

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish  
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
~ September 2015 ~*

*Interim Pastor, Pastor Marie AK Anderson*

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*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*

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**Worship Schedule**  
**September 2015**

**Sunday, September 6**

*Parish Worship at  
Highland Prairie  
10:00 a.m.*

**Sunday, September 13**

*9:00 a.m. at Elstad  
11:00 a.m. at  
Highland Prairie  
Outdoor Worship*

**Sunday, September 20**

*9:00 a.m. HP  
10:00 a.m. Sunday school  
11:00 a.m. EL*

**Sunday, September 27**

*9:00 a.m. HP  
10:00 a.m. Sunday school  
11:00 a.m. EL*



**Installation of  
Sunday school  
teachers**

**Highland Prairie—September  
20th during worship**

**Elstad –October 4th during  
worship**



**Rally Sunday**

**Highland Prairie—Sunday, September 13th**  
10:00 a.m. in the ball field with an outdoor service; meal; and ball games to follow.

**Elstad– Sunday, September 20th—10:00 a.m.** Please contact Michelle Rein with any questions 507-458-2890

**First Communion**

There will be a class for all students 5<sup>th</sup> grade and older who have not taken a class about the sacrament of Holy Communion. This class is for those who have not begun to take communion and those who have begun to take communion, but not had the opportunity to attend a class.



- WHAT:** Opportunity for parents and students to be more familiar with this sacrament
- WHO:** Parents and students from Highland Prairie & Elstad
- WHEN:** October 11th, 25th & November 1st
- TIME:** 12:00pm—1:30pm (a light lunch will be provided)
- WHERE:** Elstad Lutheran

**QUESTIONS:** Please contact Pastor Marie for questions (507.951.4366--marieannka@aol.com)

**REGISTRATION:** Please contact Lisa to register so resources & lunch are available (highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com)

### *Prayer Corner*

*Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation.*

*Please keep Allen & Kay Howe, Josh & Steve Howe, Eric Johnson, Don Anderson, Ashley Bergen, Carol Eggert, Arlan Peterson, Linda Wilson, Richard Lombard, Lila Jameson, Elaine Holm, Enid Dunn Family, Richard Orchard & Family, Dagny Anderson, Jim Wangen, Amy Eberly and Family, Jennifer Lee and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.*

### **Message from the Transition Task Force Committee**

The church councils have chosen to form a "transition committee" that will survey our congregations. Our call is to identify goals and objectives for our congregations to prepare for the calling of the new pastor. We will be asking for all members of our churches to assist us as we go through this transition process. Within this newsletter is a survey containing, "Questions for Reflection for Highland Prairie & Elstad". Please take some time to fill out the survey. The questions are numbered. If you need more space than provided, reference the question's number on the back of the questionnaire or any additional paper as needed. Comments beyond our questions are also welcome. Additional questionnaires will be provided at each church for each member of your family that would also like to respond. We encourage everyone to respond. Circle your respective church. If you choose to include your demographics; no names, an example would be teenage female, middle age male, etc. A box for receiving completed questionnaires will be provided at each church.

Thanks in advance from the TTF committee.

### **Highland Prairie Council Meeting Highlights**

**August 9, 2015**

#### Pastor's report

\*An anonymous donation has been offered for half of the cost of an elevator, up to \$15,000, for an elevator at Highland Prairie Church.

\*Confirmation is coming along

#### Old Business

\*We need to get the sign back up that was over the new windows and stain the trim

\*The parsonage windows are coming along nicely and only one is left to fix

#### New Business

\*A review committee for the constitution was discussed they will have to communicate with the synod

#### **Highland Prairie Financials For June 2015**

YTD Income	\$ 51,930*
YTD Expenses	\$ 37,220
Income exc. Expenses	\$ 14,710
YTD Budget	\$ 52,208
YTD Income	\$ 51,930
YTD Over	\$ 278

#### **Highland Prairie Outdoor Worship & Special Events Sunday, Sept. 13th** Schedule of Events

- 10 a.m. Rally Sunday Activities
- 11 a.m. Outdoor Worship "In the Bowl" with Music by Ron Haugen
- 12 p.m. Lunch in the Park
- 1:00 p.m. Vintage Base Ball Games

#### **Elstad Budget for July 2015**

YTD Income	\$7804.83
Received July	\$4868.00
Under July	\$2936.83
Budget YTD	\$54633.81
Received YTD	\$38087.00
Under YTD	\$16546.81

## Confirmation Begins

September 16----Orientation for parents and students

September 23----First day of class

After an open meeting to receive input from the congregation, a team of eight met twice to develop a plan for the coming confirmation year with possible changes for the future. Comments from the congregational meeting, input from families with students of confirmation age and reports from those who attended the *Rethinking Confirmation Conference* all stated that making time for confirmation classes, in the midst of busy families, is the biggest challenge facing all confirmation programs. People from the congregational meeting and families of confirmation age students agreed that they wanted confirmation to include studying: the Bible, Lutheran traditions and theology, the Lord's Prayer, Creeds and the Sacraments. They also agreed that memorization and mentorship were a desirable component of a confirmation program. It was agreed that the pastor would be the primary teacher and mentors would be given tools to build relationships and assist with service projects. Students will continue to act as acolytes and read the Psalm in worship. It is hoped that they can also be added to the greeter and usher lists for the purpose of building relationship with more people.

It was also suggested by the Confirmation Review team that the Confirmation Worship service be held in the spring at the end of the class year, instead of waiting over the summer for Confirmation Sunday. It was also suggested that students will write a paper and participate in a review of material covered; details of each to be determined by the pastor.

To address time concerns for busy families, it was agreed that confirmation would begin a few weeks into the school year and finish the end of April with the usual breaks connected to the school year. A further development into which more thought, conversation and research will be put; is the concept of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade year of Sunday School being the Bible year for confirmation. This means students would attend Wednesday night confirmation classes only for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. This addresses some of the issues related to time, transportation and sports being faced by confirmation age families. Yet to be addressed in this plan would be: who is to teach the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School Bible class and if families will be able to commit to weekly Sunday attendance.

Students who are in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade this fall will enter into a traditional two year program and be confirmed in the spring of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. The move to a Highland Prairie and Elstad Confirmation program that covers 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades, as proposed by the Confirmation Review team, requires more work, discussion and input. Discussion and research into this proposal will continue and a decision to accept or reject this proposal will be made later in the next year. In the future there will be years when there are two or less students of confirmation age between both congregations. How and when Confirmation classes will be taught to those students will be determined at that time.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Confirmation Review Team.

Pastor Marie AK Anderson

## Summer vacation is nearly over

The last vacations of this summer are under way, people with cabins are planning their final weekend getaway for this summer and you only have two more weeks to officially wear your white shoes. (If you are old enough, you know what this means and if not, it does not matter.) School kids are dreading or waiting anxiously, in equally numbers (parents too) for the first day of school. This is also the time of year when tomatoes and zucchini are being shuffled from one home to another; too many and not enough ideas for what to do with them.

How many times have you heard yourself or someone else say, "I need a break, I've got to get away, I need some rest," or some other phrase that really means, "I need a vacation."

You probably do NEED a vacation. Americans are notorious for not taking all of their allowed vacation time and for working while on vacation. As a nation we are also guilty of taking our vacation in little bits where true rest is not possible instead of in long blocks where renewal, relaxing and restoration are possible.

What do you think God thinks about vacation?

*By the seventh day*

*God had finished his work.*

*On the seventh day*

*he rested from all his work.*

*God blessed the seventh day.*

*He made it a Holy Day*

*Because on that day he rested from his work,*

*all the creating God had done.      Genesis 2:2-3 Message translation*

If a rest is prescribed by God, and used by God on a weekly basis, why don't we think we need time off or time away? Why are we reluctant to admit that we are in need of and would benefit from a day away from the usual things and obligations in life?

In the church a day off is called Sabbath time; time set aside to worship and rest from life, time to be with family and enjoy life. There was a time in the world when all Christians who honored God's directive took Sabbath time on Sunday. As that possibility has long passed, planning Sabbath time takes more intentional scheduling and determination. You have to look for a place to worship when you are free from work or set your work schedule to be free for worship. It is way too easy to keep working when others around you are working because their Sabbath day is another day in the week.

Please take your vacation, whether weekly, monthly or yearly. Spend time with loved ones. Enjoy yourself. Appreciate God's gift of this wonderful world and the people in it, and by all means include God in your Sabbath time. It is God's idea; you have the ultimate permission to rest. BUT remember God wants to go along with you. Don't shut God out of your Sabbath or work time.

## BISHOP'S 5K: SEPTEMBER 26

BY REV. EMILY CARSON

When it comes to ending food insecurity in our region, we can do far more by joining together as a synod than we can do individually. Participating in the upcoming Bishop's 5K in Rochester on September 26 is one way you and your congregation can support our synod's *Enough Food for All* initiative.

This year's walk/run is the second annual Bishop's 5K, and Bishop Steven Delzer can't wait! "I get so excited about the opportunity for people to be together to have fun, get some exercise, and raise our awareness about food insecurity. I especially appreciate the team of marvelous people who take care of all the planning and arrangements."

Bishop Delzer wants the people of our synod to understand the seriousness of food insecurity in our region. "1 in 10 people in southeastern Minnesota experience food insecurity, and when it comes to children 1 in 6 experience food insecurity. Food insecurity is not having consistent access to adequate and nutritious food. Together we can change that!"

The 5K is meant to be an engaging, interactive way to build awareness and express our synod's support of hunger eradication. Planning committee member Rev. Kim Cassidy expressed, "I appreciate how this event blends together an opportunity to raise funds to address food insecurity while also promoting health and wellness for participants, reminding all of us that "enough food for all" means more than just making sure everyone has something to eat - nutrition and health are key!"

Rev. Bob Stover is serving as this year's planning committee lead and is enthused about the intended uses for the funds raised. "The first \$3,000 will be directed for the synod to award in grants to congregations creating new initiatives to end food insecurity. All remaining proceeds divided between Channel One and the ECHO Food Shelf." The first congregation grants will be available in January with application in late fall, and additional details will be forthcoming. Channel One and ECHO are two of the primary food shelves in our region.

If you are unable to participate in the run/walk, there are other ways you and your congregation can get involved. Planning committee member Rev. Rebecca Wold Freeman shares, "For those who are not able to physically take part in the run/walk, you are certainly invited to sponsor a runner or walker to raise money that day. Prayer support, awareness of the hunger in our community, as well as monetary and food donations are great ways to become involved in this event. Additionally, if you are not up to running or walking, but would like to volunteer your time on the day of the event, we would love for you to help!"

Thank you for your support of our synod's second annual Bishop's 5K! We hope to see you in Rochester for the event on September 26. For registration and additional details, visit <http://www.semnsynod.org/bishops5k>.

# SEPTEMBER 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)



2~ Norma Halverson  
 ~ Treyten Chiglo  
 ~ Regan Oian-Vust  
 4~ Naomi Wangen  
 5~ Aaren Dahl  
 ~ Aubrey Wiley  
 ~ Teigen Johnson  
 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  
 ~ Anna Nelson  
 ~ Bobbie Jo Eide  
 ~ Trenten Chiglo  
 10~ Dennis Knutson  
 ~ John Rein  
 11~ Susan Lind  
 ~ Troy Storhoff  
 12~ Curtis Wangen

~ Larissa Ryan  
 13~ Tonya Mensink  
 ~ Kristina Stensgard  
 14~ Kristin Overland  
 ~ Ryan Feine  
 15~ Gordon Gulbranson  
 ~ Shari Michel  
 ~ Tyler Drinkall  
 16~ Lori Hundorf  
 17~ Gordon Gullickson  
 ~ Lucas Gravos  
 18~ Marion Dahl  
 ~ Michele Thompson  
 ~ Hale Stensgard  
 19~ Cayden Lea  
 20~ Andrew Kelly  
 ~ Aubrey Daniels  
 21~ Gabriel Dybing  
 ~ Hailey Paulson  
 22~ Lyle Meldahl  
 23~ Doreen Semmen  
 ~ Bonnie Hallum  
 ~ Carol Dybing  
 ~ Mitchell Paulson  
 ~ Jacob Paulson  
 24~ John Overland  
 ~ Ryan Jacobson  
 26~ Derek Dahl  
 ~ Kayla Bakkum  
 ~ Jordan Markegard  
 27~ Dick Lawstuen  
 28~ Gene Wangen  
 ~ Jamie Wiley

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



4~ Sharon & Charles Ehler  
 ~ Dave & Debbie Lawstuen  
 6~ Marv & Carol Eggert  
 ~ Gerrad & Amber Eide  
 9~ Bruce & Anna Nelson  
 10~ Nick & Sarah Wangen  
 14~ Jerry & Dorothy Evenson  
 ~ William & Doreen Semmen  
 ~ Bob & Paula Brand  
 ~ Tom & Carol Dybing  
 15~ Mike & Norine Ask  
 16~ Dick & Diane Haight  
 17~ Myron & Phyliss Passow  
 21~ Jeff & Shari Michel  
 23~ Elvin & Marlys Paulson  
 ~ Christopher & Ann Hoiland  
 25~ Richard & Thora Lombard  
 ~ Leigh & Kayla Volkman  
 27~ Gene & Vicki Topness  
 30~ Val & Mary Gudmundson

# SEPTEMBER

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	2 HP- Tabitha circle 12:30 @ Burdey's Cafe	3	4	5
6 10 a.m. Parish Worship @ H.P.	7	8	9 HP WELCA do day 9:30 a.m.	10 EL WELCA Quilting 12 noon	11	12
13 9 a.m. Worship @ EL 11 a.m. worship @ HP Outdoor Worship 10 a.m. HP- Rally Sunday 12 p.m. Lunch 1:00 p.m. Vintage base ball  5:30 HP Council Meeting 7:00 Parish Council EL Council after Parish	14	15	16 Confirmation Orientation 7p.m.   Bulletin Deadline	17	18	19           <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
20 9 a.m. Worship @ HP 10 a.m. Sunday school 11 a.m. Worship @ EL EL- Rally Sunday HP-Installation of Sunday school teachers	21	22	23 Confirmation classes begin   Bulletin Deadline	24	25	26
27 9 a.m. worship @ HP 10 a.m. Sunday school 11 a.m. worship @ EL	28	29	30			

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

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Permit No. #6



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

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2015**

ACOLYTES: PAULA HOWE, HANS LIND  
READERS: PAULA HOWE, BECKY LIND  
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015**

ACOLYTES: HANS LIND, JENS LIND  
READERS: HANS LIND, NORMA HALVERSON  
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015**

ACOLYTES: JENS LIND, TRENTEN CHIGLO  
READERS: JENS LIND, SHARON EHLE  
GREETERS: DARYL & MICHELE THOMPSON

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015**

ACOLYTES: TRENTEN CHIGLO, PAULA HOWE  
READERS: TRENTEN CHIGLO, DARYL THOMPSON  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLE

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

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2015**

WORSHIP AT HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015**

READER: GLEE CLAUSSEN

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015**

READER: GENE TOPNESS

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015**

READER: PETER HOLM

**USHERS:**

GENE TOPNESS, JOHN OVERLAND,  
JEFF FREESE, JERRY EVENSON, WAYNE FINNEGAN,  
JOHN SMITH