

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

~ December 2023 ~

Interim Bridge Pastor, Rev. Peter Reuss

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

December Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

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

Isaiah 64:1-9
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
 Mark 12:24-37

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

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

Isaiah 40:1-11
 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
 2 Peter 3:8-15a
 Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

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

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 Psalm 126
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Nativity of Our Lord

Elstad—5:00 p.m.
 Highland Prairie—7:00 p.m.

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Sunday, December 31, 2023
First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10—62:3
 Psalm 148
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:22-40

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Prayer Corner

Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Ferne Brewster, Sharon Ehler, Emily Charlebois, Scott Bestul, Julian Highum, Paul Dvorak, and all others who are ill or in need of our prayers.



All Elstad WELCA Members are invited to our Annual Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 3rd, 9 a.m. Prayer Partners will reveal themselves at this time, also! Please join us for fun, food & fellowship!

Highland Prairie Council Meeting

Sunday, December 10, 2023, 12:00 p.m. at Highland Prairie

Highland Prairie Financials for October 2023

YTD Income	\$ 64,346
YTD Expenses	\$ 78,204
Expenses Exceed Income	\$ 13,840
YTD Budget	\$ 89,170
YTD Income	\$ 64,364
YTD Under	\$ 24,806

Elstad Financials for October 2023

Elstad budget for September	\$ 7454.83
Received September	\$ 4374.00
Under September	\$ 3080.83
Elstad Budget YTD	\$ 74548.30
Received YTD	\$ 49709.83
Under YTD	\$ 24838.47

Pastor's Article

Stop. Listen. Wait.

I live life on the go. I have always had the energy to juggle multiple responsibilities at once.

- While I served my first congregation in Benson, Illinois, one year I also served as the interim at a church a couple miles away.
- During my time at Peace Lutheran Church in Eyota, Bishop Usgaard invited me to become the Mission Director, overseeing new ministries in the synod. I loved serving my congregation while having a part in starting worship services among South Sudanese refugees.
- After receiving a full time call to serve on as an Assistant to the Bishop under Bishop Delzer, I began part time work with GSB Fundraising, helping congregations and synods have the financial resources to do what God calls them to do.
- Now, as I'm now a partner with GSB Fundraising, I get to be with you as your interim bridge pastor.

I love the challenge that life brings. Go. Go. Go. I can get it done. That's me! We live in a world that rewards the energetic.

Stop. Listen. Wait.

December brings the season of Advent. It's a holy time of waiting for Jesus. It takes intentional work on my part to put aside all the Christmas planning and simply stop the busyness, take the time to listen for God's voice, and wait for Jesus to work in the world.

This time of year, the sunlight fades by late afternoon, providing dark, quiet moments that are conducive to reflection.

In this month, I invite you to join me in this intentional work. As you hurry from point A to point B, stop for a moment and take a long gaze at some Christmas lights. Or surround yourself in the darkness of the night. Or hunker down in front of a fire. Or bath yourself in the light of your Christmas tree.

As you do this, take some deep breaths to unwind, and ask, "God, what are you up to in my life?" Pause. Wait. Listen.

You likely won't hear choirs of angels. Instead, you'll sense the presence of the babe coming in the manger. God coming to you. It may feel profound, or it may not. God joins us in that stillness.

Come. Let us wait for the coming of Jesus.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

November 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. by President Kyle Chiglo

Council Members present were Karen Bakken, Kyle Chiglo, Mary Gudmundson, Steve Howe, Val Howe Lyle Meldahl and Mike Pepin. Robert Anfinson, Sharon Ehler, and David Markegard were absent.

Devotions were given at the parish council meeting.

A quorum was determined, and a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Val Howe, Mike Pepin seconded. Motion carried.

No congregation members present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. The year-to-date information provided was income of \$64,364.00 expenses \$78,204.00; expenses exceed income by \$13,840.00. A motion to approve as presented was made by Val Howe, Mary Gudmundson seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report given by Kyle Chiglo noted that recent transitions have been trying.

Pastor's Report was given by Pastor Pete Reuss, Interim, at the joint meeting and he noted the two funerals at Highland Prairie.

Correspondence – none

Committee Reports:

Church –

Grounds – Parking lot

Worship –

Youth & Education –

Old Business: Church Parking Lot and garbage removal concerns were discussed. A motion to table was made by Mike Pepin, Val Howe seconded. Motion carried.

Door Locks and key access to church discussed.

New Business: Offering discussion

Sunday School discussion on status of attendance after change to worship time.

Mission Budget – Christmas in Fillmore County and Rushford Food Shelf have been our previous recipients. Motion to give \$500.00 each to our previous recipients was made by Val Howe, Steve Howe seconded. Motion carried.

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

A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 1;15 p.m. was made by Mike, Steve seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next Meeting is December 10th at noon at Highland Prairie.

DECEMBER 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@gmail.com



1~ Ruth Abrahamson

~ Sara Pederson

~ Vance Topness

2~ Kathleen Wold

~ Christopher Dinkall

3~ Erin Topness

4~ Kathy Kendhammer

5~ Carol Overland

6~ Kristi Gudmundson

~ Ian Anderson

7~ Ann Fretland

8 ~ Hannah Pearce

10~ Leonidas Amberg

11~ Peter Peterson

13~ Heidi Fishbaugher

~ Boe Rein

15~ Renee Ritter

~ Madison Smith

~ Isaac Ask

~ Chase Humble

16~ Christopher Freese

17~ Sue Larson

~ Tom Feine

~ Sandra Johnson

18~ Kaia Drinkall

19~ John Abrahamson

~ Rachel Bearbower

~ Lynn Ryan

20~ Noelle Graham

21~ Clair Olson

~ Steve Ryan

~ Josh Rein

~ Maddie James

22~ Matthew Halvorson

23~ Nikol Rislov

24~ Gustav Hoiland

26~ Doris Westby

25~ Mary Lawstuen

~ Tristen Chiglo

26~ Julie Paulson

~ Hew Johnson

27~ Matthew Halverson

~ Stephanie Erickson

28~ Sarah Stensgard

~ Elin Rein

29~ Daryl Thompson

~ Jimmie Wangen

30~ Ashley Johnson

~ Parker Johnson

31~ Jesse Nelson

~ Jarod Dybing

13~ Charles & Lynnette
Pederson

18~ Gordon & Arlene
Johnson

19~ Tom & Carolyn Smith

27~ Philip & Ruth
Abrahamson

December 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. Elstad WELCA Christmas Tea	4	5	6 HP WELCA Bible study— 1:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	7	8	9
10 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Programs HP Council Meeting 12(noon)	11	12	13 HP WELCA Do Day—9:30 a.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	14	15	16
17 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m.	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Bulletin Deadline	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Services EL—5:00 p.m. HP—7:00 p.m.	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27 Bulletin Deadline	28	29	30
31 HP—9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m.						

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

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Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

ACOLYTE: MATHEW GUDMUNDSON
READERS: MATHEW GUDMUNDSON, KRISTI GUDMUNDSON
GREETERS: KRISTI GUDMUNDSON & FAMILY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

ACOLYTE: BENJAMIN RYAN
READERS: BENJAMIN RYAN, VAL HOWE
GREETER: AMY JACOBSON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READERS: SHARON EHLER
GREETER: SHARON EHLER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 ~
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~ 7:00 P.M.

ACOLYTE:
READER:
GREETER:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READER: MARY GUDMUNDSON
GREETER:

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READER: DICK HAIGHT
GREETER: CAROL FOGAL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READER: LORI BAKKE
GREETER:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READER:
GREETERS:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 ~
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~ 5:00 P.M.

ACOLYTE:
READER:
GREETERS:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

ACOLYTE:
READER:
GREETERS:
USHERS: DICK & DIANE HAIGT