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

~ February 2021 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

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

February Worship Schedule

Worship Notes:

*As of January 10th, 2021, the parish has returned to "in-person" worship. All Covid19 precautions continue to be observed for those in attendance. All Sunday services continue to be offered on the Facebook and website pages of both congregations.

*Because we continue to abide necessary Covid19 precautions, mid-week Lenten services WILL NOT be preceded with soup suppers.

+Sunday, February 7th

Highland Praire-9:00 a.m.

Elstad-10:30 a.m.

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40.21-31 Psalm 147.1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9.16-23 Mark 1,29-39

+Sunday, February 14
Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.
Elstad-10:30-a.m.
Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2.1-12 Psalm 50.1-6 2 Corinthians 4.3-6

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 17th
Elstad-5:00 p.m.
Highland Prairie-7:00 p.m.

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51.1-17
2 Corinthians 5.20b-6:10
Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

+Sunday, February 21st

1 Lent

Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.

Elstad-10:30 a.m.

Genesis 9.8-17 Psalm 25.1-10 1 Peter 3.18-22 Mark 1.9-15

Midweek Lenten Prayer
Wednesday, February 24th
Elstad-7:00 p.m.

Theme: Community
Psalm 133
Colossians 3.1-17

+Sunday, February 28

2 Lent
Elstad-9:00 a.m.
Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22.23-31

Romans 4.13-25

Mark 9.31

February 2021

Pastor's Page

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It's been stated time and time again that Covid19 has been life-altering. The lives of individuals, families, businesses, schools, communities, nations, and the world have been turned upside-down, and in some cases, obliterated. Not surprisingly, the life of the church has had no immunity to the virus. It has limited the goodly fellowship of the community of believers in all of its expressions. Worship, study, communal communion, and service have been curtailed, if not halted. Isolation of members, one from another, has left us sad and intensified anxiety and fear about our future. We find ourselves yearning and praying for *life together* in its fullness.

During this Lenten season, we will explore faith in community. What defines it and how does it endure under the stresses and strains of life? What are the ingredients essential to its perseverance in mission as the body of Christ?

These questions will be at the center of our prayer, reflection, and conversation during the five Wednesday evenings of the 2021 Lenten season. Under the theme, *Life Together: Exploring Faith in Community,* we will seek to identify essentials of *life together in Christ.* We will seek answers to the questions about how our *life together* in Christ can be sustained in our families, groups, congregation, and parish in the midst of all the challenges we face.

I hope you are eager to enter into prayerful conversation about the life of Christian fellowship in our parish. I encourage you to join us.

Your brother in Christ,

Pr. Mathsen+

Mission Beyond Our Walls

ELCA Disaster Relief Fund-The need continues...

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-The need continues.

As a beginning to our parish 2021 mission "outside our walls", members of both congregations are invited to bring 2 food items each Sunday during the Lenten season. These items will be delivered weekly to the food shelves listed below. No outdated items will be accepted.

Our area SEMCAC food shelves: Rushford (113 E. Jessie St. Rushford), and Preston (515 Washington St. NW, Preston).

Confirmation Instruction, 2021

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17th through Wednesday, March 24th, confirmation students are required to attend all Lenten services in lieu of regular class sessions. Confirmands should also be working on memorizing all parts of the Small Catechism and all the Meanings. I will see how it goes with you when regular class resumes on Wednesday, April 7th. Please ... Give this assignment some of your time....Pr. Luther+

Sunday School

As you know, Sunday school has not been offered in the last 4 months because of COVID-19. Plans for the return to Sunday school have been established for Elstad. Contact Michelle Rein with your questions. Keep alert for further details regarding Highland Prairie's plans. Contact Chellsey Olson or Andrea Pepin with your questions.

Adult Christian Education

A 5-week adult study on the Luther's Catechism will take place on the following Thursdays of Lent: February 18th and 25th, and March 4th 11th, and 18th, 10:00 a.m., at Highland Prairie. We will be using Robert W. Jenson's book, <u>A Large Catechism</u>, at a cost of \$8.00. If you plan to participate, Pr. Mathsen will be ordering all books. Ordering day will be February 3rd. Make your checks out to Highland Prairie Church. He will offer an evening class if there is a minimum of 3 interested persons.

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 will make in-person home visits, if desired. He expects any visits will be under Covid19 precautions. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of pastoral care or conversation, please let Pr. Luther know. He wants the parish to know he is available for pastoral visits whether by telephone or other health safety means.

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Joint Council Meeting

January 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Highland Prairie President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members were all present: Karen Bakken, Joyce Dahl, Mary Gudmundson, Steve Howe, Gordon Johnson, Nancy Rustad, and Tim Stensgard, Amber Arends, Jodie Daniels, Jennifer Nepstad, Krissy Overland, Michelle Rein via phone, Larry Topness, and Kay Wold; Chris Hoiland, David Markegard, and Lyle Meldahl were absent.

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

Devotions were given by Amber Arends.

There were no congregation members present.

The President's Report given by Gordon Johnson thanking Pastor Luther and Bobbi for carrying on; and Larry Topness with a thank you as he steps down from the council.

The Pastor's Report given by Pastor Luther included thanking the councils for their commitment to the Parish. Presidents for support and kindness, and outgoing members for their service. Worship has been on Zoom up until today, indebted to Bobbi for her technical support through this. Education continues for Confirmation students and will be live beginning this week. Bible study was held during Advent and another study begins this week. Pastoral care continues mainly by phone. Concerns for the coming year are mission - be thinking about two possibilities, education for youth and adults with the possibility of a men's study group, and fellowship. Planning for Lent has begun. May 8th is the Synod Assembly which will be virtual. Nancy Rustad made a motion to reimburse Pastor Luther for the Zoom and You Tube accounts he has opened, Steve Howe seconded, motion carried.

Correspondence received: None

Old Business: None

New Business: 2021 Worship calendar was reviewed and with the correction of the dates for the annual meetings for 2020 and 2021 and one typo Steve Howe made the motion to accept the Worship calendar, second by Kay Wold. Motion carried.

2021 Council meeting schedule was reviewed and with the correction of the dates for the annual meetings for 2021 Joyce Dahl made the motion to accept the Council meeting schedule, Jodie Daniels seconded. Motion carried.

Sunday School Curriculum – Elstad Board of Education has chosen a program, Share Faith.com, that allows onsite teaching and a computer application for parents to use at home. Would allow 32 teachers total, if Highland Prairie would like to go with it as well. Cost is \$45.00/month or \$480 for a year. They plan to start in January and for the rest of this year at the monthly rate, and the annual rate beginning in the fall. This program also has a Vacation Bible School option. Pastor will forward to Highland Prairie Board of Education for consideration.

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

A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer was made by Jodi Daniels at 7:15 p.m., Tim Stensgard seconded. Motion carried. Next joint meeting will be on March 14th at 6:30 p.m. at Elstad.

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Sunday January 10, 2021 Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Topness at 5:33 p.m.

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

Meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Luther.

The agenda was reviewed. A review of Sunday School Curriculum was added to New Business. Discussion of future church repairs also added to New Business. A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Kay second by Jodie. Motion passed.

There are no congressional members present to address the council. Aimee Rogers was present to observe the meeting anticipating her role as Council Secretary.

The Pastor's report was given. We have resumed in person worship. Gentle reminders were offered to members present to remember social distancing. He prays for continued health and safety and is thankful for the ability to gather together. Pastor Luther presided over the funeral for Ellen Lawsteun recently. We pray for her family as they grieve. Elstad Council continues to search for a council president as Larry steps down from this role. The statement of Benevolence Intent to the Synod is due 2/15/2021.

The treasurer's report was audited. Giving is down some, expenses remain similar. We were able to meet our financial obligations. The payment protection loan was forgiven at 100%. There is a second round of PPP loan proposed with more information to come. A motion to accept the audited treasurer's report made by Krissy and seconded by Amber . Motion passed.

President's Report:

Larry expressed thanks for hard work of the council and appreciates our support.

Correspondence received: Pastor sent correspondence to the congregation expressing thanks for the love and gifts sent to him and Bobb over the Christmas season. Larry received email conversation from Barb Streed from the Synod regarding ways the Synod could support our congregation. Despite several attempts to reach her, no additional contact was returned.

New Business

Review of Agenda for 2021 Annual Meeting was completed. Under New Business, we will add discussion around Mission, Education, and Fellowship. As we move ahead from the COVID pandemic, we will focus of growth and emphasizing Christian Education as Adults and Youth.

2021 Worship scheduled will be reviewed at the Joint Council meeting

Old Business:

- 2021 Council Nominations: We continue to search for a President for the Elstad Council. As Vice President and retired pastor, Kay feels that the Council leader should be a lay person. She also has additional commitments that may interfere with attendance. She therefore respectfully declines role of President. We will continue to ask congregational members to pray and carefully consider accepting this role. We will continue to approach possible candidates. We thank Larry for his service as council President.
- Thank you Jodie for your service as you step down as Trustee.
- Thank you Michelle as you step down as Secretary

New Business:

- Review of Agenda for 2021 Annual Meeting was completed. Under New Business, we will add discussion around Mission, Education, and Fellowship. As we move ahead from the COVID pandemic, we will focus of growth and emphasizing Christian Education as Adults and Youth.
- 2021 Worship scheduled will be reviewed at the Joint Council meeting.
- 2021 Budget was proposed, discussed, and approved. This will be proposed to the congregation at the Annual meeting for approval. Motion to accept 2021 Proposed Budget made by Jodie and second by Krissy. Motion passed
- 2021 Annual Meeting Ballot reviewed. We are still looking for candidate for Council President, the rest of the Ballot is filled.
- Sealing of brick may be an option to help with continued leaking near the organ. This may also help
 protect the integrity of the brick. This was recently completed at First Lutheran Church of Highland
 with good results. An ongoing list of projects and repairs to be considered would be helpful moving
 forward for future repair planning. A spreadsheet of this nature would also help for future cost planning. This may also help facilitate designated giving and volunteering or service work.
- Sunday School plans to change curriculum to ShareFaith.com to help with on site and distance learning model. Moving forward.

Secretary's report was given. Motion was given by Amber, second by Jodie Motion passed.

Motion was made by Kay to adjourn, second by Krissy. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm.

Closed in prayer by Pastor Luther.

Secretary's report submitted by Michelle Rein.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

January 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members were all present; Karen Bakken, Joyce Dahl, Mary Gudmundson, Steve Howe, Gordon Johnson, Nancy Rustad, and Tim Stensgard, except Chris Hoiland, David Markegard, and Lyle Meldahl were absent.

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

Devotions were given at Joint meeting.

There were no congregation members present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. Year to date information provided are income \$94,822.00, expenses \$87,650.00, income exceeds expenses by \$7,172.00. A motion to approve as presented was made by Steve Howe, Nancy Rustad, seconded. Motion carried.

The President's Report: None

The Pastor's Report was given by Pastor Luther at joint meeting. He added his concern for annual meeting being held with people unable to attend, he will see if a live You Tube meeting is an option, but there are still others who do not have the technical capabilities to join and prefer not to meet in person at this time.

Correspondence received: None

Committee Reports: Leaking valves have been repaired in the church building; furnace filters have been changed. Tree concerns to be looked at in the spring, as well as staining of wood on church building.

Old Business: 2021 Council Nominees: Nancy Rustad and Lyle Meldahl are scheduled to be going off, Officers are willing to continue to serve if no one comes forward.

New Business: Annual Meeting Agenda – same as last year.

Annual Meeting Ballot – will be approved prior to meeting start

2021 Proposed Budget – discussed, motion by Tim Stensgard to approve as presented, Joyce Dahl seconded. Motion carried.

Good Earth campership fund approval motion to cover 75% of the cost made by Joyce Dahl, Nancy Rustad seconded. Motion carried.

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

A motion to adjourn at 8:03 with the Lord's Prayer was made by Steve Howe, Tim Stensgard seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next meeting will be on February 14th at 5:30 pm at Highland Prairie.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Zoom Meeting December 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by President Gordon Johnson via Zoom.

Council Members were all present except Nancy Rustad.

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

Devotions were given by Pastor Luther.

There were no congregation members present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. Year to date information provided of income to date of \$80,597, expenses \$80,545. Income exceeds expense \$57.00. A motion to approve as presented was made by Lyle Meldahl, Tim Stensgard seconded. Motion carried.

The President's Report given by Gordon Johnson. Christmas services will be held at Highland Prairie in the lower parking lot at 4:30 Thursday Christmas Eve and 10:00 Friday Christmas Day.

The Pastor's Report given by Pastor Luther reiterated Christmas service information, Sunday service, morning prayer and close of the day continue to be recorded and shared online. January 3rd service will also be offered online. Advent Bible study is finishing up, Confirmation has been meeting on zoom. Concerns for Sunday school and planning going forward by the Education Committee. Funeral services were held for Kay Howe this past Friday at Highland Prairie and a service for Glen Peterson will be held this coming Friday.

Annual reports will need to be submitted in the coming weeks or as soon as possible. Pastor Luther was contacted by an anonymous donor who would like to provide seed money for the preservation of the building at the bottom of the bowl. Home visits have been done as requested, with prior contact information provided upfront, as well as following COVID protocols. Pastor will be on vacation December 26th through January 2nd. The December 27th services will be recorded prior to vacation.

Correspondence received: None

Committee Reports: None

Old Business: 2021 Council meeting dates: Plan to continue to meet on 2nd Sunday except for Mother's Day in May.

New Business: 2021 Ballot: Nancy Rustad and Lyle Meldahl will be going off, Executive officers may offer to continue. Committee member replacements needed. Discussion on how to hold the annual meeting whether to try a Zoom or possibly social distancing will be continued to January meeting, but will remain in person for the time being.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Lyle Meldahl, seconded by Chris Hoiland. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next meeting will be in person on January 10th 7:30 pm at Highland Prairie.

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish 2021 Staff

Elstad:

President- Dick Haight

V-President- Pr. Kay Wold

Secretary- Amy Rodger

Treasurer- Jennifer Nepstad

Trustees- Krissy Overland (22)

Amber Arends (23)

Kathy Abrahamson (24)

Board of Education:

Michelle Rein (22)

Krissy Overland (23)

Morgan Knutson (24)

Board of Life & Growth:

Carolyn Smith (22) Darlys Storhoff (23)

Diane Haight (24) Larry & Deb Topness (24)

Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Dick & Diane Haight

Synod Assembly Alternates:

Larry & Deb Topness

Head Ushers:

Gene Topness – Vicky Topness

John Overland – Carol Overland

Larry Topness – Dick Haight

World Hunger Representatives:

Philip & Ruth Abrahamson

Auditors:

Tom Dybing (22) John Abrahamson (23)

Cemetery Board:

David Lawstuen (22) Rich Nepstad (23)

Duane Bakke (24)

Highland Prairie:

President- Gordon Johnson

V-President- Steve Howe

Secretary- Mary Gudmundson

Treasurer- Karen Bakken

Trustees-

Chris Hoiland (22) Tim Stensgard (22)

Joyce Dahl (23) David Markegard (23)

Robert Anfinson (24) Lyle Meldahl (24)

Board of Education:

Chellsey Olson (22)

Tracy Lind (23) Andrea Hoiland (24)

Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Lyle & Ann Meldahl

Synod Assembly Alternates:

Gordon & Arlene Johnson

Good Shepherd Delegates:

Sharon Ehler & Mary Gudmundson

Head Ushers:

Elvin Paulson

Kenny Bakkum

Endowment Committee:

Val Howe (22) Lyle Meldahl (22)

Doug Lind (23) Michele Thompson (23)

Auditors:

Lynnette Pederson (21) Allan Skalet (21)

Jennifer Stensgard (22)

JANUARY 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

Happy Birthday!

- 1~ Ellen Highum
- ~ Glenn Thomas
- ~ Noah Carlson
- ~ Brady Stensgard
- 2~ Jeff Mueller
- ~ Avery Rodger
- ~ Bríella Rodger
- 3~ Carol Sjarpe
- ~ Paul Ryan
- ~ Trent Eide
- ~ Sylví Olson
- 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
- ~ Tye Anderson
- 23~ Ann Meldahl
- ~ Línda Hundorf
- 25~ Richard Gullickson
- ~ Michelle James
- 27~ Dorothy Evenson
- 28~ Sharyl Bergan



9~ Lyle & Ann Meldahl

16~ Randy & Karí Drínkall

18~ Daryl & Michele
Thompson

28~ Mark & Kayla Hovland

FEBRUARY 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m.	8	9	Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	11	12	13
14 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. Council Meeting HP—5:30 p.m.	15	16	Ash Wednesday Service EL—5:00 p.m. HP—7:00 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	Adult Book Study at HP/10:00 a.m.	Newsletter Deadline!	20
21 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m.	22	23	24 Lent service @ EL—7:00 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	Adult Book Study at HP/10:00 a.m.	26	27
28 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m.						

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

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HIGHLAND PRAIRIE ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS **READERS:** DANA DEGEORGE, ARLENE JOHNSON **GREETERS:** ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

ACOLYTES: LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON

READERS: LACI SIEVERS, BECKY LIND

GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN **READERS:** CADEN JOHNSON, SHARON EHLER

GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, CHEYANNE DAHLE READERS: LARISSA RYAN, SCOTT BESTUL **GREETERS:** ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

ACOLYTES: CHEYANNE DAHLE, KENNA GUDMUNDSON **READERS:** CHEYANNE DAHLE, SYLVIA PASSOW **GREETERS:** GORDON & ARLENE JOHNOSN

ELSTAD ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021

ACOLYTE: SAWYER WOLFS

READERS: MILEY KNUTSON, CAROLY SMITH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

ACOLYTE: THEA ARNDS

READERS: AUBREY DANIELS, TOM DYBING

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 20212

ACOLYTE: SARI REIN

READERS: SAWYER WOLFS. GENE TOPNESS

<u>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021</u>

ACOLYTE: JENSYN STORHOFF

READERS: THEA ARNDS, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 (LENT)

SERVICE @ 7:00 P.M.

USHERS: JOHN & CAROL OVERLAND,

PHILIP ABRAHAMSON, JOHN ABRAHAMSON,

JOEL HAGEMAN