

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

~ October 2020~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

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

October Worship Schedule

*****Both congregations are worshipping indoors.**

*****All previously posted Covid19 precautions continue to be observed.**

*****Holy Communion will be received in one kind until further notice.**

(See the explanation below.)

+Sunday, October 4

Pentecost 18

Elstad – 9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 5.1-7

Psalm 80.7-15

Philippians 3.4b-14

Matthew 21.33-46

+Sunday, October 11

Pentecost 19

Elstad – 9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 25.1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4.1-9

Matthew 22.1-14

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+Sunday, October 18

Pentecost 20

Elstad – 9:00 a.m.

Elstad – 10:30 a.m., outdoors

Isaiah 45.1-7

Psalm 96.1-13

1 Thessalonians 1.1-10

Matthew 22.15-22

+Sunday, October 25

Reformation Sunday

Elstad – 9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.

Jeremiah 31.31-34

Psalm 46

Romans 3.19-28

John 8.31-36

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On Holy Communion reception in one kind

At the time of this writing, we continue to observe Covid19 precautions for worship services. As of Sunday, September 20th, those receiving the Sacrament of the Altar will receive the Host in one kind (the bread). This practice is instituted for the time being out of caution for the well-being and health of all worshippers. It should be noted that church teaching (on Concomitance) affirms the simultaneous presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and the wine of Holy Communion. If you have questions on this matter, please speak with Pr. Mathsen.

Opportunities for Mission Beyond Our Walls

ELCA Disaster Relief Fund

Brothers and sisters around our nation have experienced nature's wrath in unimaginable proportions. Recent hurricanes and fire have destroyed lives and property. The ELCA Disaster Relief teams are provided much needed assistance for those who have survived water, wind, and fire and are trying to rebuild their lives. You are encouraged to make a gift to the fund. Please make your check out to your congregation and put ELCA Disaster Relief on the MEMO line.

Local Food Shelves

Please consider a gift to the SEMCAC food shelf in either Rushford (113 E. Jessie St. Rushford), or Preston (515 Washington St. NW, Preston).

Confirmation Instruction, 2020-2021

Wednesday evening confirmation instruction for parish 7th and 8th graders began on Wednesday, September 16th, 6:30 p.m., at Highland Prairie. It meets every Wednesday (unless noted in the schedule distributed to the students). Class will continue to meet at Highland Prairie through December 2020. When 2021 commences, we will be meeting at Elstad. The 2020-2021 class consists of the following 8th graders: Kenna Gudmundson, Lindsey Hoiness, Caden Johnson, Larissa Ryan, and Laci Sievers; 6th graders: Thea Topness & Sawyer Wolfs; 7th graders: Cheyanne Dahle, Aubrey Daniels, Damon Hubbard, Miley Knutson, and Jensyn Storhoff.

Sunday School News

Elstad Sunday school instruction began on Sunday, September 27th. Each Sunday session begins at 10:00 a.m. Highland Prairie Sunday school will not be meeting until January 2021.

Parish 1st Communion Instruction

Early last spring, 1st communion instruction had to be halted because of the onset of Covid19. That instruction will resume on Saturday, October 24th and 31st, at 10:00 a.m., at Highland Prairie. Participants will receive their 1st communion on All Saints' Sunday, November 1st. Other youth who have not communed yet may join us. Please let Pr. Mathsen know if your son/daughter plan to attend.

Fall Bible Study

The fall adult Bible study will be held on the following Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.: October 8th (Parable of the Rich Young Man, Mark 10.17-31). October 22nd (text to be announced), & October 29th (text to be announced). See Pr. Mathsen if you wish to participate.

Provisional Concerns of Congregational Life

Your continuing consideration of your offerings that help the church meet its financial commitments is most appreciated. If you do not attend communal worship, you are encouraged to mail your offering to: Jennifer Nepstad (Elstad Treasurer), 20707 Co. 21, Lanesboro, MN 55949, or Karen Bakken (Highland Prairie, Treasurer), 210 North Elm St., Rushford, MN. 55971 or Highland Prairie Church, 43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962,

Pastoral Care

Pr. Mathsen is making in-person visits on a limited basis. Those visits have been happening outdoors. He observes physical distance and is masked. If you would like such a visit, please feel free to contact him. Otherwise, he continues to make regular contact via telephone and the social media platforms that are available. Pastoral presence during parish emergencies is being considered on a situation-by-situation basis.

October 2020

Pastor's Page

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I have to admit. Listening to hymns in worship is no match to singing them. To put it bluntly, I am missing the freedom to sing the hymns in full-throated voice. Make no mistake. Christian hymnody gives profound and joyful expression to hearts uplifted by the Good News. But the hymns also are a great medium for the articulation and teaching of the Christian faith. And that is what I want you think about with me.

You may have noticed that the second lessons of recent Sunday worship services come from the book of Philippians. On Sunday, September 27th, one of the oldest Christian hymns was read.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ

Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2.5-11).

This is no squishy hymn. It is angular. It has sharp corners. It is not sentimental. This hymn is theological and cosmic. It proclaims our Christ. He is not a life-coach. He is not a fine moral teacher. He is the Son of God. He is the one in whom, and through whom "God so loved the world."

There's not a word about us nothing--- save the inferred fact that in and through his death on the cross he has saved and redeemed a people (yes, you and me! us!) whose proper response is nothing other than to humbly confess and give thanks that he is Lord "to the glory of God the Father."

In Christian hymnody "worth its salt", we call that "doxology". And doxology is best when it's sung. So, here are the words to such a hymn:

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Now sing it out loud in full-throated voice! And Covid19 be damned!

Your brother in Christ,

Pr. Luther+

ELSTAD LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 13,2020

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT LARRY TOPNESS WITH KRISSY OVERLAND, JODIE DANIELS, AMBER ARENDS, KAY WOLD AND JENNIFER NEPSTAD PRESENT. MICHELLE REIN WAS ABSENT. A QUORUM WAS CALLED. LARRY GAVE DEVOTIONS.

THE AGENDA WAS APPROVED WITH ADDITIONS, MOTION BY JODIE, SECOND BY AMBER. ALL VOTED YES.

PASTORS REPORT: THERE WAS DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW EVERYONE IS DOING DURING THE ISOLATION OF COVID- 19. PASTOR LUTHER HAS BEEN MEETING WITH THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO GET THE SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR GOING. RALLY DAY WITH BE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27 .

THERE ARE 2 BAPTISMS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER AT THIS TIME. PASTOR LUTHER HAS OFFICIATED FOR ONE BURIAL AT ELSTAD.

THE ELSTAD THANK OFFERING SERVICE IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 4.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT WAS PRESENTED AND PLACED ON FILE TO BE AUDITED AT A LATER DATE. MOTION BY AMBER, SECOND BY KRISSY. ALL VOTED YES.

THERE WAS NO PRESIDENTS REPORT.

WE RECEIVED A THANK YOU FOR OUR DONATION FROM THE LUTHER CAMPUS MINISTRY IN WINONA.

WE ARE CONTINUING TO WORK ON GETTING THE REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH SHINGLES AND STEEPLE DONE. THE NEW CHURCH SIGNAGE IS BEING WORKED ON WITH SOME PARTS READY, WAITING ON OTHER PARTS.

FROM NOW ON WE WILL BE HAVING INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES, BUT WE WILL NOT BE SINGING DURING SERVICES YET.

THERE ARE SEVERAL AREAS AT THE CHURCH THAT NEED REPAIR OR PAINTING. A LIST WILL BE PUBLISHED AND WE WILL ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR SOME OF THE PROJECTS. THANK YOU TO ANYONE THAT HAS TIME AND WOULD BE WILLING TO TACKLE THESE PROJECTS.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT WAS READ, MOTION BY KRISSY, SECOND BY JODIE TO APPROVE. ALL VOTED YES.

MOTION BY KRISSY, SECOND BY AMBER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ALL VOTED YES.

Elstad Budget for August

August budget	\$6718.42
Received	\$5124.00
Under for July	\$ 1594.42
Elstad YTD budget	\$53747.36
Received YTD	\$40863.00
Under YTD	\$12884.36

OCTOBER 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*



18~ Jerry Barrett
~ Larry Topness
~ Alison Freese
20~ Joyce Dahl
~ Dylan Evenson
22~ Gary Kiehne
~ Duston Brookins
23~ Sharon Howe
24~ Erik Nelson
~ Courtney Gravos
27~ Tyler Knutson
~ Fraya Hastey
28~ Merlin Halverson
29~ Karen Mierau
30~ Doris Dybing
~ Nicole Johnson
31~ Adam Woxland
~ Brittany Johnson
~ Hayden Stensgard

1~ Charles Semmen
~ Natalie Schelper
2~ Olive Peterson
~ Sylvia Passow
3~ Jensyn Storhoff
6~ Valarie Howe
5~ Archie Dolhman
~ Maci Pontillo
~ Riley Pontillo
7~ Alyssa Berg
9~ Beth Smith
~ Amy Jacobson
10~ Chris Hoiland
~ Jeremy Burt
12~ Amber Arends
13~ Mary Carlson
~ Jadye Butler
~ Carsen Nelson
15~ Cathy Bakke
~ Creighton Hoiness
~ Dominic Humble
16~ Casey Pestle
17~ Brandon Rustad

*Happy
Anniversary*

12~ Maynard & Sharon
Rustad

16~ Ken & Helen Jacobson
~John & Kathy Abrahamson
26~ Rick & Sandy Sjarpe

October 2020

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
 Visit our websites at...
elstadlutheranchurch.org
highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 EL Thankoffering 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—HP	5	6	7 6:30 Confirmation @ HP Bulletin Deadline	8 Fall Bible study 10:00 a.m. @ HP	9	10
11 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—HP HP Council 5:30	12	13	14 Bulletin Deadline	15	16	17
18 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—HP	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21 6:30 Confirmation @ HP Bulletin Deadline	22 Fall Bible study 10:00 a.m. @ HP	23	24 1st communion instruction 10:00 a.m. @ HP
25 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—HP	26	27	28 6:30 Confirmation @ HP Bulletin Deadline	29	30	31 1st communion instruction 10:00 a.m. @ HP

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

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HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS
READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020

ACOLYTES: LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON
READERS: LACI SIEVERS, BECKY LIND
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN
READERS: CADEN JOHNSON, SHARON EHLER
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, KENNA GUDMUNDSON
READERS: LARISSA RYAN, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020

ACOLYTE: INDY QUALY
READERS: LIZ HAGEMAN, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, LORI BAKKE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

ACOLYTE: INDY QUALY
READERS: J.T. REIN, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN
READERS: ALISON FREESE, CAROL OVERLAND

USHERS: GENE TOPNESS, JOHN OVERLAND,
PHILIP ABRAHAMSON, TRENT EIDE,
NATHAN BAKKE, DICK HAIGHT