudmundson, Hudson Lee, .Donna Boyum, Sylvia Passow, Tiffany Humble, Hudson Lee, Tim Johnson, Diane Haight, Glen Bakken, Laura Dahl, Barb Lee as well as for all who are ill, suffering or in need of prayers.

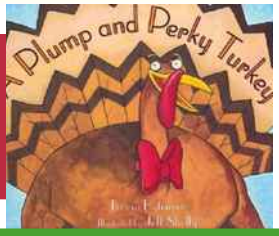
Parish Continued...

Makers & Meal's invites you to meet us at the Rushford Public Library this Fall!!

Makers & Meal's

We are moving inside the Library!!! Starting in October you are invited to join us on the Second Saturday of the month @10:30 am for a story, snack and of course a CRAFT!!!

November 14th @ 10:30am





🎄 HELP US WRAP A CHILD IN LOVE! 🎄

We are making Christmas, Winter, and Juvenile-themed quilts for the Childhood Cancer Christmas Party—and we would love your help!

🧵 Ways you can be part of this outreach ministry:

✨ Sew a quilt using one of our available patterns.
✨ Pick up one of the quilt kits we have prepared.
✨ Donate fabric, supplies, or funds to help make more quilts.
✨ Share your time and talents to bring comfort and joy to children and families facing childhood cancer.

This will be an ongoing outreach ministry, with a goal of making **100 quilts each year!**
Every quilt is a gift of love, warmth, and hope.
Whether you sew, donate, or lend a helping hand, you can be part of making a difference.
❤️ Let's wrap children in love—one quilt at a time!

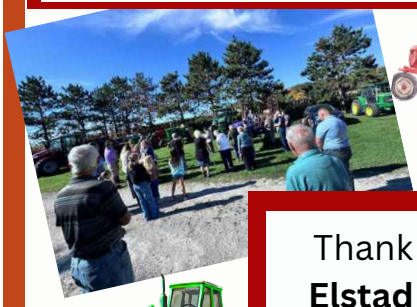
Contact Pastor Jackie for the pattern, quilt kit, or more information about how you can help.



Thank you to Josh Dahl, Colby Lind and Mitch Paulson for helping supply tractors to transport everyone from Highland Prairie to Elstad on Drive your tractors to church.















Thank you to everyone at **Elstad** that help to supply the meal after the October 11th combined service! What a Fantastic Day! We couldn't ask for a better day for a beautiful tractor ride, wonderful worship and even better fellowship!

November Ministry: Holiday Meal & Baking Items

Help us share the warmth of the holiday season!

This November, our Monthly Ministry collection will focus on holiday meal and baking items to help bring a little extra joy to families during the holidays.

- stuffing mixes
- instant potatoes
- gravy packets
- canned vegetables
- cranberry sauce

















- cake and brownie mixes
- frosting
- flour
- sugar
- other holiday baking essentials



Pie & Prayers

Join us for a special **"Pies and Prayers"** worship service as we gather to give thanks for God's goodness and the blessings of community.

After worship, we'll share fellowship and homemade pie together!



When: Wednesday November 25 @ 6:30pm

Where: Highland Prairie

Bring a friend!

We'll give thanks, lift up our prayers, and enjoy a sweet time together.

All are welcome.

There is always room at our table.



Fill our hearts with kindness and compassion. Help us to see the needs of others and share Your love through our words and actions. Remind us that even the smallest act of kindness can make a big difference. May we be a blessing to those around us and shine Your light wherever we go.
In Jesus' name, Amen.



Sylvia Passow extends her heartfelt thank you for all the kindness and care, food, cards, prayers & prayer shawl and visits. She is healing "amazingly well"

Dear Church Family,
I can't thank you enough for your support since my colon cancer diagnosis. Your kindness helped guide my family through a difficult time. The prayers, meals, cards, gift cards, money to help with expenses, texts, and visits following my surgery were greatly appreciated!

With love and gratitude,
Tiffany Humble

BUCKETS OF BLESSINGS

Keep those Blessings Comming!!

Our Buckets of Blessings are still filling, and every little bit continues to make a difference! If you have a bucket at home, keep it going! Toss in your spare change, an extra dollar or two, or an intentional gift whenever you can. When your bucket is full, simply bring it back to church and empty it into the large Buckets of Blessings pail up front—then take your bucket home and start filling it again!



Confirmation Parents!!! Be sure to check sign up to bring a meal for confirmation. **Parish memebers** you can help too! If you would like to help feed the youth you can supply a meal or help fill our freezers with frozen pizzas.

Confirmation

Our confirmation year is off and running, and it has been wonderful to see our young people gathering, learning, asking questions, and growing together in faith!

This year we have 20 students beginning or continuing their confirmation journey. With a group this size, we are spending time getting to know one another, building relationships, and discovering what it means to be part of the body of Christ. After all, faith is not something we are meant to figure out or live out alone. We grow together!

Throughout the year, we will explore Scripture, learn about our Lutheran faith and traditions, ask some big questions, and discover how God's story connects with our own stories. We will also spend time talking about what it means to live out our faith through service, worship, and caring for our neighbors.

One of my hopes for this group is that confirmation becomes more than a Wednesday evening activity or a series of lessons to complete. I hope it becomes a place where friendships grow, questions are welcomed, faith is strengthened, and young people discover that they have a place in this community and an important role in God's work in the world.

A big thank-you to our small group leaders, parents and everyone who helps support our confirmation students through meals, service opportunities, encouragement, and prayer. It truly takes a community to nurture faith.

As we continue this journey together, may we remember the words of 1 Corinthians 12:12: "For just as the body is one and has many members... so it is with Christ."

Please keep our confirmation students in your prayers. Encourage them, ask them what they are learning, and remind them that they are valued members of our faith community. We are excited to see where God leads them!

Faith grows when we grow together!

Pr. Jackie Short

Highland Prairie

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30



Feed My Neighbors Ministry

Sometimes a warm meal is more than food—it's a reminder that someone cares.
If you know someone in our community who could benefit from a meal, please reach out to Mary Gudmundson or Pr. Jackie. Our Feed Our Neighbors Ministry is here to offer a helping hand, a caring heart, and a meal when it's needed.
If you know someone who could use a little extra care, let us know!

Committee Meetings:

Education: 2nd Tuesday of the Month @ 5:30pm
Worship: 11/17/26 @ 6:30pm**(NOTE DATE CHANGE)**

QUILTING & POTLUCK
NOVEMBER 10TH
AT
9:30AM



WELCA Bake Sale!



November 20th 10am-1pm

Sterling Pharmacy

Drop your baked goods off between 9-9:30am;
Please have the priced!



WELCA Bible Study
November 4th @ 1:30pm

Coffee & Fellowship



Join Us for Fellowship!
Join us at **9am** and enjoy some fellowship before worship! We're trying something a little different and will be gathering at **Hebrews every 3rd Sunday of the month.**
Grab a cup of coffee, visit with friends, and enjoy some time together before heading to church. It's a simple way to slow down, catch up, and strengthen the connections within our church family.
Everyone is welcome—we'd love to have you join us!



Fall Fest

What a wonderful Fall Fest!
We want to extend a **HUGE** thank you to everyone who helped make this year's event such a success!
Whether you donated items, volunteered your time, helped with setup or cleanup, provided auction items, participated as a vendor, decorated a trunk, or simply came out to enjoy the festivities — THANK YOU!
Events like this wouldn't be possible without the generosity, hard work, and support of so many wonderful people.
It was a blessing to see our church and community come together for a day filled with fun, fellowship, and laughter!
We are truly grateful for each and every one of you!



🎄 Christmas Program 🎄

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars! Our Sunday School / Youth Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, **December 20th**, during worship!

More details will be coming soon! **Please watch** the weekly bulletins, church emails, and Facebook for updates.
We hope you will join us for this special celebration of the Christmas season!





Elstad

Sunday Morning Worship at 9







The Leah Circle will meet onat Park Lane. We use the bible study is from "The Gather" magazine, all are welcomed to join. Reach out to Carol Dixon for more information if interested in joining.

The Esther Circle will meet at 9:30 on October 9th at the Haight Home. Reach out to Ruth Abrahamson for more information if interested in joining.

Elizabeth Circle meets at 8:45 AM at Park Lane Contact Lori Bakke for more information .

Christmas Program Practices Begin November 8!

It's time to start preparing for our Sunday School Christmas Program! We are excited to have our children share the joy and true meaning of Christmas with our congregation! Practices will take place during Sunday School on the following dates:

November 8
November 15
November 22
December 6

Christmas Program: Sunday, December 20, during worship service.
Parents, please make every effort to have your children attend these practices so they can feel comfortable and confident on program day.
We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus through the voices and talents of our Sunday School children!

Elstad WELCA



Hosted by your monthly serving commitee

November
Michelle & John Rein
Erik & Kallee Nelson
Aimee & Byron Rodger
Chase & Kirsten Bakke

December
Tom & Carolyn Smith
Jeff & Carolyn Freese
Steve & Beth Storhoff
Andy & Amber Arends
John & Chris Knutson

Highland Prairie Council Report October 11, 2026

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting
October 11th 2026
President Val Howe called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.
Council Members present were Kristi Gudmundson, Val Howe, Mike Pepin, Josh Dahl, Courtney Lee, Mitch Paulson. Absent were Mary Gudmundson, Amy Jacobson, Chellsey Lind, Robert Anfinson
Devotions were given by Mitch Paulson
A quorum was determined
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mitch Paulson, Josh Dahl second. Motion carried.
Congregation members wishing to address the council. None.
Treasurer's Report was given by Courtney Lee for September. September Income $ 3,437 and Expenses was $8116. 02. Year to Date Income was $ 52,392.06 and Year to Date Expense $92,628.17. Temple Talk will be given at church in October to discuss HP financial deficit. At the next council meeting council members are asked to bring ideas on how we can save and reduce cost. A financial support letter will be sent out. Motion to approve treasury report by Mike Pepin and Mitch Paulson second. Motion carried.
President's Report - None
Pastor's Report - 6 visits, 2 nursing home worship, 1 baptism, 3 pastoral care, 4 meetings and 9 worship services.
Correspondence: None
Committee Report.
ChurchCommittee - Furnace maintenance for winter. Make sure church doors are locked when leaving.
Grounds Committee - Getting bids for snowplowing. Shelter and parsonage and park arch scrapped and ready to paint. Pastor Jackie will get painting supplies. Volunteers needed to paint.
Worship Committee -Will not have an organist on 10/25 so we will swap our services. Traditional on 10/18 and Power Point on 10/25.
Youth - Synod youth Event cancelled due to low registrations. Card Box City event during MEA week.
Old Business:
a. Membership letters will be sent out to update our membership roster.
b. Update church constitution and bylaws meeting Sept. 29th and Oct.22. Hopefully be ready to view at the annual meeting.
New Business:
a. Approve Hudson Lee for confirmation. Motion made by Kristi G and second by Mitch P, motion carried.
b. Approve Ruby Highum to become an associate member and Margo Dahl transfer membership to HP. Motion made by Kristi G and second by Mitch P, motion carried.
The secretary's report will be sent by email to approve.
A motion to adjourn with Lord's Prayer at 12:40pm was made by Mitch P and second by Josh Dahl Motion carried.
Submitted by Val Howe
Next meeting November 8th at 4:30pm at Elstad and Parish at 5:30pm.

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **Elstad** W: 9am **HP** W: 10:30 am	2 **Pastor Jackie Vacation 11/2-11/10** **Bible Study @** Bethlehem 9:30am	3 **Pastor Jackie Vacation 11/2-11/10**	4 **HP Bible Study 1:30pm** **Confirmation 6:30pm @ HP** **Pastor Jackie Vacation 11/2-11/10**	5 **Pastor Jackie Vacation 11/4-11/10** **Bulletin Items Due!**	6 **Pastor Jackie Vacation 11/4-11/10**	7 **Pastor Jackie Vacation 11/4-11/10**
8 **Elstad** W: 9am **Elstad Sunday School-** Christmas Program Practice **HP** W: 10:30 am **Pastor Jackie Vacation 11/4-11/10**	9 **Bible Study @** Bethlehem 9:30am **Pastor Jackie Vacation 11/4-11/10**	10 **Education Committee Meeting** 5:30pm **Root River Conf** **Pastor Jackie Vacation 11/4-11/10**	11 **Confirmation 6:30pm @ HP**	12 **Bulletin Items Due!**	13	14 **Makers & Meals @ Rushford Library 10:30am**
15 **Elstad** W: 9am **Elstad Sunday School-** Christmas Program Practice **HP** W: 10:30 am	16 **Bible Study @** Bethlehem 9:30am	17 **Worship Committee Meeting** 6:30pm **Newsletter Items Due!**	18 **Confirmation 6:30pm @ HP**	19 **Bulletin Items Due!**	20 **WELCA Fall Bake Sale 10am-1pm @ Sterling Pharmacy in Rushford**	21
22 **Elstad** W: 9am **Elstad Sunday School-** Christmas Program Practice **HP** W: 10:30 am	23 **Bible Study @** Bethlehem 9:30am	24	25 **Good Sheperd Worship** **Thanksgiving Eve Service Pies & Prayers at HP 6:30p** 	26 	27 **Bulletin Items Due!**	28
29 **Elstad** W: 9am **HP** W: 10:30 am **Christmas Decorating at HP after worship**	30 **Pastor Jackie Vacation** **Bible Study @** Bethlehem 9:30am					
						

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

November 2026 Newsletter

Highland Prairie Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, November 1, 2026
Acolyte: Dominic Humble
Readers: Dominic Humble, Brode Vickerman
Greeters: Pepin Family
Communion: Nancy Rustad
Ushers: Brody Gellersen & Val Gudmundson
Sunday, November 8, 2026
Acolytes: Tate Lind
Readers: Tate Lind, Mary Gudmundson
Greeters: Val Howe
Communion: Josef Pettit
Ushers: Ken Bakkum & Gary Rustad
Sunday, November 15, 2026
Acolytes: Hudson Lee
Readers: Hudson Lee, Mary Gudmundson
Greeters: Mary & Val Gudmundson
Communion: Mary Gudmundson
Ushers: Sharon Boyum & Mary Gudmundson
Sunday, November 22, 2026
Acolyte: Slade Pepin
Readers: Slade Pepin, Jeff Short
Greeters: Chellsey Lind & Family
Communion: Andrea Pepin
Ushers: Jeff Short & Gary Rustad
Sunday, November 29, 2026
Acolyte: Dominic Humble
Readers: Dominic Humble, Courtney Lee
Greeters: Josef Pettit
Communion: Val Howe
Ushers: Brody Gellersen & Val Gudmundson

Elstad Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, November 1, 2025
Acolyte: Nolan Eide
Readers: Norah Eide, Gene Topness
Greeters: Gordy & Glee Claussen

Sunday, November 8, 2025
Acolytes: Zoey Rein
Readers: Zoey Rein, Tanya Wolfs
Greeters: Tom & Carolyn Smith

Sunday, November 15, 2025
Acolytes: Quintin Daniel5
Readers: Quintin Daniels, Marcia Randall
Greeters: Tom & Carolyn Smith

Sunday, November 22, 2025
Acolyte: Kortnie Woxland
Readers: Kortnie Woxland, Vicky Topness
Greeters:

Sunday, November 29, 2025
Acolyte: Mila Topness
Readers: Mila Topness, Carol Overland
Greeters: