

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

~ February 2023 ~

Bridge Pastor, Pr. Alma Buco

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Church Office Phone: (507) 864-2731

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

February Worship Schedule

Sunday, February 5, 2023
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Highland Prairie—9:00 a.m.
Elstad—10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Highland Prairie—9:00 a.m.
Elstad—10:30 a.m.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday, February 19, 2023
Transfiguration of Our Lord

Highland Prairie—9:00 a.m.
Elstad—10:30 a.m.

Exodus 24: 12-18

Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

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Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Ash Wednesday

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 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent

Highland Prairie—9:00 a.m.
Elstad—10:30 a.m.

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

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Dear church- I don't know about y'all but I sometimes my life is beyond chaos. By the time I reach the end of a day, and John Henry is asleep, all I want to do is sit down and do...nothing...but there are dishes to do, toys to clean up, laundry to fold. It never ends and I find myself wanting to run away to a camp in the woods and hide for an undetermined amount of time...or at least sit still for a minute without somebody needing something from me.

Maybe you know this feeling, maybe you know the feeling of the ever growing to-do list-whether it's kids or grandkids or house repairs or work-the feeling like it is never done is exhausting.

I can't make to- do lists disappear or life magically calmer...but I can offer you a space to come and sit, to breath and to just be.

Starting with our Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd, we are going to be doing some new things in worship.

On Wednesday nights, we will have "dinner church" with conversation prompts followed by a return to the familiar "Holden Evening Prayer" worship service.

On Sunday mornings, we are going to try to have a "Taize" style worship. Taize is a monastic community in France known for its simple repetitive songs that allow worshippers a place to settle into something familiar. We will use some familiar liturgy AND we will introduce some new meditative, repetitive songs. Each week will be the same songs and same pattern so hopefully you can come, relax and just be for a short period of time.

On both Wednesday and Sunday nights, we will be using a devotional put together by author Kate Bowler titled "Bless the Lent we Actually Have" as a way to bless the chaos, the imperfections and the hard spaces in our life. There is a daily devotional available. You can print your own copy at katebowler.com/blessthislent or let me know and I will print a copy for you.

So dear ones, this Lent, come and bless your life as it is...chaotic and busy as it may be. And maybe, just maybe, find a moment of peace a long the way.

Blessings dear ones!

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Elstad—Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish 2023 Staff

Elstad:

President—Gene Topness
Vice President—Christopher Nelson
Secretary—Aimee Rodger
Treasurer—Jennifer Nepstad
Trustees—Amber Arends (23)
 Kathy Abrahamson (24)
 Krissy Overland (25)

Board of Education:

Krissy Overland (23)
Morgan Knutson (24)
Michelle Rein (25)

Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Dick & Diane Haight

Synod Assembly Alternates:

Kathy Abrahamson & Carol Overland

Head Ushers:

Gene Topness—Vicky Topness
John Overland—Carol Overland
Dick Haigh—Diane Haight

Auditors:

John Abrahamson (23) Tom Dybing (24)

Board of Life & Growth:

Diane Haight (24) Larry & Deb Topness (24)
Carolyn Smith (25) Darlys Storhoff (26)

World Hunger Representatives:

Philipp & Ruth Abrahamson

Cemetery Board:

Duane Bakke (24)
David Lawstuen (25)
Rich Nepstad (26)

Highland Prairie:

President—Kyle Chiglo
Vice President—Steve Howe
Secretary—Mary Gudmundson
Treasurer—Karen Bakken
Trustees—
Robert Anfinson (23) Lyle Meldahl (23)
Val Howe (24) Sharon Ehler (24)
Mike Pepin (25) David Markegard (25)

Board of Education:

Tracy Lind (23)
Andrea Hoiland (24)
Chellsey Olson (25)

Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Gordon & Arlene Johnson

Synod Assembly Alternates:

Lyle & Ann Meldahl

Head Ushers:

Elvin Paulson
Kenneth Bakkum

Auditors:

Sharon Boyum (23) Nancy Rustad (24)
Darrel Highum (25)

Good Shepherd Delegates:

Sharon Ehler
Mary Gudmundson

Endowment Committee:

Nancy Rustad (23) Charles Pederson (24)
Robert Anfinson (25) Val Howe (26)

Cemetery Board:

Lynnette Pederson

Prayer Corner

Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Carol Fogal, Ferne Brewster, Naomi Wangen, Lisa Bakkum and all others who are ill or in need of our prayers.

Elstad- From now until Easter Sunday our Sunday school will be collecting a noisy offering to support the work of Zion Family Health Family Clinic in Sayyi, Uganda. We will collect change from our kiddos every Sunday and have a congregational collection on the first Sunday February and March as well as Easter Sunday-April 9. Thank you for your support and all the ways you are supporting our kids as they learn about all the ways we follow Christ with our lives.

I am working with another Haiti supporter to send a shipment through a secure shipper fairly soon. The needs are so extreme and everything that arrives is so appreciated. I'll be sending email to some of the usual people at both Highland Prairie and Elstad in the next few days with a list of the most wanted and needed supplies and a timeline. I'll include you in the note as sometimes my email address looks like spam to computer security.

shalom Pastor Marie

The Highland Prairie WELCA is sponsoring a Valentine's Day brunch after the worship on February 12th. The menu will include johnny cake (corn bread), scrambles eggs, sausage links, hash browns and Valentine cookies. There will be coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice and milk to go with the meal.

Free will donations for the meal will go for the las 2 doors and/or eave covers for the parsonage. We encourage everyone in the parish to attend and enjoy this special occasion with our church family.

Attention Elstad & Highland Prairie members: We are in need of acolytes, readers, and greeters for both services on Ash Wednesday (February 22nd). Also, Highland Prairie members we are looking for an acolyte and youth reader for Sunday, February 29th. Please let Pr. Alma or Lisa know if are available to help out for any of these services.

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday January 8th, 2023

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Gene Topness at 5:41pm.

Roll call was taken. All members present. A Quorum was called.

Others present: Pastor Alma.

Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda made by Jennifer and second by Kathy. Motion carried.

Congregation members present to address the council include none.

Communication received none.

President's report: No president's report at this time

Pastor's report:

Noisy offering raised \$1,128 and the goats and bees were doubled. The children would like to raise money again sometime this year. There is current discussion on the possibility of partnering with another congregation to fund a medical clinic in Uganda. The money raised would go towards supplies for the clinic.

Elstad council meeting minutes continued:

Treasurer's Report:

Offerings are down \$7,000 from last year and we did not receive another PPE loan. Fuel expenses have to be paid 100% up front this year. \$10,000 was borrowed from the memorial fund to pay the fuel expense. \$8,000 was paid back.

Insurance was paid a year in advance with the PPE loan.

The treasurer's report has been audited. The motion to approve the report was made by Amber and second by Krissy, Motion passed.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

Exterior Sealing - Gene spoke to Tyler Clement about the sealing and Tyler said it should help. He would recommend power washing the sides of the church that have mildew before putting the seal on.

Foundation Repairs - no updates, it will be discussed at a later date.

Front Steps- Gene spoke to Lance Papenfuss. He will come and take a look at it with Gene to give recommendations.

Basement lights- Tom Dybing and Gene walked around to inspect the basement lights. There are 5-6 lights that are out. Tom spoke to Norman's Electric, and they recommended putting in LED lights. The existing fixtures can be used, and a new ballast is not needed. The cost of 6 lights is approximately \$300.

Water system - Tom Dybing called Culligan. Culligan will be out Tuesday morning to do a service test and Tom will be there.

New Business:

A) Slate of officers - All of the current Elstad Council Members are serving another year.

B) 2023 Budget- Elstad's 2023 proposed budget was reviewed and will be presented at the annual meeting. Pastor Alma commended Elstad's congregation for their continued donations to ministries and foundations.

C) Annual Meeting- items for the agenda were discussed

D) Call Committee - Reverend Barb Streed said the call committee meeting would be sometime at the end of January. John Rein, Marsha Randall, Thea Arends, and Jody Daniels are all members of the call committee.

E) Projects for this year- will continue to discuss

Secretary's report was given. Motion to approve by Amber, and second by Christopher. Motion passed. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jennifer, and second by Kathy.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:33pm.

Submitted by Aimee Rodger, Elstad Council Secretary

Next Meeting is Sunday, March 12, 2023, at Elstad

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Joint Council Meeting

January 08, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members Kathy Abrahamson, Amber Arends, Chris Nelson, Jennifer Nepstad, Krissy Overland, Aimee Rodgers, Gene Topness, Robert Anfinson, Karen Bakken, Joyce Dahl, Sharon Ehler, Mary Gudmundson, Steve, Howe, Val Howe, Gordon Johnson, David Markegard, and Lyle Meldahl were present.

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

Devotions were given by Pastor Alma on “star words” – Council’s word for the year is “feelings”

There were no President’s Report for Highland Prairie, Gene Topness recognized Gordon’s contribution and thanked him.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Alma will be spending the 3rd Thursday of the month at Good Shepherd Lutheran Home.

No Youth Report

No Correspondence received

Old Business: Gutter guards for parsonage estimate from Latsch Island is \$2244.00. Joyce Dahl moved to proceed with installation, Sharon Ehler seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: Wi-Fi thermostat for parsonage was discussed Gene Topness moved to install one, Chris Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

2023 Worship Schedule reviewed and the removal of the Christmas Day Worship Service was moved by Jennifer Nepstad, Chrissy Overland seconded. Motion carried.

Kathy Abrahamson made the motion to approve the 2023 Worship Schedule to be presented to the congregations at the annual meetings, Joyce Dahl seconded. Motion carried.

Call Committee – Gene Topness heard from the Synod and Rev. Barb Streed will be back in mid January.

Worship Committee duties were discussed and recommended to have Joint Parish Worship Committee meetings four times a year.

The Secretary’s report was read and a motion to approve as read was made by Amber Ahrends, Val Howe seconded. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn with the Lord’s Prayer was made at 7:15 p.m. by Gene Topness, Chrissy Overland seconded. Motion carried.

Next joint meeting will be at 6:30 pm on March 12, 2023 at Elstad

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

January 08, 2023

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

Council Members present were Robert Anfinson, Karen Bakken, Joyce Dahl, Sharon Ehler, Mary Gudmundson, Steve Howe, Val Howe, Gordon Johnson, David Markegard and Lyle Meldahl.

Devotions were given at the joint council meeting.

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

No congregation members

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. The year-to-date information provided was income of \$92,916.00 expenses \$99,322.00; expenses exceed income by \$6,406.00. A motion to approve as presented was made by Val Howe, Lyle Meldahl seconded. Motion carried.

No President's Report

Pastor's Report regarded Confirmation mentors needed.

Correspondence – State water test received

Committee Reports – Worship Committee meeting this week. Church basement electrical issues need attention.

Old Business: None

New Business: 2023 Budget of \$107,000 was reviewed and Joyce Dahl moved to propose the budget to the congregation at the annual meeting, Val Howe seconded.

Church Wi-Fi password availability

Funeral contacts and responsibilities need to be clarified.

Ballot positions discussed

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve was made by Sharon Ehler, Karen Bakken seconded. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 8: 30 p.m. was made by Lyle Meldahl, Val Howe seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next Meeting is February 12th at Highland Prairie.

Greetings Haiti supporters,

Once again we are making plans to ship much need supplies to Haiti. In about 3 weeks we hope to gather everything and do some major packing. At this time we are shipping large boxes or barrels through a shipper in Indiana know to Pastor Mioche and Lyckinger Hailaire. The containers then arrive in Cap Haitian by boat. It is too dangerous to ship via Port-au-Prince at this itme and too costly to do anything significant in size or weight by plane.

Below is a list Pastor Mioche shared. School supplies are more costly this time of year so I suggest waiting to buy those in the fall. However, most of us have a drawer full of pens, pencils, crayons and markers. Used in all these categories are OK. Please sharpen pencils, and make sure all markers and pens work. If you are thinking about donating a tractor lets talk before you deliver it to the drop off site. ;)

I am happy to talk to any one to provide more details about shipping, cost and how to package things. Please add these details to your newsletter or other publications or public announcements if appropriate.

Thanks to both WELCA groups who gave financial offerings to Pastor Mioche's ministry at the end of the year. Your gifts were gratefully received.

Shalom Pastor Marie AK Anderson

Haiti Needs List—January 2023

School Supplies

- a) Pens (working)
- b) Pencils (new or used, at least 6 inches long)
- c) Crayons (whole, or broken)
- d) Scissors (children's safety)
- e) Colored Chalk (for chalk board)
- f) Geometric Instrument Sets (small, plastic for students, ruler, 4" protractor, 3" 45°/90° triangle, 4" 30°/60° triangle, compass)
- g) Geometric Instrument Sets (large, plastic for teachers, ruler, protractor, 45°/90° triangle, 30°/60° triangle, compass)
- h) Back Packs (small, light duty, for book bag)
- i) Shapes and Fruits Learning Posters
- j) Glue (white, Elmer's or similar, liquid or stick)
- k) White Out (for teachers)

2) Food

- a) Peanut Butter (any type, 16 oz preferred, but any size okay)
- b) Children's Vitamins
- c) Powdered Milk

3) Clothing

- a) Underwear (men's, women's, boy's, girl's)
- b) Socks
- c) Children's Shoes
- d) baby clothing

4) Musical Instruments and more

- a) Trumpet
- b) Saxophone
- c) Any band instruments

5) Children's Toys (small, Happy Meal, etc.)

6) Laptops

7) Smart Phones

8) Tools (reasonable quality)

- a) Electric Drills b) Eletric Saws
- c) Hand Tools (hammer, saw, screw driver, pliers, etc.
- d) Mechanics Tools (socket sets, wrenches, etc.)

9) Generators (working or not)

10) Welders (electric stick, any vintage)

11) Tractors (small/medium utility, diesel, willing to discuss any possibilities)

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@yahoo.com



- 1~ Ellen Highum
- ~ Glenn Thomas
- ~ Noah Carlson
- ~ Brady Stensgard
- 2~ Jeff Mueller
- ~ Avery Rodger
- ~ Briella Rodger
- 3~ Trent Eide
- ~ Sylvi Olson
- 4~ Megan Fox
- ~ Kaylee Peterson
- ~ Nancy Rustad
- 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 Kenny
- ~ Erik James
- ~ Ryan Maschka
- 22 ~ Ann Meldahl
- ~ Linda Hundorf
- ~ Brandon Sjarpe
- ~ Tye Anderson
- ~ Kenna Gudmundson
- 25~ Richard Gullickson
- ~ Michelle James
- 27~ Dorothy Evenson

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

February 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HP WELCA Bible study—1:30 p.m. Bulletin	2	3	4
5 HP—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 SS during worship	6	7	8 HP WELCA Quilting Day— 9:30 a.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	9	10	11
12 HP-WELCA Brunch HP—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 SS during worship	13	14	15 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18
19 HP—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 SS during worship HP council meeting— 5:30 p.m.	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday EL—5:00 p.m. HP—7:00 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	23	24	25
26 HP—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 SS during worship	27	28				

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

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Permit No. #6



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023

ACOLYTE: LUCAS REDALEN
READERS: LUCAS REDALEN, SHARON EHLE
GREETERS: SHARON EHLE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

ACOLYTE: BRODE VICKERMAN
READERS: BRODE VICKERMAN, STEVE HOWE
GREETERS: ALLEN & KAYE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

ACOLYTE: LUCAS REDALEN
READERS: LUCAS REDALEN, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: CHELLSEY OLSON

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

ACOLYTE: BRODE VICKERMAN
READERS: BRODE VICKERMAN
GREETERS:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READERS: MIKE PEPIN
GREETERS: PEPIN FAMILY

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READERS: RUTH ABRAHAMSON, KENDRA HAGEMAN
GREETERS: RICH NEPSTAD, JOEL HAGEMAN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READERS: CAROL OVERLAND
GREETERS: SHELLY NELSON, GENE TOPNESS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READERS: LORI BAKKE, TOM DYBING
GREETERS: ERIK NELSON, TRENT EIDE

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READERS:
GREETERS:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READERS: THEA ARENDS, VICKY TOPNESS
GREETERS: AMBER & THEA ARENDS, TOM SMITH

USHERS: GENE & VICKY TOPNESS