

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

~ September 2017 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com

Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator

Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

Prayer Corner

Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Elaine Holm, Barb Lee, Eric Johnson, Pernella Landsverk, Vickie Goetzke, Irving Abrahamson, Sanja Brand Burnikel and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.

Worship Schedule
September 2017

Sunday, September 3rd

10:00 a.m. @ Highland Prairie

Sunday, September 10th

10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship @ Highland Prairie
9:00 a.m. Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 17th

8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Elstad

Sunday, September 24th

8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Elstad



Elstad ~ Highland Prairie
Sunday, September 10th

Outdoor Worship
@ 10:00 a.m.

Rally Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie Financials for July 2017

YTD Income	\$47,301
YTD Expenses	\$46,835
Income exc. Expenses	\$ 466
YTD Budget	\$54,775
YTD Income	\$47,301
YTD Under	\$ 7,474

Elstad Budget for July 2017

July	\$7,425.67
Received	\$5,368.00
Under for July	\$2,057.67
Budget YTD	\$51,979.69
Received YTD	\$43,060.00
Under YTD	\$18,919.69

Pastor's Page, September 2017

One of the great blessings of pastoral ministry is being on the receiving end of the strong witness of persons under the most difficult of conditions. I remember two words spoken by a man in the stillness of a hospital room. A note given to me before worship on Sunday morning summoned me to the hospital in a nearby city. He had lain for some days succumbing to a dread disease. I had ministered the Word and Sacrament to him many times during the siege of illness he suffered.

When I arrived at the hospital one of the nurses informed me that the man's condition had become grave. It had changed drastically during the night. He had not spoken or seemed to recognize anyone, and appeared to be non-responsive. However, I bent over to him and slowly spoke several passages from Scripture. Then, to my surprise, he spoke up in a voice, barely audible. He said, "Repeat them." In his extreme condition, this child of God did not ask for my words of comfort and assurance, but God's. It was God's word he longed to hear.

Sharing Christ's promises is the calling not only of the ordained minister. It is the calling of the every baptized man, woman, and child. We all know of persons whose life circumstances have left them without words. We all know that there are circumstances where our words seem inadequate. "Keep your chin up" just doesn't cut it. What was it that the suffering brother in Christ wanted to hear...again? The promises of our Christ. "Repeat them," he said.

Dear sisters and brothers. We are members of a community that lives to hear Christ's words addressed to us. Each and every Sunday, they are words that nourish and sustain us in the ups and downs of life and every occasion in between. Week after week they comfort us. They give rise to hope and peace. They sustain through the thick a thin of daily life in this world.

Let us continue to be the community who longs to hear the promises of God in Christ...a community who knows we need it...And refreshed and renewed in those promises, let us gladly take up our baptismal calling to be preachers sent out to "repeat " that word that we have heard for the sake of Christ and for the sake of our neighbor.

O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling,
To tell to all the world that God is light;
That he who made all nations is not willing
One soul should perish, lost in shades of night.
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
Tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

---#668, Evangelical Lutheran Worship

September Bible Study

The Bible study on the Gospel of Mark will take place at Elstad on the following evenings at 7:00 P.M.: September 11, 18, 25 & October 2. All are welcome.

Worship Schedule

The September worship schedule is as follows:

+Sunday, September 3rd

10 a.m. Highland Prairie

+Sunday, September 10th

10 a.m. Highland Prairie (in the Bowl)

Rally Day Joint Sunday School @ 9:00 a.m.

+Sunday, September 17th

8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Elstad

+Sunday, September 24th

8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

10:30 a.m. Elstad

NOTE: Wednesday, mid-week worship is in hiatus pending further joint church council discussion at the September meeting.

Highland Prairie/Elstad Youth Ministry Meeting for Parent's and Youth

Pastor Luther invites all parents and youth (mid-school-high school) to a meeting to share concerns for, and ideas about, activities of learning, service and fun for parish youth of all ages. We'll meet on Sunday, September 10th, 4:00 p.m., at Highland Prairie.

Confirmation, 2017-18

The new confirmation year for parish 7th and 8th graders begins with a brief meeting for *parents only* on Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. Discussion concerning class material and class schedule will occur. The first confirmation class session will take place at Highland Prairie on Wednesday, September 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Highland Prairie/Elstad Rally Day Sunday School and Worship

Highland Prairie/Elstad Parish Rally Day will begin with joint Sunday school learning and activities, on Sunday, September 10th, 9:00 A.M., at Highland Prairie. Plans had been made for learning and fun in the park. Sunday school will be followed by a joint outdoor worship service at 10 A.M. A parish potluck will follow at 11:00 A.M. You are invited to attend the baseball games that follow lunch. Please invite friends and neighbors to join us!

Highland Prairie Church Council Meeting ~ August 13, 2017

1. Call to Order at 5:40 PM
2. Roll Call: Members Present: Allen Skalet, Chris Hoiland, Kyle Chiglo, Joyce Dahl, Kay Dahl, Karen Bakken, Becky Halverson-Lind, Gordy Johnson and Pastor Luther Mathsen. Members Absent: Tim Stensgard and Sarah Bearbower.
3. Quorum Called
4. Allen Shared Devotions.
5. Approval of Agenda: Gordy asked to add an item to Old Business, item D-Scholarship Guidelines. Kay made the motion to accept the amended agenda, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.
6. Congregation members wishing to address the council: None
7. Treasurer's Report: Karen shared the Treasurer's Report via e-mail for the council to review prior to the meeting. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Gordy, seconded by Kay. Motion carried subject to review and audit.
8. President's Report: None
9. Pastor's Report: Summer worship schedule is seeing a slight drop in summer attendance. Pastor would like to visit with the Joint Council about ideas for next summer schedule and Wednesday services. Pastor also thanked those who have helped prepare for outdoor services and events. He also mentioned he has been offering Bible Study groups and will continue. Confirmation will begin September 13th with a class of 2, possibly 4, 8th graders, no 7th graders at this point. Rally Sunday is September 10th with worship at 10 and Sunday school at 9. Monthly visits to nursing home and homebound members continue and consist of visiting, sharing of devotions and communion. Pastor stated it is as way of bringing our congregation to those members who cannot join us at church. Parish family visits continue and he will continue to do so as long as he is our Pastor. Pastor asked that we consider changing our communion to serving the wine with a serving chalice, symbolic of all drinking from one cup. Asked that throughout the year we may also look at focusing on local missions as well as world missions. Pastor will be out of town October 7-14 to visit his daughter, he has checked with Pastor Kay Wold as to her availability to fill-in while he is gone.
10. Correspondence: None
11. Committee Reports:
 - A. Church: None
 - B. Grounds: Gordy mentioned the underground wire under a tree that was burned off has been repaired. There are some electrical issues in the little church that will be addressed.
 - C. Worship: See Pastor's Report for updates.
 - D. Youth and Education: See Pastor's Report for updates also.
12. Old Business:
 - A. Car Show: Allen would like to allow someone else the opportunity to organize the car show or possibly a tractor show for next year.
 - B. Sidewalk Repair: Kyle reported to the council that Tim had discussed the crack with a contractor as to the best way to repair it and Tim will be using an expanding foam polymer to repair.
 - C. Parsonage Update: The Parsonage Committee met and deemed some repairs need to be addressed. Some items have already been repaired. There are also estimates being gathered pertaining to the replacement of certain windows and will be shared with the parish council when complete.
 - D. Scholarship Guidelines: For graduates seeking scholarships we need to decide how we are going to fund any other candidates who seek assistance. Pastor Luther will seek the advice from his previous congregation as to how they make it work.
13. New Business:
 - A. Custodian Review: Kyle will review duties and see how she likes her position.
 - B. There was a motion made by Chris to change the October Council Meeting to the third Sunday to accommodate Pastor being present.
14. Secretary's Report: Gordy made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as presented, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.
15. Adjournment: (The Lord's Prayer) Gordy made a motion to adjourn, seconded Joyce. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Highland Prairie Council Secretary, Rebecca Halverson-Lind.



THE BRIDGE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR CONGREGATIONS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA
SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



First Call Theological Education (FCTE): What is it?

By Rev. Emily Carson
carson@semnsynod.org

Ministry is an adventure. Like any other vocation, those who serve as clergy and deacons don't enter the field as perfect, all-knowing leaders. Instead, they are well-trained professionals who do their best to apply the knowledge they have and learn more along the way. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod provides a three-year educational and leadership development experience for new rostered ministers to empower them during their first formative years of a new call to ministry. It is called "First Call Theological Education" (FCTE).

FCTE participants gather together three times every year for three years for day-long learning experiences. They also participate in an annual retreat. The day-long gatherings and retreats are centered around six main leadership themes:

- developing a ministerial identity;
- assuming a religious leadership role and finding a balance between ministerial and personal identity;
- developing ministry skills;
- learning how to provide leadership for the variety of functions in the life of the congregation or agency being served;
- understanding one's context of ministry; and
- discovering the history, values, and commitments that shape ministry in the particular place of service.

Another component of FCTE are colleague groups. Each group meets monthly for a few hours and is facilitated by a veteran rostered minister from the synod. For Rev. Marie Anderson, who most recently served as interim pastor for Highland Prairie and Elstad Lutheran Churches, her colleague group was a major highlight of her FCTE experience: "It was valuable to meet others new to ministry and new to the synod. It meant I knew people at synod and conference events."

Over the course of several years, the relationships between participants grow and strengthen. That sense of connectedness to her colleagues remains a ministry blessing for Rev. Beth Krolak. She currently serves as pastor of Grand Meadow Lutheran Church. Rev. Krolak shared, "The colleague group was so valuable. It helped us establish lifelong connections, saw us through the loss of a beloved colleague, and for me, it set a pattern of reaching out to my colleagues."

For Rev. Charlie Leonard who now serves as pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, FCTE provided time and space to develop his ministerial identity and gain insights from peers. He valued being able to talk through day-to-day situations and then receive invaluable guidance from others: "That was the kind of advice that FCTE brought out in conversations; it doesn't happen anywhere else."

First Call Theological Education is a high priority area for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. It supports our synod's ongoing commitment to developing leaders who are ready to follow Jesus into a changing world. Congregational mission support dollars help underwrite the costs of FCTE. Participants also pay a portion of the cost, and the congregation they serve pays the remainder. It is a shared investment between the synod, the rostered minister and the congregation. Together, we are able to support an initiative that is so much stronger than anything that we could do individually.

For more information about First Call Theological Education, please contact Rev. Susan Miller at 507-280-9457 or miller@semnsynod.org.

SEPTEMBER 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



2~ Norma Halverson
~ Treyten Chiglo
4~ Naomi Wangen
5~ Aubrey Wiley
~ Teigen Johnson
6~ Julia Jacobson
~ Brenda Markegard
~ Shannon Rislov
~ Gabriel Becker
7~ Gordon Johnson
~ Todd James
~ Sara Johnson
~ Kayla Rislov
~ Kaleb Kendhammer
8~ Carl Lawstuen
~ Richard Koop
9~ Maynard Rustad
~ Mark Lee
~ Trenten Chiglo
10~ Dennis Knutson
~ John Rein
11~ Susan Lind
~ Troy Storhoff
12~ Curtis Wangen
~ Larissa Ryan

13~ Tonya Mensink
~ Kristina Stensgard
14~ Kristin Overland
~ Ryan Feine
15~ Gordon Gulbranson
~ Tyler Drinkall
16~ Lori Hundorf
17~ Lucas Gravos
18~ Marion Dahl
~ Michele Thompson
~ Hale Stensgard
19~ Cayden Lea
20~ Andrew Kelly
~ Aubrey Daniels
21~ Gabriel Dybing
~ Hailey Paulson
~ Brogan Lee
23~ Doreen Semmen
~ Bonnie Hallum
~ Carol Dybing
~ Mitchell Paulson
~ Jacob Paulson
24~ John Overland
~ Ryan Jacobson
26~ Derek Dahl
~ Kayla Bakkum
~ Jordan Markegard
27~ Lyle Meldahl
~ Dick Lawstuen
28~ Gene Wangen
~ Jamie Wiley

28~ Pastor Luther Mathsen
~ Emma Eide
29~ Terry Blagsvedt
~ Jason Yontz
~ Mabel Thomas
30~ Kendall Bakkum
~ Cory Woxland
~ Erika Wangen
~ Katherine Halverson
~ Andrew Hoiness

Happy Anniversary

4~ Chuck & Sharon Ehler
~ Dave & Debbie Lawstuen
6~ Gerrad & Amber Eide
8~ Gordon & Glee Claussen
10~ Nick & Sarah Wangen
14~ Jerry & Dorothy Evenson
~ William & Doreen Semmen
~ Bob & Paula Brand
~ Tom & Carol Dybing
15~ Mike & Norine Ask
16~ Dick & Diane Haight
23~ Elvin & Marlys Paulson
~ Christopher & Ann Hoiland
25~ Leigh & Kayla Volkman
27~ Gene & Vicky Topness
30~ Val & Mary Gudmundson

September 2017

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship @ HP 10:00 a.m.	4	5	6 HP-WELCA mtg. & Bible study 1:30 p.m. Parents only confirmation meeting 7:00 p.m. HP	7	8	9
10 Worship @ HP 10:00 a.m. -Rally Sunday Council Mtgs. @ Highland Prairie 5:30-Elstad 6:30- Parish HP after parish meeting	11 <i>7:00 p.m.</i> <i>Bible study</i> <i>@ EL</i>	12	13 HP-WELCA quilting/projects/ lunch-9:30 a.m. Bulletin Deadline	14	15	16 <i>HP-Ryan Wedding</i>
17 HP-8:30 a.m. S.S.-9:30 a.m. EL-10:30 a.m. HP-Fellowship hour	18 <i>7:00 p.m.</i> <i>Bible study</i> <i>@ EL</i>	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Bulletin Deadline	21	22	23
24 HP-8:30 a.m. S.S.-9:30 a.m. EL-10:30 a.m. HP-Fellowship hour	25 <i>7:00 p.m.</i> <i>Bible study</i> <i>@ EL</i>	26	27 Bulletin Deadline	28	29	30

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

September 2017 Newsletter

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

ACOLYTES: JENS LIND, BRADY STENSGARD
READERS: JENS LIND, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

READERS: BRADY STENSGARD, BECKY LIND
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

ACOLYTES: TREY OLSON, NIKKI DAHL
READERS: TREY OLSON, MICHELE THOMPSON
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

ACOLYTES: NIKKI DAHL, HALE STENSGARD
READERS: NIKKI DAHL, SYLVIA MARKEGARD
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

ELSTAD ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

ACOLYTE: ALISON FREESE
READERS: ALISON FREESE, CAROL OVERLAND

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

READER: CAROLYN SMITH

USHERS: LARRY TOPNESS, ROBERT KNUTSON,
JEFF FREESE, STEVE STORHOFF,
WAYNE FINNEGAN, TOM SMITH