

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
~ July 2017~*

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com

Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator

Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

Worship Schedule

July 2017

Sunday, July 2nd

10:00 a.m. @ Elstad

Wednesday, July 5th

6:30 p.m. @ Highland Prairie

Sunday, July 16th

10:00 a.m. @ Elstad

Wednesday, July 19th

6:30 p.m. @ Highland Prairie

Sunday, July 23rd

10:00 a.m. @ Highland Prairie

Wednesday, July 26th

6:30 p.m. @ Elstad

Sunday, July 30th

10:00 a.m. @ Elstad

Prayer Corner

Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Elaine Holm, Barb Lee, Deb Topness, Eastyn Skala, Kenny Peterson, Eric Johnson, Frank Sievers, Pernella Landsverk and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE WELCA ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, July 5th, 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, July 12th, 9:30 a.m. quilting/projects/potluck

Sunday, July 23rd Outdoor Parish Service/Lunch

Highland Prairie Financials for 2017

YTD Income	\$ 38,587.00
YTD Expenses	\$ 33,913.00
Income Exc. Expenses	\$ 4,674.00
YTD Budget	\$ 39,125.00
YTD Income	\$ 38,587.00
YTD Over	\$ 538.00

Elstad Budget for May

Budget for May	\$ 7,425.67
Received	\$ 4,698.00
Over for April	\$ 2,727.67
Budget YTD	\$37,128.35
Received YTD	\$33,591.00
Under YTD	\$ 3,537.35

Pastor's Page July 2017

Becoming a grandparent has opened my eyes anew to the wonder of a child in the face of human life amid creation. Perched in front of the picture window of the parsonage with Gracie in my arms, I watch her gaze and point her little dimpled finger to the squirrel scrounging for food at the base of the bird feeder, the leaves of the maple tree aflutter in the wind, the passing of a robin in flight, and whatever else crosses her field of vision. Her propensity to enter into each moment of life with eyes wide open to the wonder of human life in creation is something not only for this middle-age man to behold, but to remember and re-learn it...and this...from the least among us.

"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18.3).

When Jesus told his disciples to become like children, he was not urging them to become naïve; to proceed through life in undiscerning thoughtlessness. Rather, he was urging them to become like children whose enviable ability to behold and respond to life with awe and wonder is not thwarted by a world that often cannot seem to see beyond the problems it faces.

A host of the greatest observers of human life have been children at heart; men and women who continued to be dazzled by the wonders and mysteries of human life in creation amid the realities of world. The great saint, Augustine, admitted he could be distracted by the sight of a lizard catching an insect despite being surrounded by fearful temptations. Albert Einstein, whose work confirmed the truth of the atomic theory of matter, said, "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science." And then there is the father, dressed in his fatigues as he was about to depart on his military deployment abroad, pictured enjoying the tea party his little daughter had prepared.

Let us pray that we may remember what it was like to enjoy our little daughter's tea party or what it was like to catch fireflies with our grandson or what it was like to sit and behold the sight of a bird in flight with our granddaughter, niece or nephew, in our arms. And while we attend to the pressing problems and responsibilities of our lives in the world we inhabit, let us gladly hear, learn, and lean into the promise of the One, Jesus Christ, who is bidding us to become like children...again. For in, with, and under his promises, we are set free to be such children who revel in the mystery, wonder and awe of the gift of our lives, and those by whose company... yea, the child in our midst(!)... we are blessed beyond measure. plm+

July and August Bible Study

A July/August Bible study on selected Psalms will take place at Highland Prairie on the following evenings at 7:00 P.M.: July 24, 31, and August 7th. Please let Pr. Mathsen know if your plan to attend.

Summer Worship Schedule

The July worship schedule is as follows:

- +Sunday, July 2nd, 10 A.M., Elstad
- +Wednesday, July 5th, 6:30 P.M., Highland Prairie
- +Sunday, July 9th, 10 A.M., Highland Prairie
- +Sunday, July 16th, 10 A.M., Elstad
- +Wednesday, July 19th, 6:30 P.M., Highland Prairie.
- +Sunday, July 23th, 10 A.M., Highland Prairie (Bowl Service)
(music provided by Daryl and Michele Thompson)
- +Wednesday, July 26th, 6:30 P.M., Elstad.
- +Sunday, July 30th, 10 A.M., Elstad.

Inner-Tubing on the Root River: Youth and Adults

On Saturday, July 29th, join Pr. Mathsen and others for a leisurely afternoon of inner-tubing on the Root River. We will depart for the Highland Prairie parking lot at 12:30 p.m. with a stop at Elstad on our way to Lanesboro to get our tubes. The cost is \$14 for a regular tube, \$17 for a tube with a backrest. We'll plan on putting in at 1 p.m. It is roughly a 3 hour meander. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pr. Luther by July 19th. Young children should be accompanied by a parent or adult. Also, if you would like to participate but find it cost prohibitive, please speak with him. Adult drivers will be needed.

Rushford Days Youth Service Opportunity

Highland Prairie/Elstad youth have been offered an opportunity to serve after the end of the Rushford Days celebration which will take place July 10-16. We have been invited to help in the cleanup on Sunday, July 16. If we have some willing servants, I suggest we work from 7:00 to 8:30 A.M. That will give us time to get home, clean up, and get to worship. If you are willing to help, please contact Pr. Luther.

Coming: Parsonage Open House

All parish members are invited to a parsonage open house on Sunday, July 2nd, from 3-5 P.M. Root beer floats will be served on the parsonage lawn. Bring your lawn chairs and sit and enjoy the season with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Children are welcome, too! ***Please note the time change.**

Brad Boice Concert in the Bowl

Mark your calendars! Brad Boice will be presenting a concert of gospel music at the Highland Prairie Bowl on Sunday, August 6th, at 3 P.M. We gratefully acknowledge, Mr. Tom Severson, who has financially underwritten the concert. A free-will offering will be taken which has been tentatively designated for the replacement of parsonage windows. An ice-cream social will follow. Invite your friends and neighbors!

Summer Music in the "BOWL"

Elstad-Highland Prairie Parish

Pastor Luther Mathsen



Highland Prairie Bowl, 1934

Sunday, June 25th

- 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship
Thompson Valley Band
- 11 a.m. Lunch in the Park
- 1 p.m. Vintage Base Ball



Highland Prairie Band Stand, 1926

Sunday, July 23rd

- 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship
Daryl & Michele Thompson
- 11 a.m. Lunch in the Park
- 1 p.m. Vintage Base Ball



Highland Prairie Bowl, 2014

Sunday, Aug. 6th

- 3 p.m. Brad Boice gospel music
- 4 p.m. Ice cream social

Sunday, Aug. 20th

- 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship
"Foot-notes" from Decorah
- 11 a.m. Lunch in the Park
- 11 - 3 p.m. Car Show



Highland Prairie Cornet Band, 1910

Sunday, Sept. 10th

- 9 a.m. Rally Day
- 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship
Ron Haugen
- 11 a.m. Lunch in the Park
- 1 p.m. Vintage Base Ball



Highland Prairie Band, 1934

LOCATION: HIGHLAND PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH
43267 Bowl Dr., Peterson, MN, 55962
507-864-2731

highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com | www.highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Highland Prairie Council Meeting

June 7, 2017

1. Call to order at 5:38 p.m.
2. Roll Call—Present: Kyle Chiglo, Allan Skalet, Sarah Bearbower, Kay Dahl, Karen Bakken, Gordon Johnson, Becky Halverson-Lind, Chris Hoiland and Joyce Dahl. Absent-Tim Stensgard
3. A quorum was called.
4. Devotions read by Pastor Luther.
5. Approval of the agenda. Motion made by Sarah to add the custodian position and discuss the parsonage. Seconded by Gordy, motion carried.
6. Congregation members to address the council: Sharon Boyum. Sharon requested to move the plant stands as they are wobbling. Sharon takes care of the flowers/plants and would like them moved in order to better care of them. Tim, Chris and Kyle will take care of moving the stand up between the windows. WELCA would like a separate summer schedule sent to all members. They will copy the schedule and the mailings they would just like the address labels. Sharon will contact Elstad WELCA to obtain their “OK” to include their members as well. Sharon shared details of the June 25th service with the Thompson Valley Band and vintage baseball. She also shared that the July 23rd will be Daryl and Michele Thompson with Elstad providing the meal, August 20th Footnotes will play before and after worship in the bank shell. August 6th at 3:00 p.m. we will have the Brad Boice concert. September 10th Ron Haugen ; the meal will be provided by HP and Elstad, this will also be Rally Sunday.
7. Treasurer’s Report: Karen had submitted the report earlier via email to be reviewed by council prior to the meeting. Gordy made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report, Chris seconded, motion carried subject to review and audit.
8. President’s Report: Kyle thanked Pastor Luther for suggesting to have the Wednesday night services.
9. Pastor’s Report: Pastor Luther reported that the Confirmation class was confirmed and he enjoyed them. He is inviting them to become active in the church through service, such as greeters, ushers and the like. Senior recognition went well with reminding them to go build their lives and remember who they belong to. Pastor is also going to have acolyte training for grades 5, 6, and 7. Instruction will be held on Sunday morning, July 18th at 9:00 a.m. at Elstad and Highland Prairie on Monday, July 19th at 4:00 p.m. Jonah Bible study is going well. Pastor is beginning home visits with hopes of hearing what people feel can be our faith and mission through church. He is also going to ask the youth what they would like to do as far as youth family gatherings this summer. Pastor asked the council how we can become more engaged.
10. Correspondence:
 - A) The MN Department of Public Health and Safety sent us a letter that our water is in compliance.
11. Committees:
 - A) Church— Nothing
 - B) Grounds— Nothing

Highland Prairie Council Minutes Continued....

C) Worship– Nothing

D) Youth and Education– Nothing

12. Old Business:

A) Parking lot repair/maintenance: Council will look into replacing the asphalt. Perhaps a good asphalt option. This topic will be tabled and placed in parking lot. Motion made by Gordy and seconded by Chris. Motion carried.

13. New Business:

A) Bowl: Cleaning day, benches replaced and wiring/electrical. Jerry Hallum has volunteered to measure and replace as needed with left boards left over in the old furnace room, Jerry will also be allowed to buy supplies as needed. Also, Jerry will repair the 3 wooded crossed. Joyce made the motion and Sarah seconded, motion carried. Clean-up day is scheduled for June 17 at 8:00 a.m. start and go until finished, stay as long as you can.

B) Special music for outdoor worship: See “Congregation member’s wishing to address the council” above.

C) Garage: We feel we need to do something different with the golf cart. Parking it in the basement is cumbersome. Possible solutions include a new pole shed or prefabricated smaller building. Hoping labor would be donated. Begin to get some pricing. Also remove the old items that are currently stored and no longer needed in the garage.

D) Custodian Position: Look at what we want to do as far as further custodial duties. Kyle and Pastor will review with Lisa and Josie and bring thoughts as to what direction will be suggested to the July meeting.

E) Parsonage: Window replacement, evaluate the use of window air conditioning effectiveness and practicality. Tuck pointing on the roof, stucco is needing repair and also the rubber roof to be addressed. The rubber around the bottom in the kitchen is pulling away and needs to be taken care of.

14. Secretary’s Report: Becky read the secretary’s report for June 7, 2017 and respectfully submitted for approval. Sarah made a motion to approve, seconded by Kay, motion carried.

15. Meeting Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m. with a motion by Kay and seconded by Joyce, motion carried. The Lord’s Prayer was said.



THE BRIDGE

A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod



Call Process: What is it?

By Rev. Emily Carson

carson@semnsynod.org

“Call process is one of the most important ministries of the Office of the Bishop,” reflects Rev. Susan Miller, Assistant to the Bishop for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

Congregations need rostered ministers to equip and empower them. Rostered ministers need congregations to serve and accompany. The steps that facilitate the connection between rostered ministers and congregations comprise what is called the “call process.” Miller expresses, “Call process is an important partnership between the Office of the Bishop and congregations. We absolutely want to make sure that congregations in call process have the next best chapter...both for them and for the new pastor!”

Call process is the way by which the synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) engage their congregations and rostered ministers in a time discernment of the way God may be drawing each toward the other for the sake of the mission of the church. Said more succinctly, call process is the series of steps that connect a church and a leader.

Described broadly, these steps include:

Step 1: A Time for Farewell

Step 2: A Time for Interim Ministry

Step 3: A Time for Self-Study

Step 4: Elect a Call Committee

Step 5: The Work of the Call Committee

Step 6: Calling the New Rostered Minister

Step 7: Welcome & Installation

The Office of the Bishop accompanies the congregation and leader throughout the entire process. The team members most involved from the synod are Rev. Susan Miller (miller@semnsynod.org) and Cheryse Brenno (brenno@semnsynod.org). They are both highly experienced and find great joy in the ways the Spirit works through the call process.

Rev. Shane Koepke was called last year to serve Grace Lutheran Church in Albert Lea. He found the process energizing. Koepke reflects, “Honoring where a congregation has been and dreaming of where God is calling can be an exciting and hope-filled part of the call process.”

Rev. Grace Gravelle went through the call process last year and is now serving the two-point parish, Fountain Lutheran Church & Root Prairie Lutheran Church. She shares, “The most life-giving part of the process was being able to sit down with Rev. Susan Miller to talk about why I was looking for a new call and what openings there were that matched my passions and abilities.”

The blessings of the call process are experienced by both the rostered ministers and the congregations. Each congregation has a call committee with an identified chair. Elloyce Queensland served as the call committee chair for Trinity Lutheran Church in Blue Earth when they called Rev. Jeanette Bidne last summer. “The congregation had a great deal of input, the committee spent a year and a half reading resumes, interviewing several candidates and praying that what was best would happen. During this time, we knew that we would not settle on anyone but the best and Trinity has a gem for a leader. Rev. Jeanette Bidne is a blessing and the whole congregation celebrates her and her joy-filled Christian leadership.”

The Office of the Bishop is committed to doing all they can to ensure every call process leads congregations and rostered ministers into their next best chapter. Thanks be to God for the Holy Spirit’s work in the midst of all the steps of this important function of the synod.

JULY 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



1~ Joey Stensgard

2~ Katy Redalen

~ Slade Pepin

5~ Peter Ask

~ Joshua Drinkall

6~ Rich Nepstad

~ Paul Peterson

7~ Beckett Hovland

8~ Glenn Peterson

~ Caroline Anfinson

~ Christine Knuston

9~ Dean Berland

~ Kyle Chiglo

~ Calvin Bergen

10~ Arlene Johnson

~ Adleigh Brisebois

11~ Allison Bauer

~ Marguerite Abrahamson

12~ Kathy Abrahamson

~ Kristi Oman

~ Jeremy Pederson

13~ Kyle Bearbower

16~ Charles Pederson

~ Lyle Rustad

~ David Stockton

17~ Jade Grabau

~ Nicole Howe

~ Kreedon Wangen

18~ Elizabeth Abrahamson

~ Kristin Lawstuen

19~ Shelly Nelson

~ John Knutson

20~ Marilyn Soland

~ Joan Finnegan

~ Mary Gudmundson

~ Brent Storhoff

21~ Colby Lind

22~ Ken Jacobson

~ Jerod Chiglo

~ Nolan Eide

23~ Karen Bakken

~ Bobbi Mathsen

24~ Jimmy Sharpe Jr.

25~ Siri Dworschak

29~ Lori Bakke

~ Josie Bearbower

30~ Lee Johnson

~ Kayleigh Wangen

~ Palmer Root

31~ Susan Blagsvedt



7~ Allan & Marion Dahl

9~ Clair & Patty Olson

20~ Kenny & Cathy Bakkum

21~ Richard & Pamela
Johnson

22~ Trinity & Emily Johnson

24~ Glenn & Olive Peterson

~ Adam & Jodie Daniels

28~ Charles & Karen Mierau

JULY 2017

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship @ EL 10:00 a.m. Parsonage Open House 3-5 p.m.	3	4	5 HP WELCA- 1:30 p.m. Bible study 6:30 p.m. worship @ HP	6	7	8
9 Worship @ HP 10:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m. HP Council mtg. 6:30 p.m. Parish Council mtg. Elstad mtg. after Parish mtg.	10	11	12 HP WELCA-9:30 a.m. Projects No Wed. service Bulletin Deadline	13	14	15
16 Worship @ EL 10:00 a.m.	17	18	19 6:30 p.m. worship @ HP Newsletter Deadline Bulletin Deadline	20	21	22
23 Worship @ HP 10:00 a.m. 30 Worship @ EL 10:00 a.m. Family reunion (2)	24 <i>Bible study 7:00 p.m. @ HP</i> 31 <i>Bible study 7:00 p.m. @ HP</i>	25	26 6:30 p.m. worship @ EL Bulletin Deadline	27	28	29 Johnson Wedding

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

Address Services Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017

WORSHIP @ ELSTAD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017

WORSHIP @ 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017

ACOLYTES: NIKKI DAHLE, HALE STENSGARD
READERS: NIKKI DAHLE, MICHELE THOMPSON
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2017

WORSHIP @ ELSTAD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017

WORSHIP @ 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017

READERS: HALE STENSGARD, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017

WORSHIP @ ELSTAD

ELSTAD
ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2016

READER: PETER HOLM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017

WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017

WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2017

ACOLYTE: J.T. REIN
READERS: J.T. REIN, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2016

WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2017

WORSHIP @ 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017

READER: GENE TOPNESS

USHERS: JOHN OVERLAND, LARRY TOPNESS,
RICH NEPSTAD, ADAM DANIELS,
JOHN ABRAHAMSON, JOHN KNUTSON