

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

*~ August 2021 ~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

*Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com*

*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator ~ Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

**Worship Notes:**

\*Please note: On Sunday, August 22nd, there will be one joint outdoor service, 10:30 a.m., at Highland Prairie. You are encouraged to bring your own lawn chair.

\*There will be no Elstad Music Festival this year. We look forward to August 2022 with hope for its return to the schedule.

**August Worship Schedule**

**+ 10 Pentecost, Sunday, August 1st**

**Elstad-9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.**

Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15

Psalm 78.23-29

Ephesians 4.1-16

John 6.24-35

**11 Pentecost, Sunday, August 8th**

**Elstad-9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.**

1 Kings 19.4-8

Psalm 34.1-8

Ephesians 4.25.5.2

John 6.35, 41-51

**+13 Pentecost, Sunday, August 22th**

**Outdoor Worship**

**Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.**

Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34.15-22

Ephesians 6.10-20

John 6.56-69

**+14 Pentecost, Sunday, August 29th**

**Elstad-9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.**

Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-9

Psalm 15

James 1.17-27

Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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**Mary, Mother of Our Lord, Sunday,**  
**August 15th**

**Elstad-9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.**

Isaiah 61.7-11

Psalm 34.1-9

Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 1.46-55

## Pastor's Page

August 2021

I count it a blessing to have been reared in these parts of God's creation---namely, in a community just down the road from here (Spring Grove), population 1,342 (back then). My father grew up on a farm in northwestern Minnesota (near East Grand Forks) and my mother grew up in Havre, Montana, a small city on the hi-line of the Great Northern Railway. They met when my father, a college graduate with a degree in music education, secured his first teaching position at Havre High School. My mother, soon to graduate, sang in his high school choir. It wasn't too long after her high school graduation that that farm boy and that city girl were married. Not long after their marriage and the birth of my eldest brother, they moved to Minnesota.

In the thick of middle age, I look back with great fondness to my upbringing in my hometown---that haven of people of Norwegian heritage. I am well aware of, the critique and suspicion rendered communities so negatively defined as "homogeneous." It was what it was and I see no need to make apologies for what it was. Indeed, one may well consider life amid that community and others like it; that it may have afforded greater actual diversity than might be thought. In my hometown, there was no anonymity. Everyone knew everyone else. You were accountable to everyone else, because they knew you, and you knew them. There was an unavoidable diversity of sorts. It was a part of our life.

My little town was filled with worthy men and women. Though I make no claim about their perfect sanctity and wisdom---they were all flawed like the rest of us---I wanted to grow up to be like them and live among their kind. Whether they carried on their vocation on main street or countryside farmstead, I was surrounded by people who utilized their God-given gifts in their varied vocations. In the mix of the numbers of gifted and skill workers, my dad used his kills and plied his trade as a public school teacher and a lay assistant of the Lutheran church located in the heart of the town (I believe the church was and is *the heart* of the town...any town...) My mother was a gracious, skilled, and tireless *home-maker*----She carried out the duties of a *laudable vocation* very well. No less to be respected and honored was she and her peers in the same.

Because dad worked at the church and was involved in the music so much a part of worship, my siblings and I grew up in the church. While there were more times than I can imagine I'd have sooner kept by head buried in my goose feather pillow or off on some weekend exercise of leisure, on Sunday morning, nevertheless, attending church was a matter of first order. As I grew in years, it gradually became the magnetic north of my life.

Make no mistake. This was not a heroic act on my part. Back then, if not by the verdict of the heart, by habit, or by parental insistence--- or that your dad was church choir director---you went to church. That was that. And to this day, I can still recall looking down on the heads of the faithful from the choir loft---"so great a cloud of witnesses"-- who by their presence blesses me now more than ever. And while I don't remember any particular sermon they preached, when Pr. Hanson or Pr. Knutson climbed into the pulpit, I remember thinking that what they were going to say to us was *serious business*. What they had to deliver was gracefully shaping us into the people we were meant to be, our failures in the undertaking, notwithstanding.

Yes, the people of which I was one (people like you--- the beloved people of this parish), heard the Gospel preached as our true Story--- the truest story of all humanity, and that of this old world. We heard it---and we continue to hear it---as "the ultimate five-act Drama---from the origin and continuing Creation of the universe, through the aboriginal Calamity that brought sin and death into the world, further still to the Corrective that God established in Israel as his unique people, on to the true and everlasting Cure found *in Christ and the Church (my italics)*, until finally God works his Consummation in the world to come, where we shall no longer see through a glass darkly, but face to face with our Maker and Redeemer."1

And perhaps more so than in the preaching and the biblical texts, I was shaped by the church's liturgies and hymns which I continue to find myself singing in times of trouble and delight. At this very moment as I write, the hymn, "O That I Had a Thousand Voice," is going through my mind and prompting me to burst into song. Is there a better distraction?

Verdict of the heart, habit, preaching, singing---- in the midst of the fellowship of the faithful rubbing arms with a sister or a brother at the altar rail while eating and drinking heavenly food, then and now----it all marked me, then, and continues to mark me now with *the most important thing in the world: the gospel of Jesus Christ and his kingdom. I am forever indebted....and deeply thankful...for all that has been and all that is yet to be.*  
plm+

1 Ralph C. Wood quote

### **Mission Table**

Any monetary gifts to the ELCA World Hunger fund are a meaningful way to help make a difference in the lives of those in need. Designated donations to this cause can be placed in the offering plate of your congregation. Make your checks out to your congregation and write ELCA World Hunger Appeal on the MEMO line.

Members of both congregations are encouraged to continue supporting the local food shelves. Our area SEMCAC food shelves' addresses are: Rushford (113 East Jessie St.) and Preston (515 Washington Street, NW).

### **Youth Ministry**

Vacation Bible School for parish youth, pre-k – grade 6, was held on July 12-14, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at Highland Prairie. A total of 8 children attended. We extend gratitude to Morgan Knutson and Krissy Overland for their assistance; to Steph Dahl, Erin Topness, Kay Dahl, and Gene Topness for their presence and help; and, to Joyce Dahl and Cathy Bakkum for providing treats for our break time.

Confirmation ministry for grades 7 and 8 will begin on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., at Highland Prairie. Registration mailings will be sent out the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August.

### **More Youth Ministry**

Junior and Senior High Parish youth: The postponed July cookout and fun on the Highland Prairie ballfield has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and beverage will be provided for a small fee of \$2.00 per person. A new game called "9 Square in the Air", an awesome group game, has arrived and waits to be unpacked, assembled, and played. The game has elements of volleyball and 4-Square, but expands the court to 9 squares and raises it off the ground. The game in a nutshell: The player in the center square serves the ball to any other square. The player receiving the ball must hit the ball out the top of their square and into another square. And so it goes until the ball drops to the ground in a player's square and player rotation occurs. Email Pr. Mathsen and let him know that you plan to attend ([Immathsen@gmail.com](mailto:Immathsen@gmail.com)). Parental presence and help would be much appreciated.

### **Adult Christian Education**

On Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m., we will commence a 3-week study of one of the most disturbing persons who have ever lived, one of the prophets of God, by the name of Amos. He is counted among those men whose inspiration helped bring the Bible into being---whose image is our refuge in distress, and whose voice and vision help to sustain us in faith. We will study his prophetic words and seek his wisdom in these days of our life. Please let Pr. Luther know if you are interested in participating in the study.

### **Elstad Maintenance Items 2021**

The required maintenance of the elevator and the repair of the phone line in the elevator have been addressed. Also, the upgrading of the fuse box for sanctuary lights has been addressed. Seal coating of the exterior brick of the church as a preventative of moisture was discussed as well. A sheet listing Elstad further church building needs is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the nave. Donations to the building and repair fund are appreciated. Should you desire to assist with a donation, or give of your time and skill, see council president, Dick Haight, or treasurer, Jennifer Nepstad.

### **Highland Prairie Maintenance Items 2021**

Re-staining the church building is complete. Thank you, Steve Howe. The re-configuring-to-code of waterlines to the shelter sink and from the shelter to the park house restroom is complete. Your financial contributions to the building fund are appreciated. See council president Gordon if you have questions.

### **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), 713 Johnson Court , Rushford, MN. 55971 or Highland Prairie Church, 43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962,

### **Pastoral Care**

Pr. Mathsen is making in-person home and nursing home visits. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of pastoral care or a pastoral visit, please let him know.

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, July 11, 2021

The meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church with Elstad president, Dick calling the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Roll call was taken. A quorum was called.

Others present: Pastor Luther

Members missing: Kathy Abrahamson, Jennifer Nepstad, and Chris Hoiland

Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve made by Kay Wold and seconded by Amber Arends, motion carried.

No congregation members present to address the council.

Communication received, none.

President's report was given. There is no additional President's report in addition to Elstad or Highland Prairie council meetings.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Luther is hoping to see an increase in attendance for church members. There is a joint service on Sunday, July 25th and Shirley Gangstad will be giving the service in the band stand that day.

Joint Parish Youth:

Youth events will be postponed until the fall. Pastor Luther would like to start preparing for confirmation with a total of 13 members. Vacation Bible school will be taking place with 10 members on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9:00—12:00.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

A) Church Directory-Both Mary and Aimee received the list of members. Pastor Luther will contact Bart to let him know we will proceed forward with the new directory.

New Business:

A) Parsonage Committee Reconnection-Some priorities were set including:

- The committee will ask the Board Store to come give a quote on the bathroom projects.
  - Porch Storm upstairs needs to be replaced.
  - Kitchen door needs to be replaced.
  - These may cost roughly \$850—\$1000.
  - Replacing the dryer; the cost for a new dryer would cost roughly \$550-\$650.
- Motion made by Tim Stensgard and seconded by Kay Wold to move forward with replacing both doors. Motion approved.

Secretary's report was given. Motion to approve by Mary Gudmundson, and seconded by Karen Bakken.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Tim Stensgard, and seconded by Krissy Overland. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Submitted by Aimee Rodger, Elstad Council Secretary.

Next meeting is Sunday, September 12, 2021 at Highland Prairie.

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday July 11th, 2021

Elstad Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Haight at 7:08 .

Roll call: all members were present. A Quorum was called.

Meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Luther.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Krissy Overland second by Amber Arends. Motion passed.

There are no congressional members present to address the council.

The Pastor's report was given.

Pastor Luther is looking forward to an increase in congregation attendance. Pastor Luther continues to visit Good Shepard and a monthly bible study at Park Lane. Youth events will be postponed until the fall. Pastor would like to start preparing for confirmation with a total of 13 members. Vacation Bible school will be taking place with 10 members. This will be held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9:00 - 12:00. Luther and Patsy Mogleson have donated money for youth education and youth ministry and they have also given funding to Elstad. Pastor Luther will be in contact with Pastor Maree to see if our congregation can be of help to the events happening in Haiti

The treasurer's report was reviewed and placed on file for audit at a later date. Motion to approve made by Amber Arends and Second by Krissy Overland. Motion approved

No presidents report at this time

Correspondence received: none

Old Business:

Update on Repairs - Spray foam, there is a commitment to getting it completed  
Steps outside of the church - on hold and will be discussed further.

New Business:

Pastor Luther was approached by some musicians at Eagle Bluff who would like to perform a concert here at Elstad on Friday evening August 20th. Pastor Kay made a motion to have the musicians come and Kathy Abrahamson seconded.

Norman's Electric gave a quote on eliminating the existing breaker panel in the room off the alter area and extending the circuits to the panel in the furnace room. Amber Arends made the motion to accept the bid for \$1,632.00 to make these repairs/updates. Kay Wold seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry was here to inspect the elevator. A few issues will need to be addressed in the near future.

Secretary's report was given. Motion was given by Krissy Overland, second by Kay Wold Motion passed.

Kay Wold closed the meeting in prayer

Motion was made by Kathy Abrahamson to adjourn, second by Krissy Overland. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53.

Secretary's report submitted by Aimee Rodger

## **Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

**July 11, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members present were Robert Anfinson, Karen Bakken, Joyce Dahl, Mary Gudmundson, Gordon Johnson, Lyle Meldahl, Steve Howe and David Markegard, Tim Stensgard. Chris Hoiland was absent.

A quorum was determined and a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Tim Stensgard, Joyce Dahl seconded. Motion carried.

Opening prayer given by Pastor Luther.

There were no congregation members present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. Year to date information provided are income \$44,004.00 expenses \$40,124.00; income exceeded expenses by \$3,880.00. A donation of funds for the youth was received from Luther and Patsy Magelssen.

n. A motion to approve as presented was made by David Markegard, Steve Howe, seconded. Motion carried.

The President's Report: None

Pastor's Report: Pastor Luther reported on attendance lag and curious if things will change with upcoming fall season; Good Shepherd service in July; vacation time July 24-31 with Shirley Gangstad as supply for Sunday worship service; finished Bible studies, no book study was held; youth activity will be postponed to fall; thirteen possible youth for instruction this coming year; and Pastoral care continues to nursing homes and home bound.

Correspondence received: Lutheran Disaster Response fund request.

Committee Reports: Staining on church exterior finishing up, cleaning up cement needed, crack in lower door cement needs repair; Endowment Committee has given funds for church repairs and maintenance.

Old Business: Church doors and locks, Kendall Lumber has agreed to honor the previous bid and discussion will be continued at next meeting.

Outdoor water system work is completed but some settling is going to require rock fill which may be done at same time that the parsonage driveway is rocked. David Markegard moved to proceed; Steve Howe seconded. Motion carried.

Parking lot seal coating may be covered with Endowment funds, Joyce Dahl moved to proceed with seal coating this fall if possible to get scheduled, Steve Howe seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: None

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve was made by David Markegard, Tim Stensgard seconded. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer by Pastor Luther was made by Tim Stensgard, Steve Howe seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next meeting will be on August 8th at 5:30 pm at Highland Prairie.



*Prayer Corner*

*Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Deb Topness, Thora Lombard, Wendy Will, Dylan Ghoorah, Jaxie Dahl, the family of Myrtle Otis, the family of Lorraine Anfinson, the family of Ione Hallum, and all who are ill or in need of our prayers.*



The Highland Prairie quilters extend an invitation to all Elstad women to join them in quilting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Elstad Budget for June 2021

May	\$ 7033.58
Received	\$ 4820.00
Under	\$ 2213.58
Elstad budget YTD	\$ 42201.48
Received YTD	\$ 40185.00
Over YTD	\$ 2016.48

Highland Prairie Financial for June 2021

YTD Income	\$ 44,004
YTD Expenses	\$ 40,124
Expenses exceed Income	\$ 3,880
YTD Budget	\$ 47,850
YTD Income	\$ 44,004
YTD Under	\$ 3,846

# AUGUST 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)

## Happy Birthday!

## Happy Anniversary!

1~ Lori Keller  
2~ Trinity Johnson  
3~ Tyler Schafner  
~ Abigail Bacon  
4~ Jodie Daniels  
5~ Larry Dahl  
~ Michael Gudmundson  
6~ Steven Good  
~ Kayla Nelson  
~ Oliver Kendhammer  
7~ Anna Kiel  
~ Jens Lind  
8~ Brittany Olson  
10~ Gerrad Eide  
~ Brady Boyum  
11~ Barb Soppa  
~ Shelly Berg  
~ Bennett Vitse  
12~ Jordan Johnson  
~ Lindsay Hoiness  
13~ Karen Schumacher  
~ Keith Halverson  
14~ David Larson  
~ Rhonda Good  
~ Matthew Ehler  
~ Amy Kelly

16~ Kenny Peterson  
~ Cheryl Halverson  
~ Tanya Self  
~ Chellsey Olson  
~ Laci Sievers  
17~ Erik Topness  
18~ Pat Dahl  
~ Daniel Lind  
~ Ella Dammen  
19~ Debbie Lawstuen  
~ Monica Lee  
~ Brianna Horning  
20~ Norine Ask  
~ Thea Arends  
24~ Sanna Pederson  
~ Aimee Nelson  
~ Adeline Johnson  
25~ Sander Michel  
26~ Gene Topness  
28~ Willow Kelly  
29~ Logan Rein  
31~ Steve Storhoff  
~ Nicole Blagsvedt

4~ Jerry & Bonnie Hallum  
4~ Jeffrey & Sylvia Passow  
6~ Roger & Sarah  
Bearbower  
9~ Ryan & Leah Jacobson  
14~ Terry & Susan  
Blagsvedt  
15~ Erik & Kallee Nelson  
20~ Tim & Jennie  
Stensgard  
20~ Rex & Rachel  
Bearbower  
21~ David & Brenda  
Markegard  
29~ Jerry & Joyce Dahl  
31~ Kyle & Lisa Chiglo

# AUGUST

## 2021

***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 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	2	3	4 HP WELCA Bible Study 1:30 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	5	6 Lind/Donnelly wedding rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	7 HP- Lind/ Donnelly wedding 3:00 p.m.
8 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP  HP council meeting 5:30 p.m. @ HP  Ellen Feine HP Shelter	9	10	11 Quilting @ HP 9:00 a.m.  Bulletin Deadline	12	13	14
15 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	16	17	18	19	20 Elstad Stringwood Music Camp w/ recital 7:00 p.m.	21
22 Parish Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	23	24	25   Bulletin Deadline	26	27	28
29 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	30	31				

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

Non-Profit Organization

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Peterson, MN 55962

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*Address Services Requested*



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE  
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

**ACOLYTES:** KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS

**READERS:** CHEYANNE DAHLE, ARLENE JOHNSON

**GREETERS:** ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021

**ACOLYTES:** LINDSEY HOINESS, LACI SIEVERS

**READERS:** MICHAEL EVENSON, SHARON EHLE

**GREETERS:** GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

**ACOLYTES:** LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON

**READERS:** DANA DEGEORGE, SCOTT BESTUL

**GREETERS:** SHARON & PAUL EHLE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021 ~ OUTDOOR WORSHIP

**READERS:** KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LYNNETTE PEDERSON

**GREETERS:** ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

**ACOLYTES:** CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN

**READERS:** LINDSEY HOINESS, SYLVIA PASSOW

**GREETERS:** DOUG LIND FAMILY

ELSTAD  
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

**ACOLYTE:** JENSYN STORHOFF

**READERS:** JENSYN STORHOFF, CAROL OVERLAND

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021

**ACOLYTE:** MILEY KNUTSON

**READERS:** MILEY KNUTSON, CAROLYN SMITH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

**ACOLYTE:** AUBREY DANIELS

**READERS:** AUBREY DANIELS, TOM DYBING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021

OUTDOOR PARISH WORSHIP @ HP 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

**ACOLYTE:** SAWYER WOLFS

**READERS:** SAWYER WOLFS, GENE TOPNESS

**USHERS:** GENE TOPNESS, VICKY TOPNESS,  
DUANNE BAKKE, CHASE BAKKE,  
CHRISTOPHER NELSON