



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
9am

Office Hours

Pr. Jackie: Wednesdays 8-4 & by appointment.

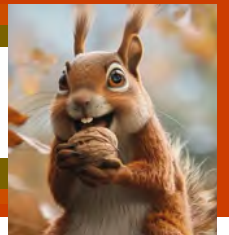
Courtney Lee: Sundays 12-2p & by appointment.

Please call or email to schedule a time.

Elstad
Sunday
Worship
1030 am

A MESSAGE FROM THE EHP PARISH OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR COURTNEY LEE



Wow! These months just keep flying by! We've had a very busy couple of months, and as my mom used to say, "If I'm busy, it keeps me out of trouble." I find myself saying that a lot these days! I hope you're all taking a moment to slow down and enjoy the many blessings God has to offer us.

~Courtney, Parish
Administrator

The Newsletter is Going Electronic!

Going forward, newsletters will be available

By email



On our Facebook page

On our website

At church



We will continue to mail newsletters to those who do not have access to one of these options.

Please contact the church office or fill out to form on the table at church and we will be happy to add you to our new mailing list.

Thank you for your understanding and support!

PASTORS CORNER

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.” – **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

November is a month that naturally invites gratitude. The changing leaves, the harvest gathered in, the cooler air that makes a cup of coffee feel like a small grace—all of it points us toward thanksgiving.

But Paul’s words remind us that gratitude is not only for the easy or beautiful seasons. “Give thanks in all circumstances,” he writes. That’s a tall order when life feels heavy, when worries press close, or when grief lingers. And yet, even then, gratitude has a way of opening our hearts to God’s presence.

Giving thanks doesn’t mean pretending everything is fine. It means trusting that God is at work even when we can’t see how. It’s the quiet confidence that Christ walks with us through both joy and sorrow.

This November, as we gather for worship, community meals, and family celebrations, may we take time to notice the small blessings that so easily slip by—a kind word, a neighbor’s help, the laughter of a child, the peace of a moment in prayer.

In a world that is so often rushed and restless, gratitude slows us down. It reminds us of who we are and whose we are. That is something worth giving thanks for.

With gratitude, Pastor Jackie

Highland Prairie

Donating Just Got Easier!

We’re now accepting donations through PayPal. You can scan the QR code or go to the link support us. Thank you for your generosity!

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church



<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/QEZFS7JDXUCY>

HP Grounds

We are currently seeking dedicated individuals to join the Ground Committee. This committee plays a vital role in overseeing the maintenance, safety, and overall presentation of our shared outdoor spaces. Your involvement would contribute significantly to the planning and execution of grounds-related projects, ensuring our church grounds remain both functional and welcoming. If you are interested in serving on the committee or would like further information about its responsibilities, please contact David Markegaard or Steve Howe.

Committee Meetings:

Worship: 1st Tuesday of the Month @ 6:30pm

Education: 2nd Tuesday of the Month @ 5:30pm

Meeting minutes can be found in the committee binders located in the Parish workroom



Kindness has a beautiful way of multiplying. One simple act can brighten someone's day, spark hope, and remind us all of God's love at work in the world. We'd love to celebrate and lift up the many ways kindness is being shared in our congregation and community. Have you witnessed or experienced an act of kindness recently—big or small? Maybe it was a helping hand, a thoughtful note, a smile at just the right time, or an unexpected gift. We invite you to share your story so we can encourage one another and spread the light of Christ's love even further.

Send your stories of kindness to , and we'll highlight them in an upcoming newsletter. Together, let's keep kindness flowing—one act, one story, one heart at a time.

A special thank to to Ann Meldahl for sharing her Thrivent grant with us. For loaning us her truck and trailer to take all the leftover items from the garage sale to Savers and for loading it again to collect all the items for world relief both for Highland Prairie and Elstad. This was a great help! We appreciate you so much!



The Family of Joe Johnson would like to thank Highland Prairie for the prayer shawl and all the prayers. They are looking forward to hopefully getting to come home soon.

BUCKETS OF BLESSINGS

A joyful, hands-on stewardship campaign inviting all members and friends of our congregation's to care for our church home. Just as drops of water can fill a bucket, the small gifts we share; spare change, extra dollars, or folded bills—add up to make a big impact.

Together, we can "Repair & Restore: One Pail at a Time."

How It Works

- Each household is invited to bring home a Buckets of Blessings pail from the back table.
- Throughout the coming weeks, we are all encouraged to place spare change, extra cash, or intentional gifts into their buckets.
- When your bucket is full bring it to church as an offering of gratitude and support and place it in the large pail up front. Your gifts will be used for the repair and maintenance ministries of our church.





Parish Happenings

Birthdays

- 1: Jennifer Dahl, 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 9th

Potluck: 11:45am

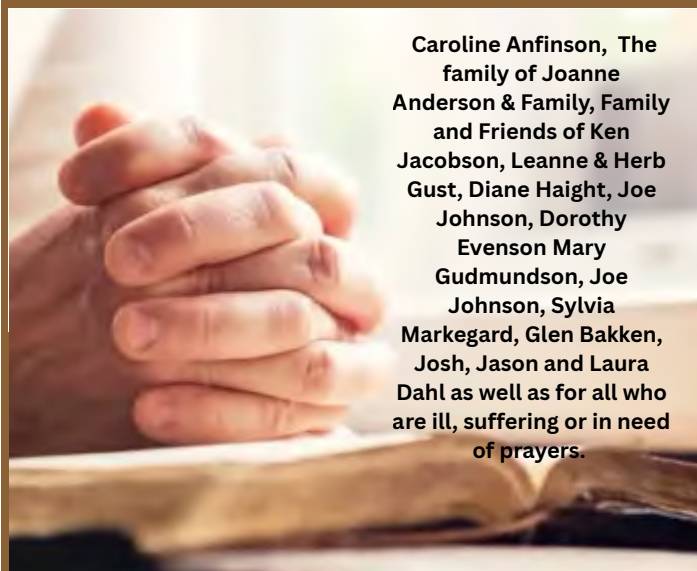
Elstad Council Meeting: 12 pm

Parish Meeting: 1:00 pm

Highland Prairie Council Meeting: 2:00 pm



In our Prayers



Caroline Anfinson, The family of Joanne Anderson & Family, Family and Friends of Ken Jacobson, Leanne & Herb Gust, Diane Haight, Joe Johnson, Dorothy Evenson Mary Gudmundson, Joe Johnson, Sylvia Markegard, Glen Bakken, Josh, Jason and Laura Dahl as well as for all who are ill, suffering or in need of prayers.

Building updates



Elstad

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30

Steeple and roof repair have been completed and total cost was \$33,541.



Elstad budget for September	\$7665.00
Received in September	\$5332.00
Under for September	\$2333.00
Elstad YTD BUDGET	\$68989.00
RECEIVED YTD	\$52418.00
UNDER YTD	\$16571.00

Highland Prairie



Gutter update: Gutters have been installed and look wonderful. The bid was for \$3,416.00. Final cost was \$3,217.00.

HP budget for September	
Expenses	\$7682.59
Received in September	\$4486.75
Expenses exceeded income by	\$3192.84

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 26

Where: Elstad

Bring a friend and if you’d like, bring a pie to share!

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

All are welcome.

There’s always room at our table.



Highland Prairie Church Priority Repair List

- #1 Exterior light by church office
- #2 refinish and stain church communion rails
- #3 ADA Bathroom downstairs
- #4 Chapel Windows
- #5 Exterior church door paint
- #6 ADA Bathroom Upstairs
- #7 clean church air vent
- #8 Rest house foundation hole
- #9 chapel painting outside
- #10 Paint Shelter, Rest house exterior
- #11 Cabin putty window, floor dropping
- #12 Park Entryway Paint
- #13 Bowl Replace benches with back support
- #14 bowl replace top shelter and slab concrete
- #15 Bowl stain alter area, steps
- #16 Chapel painting inside
- #17 Chapel replace carpet
- #18 Marquee



GROWTH & EDUCATION



The Leah Circle will meet on November 12th at 2pm at 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 November 13th 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.

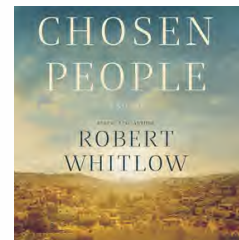
Naomi Bible Study: will meet at 6:30 pm in November 25th at Highland Prairie. We will continue our study of Eve. Grab your bible and join us on as we exploring and engage with the bible through conversation, study and "Bible Journaling".

WELCA Bible Study: 1PM @ Highland Prairie



Book Club

"Stories that spark conversation."
October Book Club will meet on
Monday, November 17th @ 6pm at Elstad.



Elstad WELCA will be serving coffee before the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Coffee will be served at **9:15 each Sunday morning**. Reach out to Carolyn Smith or Ruth Abrahamson with any questions.

Highland Prairie WELCA will be serving coffee after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Reach out to Mary Gudmundson to sign up to host fellowship.



"He Brews"

Stop into "**He Brews**" and share a cup, and enjoy fellowship, conversation, and connection.

"**He Brews**" is a welcoming spot to pull up a chair and stay awhile! "**He Brews**" is self-serve and is be supported by free-will donation. It is open to members of both congregations and community groups.

Call or email the church office to reserve the space for your next get together.

Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us: "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together...but encouraging one another."

Confirmation

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. I know for sure they are big fans of Special K bars!

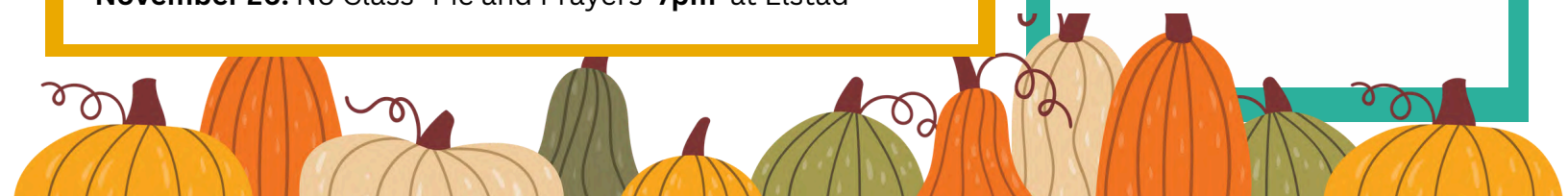


November 5: Confirmation at Elstad **6:30p**

November 12: Confirmation at Elstad **6:30p**

November 19: Confirmation at Elstad **6:30p**

November 26: No Class -Pie and Prayers **7pm** at Elstad



November

Parish & Community ~ **Community Outreach**

Feed My Neighbor Ministry Baked Sale & Craft Bazaar

We are looking for talented crafters, makers, and vendors to be part of this special event! This is a wonderful opportunity to share your creations, while helping raise funds to feed our community.

Booth fee: \$30 goes to the
Whether you create handmade goods, art, jewelry, seasonal items, baked goods or unique gifts, we'd love to have you join us. Together, we can make a difference—every table helps fill another plate.

To register or learn more, contact:
Courtney Lee : (507) 864-2731 or
elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com
or Pr. Jackie Short: (507) 517-0769
pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com

Feed My
Neighbor
Holiday
Bazaar

December 6
9-3

Highland
Prairie

"FOR I WAS *hungry* AND YOU
GAVE ME SOMETHING TO *eat*..."
-Matthew 25:35

The RP Valley Youth are headed to
"Feed My Starving Children"
in Eagan on **November 22nd**
to help pack meals & feed God's children.

- Who can go? **YOU & YOUR Friends!!** (7th grade - Adults)
- How do we get there? We will meet in the RP School Parking lot at 9:30 am and car pool to Eagan.
- How much does it cost?? The event itself is free however everyone is encouraged to raise funds to help support the work of FMSC.

Cost per year to feed:

~ 1 Child \$106 ~ 1 family 424 ~ 1 CLASS \$2,255

- How do I sign up? Talk to your Pastor/ Youth leader and let them know you want to go and then Go to and sign up!

<http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=B21ZDG>

FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN



Feed My Starving Children
is called to feed God's
starving children hungry
in body and spirit.

"He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry."
Psalm 146:7(NIV)

November Ministry

We are collecting items for the food pantry and this month's theme is Thanksgiving dinner. Some examples are listed below, but anything is welcome.

- canned cranberries
- canned pumpkin
- evaporated milk
- gravy mixes
- pie crust mixes
- dream whip
- instant potatoes
- biscuit mix
- pie filling



Lutheran World Relief

Val Gudmundson and Gary Rustad
delivered
33 quilts, 32 school kits
2 baby kits, 11 sewing kits
to Lacrosse.

Feed My Neighbors Ministry

Homemade Meals Available for Those in Need

We have many meals ready to be shared with those in need.

If you know someone who could benefit from a homemade dish, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'd be happy to arrange a delivery.

Let's take care of each other

Highland Prairie Council Report October 9, 2025

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

October 9, 2025

President Val Howe called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Council Members present were Robert Anfinson, Kristi Gudmundson, Mary Gudmundson, Val Howe, Courtney Lee,

David Markegard, and Mike Pepin. Amy Jacobson and Chellsey Lind were absent.

Devotions were given by Val Howe. A quorum was determined, and a motion to approve the agenda was made by David Markegard, Mike Pepin seconded. Motion carried.

Congregation members wishing to address the council. None

Treasurer's Report was given by Courtney Lee for September. The Month-to-date information provided was income of \$4,486.75, expenses of \$7,682.59; Expenses exceeded income by \$3,192.84. A motion to approve the September report was made by Mike Pepin, Mary Gudmundson seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report – None

Pastor's Report – An overview of her time and ministry was reviewed

Correspondence – Lutheran Campus Center request for donation

Committee Reports: Church Committee – Gutters are scheduled and kitchen stove replacement pending

Grounds Committee – Septic has been pumped and a new cover installed; barrier will be installed around it.

Worship Committee – Wooden candle holder bid pending, looking at possible Parish choir, Christmas Program

Youth & Education Committee – Nineteen current Confirmation students, upcoming Confirmands are willing to

continue on and help new students. Cardboard Box City next week, Corn Maze events, Community Fall Fest the

19th, community Sunday school is continuing monthly.

Outreach Committee – Feed Our Neighbor's Update – Meal prep was done, and we now have some meals and desserts.

WELCA – Fall Harvest Fest Dinner on Sunday, October 12 th , Craft and Quilting Frolic was successful. Endowment Committee – None

Old Business – Logo being designed, Fundraising ideas in place are the Buckets of Blessings, ornaments for a memory tree, tractor ride, and drive through meal. Biesanz stone tabled.

New Business – Prioritize Repair List of 19 items needing attention, the top five were install an outdoor light by office door, refinish communion rails, ADA bathrooms for downstairs, chapel windows repair, paint exterior doors and we will update quarterly. Kristi Gudmundson moved to accept the priority list, Robert Anfinson seconded. Motion carried. Confirmands presented to the council were Caiden Dahl, Brody Gellersen, Mathew Gudmundson, Clara Hoiland, and Hunter Lee. Robert Anfinson made the motion to accept these students for confirmation, Kristi Gudmundson seconded. Motion carried.

Water survey was conducted by Minnesota Department of Health in 2016 requiring a back flow coupler on each hydrant

and this work has not been completed. Grounds committee will complete the work.

Reflections

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


A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00 p.m. was made by Kristi Gudmundson, Mary Gudmundson seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Gudmundson

Next Meeting **November 9 th, 2:00** at Elstad, Parish meeting at 1:00

NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 HP- 9am Elstad- 10:30am Faith Builders Pre-K-6th 3-5pm	3 Bible Study Bethlehem 9am	4 Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm	5 Pastor Office 8-4 Quilting and Potluck @ 9:30am Confirmation @ Elstad 6:30pm	6 Bulletin Items Due!	7	8
9 HP- 9am Elstad- 10:30am HP Council Meeting 2pm Parish Council Meeting 1pm @ Elstad Elstad Council Meeting 12pm @ Elstad	10 Bible Study Bethlehem 9am	11 Education Committee Meeting 5:30pm	12 Pastor Office 8-4 HP Bible Study 1:30pm Confirmation @ Elstad 6:30pm	13 Ester Circle 9:30am Bulletin Items Due!	14	15
16 HP- 9am Elstad- 10:30am	17 Bible Study Bethlehem 9am Book Study @ Elstad 6:30pm	18 Joint Ministry Meeting 6:30pm Newsletter Items Due!	19 Pastor Office 8-4 Confirmation @ Elstad 6:30pm	20 Bulletin Items Due!	21 HP WELCA Bake sale at Sterling pharmacy 10am (drop off items by 9:30am)	22 Feed my Starving Children 9:30am
23 HP- 9am Elstad- 10:30am	24 Bible Study Bethlehem 9am	25 Naomi Bible Study 6:30pm @ HP	26 Pastor Office 8-4 Pies & Prayers @ Elstad 7pm	27 Thanksgiving 	28	29
30 HP- 9am Elstad- 10:30am						

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

November 2025 Newsletter

Highland Prairie Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Acolyte: Cash & Bricker Dahl

Readers: Val Howe

Greeters:

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Acolytes: Dominic Humble

Readers: Dominic Humble, Jeff Short

Greeters: Chellsey Lind

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Acolytes: Slade Pepin

Readers: Slade Pepin, Paula Howe

Greeters:

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Acolyte: Clara Holien

Readers: Hudson Lee, Courtney Lee

Greeters:

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Acolyte: Brody Gudmundson

Readers: Brody Gudmundson, Mary Gudmundson

Greeters: Val & Mary Gudmundson

Elstad Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Acolyte: Mason Wolfs

Readers:

Greeters:

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Acolytes: Nolan Eide

Readers: Nolan Eide, Marcia Randall

Greeters:

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Acolytes: Nora Eide

Readers: Nora Eide, Carolyn Smith

Greeters: Tom & Carolyn Smith

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Acolyte: Quintin Daniels

Readers: Quintin Daniels, Patty Schwarting

Greeters:

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Acolyte: Nolan Eide

Readers: Nolan Eide, Tonya Wolfs

Greeters: