

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
~ September 2013 ~*

*Pastor Dan Watland, Pastor Phone: (507) 864-2731 Cell: (507) 459-1141
Email: dwatland@gmail.com*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator Home: (507) 864-2086
Cell: (507) 459-5450 Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com*

*Worship
Schedule
October 2013*

Sunday, October 6

Highland Prairie
9:00 a.m. Worship
Baptism of Slade Pepin
S.S. @ 10:00 a.m.
Elstad
10:30 a.m. Worship
S.S. @ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 13

Highland Prairie
9:00 a.m. Worship
S.S. @ 10:00 a.m.
Elstad
10:30 a.m. Worship
S.S. @ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 20

Highland Prairie
9:00 a.m. Worship
S.S. @ 10:00 a.m.
Elstad
10:30 a.m. Worship
S.S. @ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 27

Highland Prairie
9:00 a.m. Worship
S.S. @ 10:00 a.m.
Elstad
10:30 a.m. Worship
S.S. @ 9:00 a.m.

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings to you on behalf of the Colombia Operations Team of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. We would like to officially announce a synod delegation trip to Colombia planned for the summer of 2014. Below you will find information.

Trip Dates: July 4 – 14, 2014

Cost: \$2,000 per person (Includes flight, room & board, transportation, other ground cost. Travelers will be responsible for any additional spending money.)

Participants: People of all ages are invited to join the delegation. Your congregation is not required to have a partner congregation for you to go on the trip.

Important: Registration deadline is NOVEMBER 1, 2013! Also a deposit of \$150


Please contact the Parish Secretary, Lisa Chiglo if you would like more information and registration form.

Thrivent Financial has a long history of congregational involvement, and our members love to support their congregations – it's the most common choice for members when directing Choice Dollars®. So we are especially excited to announce the Thrivent Choice® Double Direction Church Campaign that runs from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30, 2013. All Choice Dollars directions made to enrolled churches will be **doubled** during this time **or** until \$15 million has been awarded, **whichever comes first**.

You Can Help Spread the Word

We recently sent information about this special, one-time campaign to churches and congregational advocates. Promotional materials, including bulletin inserts, postcards, social media posts, and other items are posted on Thrivent.com.

Note to chapter leaders: If you don't hear anything about it from your congregation, you may want to make sure that your congregational advocate or others at your church are aware of it.



Ponderings from the Parsonage...

The Rolling Stones had a song in 1969 that reminded us “You can’t always get what you want, but you get what you need.” I’m sure Mick Jagger didn’t have our need for blessings in mind when he wrote this song, but the lyrics do have some truth to them.

Ours is a materialistic society, where acquiring material goods drives our lives. All too often we look for happiness in material goods. We know what we want in order to live a “blessed” life materially and we will do anything to get it. The problem is that none of these material “blessings” are able to make us really happy. None of these things can satisfy our needs long enough to feel we have what we need. One day we will want more.

In Western culture and even in our churches, we celebrate wealth and power, strength and victory. We fear weakness, failure, and doubt. We tend to see this as a lack of faith. However, misplaced faith in materialism leads to discontent and despair. Sooner or later, the reality of life catches up with most of us. The story of Jacob wrestling with God (Genesis 32) brings us back to reality.

Jacob was a con man, a liar, and a brat. The name Jacob means “deceiver,” but more literally it means “grabber.”

To know Jacob’s story is to know his fears. God promised Jacob a great nation, but he was a man full of fears. Jacob now prepares to meet his brother, Esau, whom he expects will try to kill him. All Jacob’s fears are about to be realized. Jacob tried to bribe Esau. Jacob sent all of his belongings across the River Jabbok as a gift to Esau. Jacob hoped his brother would let him live. Now physically exhausted, alone and facing sure death, Jacob gave up all his worldly possessions. He collapses into a deep sleep on the banks of the Jabbok River. With Esau coming for him, he was too tired to struggle any longer.

But only then did his real struggle begin. That night a stranger visited Jacob. They wrestled through the night. This stranger hit Jacob so hard that he had a limp for the rest of his life. Jacob finally recognized what had happened: “I saw God face to face, and my life was spared” (Genesis 32:30). Jacob the deceiver received a new name, Israel, which means, “He struggles with God.” At the conclusion of that struggle. We read that God “blessed him there” (Genesis 32:29).

By God’s grace, through Christ, the people of God have all they need to live a life blessed with abundance. The problem is that we want so much in this world that we ignore what we have with God. We get so caught up living in a materialistic world, we easily ignore that we have a God who blesses us with our every need.

It’s in Jacob’s story we can easily see our struggle: fears, darkness, loneliness, vulnerabilities, and empty feelings of powerlessness, exhaustion and relentless pain.

What we see in our struggles is that God blesses us too. God blesses us with the gifts of endurance, faith and courage.

In the end, Jacob does what we all must do. He confronts his failures, his weaknesses, and his sins . . . and faces God. Jacob wrestled with God all night. It was an exhausting struggle that left him crippled. It was only after he came to grips with God and ceased his struggling, realizing that he could not go on without Him, that he received God’s blessing (Genesis 32:29).

What we learn from Jacob is that our lives are never meant to be easy. We too wrestle with God and God’s call on our lives. We learn, despite our struggles, God shows up, and God’s blessing follows the struggle. Real growth often happens through struggle and pain.

Jacob’s wrestling with God at the Jabbok that night reminds us of this truth: though we may fight God, God still blesses us. As believers in Christ, we may well struggle with Him through the loneliness of night, but by daybreak God’s blessing will come. And in the end, we get what we really need: the blessing of God.



Elstad Circle Meetings

The Esther circle will meet on Monday, October 14th at 9:30 a.m. Hostess Diane Haight

Elstad WELCA meeting will be Sunday, October 14th at 9:30 a.m.

Elstad WELCA

The next WELCA meeting will be held on Sunday, October 13th at 9:30 a.m. We may be out of practice for WELCA meetings so consider this a "gathering" meeting for fellowship, business and (of course) coffee. Hostess are Sharon Knutson and Rachel Bearbower. Even without regular meetings this has been a busy year for the members of WELCA and much has been accomplished. Dates to remember for our future "gathering" are Sunday, October 13th WELCA meeting, Sunday November 10th will be the annual Thank-offering service and Sunday December 8th will be the celebrated Christmas Tea. There is still plenty of time to get your LWR kits and quilts prepared.

This year we have been invited by the Legion Auxiliary to share in "Packages for our Troops." A box for these donations will be included with the Thank-offering offering baskets. The list is lengthy so choices are many. Attached you will find a listing of suggested items. This project is one of many that the Auxiliary is involved with to bring a little "home" to our young men and women serving in active military.

Want to be an officer for 2014? The nominating committee will be out and about looking for more good leaders.

Elstad Prayer Partners

Gift Package list for Troops: No Aerosols of any kind. No used items. No outdated items. No giant size items

Food and Snacks: Coffee... Domino sugar bags... Splenda and Equal...Coffee Mate...Lipton Tea 2 Go or Crystal Light in tubes...Ramen Noodles (Chicken preferred)...Beef jerky...Slim Jims...Trail Mix...Power Bars...Cashews and fancy nuts...Microwave popcorn...Mac & Cheese...Tuna meals in packs or cans...Protein bars-low fat or low cal...Jelly Beans...Candy...Bubble Gum...Crackers (Ritz, Triscuits, etc.)...Cookies...Pringles...Goldfish Were you fortunate enough to have a grandmother who believed that chicken soup could cure anything? There may be some truth in this statement. That thought along with the belief that there is power in a good story may have been the source of those Chicken Soup books that are so popular. What began as a simple book in June of 1993 (20 years ago) has mushroomed into some 200 Chicken Soup award winning books. These books bring real people and their stories together to touch the lives of others. Their purpose is for life improvements, hope, advice, support, guidance, comfort and knowledge. A purpose of sharing.

Your prayer partner has a story to tell as well...a powerful story. Every story is different and full of interest just like we are. Bind all of our stories together and we will have a powerful book as well. Continue to pray for your prayer partner that her life will be all of those things listed above for the enrichment of each of us. What a book that would be...Chicken Soup, 101 stories from the Elstad WELCA!

Personal Care Items: Baby Powder – corn starch, non-scented...Disposable Razors...Vaseline Lip Balm...Foot Powder, Anti-fungal, Non Aerosols...Q-tips...Baby Wipes...Band-Aids...Advil...Sunscreen (Non greasy please)...Bug repellent...Tissues in packs...Toothpaste...Tooth Brushes...Small shaving gel – no aerosols.

Other: Xbox 360 games (new or excellent conditions)...Disposable video cameras...Disposable regular cameras...Dry erase markers for the hospitals...Sharpies – any color...Small flashlights...Magazines – no politics...AA & AAA batteries...White athletic socks...loose fitting lounge pants or shorts...Books on DCs for visually impaired in hospital...Music CDs...DVDs...Playing cards...Small electronic games...Sudoku games and paperbacks.

For Female Soldiers: Facial cleansers...Liquid body soap...Kotex ultra-thin pads w/wings...Feminine body wash...Hair ties (black, brown, tan)...Body lotion...Disposable Razors...Shaving cream (gel only)...Nair...Deodorant...Sports bras...Hair pins...Manicure sets...Toothpaste...Mouthwash...Toothbrushes...Floss...Female magazines...Crystal Light (Peach Tea)

Highland Prairie WELCA note:

Items are still being accepted for the Lutheran World Relief kits that will be shipped after our Stewardship Sunday service in November. There is a great need for all the kits we send and all donations are greatly appreciated. Lists of items are in the narthex for the School kits, Personal Care kits and Baby Care kits. More information about Lutheran World Relief kits is available at www.lwr.org.

Highland Prairie WELCA is collecting donations of quilts and blankets for twin size beds at Camp Winnebago to help with the current shortage of bedding there.

Please drop off quilts and blankets at church or contact Joyce Dahl or Sharon Ehler to pick up.

Camp Winnebago, located near Caledonia, is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the recreational needs of children with varying abilities & special needs, as well as providing vacation options for adults with developmental disabilities.

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE "MINUTE" COMMUNICATION

Everyone has the opportunity to share information about happenings at Highland Prairie at the beginning of the worship service on Sunday mornings. If you have an announcement, acknowledgment, thank you, request or any information to share with the congregation, please let Pastor Dan or someone on the worship committee know prior to the service. But please remember to keep it short – about a minute!

ENTRANCE DOOR KEYS

The locks for the entrance doors at Highland Prairie have been re-keyed. Please dispose of any old keys – they will no longer work. Glen Kopperud is distributing new keys. **REMINDER: Do not force the doors open –this will damage the lock mechanism and is very costly to repair!**

Highland Prairie Circle Meetings

Mary Circle Meeting Tuesday, October 15 6:00 pm at Lynnette Pederson's home

Save the date.....Sunday, November 10th is Stewardship Sunday/Harvest Celebration and Bazaar

Sunday School is at 9:30 and worship (with something special) is at 10:30

This is the Sunday set aside to bring your quilts, kits and offering to help the poor. All items are shipped all over the world by Lutheran World Relief.

In conjunction with this very special day, the WELCA is sponsoring a soup/sandwich/dessert lunch after the worship. It doesn't end with that.....a bake sale and auction is in the planning so get your creative juices flowing and let's all see what we can come up with to make this a huge fundraiser for Highland Prairie. Some suggestions to consider may be

quilts and wall hangings, all types of craft and wood items, jewelry, canned foods, home cooked meals, and theme baskets of all types. Don't forget items for the children. Kid's toys and clothing would be something fun and different. We have talked about having a day to make Norwegian bakery items to add to the list of foods offered for the bake sale. We could include things such as lefse, flat bread, hard tack, krumkake, etc., etc.

Perhaps many of our members are unaware of the many recent and some of the on-going expenses at Highland Prairie.....two of the five furnaces in the church have been replaced with the possibility of more in the near future. The roof, installation of air conditioning and insulation of the basement at the parsonage are all expensive concerns for us. These are only a few to consider. Please set aside November 10th for a day of worship, food, fellowship and fun. All for the glory of God!!

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE COUNCIL MEETING

September 8, 2013

Elstad Lutheran Church

The meeting was **called to order** by President Glen Kopperud at 8:00 pm following the Elstad-Highland Prairie Parish Council Meeting.

Roll Call was done at the parish council meeting.

Present: Glen Kopperud, Gordon Johnson, Karen Bakken, Jerry Hallum, Kaye Eiken, Deb Book

Absent: Sarah Bearbower, Allen Howe, David Larson, Lyle Meldahl

Pastor Dan was also in attendance.

A **quorum** was declared.

The **Secretary's Draft Report** from the August meeting submitted by Glen Kopperud was read.

Motion by Jerry, second by Gordon to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Karen Bakken reviewing recent expenses, and year to date budgeted and actual income/expense totals. There have been unplanned expenses this year resulting in expenses exceeding income. A generous donation from Luther and Patsy Magelssen, and some memorials were received recently. Motion by Jerry, second by Kaye to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.

The **President's Report** from Glen clarified a couple of items in the Secretary's Report and he inquired about the previously discussed "Temple Talk/Minute Mission". He acknowledged the group of people from Elstad and Highland Prairie that participated in the Saturday "painting day".

The **Pastor's Report** was presented at the parish council meeting.

Correspondence: Thank you notes were received from Zion Lutheran Church for the donation we sent after their fire, and from Harold Usgaard for the contribution to the Leadership Endowment Fund.

Committee Reports:

Church: New thermostats have been installed. The process of re-pinning the door locks is more complicated than anticipated. An energy efficient refrigerated unit for flower storage is needed and it was noted that Council approval is required for appliances brought into the church or shelter. There may be a way to make the bell functional again for worship services. Fundraising to help pay for expenses will be considered.

Grounds: Parking lot crack repair should be completed in September. The contract for waste receptacles expires in October, 2014 and will renew unless notification to discontinue service is received at least 90 days prior to the expiration date. Work days for painting and tree removal have resulted in completion of many projects, and more work days are planned. Property south of the cemetery has been neglected and needs some attention. Preparations for a wedding in the bowl and rehearsal dinner in the shelter next weekend will be completed this week. Snowplowing contract will be reviewed.

Worship: The sacristy and storeroom have been repainted and reorganized. Provided assistance for special services and participated in the Rally Sunday service. Completion of the lists of duties for worship leaders, committee groups and coordinators continues. Fall flowers have been placed outdoors. Minute Mission information will be announced in the newsletter.

Youth and Education: The Rally Sunday Bowl Service today was the kick-off for Sunday school. Pastor reported a new narrative lectionary program has been purchased for use this year. The service projects have been completed by most of the confirmation students.

Old and new business agenda items were discussed during committee reports. No items to resolve.

Motion by Gordon, second by Karen to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting **adjourned** at 8:55 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 9 at 7:00 pm

Submitted by: Deb Book, Acting Secretary

Highland Prairie Financials Jan.-Aug.

Ym Income	\$ 51,250
YTD Expenses	\$ 66,788
Expenses exc. Income	\$ 15,538
YTD Budget	\$ 57,717
YTD Income	\$ 51,25A
YTD Under -fi	\$6,467

Elstad Financial for August

Elstad budget for August	8074.17
Received	3887.00
Under for month	4187.17
Budget YTD	64593.36
Received YTD	43695.00
Under YTD	20898.36

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY'S AND ANNIVERSARIES!



- 1- Charles Semmen
- 2- Olive Peterson
 - Annika Nelson
- 3- Marjorie Abrahamson
 - Jensyn Storhoff
- 5- Elmira Rosheim
- 6- Ellen Eide
 - Valarie Howe
 - Kenneth Carmen III
 - Maci Pontillo
 - Riley Pontillo
- 7- Alyssa Berg
- 9- Beth Smith
 - Amy Jacobson
- 10- Christopher Hoiland
 - Jeremy Burt
- 12- Amber Arends
- 13- Mary Carlson
 - Garion Bedney
 - Jadye Butler
- 15- Cathy Bakke
 - Creighton Hoiness
 - Dominic

- 16- Kari Johnson
 - Casey Pestle
- 17- Brandon Rustad
- 18- Jerry Barrett
 - Larry Topness
 - Jack Kopperud
 - Allison Freese
- 20- Joyce Dahl
- 21- Robert Olson
- 22- Gary Kiehne
 - Dustin Brookins
- 23- Patrick Lombard
- 24- Erik Nelson
 - Courtney Gravos
- 25- Sharon Howe
- 27- Tyler Knutson
- 28- Charlotte Larson
 - Merlin Halverson
- 29- Karen Mirtsu
- 30- Doris Dybing
 - Marv Eggert
 - Nicole Johnson
- 31- Jeremy Quandt
 - Adam Woxland
 - Brittany Johnson
 - Hayden Stensgard



- 6- Dave & Linda Hundorf
- 8- Kaleb & Kathy Kendhammer
- 10- Trevor & Mackenzie Moore
- 12- Maynard & Sharon Rustad
- 14- Jerry & Shannon Kopperud
- 16- Ken & Helen Jacobson
- 16- John & Kathy Abrahamson
- 26- Rick & Sandy Sjarpe



Lectures to Lunches: An educational experience

Your pastor has sat through countless seminary classes to teach them about theology, preaching, pastoral care, and interpreting ancient languages of the Bible. She's honed her visitation skills in a hospital with some of her classmates. He's done an internship in another congregation. Seminary is over and it's time to use that training! But wait, the education isn't done.

Whether a pastor or a rostered lay leader, whether just out of seminary or just having celebrated a 40th anniversary of ordination, every fall leaders of of this synod are expected to join together for the Fall Theological Conference. Non-rostered lay leaders and even some spouses decide to join in for this special opportunity.

There's no set format for what participants will learn each year, but the Congregational Renewal Team works to provide a program that is relevant, challenging, and inspiring to those in ministry in southeastern Minnesota. Some years the program is a single speaker, sometimes several, and sometimes the program has been a panel of voices interacting together.

The 2013 program is a single speaker: Benjamin M. Stewart, a professor at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Through three sessions, Stewart will lead the conference through an exploration of baptism and a discussion of renewing congregations' sense of baptism as an adventure of faith.

The most consistent piece of feedback every year is that year participants appreciate time to gather with, talk to, and hear from colleagues. There is no business to conduct at the event and most are not responsible for the event, so they are able to build relationships, talk about their ministries, expand on the presentation topic, and support one another through these conversations. In some years, an opportunity for "directed conversations" has been offered. This time allows people who wish to talk about a particular ministry topic to connect, even if they aren't typically conversation partners.

Another reason people appreciate an opportunity like the Fall Theological Conference is the opportunity to worship without leading the service. For people who



More Than Enough: This year's Theological Conference theme.

regularly lead one or more services each week, it is refreshing and renewing to "just participate." A 2012 participant reflected, "Oh, how I miss worshipping 'in the pew'!! Thank you!"

One participant reflected, "It was a nice time to get away from parish life and responsibilities for a couple of days." The conference is held at a hotel with conference center so that participants have the opportunity to get away from daily routines and expectations and immerse themselves in the topic and fellowship.

It's impossible to find a topic and presenter that will engage over 300 people ministering in different contexts. This is especially true among people who have access to Google and Amazon.com. However, the opportunity to engage with a presenter and with colleagues, to experience rest, and to worship cannot be replicated in the church office.

So if you're a ministry professional - join us for the next Fall Theological Conference! If you're a parishioner, encourage your leaders to attend and support them in their time away.

About Our Synod

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 124,000 baptized people in 176 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

The Bridge is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA
 1001 14th St. NW, Suite 300
 Rochester, MN 55901-2551
 507-280-9457
 semnsynod.org

October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 HP Worship 9 am SS @ 10 a.m. Elstad Worship 1030 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m.	7	8	9 H.P. Council Meeting 7p.m.	10	11	12
13 HP Worship 9 am Pepin Baptism SS @ 10 a.m. Elstad Worship 1030 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m.	14 Esther Circle 9:30 @ Diane Haight Elstad WELCA 9:30 a.m.	15 Mary Circle 6:00 p.m. @ Lynnette Pederson	16	17	18	19
20 HP Worship 9 am SS @ 10 a.m. Elstad Worship 1030 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m.	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 HP Worship 9 am SS @ 10 Elstad Worship 1030 - Baptism SS @ 9:30 Confirmation	28	29	30	31		

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

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Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6

October Newsletter

HP Acolytes/ Readers/ Greeters

Sunday, October 6, 2013

Acolytes: Chealsy Eide, Brett Smith

Readers: Brett Smith, Glen Kopperud

Greeters: Shannon & Jerry Kopperud

Sunday, October 13, 2013

Acolytes: Brett Smith, Hans Lind

Readers: Hans Lind, Sharon Ehler

Greeters: Glen & Karen Bakken

Sunday, October 20, 2013

Acolytes: Hans Lind, Jack Kopperud

Readers: Jack Kopperud, Arlene Johnson

Greeters: Gary & Nancy Rustad

Sunday, October 27, 2013

Acolytes: Jack Kopperud, Paula Howe

Readers: Paula Howe, Hannah Kopperud

Greeters: Lyle & Ann Meldahl

Elstad Acolyte/ Reader/ Ushers

Sunday, October 6, 2013

Acolyte: Chris Freese

Reader: Lori Bakke

Sunday, October 13, 2013

Reader: Carol Eggert

Sunday, October 20, 2013

Acolyte: Kody Bearbower

Reader: Tom Dybing

Sunday, October 27, 2013

Reader: Carolyn Smith

Ushers: Mike Chiglo, Stanley Sveen, Trent Eide, Merwood Storhoff, Nathan Bakke, Tom Smith