

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

~ February 2020~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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

February Worship Schedule

+Sunday, February 2nd

4 Epiphany

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

***The rescheduled annual meeting of Elstad necessitates this change.**

+Sunday, February 9th

5 Epiphany

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

+Sunday, February 16th

6 Epiphany

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

+Sunday, February 23

Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

Wednesday, February 26th

Ash Wednesday

5:00 p.m., Highland Prairie

7:00 p.m., Elstad

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Parish Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast will take place at Elstad on Saturday, February, 22nd at 7:30 a.m. We will be discussing "The Discipline of Devotion." All parish men, boys, and friends are invited to join us.

Transfiguration of Our Lord

On Sunday, February 23rd, the church observes the feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. The episode is unanimously attested by the gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. There are two essential elements: 1) Jesus leads the disciples Peter, James, and John up a high mountain and there he was transfigured before them and his face and his garments shone with dazzling light while Moses and Elijah appeared beside him; 2) a cloud overshadowed the mountain peak and from it came a voice saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17.1-9). By now Jesus is oriented to fulfilling his mission. He knows that he must pass through the Passion and death on a Cross before being raised from the dead. He, therefore, wants his disciples to glimpse his divine glory so that his light will illuminate their hearts when they pass through the thick darkness of his Passion and death, the foolishness of the Cross, and following him becomes unbearable to them. His light is the light we all need to overcome the trials of life. And he, our Christ, gives it to us to save us.

Ash Wednesday

Both congregations of the parish will observe Ash Wednesday on February 26th (see the schedule on the previous pages). The day marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of repentance, prayers, and reflection which prepares us for Christ's holy passion and resurrection. During the Holy Communion you will be invited to have ashes imposed on your forehead. Ashes are a symbol of penance and contrition. We remember that God is gracious and merciful while these words are addressed to each one of us: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". You are encouraged to journey through Lent in the worshiping fellowship of the parish community of faith.

Lenten Midweek Learning and Prayer 2020

Theme for this year's Wednesday, Lenten mid-week worship gathering will be Life in Christ: Our Path Through Calvary. Each Wednesday will be a time of intergenerational learning and conversation about the real struggles of life in the faith. What do our struggles tell us about faith? What do they tell about our faith? If one struggles, does it identify the poor, the feeble, the failure in faith? Is there anything redeeming about our struggles? How might we live through the struggles? Is there any end to **our** struggles? How does the Spirit help us? Please join us as we share our lives in faith with one another, hear stories of some of the struggling faithful ones in Scripture, and lean into the promises of the One whose Spirit helps us in our every weakness, Jesus Christ. Our learning will be followed by Holden Evening Prayer.

Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m., Highland Prairie

Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m., Elstad

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 p.m., Highland Prairie

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m. Elstad

Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. Highland Prairie.

**Each Wednesday evening of Lent will begin with a soup supper. Serving begins at 6:00 p.m.*

New Member Sunday

If you are, or know, someone who is interested in becoming a member of Elstad or Highland Prairie, see Pr. Mathsen. We'd like to schedule a new member Sunday in February.

"The Word Made Flesh...Continued"

As have moved through the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and now prepare to enter the season of Lent, I humbly ask you to consider/reconsider what the fact of God's incarnation means.

The Word became flesh. Jesus Christ took on everything that our flesh is heir to; all our weakness, all our sorrow, all our sickness and brokenness, all of our god-forsakenness, he took to himself.

Christ did this not merely because "misery loves company." He took it all to himself to overcome it. He goes to the cross as flesh, and rises as Spirit. He took on our flesh in order to fill us with the power of the Spirit of divine love and mercy.

Ah...but we still live in the flesh; we still find ourselves broken, sorrowful, anxious, fearful, weak, and shattered. Jesus died and rose not so we could be rid of our fleshliness, but that it could be transformed from within by the Spirit, so that our weakness could be the manifestation of strength, brokenness could be the manifestation of wholeness, and forsakenness the manifestation of intimacy.

When Christ cried out from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me," this strength in weakness, this wholeness in brokenness, this intimacy in godforsakenness, was revealed as True Love in the flesh. It was (He was and is!) "for us and for our salvation." And God raised him from the dead in order that we might be transformed----with all those he has chosen, "fleshy" as we are—into persons who, Spirit-filled, are made holy.

"If anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.....For our sake (God) made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

(2 Corinthians 5.17-21).

There you have it. God made flesh, Jesus Christ, and in whose Spirit in we may live anew!

In the grip of Christ, we remain----Pr. Luther

Elstad—Highland Prairie Parish Meeting

January 12, 2020

6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order—6:31 p.m. by Gordon Johnson
2. Roll Call—Absent: Nancy Rustad, Scott Bestul, Michelle Rein
3. Quorum Call—Yes
4. Approval of Agenda— Tim motion, Lyle 2nd, motion passed
5. Devotions—Given by Gordon
6. Congregation members wishing to address the council—none
7. President’s Report—Nothing
8. Pastor’s Report—Pastor absent
9. Youth—Confirmation will be postponed for a week due to family funeral. Thank you to the confirmands, Lind's and participants that made the live nativity scene happen.
10. Correspondence—none
11. Old Business:
 - A. Parsonage—Mini-splits are on hold. Storm windows in the library are complete. Well needs to be treated again, this has been on hold until Pastor is available.
12. New Business:
 - A. 2020 Worship Schedule—Motion Chris to accept, Joyce 2nd, motion passed.
 - B. 2020 Council Meeting Schedule—approved with the worship schedule.
 - C. Memorial Gift for Pastor and Bobbi—Memorial Gift for Hospice or other designated place.
13. Secretary’s Report—Jodie motioned accept, Kay 2nd, Submitted by Sarah Bearbower
14. Adjournment—(The Lord’s Prayer) - adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: Sunday, March 8, 2020, 6:30 p.m. at Elstad Lutheran Church

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday January 12, 2020
Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

1. The meeting was called to order by President Larry Topness at 5:34
 2. Roll call: Present members were Larry Topness, Rita Kelly, Jodie Daniels, Pastor Kay Wold, Jennifer Nepstad and Krissy Overland. Michelle Rein and Pastor Luther were absent. A Quorum was called.
 3. The agenda was reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Pr. Kay, second by Jodie. Motion passed.
 4. No congregation members were present to address the council.
 5. Pastor's report: Pastor Luther unavailable due to the need to be with his family.
 6. The treasurer's report was given and will be placed on file to be audited. Large amounts of tithing were received for the month of December to enable all bills to be paid currently. We are thankful to those who contributed in order to reach this goal. Bob Olson's memorial: \$5,000 was donated which \$2,500 will be distributed to this year's expenses and the rest for next year.
 7. President's report: Larry expressed thanks for the Highland Prairie members and council for being a valuable resource and friend.
 8. Mission: none at this time.
 9. There was no correspondence.
 8. Old Business:
 - Council nominees for the 2020 ballot will be forwarded to Lisa Chiglo by Larry Topness.
 - Council will continue to discuss options to fix the water leaks in the Pastors room and bathrooms.
 10. New Business:
 - Annual meeting agenda was reviewed and approved. Annual meeting to be held 1/19/2020 after 10:30 service with potluck following.
 - 2020 proposed budget was reviewed. A question regarding whether or not the subscription to Lutheran magazine should be continued. The annual fee for this magazine is \$450. It is unknown how many congregation members actually view the magazine. Highland Prairie currently does not provide the Lutheran to their members. The magazine may be purchased individually. The question whether to continue or not will be asked at the council meeting.
 11. Secretary's report was given. Motion to approve was given by Jennifer second by Jodie. Motion passed.
 12. Motion was made by Jodie to adjourn, second by Krissy. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25.
 13. Secretary's report was submitted by Rita Kelly in Michelle Rein's absence.
- Next council meeting to be held March 15th at Elstad Lutheran Church. Joint meeting at 6:30, Elstad meeting at 7:30.

Highland Prairie Council Meeting—January 12, 2020—7:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order—6:45 by Gordon Johnson
2. Roll Call—Nancy Rustad and Scott Bestul absent
3. Quorum—Yes
4. Devotions—Given at parish meeting
5. Approval of Agenda—Lyle motioned, Tim 2nd, motion passed.
6. Congregation members wishing to address the council—none
7. Treasurer's Report—Mary motioned to accept, Chris 2nd, motion passed.
8. President's Report—None
9. Pastor's Report—Pastor absent
10. Correspondence—Good Shepherd Lutheran Home is looking for delegates to serve on the board. Lyle expressed interest in this position.
11. Committee Reports:
 - A. Church—Heat tape has been installed. New bulbs for various areas have been replaced. Well was tested again, it needs to be retreated. Air filters have been changed. Alison Fiene met with Pastor, Steve, and Gordon this last week. She has started as the custodian. We will review in a couple months.
 - B. Grounds—Received bids from Cutting Edge Lawn Care. Tim made a motion to accept the bid, Mary 2nd, motion passed.
 - C. Worship—Next Sunday we will switch worship times to accommodate Elstad's annual meeting.
 - D. Youth & Education—Confirmation postponed a week due to family funeral.
12. Old Business:
 - A. 2020 council member nominees—Lyle will run again, Joyce is a maybe, Mary and Sarah are not running.
13. New Business:
 - A. Annual meeting agenda—Remove the Constitution vote. Lyle motioned to approve, Chris 2nd, motion passed.
 - B. Annual meeting ballot—We will continue to look for replacements. We will approve final ballot on the morning for the annual meeting.
 - C. 2020 proposed budget—Chris motioned to approve as presented, Tim 2nd, motion passed.
 - D. Good Earth Campership fund approval—Sarah motioned for coverage of 75% of the early bird registration costs, Joyce 2nd, motion passed.
 - E. Memorial Gift for Pastor & Bobbi—Tim motioned to give \$300 memorial gift for Bobbi's father, we will give to designated point of giving. Joyce 2nd, motion passed.
14. Secretary's Report—Mary motioned to accept, Lyle 2nd, motion passed. Submitted by Sarah Bearbower.
15. Adjournment—Tim motioned to adjourn, Chris 2nd, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 7:56 p.m.

Next regular meeting Sunday, February 9, 2020, 5:30 p.m. at Highland Prairie

Prayer Corner

Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep the Michele Thompson, David Lee, and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.



The parish youth will be decorating Valentine's Day cookies for our homebound and nursing home residents during their congregation's Sunday school hour on Sunday, February 9th.

Highland Prairie Financials for December 2019

YTD Income	\$ 92,512
YTD Expenses	\$ 89,623
Expenses exc. Income	\$ 2,889
YTD Budget	\$ 94,300
YTD Income	\$ 89,903
YTD Under	\$ 4,397

Worship Time Swap

February 2, 2020

To accommodate Elstad's rescheduled annual meeting

Elstad will worship at 10:30 a.m. and Highland Prairie will worship at 9:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY 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*



1~ Ellen Highum
~ Glenn Thomas
~ Noah Carlson
~ Brady Stensgard
2~ Jeff Mueller
~ Avery Rodger
~ Briella Rodger
3~ Carol Sjarpe
~ Paul Ryan
~ Trent Eide
4~ Megan Fox
~ Kaylee Peterson
6~ John Stadtmueller
7~ Murton Boyum
~ Andy Ask
~ Delane Horning
9~ Allan Skalet
~ Robert Knutson
~ Andrew Howe
~ Courtney Dahl
~ Cooper Hovland

10~ Patty Olson
13~ David Markegard
14~ Val Gudmundson
~ Kristen Peterson
~ Soren Eisner
15~ Michael Halverson
~ Emily Johnson
~ Michael Rein
17~ Rylee Nelson
18~ Ava Paulson
20~ Gerald Hallum
21~ Truman Dahl
~ Wayne Finnegan
~ Sandra Kenney
~ Erick James
~ Ryan Maschka
22~ Brandon Sjarpe
~ Kenna Gudmundson
23~ Ann Meldahl
~ Linda Hundorf
25~ Richard Gullickson
~ Michelle James
27~ Dorothy Evenson
28~ Sharyl Bergan
~ Kayla Hovland



9~ Lyle & Ann Meldahl
16~ Randy & Kari Drinkall
18~ Daryl & Michele
Thompson

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Time Swap! HP-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m. Elstad Annual meeting	3	4	5 HP-WELCA Bible study 1:30 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	6	7	8
9 EL-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m.	10	11	12 HP-WELCA 9:00 quilting/projects Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	13	14	15
16 EL-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m.	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	20	21	22 Parish Men's Breakfast 7:30—EL
23 EL-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m.	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday HP- 5:00 p.m. EL- 7:00 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	27	28	

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

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

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HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN
READERS: CADEN JOHNSON, MICHELE THOMPSON
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, KENNA GUDMUNDSON
READERS: LARISSA RYAN, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINSDEY HOINESS
READERS: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020

ACOLYTES: LINDSEY HOINESS, KRISTINA STENSGARD
READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, BECKY LIND
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLE

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

ACOLYTES: KRISTINA STENSGARD, DANA DEGEORGE
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, SHARON EHLE
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, LORI BAKKE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN
READERS: ALISON FREESE, CAROL OVERLAND

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, CAROLYN SMITH

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

ACOLYTE: MAKENZIE KNUTSON
READERS: MAKENZIE KNUTSON, TOM DYBING

USHERS: JOHN OVERLAND, LARRY TOPNESS,
PHILIP ABRAHAMSON, JOHN ABRAHAMSON