

WELCOME

we're glad you're here

TWO CHURCHES, ONE FAITH

JUNE 2026

Rooted Together: Elstad-Highland Prairie Parish
ELSTADHIGHLANDPRAIRIEPARISH@GMAIL.COM

Pastor: Rev. Jackie Short ~ (507) 517-0769 ~pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Courtney Lee

Parish Office: (507) 864-2731 ~ elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com

Summer Office Hours

Pr. Jackie

Please Call or email us to set up a time that works for you.

Stay informed...

Check us out on Facebook

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church
Elstad Lutheran Church

&

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org





June is a month of transitions....

School years end. Graduations are celebrated. Summer schedules begin. Some of us are preparing for vacations, others are facing changes we didn't plan for. Life seems full of endings and beginnings this time of year.

Endings can stir up many emotions. There is joy in accomplishments, pride in milestones reached, and excitement for what comes next. Yet endings can also bring uncertainty, grief, and questions about the future. Even good changes often involve letting go of something familiar.

The good news is that God is present in both the ending and the beginning.

Throughout Scripture, God continually leads people into new seasons.

Abraham left his homeland. Moses led the people into a new future. The disciples left familiar lives to follow Jesus. Again and again, God met people at the threshold between what was and what would be.

I love the promise we hear in Isaiah:

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19)

God is always at work bringing new life, new hope, and new possibilities. Sometimes we can see it clearly. Other times, we recognize it only in hindsight. But God's promise remains: we never walk into the future alone.

As we move through this month of transitions, may we give thanks for the chapters that are ending. Let us celebrate the people and experiences that have shaped us. And may we trust that wherever God is leading us next, God's grace will go before us.

Whether you are graduating, retiring, beginning a new adventure, facing an unexpected change, or simply enjoying the rhythm of summer, remember this: the God who has been faithful in the past is faithful still.

May we find peace in letting go, courage in moving forward, and joy in discovering the new things God is doing among us.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jackie



A MESSAGE FROM THE EHP PARISH OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR COURTNEY LEE

As we move into the summer months, I would like to thank everyone for your patience as we continue the important work of updating our parish records. Accurate contact information helps us stay connected and ensures that parish members receive newsletters, emails, event information, prayer requests, and other important updates.

If you know of a family member, friend, neighbor, or fellow parishioner who is not receiving parish communications, please encourage them to contact the church office. We would be happy to verify and update their information so they can stay informed about all that is happening within our parish community.

Likewise, if you have recently changed your mailing address, phone number, or email address, please let us know so we can keep our records current.

Thank you for helping us strengthen our parish connections. We are blessed to serve such a caring and supportive congregation.

Wishing you a joyful and blessed June!

Grace and Peace,

Courtney-Parish Administrator

JUNE FOOD SHELF MINISTRY

SUMMER LUNCH ESSENTIALS

As school lets out for the summer, many families face the challenge of providing additional meals and snacks for children who no longer have access to school lunches. During the month of June, we invite you to help support local families by donating items that can be used for easy summer



Suggested Donations:

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Canned Pasta (Ravioli, SpaghettiOs, etc.)
- Crackers
- Granola Bars
- Fruit Cups
- Applesauce
- Juice Boxes
- Other Kid-Friendly Snack Items



Your generosity helps provide nourishment, hope, and care to our neighbors in need. Thank you for sharing God's love through this ministry.

Parish Happenings



Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Ron Stensgard, Janette Dragvold,
Madalynn Keller | 16. Paul Ehler, Sawyer Nelson,
17. Tate Lind |
| 3. Glen Bakken, Sommer Johnson | 18. Alison Feine, Wilson Storhoff |
| 4. Lynnette Pederson,
Andrew Bacon | 19. Julie Dragvold, Marcasia Short,
Allyson Christian |
| 8. Kortnie Woxland, Liam Johnson | 21. Tony Semmen |
| 10. Julie Koop | 22. Kalin Dahl, Annabelle Christian |
| 11. Lisa Chiglo | 23. Scott Meldahl |
| 12. Jay Dahl, Elissa Beach,
Adam James | 25. Cindy Howe, Sari Rein,
Kyson Klug |
| 13. David Lombard, James Rein | 26. Kim Halverson |
| 14. Riley Koop | 27. Dick Haight, Cathy Bakkum,
Deb Topness, Andrew Nepstad |
| 15. Tom Dybing, Andrea Waldron | 28. Michael Evenson, Avalon Jacobson |
| | 29. Charles Mierau, David Howe,
Kari Drinkall, Jessie Rustad,
Joshua Howe |

Anniversaries



2. David & Lori Bakke
9. Richard & Jennifer Nepstad
19. Jeff & Carolyn Freese
20. Ron & Martha Stensgard
21. Murt & Sharon Boyum
Erik & Lisa Sievers
25. Duane & Angle Bakke
27. Steven & Lynn Ryan
29. Glen & Karen Bakken
30. John & Jennifer DeGeorge

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 ...

HP Council Meeting @ Highland Prairie

Sunday June 14th
12:30pm



In our Prayers

Barb Lee, Diane Haight, Glen Bakken, and Laura Dahl as well as for all who are ill, suffering or in need of prayers.





What's Happening at Elstad...



Elstad Bible Studies

Esther Circle
will meet on
May 14th 2026
at Diane
Haight's

The Leah Circle will meet on the second or third Tuesday of the month in the afternoon. They use "The Gather" magazine to guide their discussions. All are welcomed to join. They enjoy coffee and fellowship and have a good time. Reach out to Carol Dixon for more information if interested in joining.

The Elizabeth Circle usually meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:45am. Reach out to Lori Bakke for more information if interested in joining.

Elstad WELCA Monthly Serving Commitee

June

Glee & Gordy
Becky & Tim
Jodie & Adam
Chelsey & Cody

July

Kay
Krissy
Kelly & Trent
Shelby & Christopher



What's Happening at Highland Prairie ...



QUILTING & POTLUCK
JUNE 9TH AT
9:30AM



WELCA Bible Study
June 3rd @
1:30pm

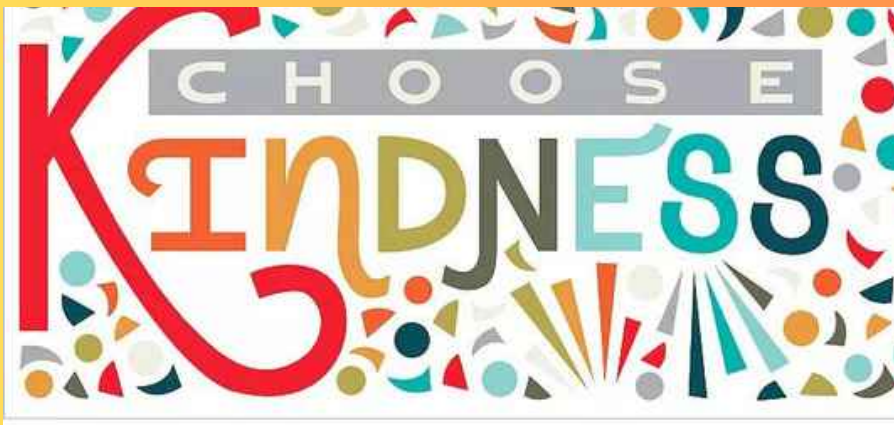


Chair Aerobics



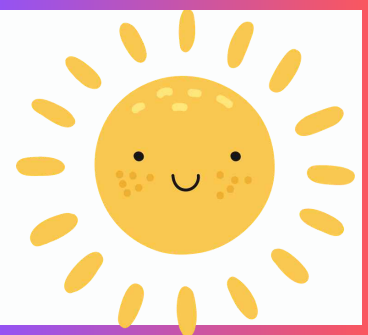
Wednesdays @ 11 am

“The flowers appear on
the earth; the time of
singing has come, the
cooing of doves is
heard in our land.”
— Song of Solomon
2:12



Thank you to all that help during grubby Wednesday
cleanup and to all that help during the week. The
ground look great!

Thank you Josh, Cashton and Ryker for all
your help with spreading the mulch, trimming trees and
putting in edging!
The place looks great!



Together In Faith Parish News

MID WEEK CONNECTION & CAMPFIRE

YOU'RE INVITED: MIDWEEK CONNECTION + TRAVELING CAMPFIRE
STEP AWAY FROM THE BUSY WEEK AND JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CONNECTION, REFLECTION, AND SIMPLE JOY AROUND THE FIRE.

WHAT TO EXPECT: A WELCOMING SPACE TO GATHER AND UNWIND
MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION AND CONNECTION

A COZY CAMPFIRE ATMOSPHERE (BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET!)

OPTIONAL SHARING, LISTENING, AND BEING PRESENT TOGETHER

THIS IS PART OF OUR TRAVELING CAMPFIRE SERIES—BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN DIFFERENT SPACES TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND SPARK CONNECTION.

WHEN: 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

WHERE: YOUR HOME OR CHURCH

SIGN UP TO HOST: EMAIL PASTOR JACKIE OR COURTNEY

COME AS YOU ARE. BRING A FRIEND IF YOU'D LIKE. STAY FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN.

LET'S SLOW DOWN, GATHER, AND RECONNECT THIS SUMMER!



Parish-Wide Potluck – June 28th

Join us for a Parish-Wide Potluck following our Bowl Service on Sunday, June 28th!

Please bring a dish to share—salads, sides, main dishes, or desserts are all appreciated!

We look forward to gathering as one parish, celebrating community, and sharing in the joy of good food and great company.



Summer Bowl Worship Schedule

(June–September 2026)

Please join us for worship in the Bowl this summer:

June

6/7: Highland Prairie ONLY at 9:00 a.m.

6/28: Combined worship service at 10:30 a.m.

- **Parish Potluck following service**

July

7/5: Highland Prairie ONLY at 9:00 a.m.

7/26: Combined worship service at 10:30 a.m.

- **Meal following service**

August

8/2: Highland Prairie ONLY at 9:00 a.m.

8/23: Combined worship service at 10:30 a.m.

- **Meal following service**

September

9/6: Highland Prairie ONLY at 9:00 a.m.

End of School Year Campfire

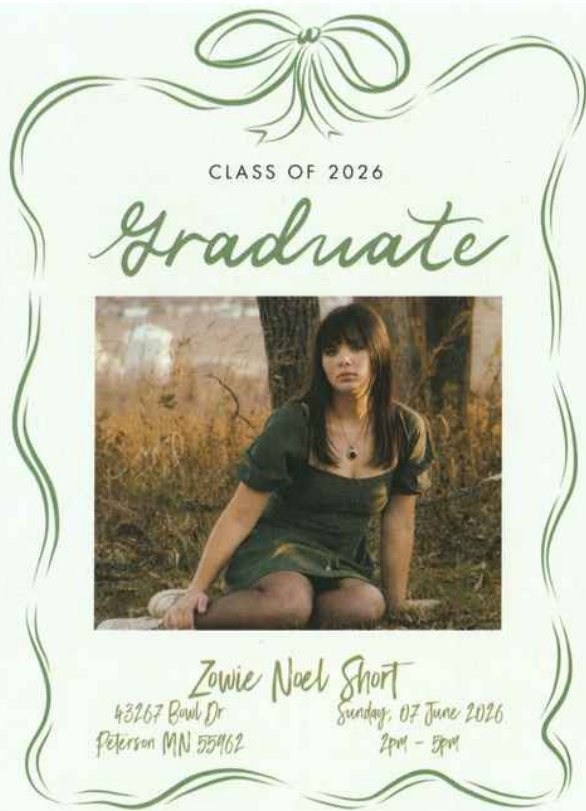
**Pastor Jackie's Backyard
Wednesday June 3rd**

S'mores ~ Hotdogs ~ Campfire ~ Games ~ out door Movie

Grab your friends and head on over at 5pm

**Bring a lawnchair, your favorite outdoor game
& a smore stick.**





Everyone is invited to join us @ 2pm on June 7th at the Parsonage to Celebrate Zowie !!

Zowie plans to take a gap year before attending University of Minnesota Duluth for Financial Planning



Senior Spotlight

Name: Jensyn Marie Storhoff

Parents' names: Steve and Beth Storhoff

High School: Lanesboro

Future Plans: I plan on attending Morningside University to study pre-veterinary medicine and play basketball.

Activities, honors, or achievements:

I have played basketball, volleyball, and softball throughout my high school career, and I have also been involved in band, choir, jazz band, knowledge bowl, FFA, National Honor Society, and student council.

A short reflection on my faith:

My faith has been the foundation of my life. God has blessed me with a life full of amazing family, friends, and opportunities. The peace he gives me is incomparable, and the love he has for me is unconditional. The Lord has always been there for me through the lows and the highs, and I know that he will continue being there for me through my next journey in life.

Favorite memory:

Playing 9-square volleyball with my confirmation class and Pastor Luther



May 17, 2026

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

May 17, 2026

President Val Howe called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

Council Members present were Robert Anfinson, Josh Dahl, Kristi Gudmundson, Mary Gudmundson, Val Howe, Amy Jacobson,

Courtney Lee, Chellsey Lind, Mitch Paulson and Mike Pepin. Amy Jacobson and Mitch Paulson were absent.

Devotions were given at the Parish meeting. A quorum was determined, and a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of

old business; conversation with Highland and Whalan and new business; golf cart use 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 April. The Month-to-date information provided was income of \$5,708.25,

expenses of \$11,717.28; Expenses exceeded income by \$6,009.03. A motion to approve the report was made by Chellsey Lind, Mary

Gudmundson seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report – Given at the Parish meeting.

Pastor's Report – Given at the Parish meeting.

Correspondence – Grace Place donation request

Committee Reports: Church Committee – Fire extinguishers are updated; pest control has been done.

Grounds Committee – Bowl stair railing has been restored, leaves blown out, trees trimmed, Rest House cleaned, flower garden

cleaned, water is on, etc.

Worship Committee – Themed worship for outdoor service for summer and offering a contemporary service the third Sunday of the

month are in the works.

Youth & Education Committee – Discussed at the Parish meeting. Survey our families for what works for them.

WELCA – None

Endowment Committee – None

Old Business – ATV/UTV/tractor ride fundraiser update

Lawn mowing bids – An email motion to accept the bids from Cutting Edge for mowing church and parsonage grounds at \$6,000.00

for 23 mowings and the bid from HP Boys; Cash Dahl, Brody Gellersen, and Tahven Pepin for trimming every other week at

\$1950.00, for a total of \$9450.00 was made by Kristi Gudmundson, Mary Gudmundson seconded. Motion carried via email and

confirmed at the meeting. Motion carried.

Conversation with Highland and Whalan churches and what, if anything, are we open to with the upcoming retirement of the

current pastor.

New Business – Golf cart use discussed with approved drivers being Council Members, Nancy Rustad, Pastor and family

Reflections

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

Motion

carried.

A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 7:30 was made by Chellsey Lind, Mitch Paulson seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Gudmundson, Council Secretary

Next Meeting June 14th..

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, May 17, 2026
Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Gene Topness at 4:31 p.m.

Roll call: Council members present were Gene Topness, Kathy Abrahamson, Jennifer Nepstad, Morgan Knutson, Tanya Wolfs, and Matt Nelson. Trent Eide was absent. Pastor Jackie Short was also present. A Quorum was called.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kathy Abrahamson, seconded by Morgan Knutson. Motion carried.

Congregation members present to address the council: None
Pastor's report: No additional report at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was reviewed by the council. Morgan Knutson made a motion to approve, seconded by Gene Topness. Motion carried. Report will be placed on file and audited at a later date.

President's report: None

Correspondence received: None

Old business:

- The Daniels' boys have been hired to mow the church lawn and cemetery.
- Council revisited fundraising opportunities and decided on doing a church rummage sale. The sale will be held at the Lanesboro Community Center on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 11-12, 2026. These dates coincide with the Root River Trail Towns' 60-mile Garage Sale event. Now is a good time to start thinking of items you may want to clean out and donate to the sale. We will accept housewares, decor, furniture. We will NOT ACCEPT clothes and mattresses. More information will follow as details are finalized.

New business:

- The church roof is in need of repair. Shingles continue to blow off during recent storms and there has been leaking inside the church. Council reviewed the estimate from David Miller, who repaired the church steeple last summer. Morgan Knutson made a motion to proceed with the project estimated at \$29,000, which includes Certaineed shingles and a 50-year certified warranty. Matt Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

The secretary's report was given. Motion to approve was made by Matt Nelson, seconded by Morgan Knutson. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jennifer Nepstad, seconded by Kathy Abrahamson. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Next council meeting is at Elstad on Sunday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Tanya Wolfs, Council Secretary

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Parish Council Meeting
May 17, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Highland Prairie President Val Howe.

Council Members Kathy Abrahamson, Amber Arends, Jennifer Nepstad, Morgan Knutson, Matt Nelson, Gene Topness, Tanya Wolfs, Robert Anfinson, Josh Dahl, Kristi Gudmundson, Mary Gudmundson, Val Howe, Amy Jacobson, Courtney Lee, Chellsey Lind, David Markegard and Mike Pepin were present. Trent Eide was absent.

A quorum was determined and a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Morgan Knutson, Gene Topness seconded. Motion carried.

Devotions were given by Robert Anfinson.

Congregation members wishing to address the Council: None

Presidents' Reports – Val Howe updated Highland Prairie Council info with the once a month outdoor worship service in

addition to the Parish Bowl service.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Jackie Short shared the planned Council Retreat on Sunday, June 28 th 12:30-4:30 following the

first Parish Bowl service and potluck lunch. Silent/Live auction to fund various areas is in planning stage for one of the other Parish Bowl services. Served a funeral at North Prairie recently. 1 st and 3 rd Wednesday campfire worship beginning

in June. VBS at Elstad is being considered.

Youth – Pending service/learning trip for the older youth, community youth group still in the works, Messy Church on Parish Bowl Worship Sundays for children to do activities and sharing of the Word.

Correspondence – None

Old Business: Office printer/copier received costs from Tri-State Business Machines and Metro Sales Inc. for purchase or

lease options. A motion to accept the lower priced bid to purchase outright from Tri-State Business Machines the Canon

Recertified machine at \$3495.00 with a \$42.00 per month service agreement was made by Mitch Paulson, Chellsey Lind

seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: None

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve as read was made by Kristi Gudmundson, Mitch Paulson seconded. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer was made at 6:15p.m. by Mike Pepin, Chellsey Lind seconded. Motion carried.

Next Elstad-Highland Prairie Parish meeting will be at 5:30 pm on Sunday, July 12th, at Elstad.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Gudmundson, Council Secretary

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm	HP Bible Study 1:30pm	Bulletin Items Duel		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Highland Prairie W: 9am- Outside Worship Elstad W: 10:30am	Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	HP WELCA Quilting & Potluck 9:30am Education Committee Meeting 5:30pm	End of Year Camp Fire 5p	Bulletin Items Duel		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Highland Prairie W: 9am Elstad W: 10:30am	Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am		Traveling Campfire Location: TBD	Bulletin Items Duel		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Highland Prairie W: 9am Elstad W: 10:30am	Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	Newsletter Items Duel		Bulletin Items Duel		
28	29	30				
Bowl Service 10:30am Parish Council Retreat @ HP 12:30pm-4:30pm	Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am					

Elstad Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

43267 Bowl Drive

Peterson, MN 55962

*June 2026
Newsletter*

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

**Highland Prairie
Acolytes/Readers/Greeters**

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Acolyte: N/A

Readers: Val Howe, Brody Gellersen

Greeters: Mary & Val Gudmundson

Communion: Andrea Pepin

Ushers: Ken Bakkum & Gary Rustad

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Acolyte: Isabella Westby

Readers: Bobbie Hillary, Isabella Westby

Greeters: Josef Pettit

Communion: David Markegard

Ushers: Brody Gellersen & Val Gudmundson

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Acolytes: Hudson Lee

Readers: Arlene Johnson, Hudson Lee

Greeters: Nancy Rustad

Communion: Val Howe

Ushers: Jeff Short, Gary Rustad

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Acolytes: N/A

Readers: Josef Pettit, Kaelynn Evenson

Greeters: Courtney Lee

Communion: Chellsey Lind

Ushers: Sharon Boyum & Chellsey Lind

Elstad

Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Acolyte: Quentin Daniels

Readers: Marcia Randall, Quentin Daniels

Greeters: Tom & Carolyn Smith

Ushers: Jordan & Ali Johnson

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Acolyte: Norah Eide

Readers: Vicky Topness, Norah Eide

Greeters: Marcia Randall

Ushers: Jordan & Ali Johnson

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Acolyte: Mason Wolfs

Readers: Carol Overland, Mason Wolfs

Greeters

Ushers: Jordan & Ali Johnson

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Acolyte: N/A

Readers: N/A

Greeters: N/A

Ushers: N/A