

March

2026

Pastor: Rev. Jackie Short ~ (507) 517-0769 ~ pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com
Parish Administrator: Courtney Lee
Parish Office: (507) 864-2731 ~ elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com



March Office Hours

Pastor Jackie is typically be in the office on Wednesdays 8-4 pm.
Call or email to set up a time to connect.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EHP PARISH OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR COURTNEY LEE

I hope you've been able to get out and enjoy some of the warm weather we've had this past month – I know I'm looking forward to even more of it!

It has been a busy and joyful season in the church office. Our Lenten services are up and running, and I have to admit – I just love not having to worry about what to make for supper on Wednesdays! Be sure to join us for delicious soup, meaningful fellowship, and a wonderful service led by our confirmation students with the help of some of our past confirmands. It's truly a special time together.

We're also preparing to host an Easter Egg Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. If you would be willing to help with either event, please reach out to me – I would gladly welcome any assistance!

Blessings,
Courtney
Parish Administrator



A note from your Pastor

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?"

IT'S A QUESTION WE ASK EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME. SOMETIMES IT'S CASUAL. SOMETIMES IT CARRIES A LITTLE SUSPICION. SOMETIMES IT'S AN INVITATION.

LENT BEGINS WITH JESUS BEING VERY CLEAR ABOUT WHAT HE IS UP TO. IN GOSPEL OF MARK 8:34, HE SAYS, "IF ANY WANT TO BECOME MY FOLLOWERS, LET THEM DENY THEMSELVES AND TAKE UP THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME."

LENT HAS OFTEN BEEN FRAMED AS A SEASON OF "GIVING SOMETHING UP." CHOCOLATE. SOCIAL MEDIA. DIET COKE. AND WHILE THOSE PRACTICES CAN BE MEANINGFUL, JESUS' WORDS INVITE US TO LOOK DEEPER. LENT IS NOT SIMPLY ABOUT WHAT WE ARE GIVING UP. IT IS ABOUT WHAT JESUS IS UP TO – AND WHAT HE IS CALLING US TO BE UP TO IN HIS NAME.

JESUS IS ON THE MOVE. HE IS HEALING, TEACHING, CONFRONTING INJUSTICE, WELCOMING OUTSIDERS, AND WALKING STEADILY TOWARD JERUSALEM. HE IS UP TO MERCY. HE IS UP TO TRUTH. HE IS UP TO LOVE THAT COSTS SOMETHING & HE IS INVITING US INTO THAT SAME MOVEMENT.

WE LIVE IN A CULTURE OBSESSED WITH "MEASURING UP." PRODUCTIVITY. PERFECTION. PERFORMANCE. IT CAN FEEL LIKE WE ARE ALWAYS FALLING SHORT – NOT DOING ENOUGH, NOT BEING ENOUGH, NOT ACHIEVING ENOUGH. LENT GENTLY INTERRUPTS THAT LIE. THIS SEASON IS NOT ABOUT PROVING OURSELVES. IT IS ABOUT FOLLOWING. INSTEAD OF BEMOANING WHAT WE CAN'T DO... OR WHAT WE USED TO DO...WHAT IF WE PAID ATTENTION TO THE SMALL, FAITHFUL THINGS WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW? A KIND WORD. A FORGIVEN GRUDGE. A NOTE SENT. A MEAL SHARED. A PRAYER WHISPERED. A BOUNDARY SET. A COURAGE PRACTICED. TAKING UP A CROSS IS NOT ABOUT SEEKING SUFFERING. IT IS ABOUT CHOOSING LOVE WHEN IT COSTS US SOMETHING. IT IS ABOUT ALIGNING OUR LIVES WITH WHAT JESUS IS UP TO IN OUR PLACE AND FOR OUR TIME.

SO THIS LENT, I INVITE YOU TO ASK YOURSELF:

WHAT IS JESUS UP TO AROUND ME & WHAT AM I BEING INVITED TO BE UP TO IN RESPONSE? NOT PERFECTLY. NOT DRAMATICALLY. JUST FAITHFULLY.

SMALL THINGS. DONE WITH GREAT LOVE.

CROSS-SHAPED LOVE.

RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.

GRACE AND PEACE,

PASTOR JACKIE

Where is Pastor Jackie this month

- **Vacation 2/17-3/11**
- **Council as Leaders 3/14**

Office hours are typically Wednesdays 8am-4pm

President's Report

A vision outlook for this year for Highland Prairie Lutheran Church as follows:

- Update HP constitution with Synod updated constitution.
- Update HP Bylaws within HP constitution update.
Build on saying Yes to be involved HP members with HP committees and ministries, stewardship and sharing God's Word.
- To develop stewardship at HP, every member is a fundraiser/stewardship ambassador.
- To chip away at the Priority Repair List
- To address HP church membership and make contact to update the membership.
- To develop a vision and mission statement for HP.

This vision is only possible with your energy, ideas, and enthusiasm. Let's step forward together embracing every opportunity, strengthening our faith, and making Highland Prairie Lutheran Church a place where everyone belongs and thrives. Join us on this exciting journey!

Val Howe, President

Parish Happenings



Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1: Megan Beach, Kaelynn Evenson | 18: Glee Claussen, Helen Jacobson |
| 2: Sharon Knutson | 20: Robert Anfinson, Liam Nelson, Jonah Sievers |
| 3: Kristoffer Gudmundson | 21: Cammy Johnson |
| 4: Jeremy Berge, Tanya Wolfs | 22: Sarah Bearbower, Kjersta Donnelly, Cammy Johnson |
| 6: Brooks, Fishbauger, Ava Fox, John Johnson, Treyton Wangen | 23: Kelsey Anderson, Julie Ekstrom, Ora Yonts |
| 8: Aaron Dybing, Norah Eide, Nolan Eide, Isaac Freese | 24: Sharon Ehler |
| 9: Philip Abrahamson, Mathew Gudmundson | 24: Iain Short |
| 10: Courtney Lee | 25: Matthew Brookins |
| 13: Tyler Dahl, Brian Paulson | 26: Kallee Nelson |
| 14: Ellen Shofner, | 27: Tahven Pepin, Ben Markegard |
| 15: Harper Nelson | 28: Channing Lind, Tom Smith |
| 16: Duane Bakke | |
| 17: Caryn Butler, Taylor Devine | |

Anniversaries



- 15: Mike & Marcia Randall
- 17: Mark & Courtney Lee
- 20: Robert & Caroline Anfinson
- 24: Robert & Shelly Nelson



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 ...

March Council Meeting @ Elstad

Sunday March 8th

Highland Prairie Council Meeting: 4:30pm

Parish Council Meeting: 5:30pm

Elstad Council Meeting: 6:30pm



In our Prayers

Diane Haight, Dorothy Evenson, Sylvia Markegard, Glen Bakken, Josh, Jason and Laura Dahl as well as for all who are ill, suffering or in need of prayers.



CHAIR AEROBICS DANCE WORKOUT



**YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US
FOR CHAIR AEROBICS!
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT 11
@ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE**

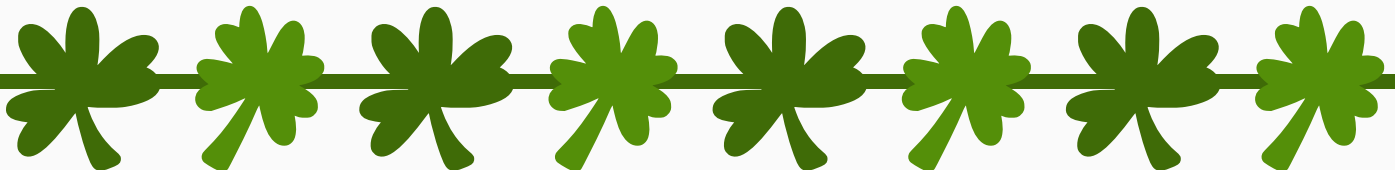
LOOKING FOR A FUN AND GENTLE WAY TO STAY ACTIVE? JOIN US FOR CHAIR AEROBICS, A WELCOMING EXERCISE TIME FOCUSED ON BALANCE, MOVEMENT, FLEXIBILITY, AND STRENGTH – ALL FROM THE COMFORT AND SUPPORT OF A CHAIR.

THIS CLASS IS PERFECT FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO IMPROVE MOBILITY, BUILD CONFIDENCE IN MOVEMENT, OR SIMPLY ENJOY MOVING THEIR BODY IN A SAFE AND ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENT. NO SPECIAL EQUIPMENT OR EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

- ✓ IMPROVE BALANCE**
- ✓ INCREASE FLEXIBILITY**
- ✓ STRENGTHEN MUSCLES**
- ✓ MOVE AT YOUR OWN PACE**
- ✓ ENJOY COMMUNITY AND LAUGHTER**

COME AS YOU ARE – WHETHER YOU'RE NEW TO EXERCISE OR JUST LOOKING FOR A LOW-IMPACT WAY TO STAY ACTIVE.

**ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND AND COME MOVE WITH US.
REACH OUT TO PR. JACKIE FOR MORE INFORMATION**





March Ministry

Our ministry focus this month Easter Baskets



We are looking to collect items for Easter celebrations



Egg coloring kits

Coloring books

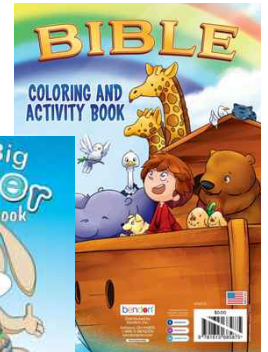
Kites

Bubbles

Sidewalk Chalk

Outside toys/activities

Easter Candy



CALLING ALL LADIES TO JOIN US FOR A *blooming good time*

AS WE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD BY MAKING YOUR VERY OWN *Resurrection Garden!*

BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED, SO COME HUNGRY!



SATURDAY, MARCH 21st
9:00AM TO 11:00AM

Elstad Lutheran Church

ALL MATERIALS WILL BE SUPPLIED FOR EACH PERSON TO MAKE THEIR OWN GARDEN. THE COST IS \$30. PLEASE REGISTER ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE TABLE IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH SO SUPPLIES CAN BE ORDERED. SEE KRISSY WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

Lawn Care Needed – Church Grounds @ Elstad

Our church is looking for a reliable individual to provide lawn care services this season. Caring for our grounds helps us create a welcoming space for worship, fellowship, and community gatherings.

Services needed include mowing and trimming.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Gene Topness at 507-458-1746 gtopness@hotmail.com.

We appreciate your help in spreading the word!



Elstad Friends, Lori Bakke has graciously connected with **Mabel Floral** for our Easter Garden!

This year we have 3 options!!
 Easter Lilies-\$22.00
 Hydrangeas-\$30.00
 Mixed bulb gardens-\$30.00

Please sign up by Sunday, March 22nd on the back table.



Highland Prairie Friends, We will have the opportunity to purchase assorted flowers in honor or in memory of our loved ones. **Root River Floral** is offering several options to add to our Easter Garden!

6" Hyacinth -\$16.00
8" Mixed bulb gardens-\$21.00
6.5" Hydrangeas \$39.99

Please sign up by March 22nd on the back table.



Don't forget about your 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 year, you 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. If your pail is for a specific mission leave it up front and grab another bucket.

WEDNESDAYS IN
LENT 2026



Ash Wednesday February 18 God Calls & Persists

No meal
Elstad worship @ 5pm
Highland Prairie Worship @ 7 pm

February 25 Intercepted & Redirected

Elstad
Meal & Mentors @6pm
Worship @7pm

Highland Prairie
March 4 God in the Depths of Chaos

Meal & Mentors @6pm
Worship @7pm

March 11 Obedience

Elstad
for more Preservation Information
Meal & Mentors @6pm
Worship @7pm

Highland Prairie
March 18 Faithful & Unfinished
Meal & Mentors @6pm
Worship @7pm

Elstad
March 25 Jesus, A New Jonah
Meal & Mentors @6pm
Worship @7pm



One of the ways we deepen our faith and fellowship during this season is through our Wednesday Lenten Services and Soup Suppers. We warmly invite you to join us each Wednesday evening for a simple yet meaningful time together:

- **Soup Supper** at 6:00 PM – A time of nourishment and fellowship. Come enjoy a warm meal and good conversation.
- **Lenten Worship** at 7:00 PM – A time of reflection as we journey with Jonah, the reluctant prophet. The big fish. The God who won't give up.
- These midweek gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to step away from the busyness of life and be refreshed in community and worship. I encourage you to make them part of your Lenten practice.

<p>Palm Sunday</p>  <p>March 29th Elstad 9 AM Highland Prairie 10:30 AM</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday</p>  <p>April 2^d 7 pm SERVICE @ Elstad</p>	<p>Good Friday</p>  <p>April 3rd 7pm SERVICE @ Highland Prairie</p>
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Women of the ELCA


Highland Prairie

Elstad Serving Coordinators


MARCH: JENNIFER/RICH NEPSTAD, JORDAN/MATT NELSON, CAROL DIXON, JEFF/ASHLEY REIN

APRIL: DIANE/DICK HAIGHT, ANGEL/DUANE BAKKE, JOSH/KRISTI REIN, AARON/ERIN TOPNESS

ELSTAD



Good Shepherd Birthday Party!!
Monday, March 2nd @ 2:00pm



Elstad WELCA will be serving coffee after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Reach out to Carolyn Smith with any questions.

Highland Prairie WELCA will be serving coffee before the 10:30 a.m worship service. Reach out to Mary Gudmundson to sign-up to host fellowship.



Growth and Education



The Leah Circle will meet on 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 9:30am at the Haight Home. Reach out to Ruth Abrahamson for more information if interested in joining.

Elizabeth Circle meets at 8:45am at Park Lane Contact Lori Bakke for more information.

Naomi Bible Study: will meet at 6:30 pm in 2/24/26 at Elstad. Grab your bible and join us on as we exploring and engage with the bible through conversation, study and “Bible Journaling”.

WELCA Bible Study: 1st Wednesday 1:30pm @ Highland Prairie

HP Quilting and potluck 2nd Tuesday of the month starting at 9:30am



**Highland Prairie
Easter Sunday
April 5th**
Worship @ 10:30am

Easter Egg Hunt
& Easter Breakfast
8-10am

**French Toast
Sausage
Juice & Coffee**




Elstad Sunday School Presents:

EASTER EGG HUNT

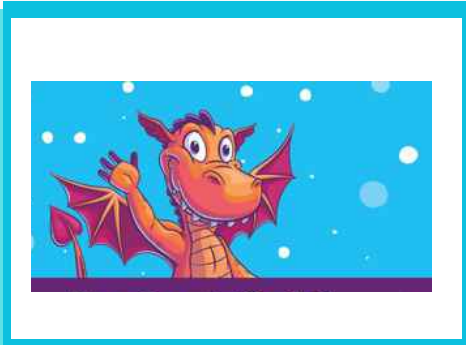
4 APRIL 2026 | SATURDAY MORNING
STARTS AT 9:00 AM

STORY, EASTER CRAFTS, EGG HUNT
COFFEE, JUICE, AND ROLLS WILL BE SERVED

Bring the whole family! Fun for all ages!

Elstad Sunday School
Sunday school this month will be on **March 1st** and **March 15th**.

Education



CONFIRMATION



SCHEDULE

MARCH

March 4: Lenten Services @ HP; Meet with mentors 6pm
 March 11: Lenten Services @ Elstad; Meet with mentors 6pm
 March 18: Lenten Services @ HP; Meet with mentors 6pm
 March 25: Lenten Services @ Elstad; Meet with mentors 6pm

Parents please remind your student to keep up on their sermon notes. If you are worshipping with family in another congregation you can make notes on your bulletin and hand it in for credit.

Highland Prairie Council Meeting Minutes

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

February 8, 2026

President Val Howe called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm.

Council Members present were Kristi Gudmundson, Mary Gudmundson, Val Howe, Courtney Lee, Chellsey Lind, Mitch

Paulson. Amy Jacobson and Mike Pepin were absent.

Devotions were given by Courtney Lee. A quorum was determined, and a motion to approve the agenda was made by Mitch Paulson, Chellsey Lind seconded. Motion carried.

Congregation members wishing to address the council. None

Treasurer's Report was given by Courtney Lee for January. The Month-to-date information provided was income of \$3,717.00, expenses of \$6,382.59; Expenses exceeded income by \$2,920.59. A motion to approve the report was made by Kristi Gudmundson, Mitch Paulson seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report – Provided info on items needing attention this year.

Pastor's Report – Provided info on out of office February 28 th through March 12 th , Lent plans, Synod events, etc.

Correspondence – None

Committee Reports: Church Committee – None

Grounds Committee – None

Worship Committee – Determined Members of committee and others are volunteers was addressed; Jeff Michel candle holders approved with dripless candles.

Youth & Education Committee – Meeting this week

WELCA – Quilting is being changed to second Tuesday of the month, chair aerobics

Wednesdays at 11:00, March 2 nd we host the Good Shepherd Birthday party. Changing our month to June for something different.

Endowment Committee – None

Old Business – Garbage still at 3 weeks pick up.

Upper parking lot lights in process of being replaced.

New Business – Appointment of Council member and Board of Education member – consider who in congregation might be willing serve.

Set up Council meetings for 2026 – March 8 th 4:30, prior to Parish meeting at 5:30 at Elstad

New Members presented Josef Petit and Autum Schreibvogel by Pastor Jackie Short. Mary Gudmundson made a motion to accept the new members, Mitch Paulson seconded. Motion carried.

Councils as Leaders in Northfield for any council members wishing to attend.

Reflections

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve as read was made by Chellsey Lind, Mitch Paulson seconded.

Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 1:50 p.m. was made by Kristi Gudmundson, Mitch Paulson seconded.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Gudmundson

Next Meeting March 8 th , 4:30 prior to Parish Council 5:30 at Elstad.



March 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Elstad W: 9 am SS: 9:45am Highland Prairie W: 10:30am	2 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	3 Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm	4 HP Bible Study 1:30pm	5	6 Bulletin Items Due!	7 Council as Leaders 9am-3:30pm
8 Elstad W: 9 am Highland Prairie W: 10:30am HP-Cemetery Board Meeting after service Council Meetings @ Elstad HP: 4:30p E:5:30p Parish: 6:30p	9 Pastor Jackie on Vacation 2/27-3/11 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	10 WELCA Quilting @ HP 9:30am Education Committee Meeting 5:30pm	11 Pr. Jackie Office 8-4 Lent Service @Elstad Soup Supper @ 6pm Service @ 7pm	12	13 Bulletin Items Due!	14
15 Elstad W: 9 am SS: 9:45am Highland Prairie W: 10:30am	16 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Pr. Jackie Office 8-4 Lent Service @HP Soup Supper @ 6pm Service @ 7pm	19	20 Bulletin Items Due!	21 Blooming Good Time: Resurrection Garden making 9-11am @ Elstad
22 Elstad W: 9 am Highland Prairie W: 10:30am	23 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	24 Naomi Bible Study @ Elstad 6:30pm Newsletter Items Due!	25 Pr. Jackie Office 8-4 Lent Service @Elstad Soup Supper @ 6pm Service @ 7pm	26	27 Bulletin Items Due!	28
29 Palm Sunday Elstad W: 9 am SS: 9:45am Highland Prairie W: 10:30am	30 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	31				

Elstad Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

43267 Bowl Drive

Peterson, MN 55962



**Highland Prairie
Acolytes/Readers/Greeters**

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Acolyte: Joey Evenson
Readers: Bobbie Hillary, Joey Evenson
Greeters: Chellsey Lind & Family
Communion: No Communion

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Acolyte: Slade Pepin
Readers: Josef Pettit, Slade Pepin
Greeters: Sharon Boyum
Communion: Bobbie Hillary

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Acolytes: Dominic Humble
Readers: Paula Howe, Dominic Humble
Greeters: Mary & Val Gudmundson
Communion: Mike Pepin

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Acolytes: Cash Dahl
Readers: Kristi Gudmundson, Hunter Lee
Greeters: Josef Pettit
Communion: Josef Pettit

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Acolytes: Bella Westby
Readers: Courtney Lee, Bella Westby
Greeters: Nancy Rustad
Communion: Mary Gudmundson

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

**Elstad
Acolytes/Readers/Ushers**

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Acolyte: Nolan Eide
Readers: Nolan Eide
Greeters:
Ushers: Jordan & Ali Johnson

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Acolyte: Quentin Daniels
Readers: Lori Bakke, Quentin Daniels
Greeters:
Ushers: Jordan & Ali Johnson

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Acolytes: Norah Eide
Readers: Gene Topness, Norah Eide
Greeters:
Ushers: Jordan & Ali Johnson

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Acolytes: Mason Wolfs
Readers: Tanya & Mason Wolfs
Greeters:
Ushers: Jordan & Ali Johnson

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Acolytes: Quentin Daniels
Readers: Marcia Randall, Quentin Daniels
Greeters:
Ushers: Jordan & Ali Johnson