

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

~ May 2020~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator

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April 2020 Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish Joint Council Meeting Minutes

1. The zoom meeting was called to order with prayer at 5:30 pm Sunday, April 19, 2020 by Pastor Luther Mathsen.
2. Council Members Absent: Michelle Rein, Joyce Dahl, Steve Howe, Tim Stensgard, David Markegard
Others present, Kyle Chiglo, guest
3. Presidents' updates: Gordon Johnson – park clean-up to do, when we can come together to worship again
Larry Topness – Mayo Clinic status
4. Treasurer updates –income is about half for month at HP, few received at Elstad; both are current on obligations.
Reminder to continue to mail in offerings will be posted online and in newsletter
5. Pastor Lead Discussion items:
 - state stay in place status through May 4th
 - schools not likely to go back to classroom by the end of school year
 - when we gather again there will be fear and relearning social distancing, no corporate gathering likely until late June
 - we need to look at this week by week
 - possibility of pockets of illness and the threat remains
 - online worship will continue (grateful for assistance from Sarah Bearbower and wife, Bobbi)
 - graveside funeral this past week with distancing
 - concerns with confirmands and seniors in high school and college. Recognition needs to happen, postpone until June at least. 1 Elstad, 2 HP high school graduates. Continue online confirmation, teachers agree online is different, consistency is nice, silence in large group, feedback if just a few. Staying in touch and how they are doing is good. Continue to June and review again.
 - mission trip cancelled, participants refunded.
 - pastoral care continues via phone, possible Bible study online
 - continue to follow Governor and will stay in touch

Submitted by Mary Gudmundson, Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Secretary

Next joint meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2020.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In these long days of social distancing from you in accordance with the recommendation of medical and government officials to refrain from public gatherings, the psalms of lament have taken on increased significance for me. I think about Psalm 13 wherein the psalmist, in all honesty, puts tough questions to God: "How long, O Lord, Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken."

If you or I have ever hesitated to bring our thoughts to God because of the fear that he may be offended or angry, this psalm, and others like it, assure us that we can tell God "like it is" with us. One only need consider Jesus Christ's brutal honesty in his cries of dereliction to God the Father while he was hanging on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest" (Psalm 22). That Christ should address his Father, our Father, just so, should not only be liberating and encouraging to us, it should also be a source of comfort and assurance.

Let me assure you that when we make our honest laments known to God we Christians are "taken in" to the voice and prayer of Jesus Christ in his suffering. He gives words to our sorrowful questions. His voice becomes our voice in our bold cries to God over the trials and sorrow that have resulted from our affliction. And in His bold trust in God in the midst of it all comes the gift of trust we may voice. For in him is revealed "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12.2). And because of Christ, we may open our lips and say, "But I *have trusted* in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord for he has dealt bountifully with me."

This committing of our lives to God in loving trust is the heart of our life in Jesus Christ. In him we not only have a Lord who, "in the days of his flesh,...offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and... was heard because of his reverence." We have a Lord who, "(a)lthough he was a son, ... learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek" (Hebrews 5.7-10).

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All of which is to say that the voice of Christ in his suffering and dying not only provides a pattern of our own in these days. It is a voice that we hear in the shadows of the world's suffering and dying in these days. And as we hear Christ's voice and reflect upon his perfect obedience, we are encouraged and emboldened to press on knowing that we have been redeemed by the outcome of his perfect obedience. In him, we have been redeemed. And...“(i)n this (we) rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, (we) have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of (our) faith---more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by ---may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

So... we rejoice in God's saving presence in Christ in our lives, yes! Yet our hope's struggle goes on. "(T)hough (we) have not seen him, (we) love him. Though (we) do not now see him, (we) rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of (our) faith, the salvation of our souls" (1st Peter 1.6-9)

Your fellow pilgrim in the faith,
Pr. Luther+

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May Home Worship Resources

+In the likelihood that corporate worship will continue to be suspended into May, you are encouraged to use the parish social media platforms (Facebook and the congregations' websites, respectively. Worship will be streamed online.

+The texts for each service of worship are listed below.

+Sunday, May 3rd

4 Easter

Acts 2.42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2.19-25

John 10.1-10

+Sunday, May 10th

5 Easter

Acts 7.55-60

Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2.2-10

John 14.1-14

1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

John 17.1-11

(Continued on the next page)

+Sunday, May 17th

6 Easter

Acts 17.22-31

Psalm 66.8-20

1 Peter 3.13-20

John 14.15-21

+Thursday, May 21

Ascension Day, Morning Prayer

Acts 1.1-11

Psalm 47

Ephesians 1.15-23

Luke 24.44-53

+Sunday, May 24th

7 Easter

Acts 1.6-14

Psalm 68.1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

John 17.1-11

+Sunday, May 31

Day of Pentecost

Numbers 11.24-30

Psalm 104.24-34, 35b

Acts 2.1-21

John 20.19-23

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Coronavirus, Church Worship and Church Activities

At the time of this writing, all onsite church worship services and activities continue to be suspended. This decision was made by consent of the joint parish council on Sunday, April 19th. Again, our decision was not out of fear, but out of love for our parish members, our family members, and the countless unknown others with whom we come in contact. However, as the news from medical and government officials is continually developing on a daily basis, we will keep you informed if plans for on-site corporate worship and church activities are made. The joint church council will be meeting again on Sunday, May 17th. If further update is warranted before that date, you will receive word via the parish Facebook and website platforms. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to speak with Pr. Mathsen, Gordon Johnson (Highland Prairie), or Larry Topness (Elstad).

Pastoral Care

Out of concern for our homebound, nursing home, hospitalized and other members who receive regular pastoral care visits, Pr. Mathsen continues to refrain from making any in-person contacts. He is making regular contact via telephone and the social media platforms that are available. Pastoral presence during parish emergencies will be considered on a situation-by-situation basis. But please, if you know of anyone in need of pastoral care, please call him (507-649-1650).

Weekly Offering

As might be expected, financial support of our parish congregations has diminished significantly given the Covid19 cessation of corporate worship. Its effect on household circumstances, may be dictating this for some. We continue to be grateful for the faithful support that has been offered to date for congregational and parish ministry. Your continuing consideration of your offerings that help the church meet its financial commitments would be most appreciated. Thank you! If you are an Elstad member, please mail your offering to: Jennifer Nepstad, 20707 Co. 21, Lanesboro, MN 55949. Highland Prairie members should mail their offering to: Highland Prairie Church, 43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962, or directly to Karen Bakken, 210 North Elm St., Rushford, MN. 55971.

Caring for Our Neighbor

Once again, if you are aware of any member (or acquaintance) who, because of the effects of the Coronavirus, is lacking food or any other daily provision/necessity, please be in touch with Pr. Mathsen. Also, if you know of someone who is suffering the loneliness, anxiety, and depression that may attend the required radical social distancing that is the order of these days, please let Pr. Mathsen know. We are called to care for our neighbor as we are able.

Confirmands and High School Graduates

Because of circumstances beyond the control of any of us, our parish confirmation celebration and the recognition of our graduating high seniors is on hold. But please remember these dear youth: Kristina Stensgard, Dana DeGeorge, Michael Rein, Kyle Daniels, Indy Qualy, Elizabeth Hageman and Hans Lind (RPHS) and Paula Howe (RPHS).

Elstad Budget for March 2020

Budget for March	\$ 6718.42
Received in March	\$ 4689.00
Under for March	\$ 2029.42
Budget YTD	\$20155.26
Received YTD	\$18138.00
Under YTD	\$ 2017.26

Highland Prairie Financials for March 2020

YTD Income	\$ 17,940
YTD Expenses	\$ 23,790
Expenses Exceeds Income	\$ 5,850
YTD Budget	\$ 23,450
YTD Income	\$ 17,940
YTD Under	\$ 5,510

MAY 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~ Sawyer Wolfs
2~ James Mensink
3~ William Semmen
~ Eric Storhoff
5~ Carol Eggert
6~ JoAnne Anderson
~ Daniel Storhoff
~ Bruce Thompson
8~ Hayven Dahl
9~ Pamela Johnson
~ Adam Rislov
10~ Sean Pederson
~ Carol Anfinson
12~ Robert Dahl
~ Kiah Halverson
~ Kiera Pepin
13~ Elaine Rygmer
~ Alexander Mierau
~ Morgan Nelson
15~ Fred Kiel
~ Aaron Topness

16~ Cashton Dahl
~ Jaxie Dahl
17~ Loren Flattum
18~ Jennifer Stensgard
~ Kimberly Lee
19~ Martha Ferden
~ Yvonne Freese
20~ Mike Chiglo
~ John Peterson
~ Clara Hoiland
22~ Nicholas Bakke
~Jana Boyum
23~ Kyle Daniels
24~ Carson Johnson
25~ Tina Westby
~ Harper Kanz
26~ Lisa Sievers
~ Jarad Olson
27~ Jordan Kiel
~ Quentin Daniels
~ Adelyn Pearce
~ Dylan Ghoorah
28~ Gavin Pearce
29~ Diane Haight
~ Bereket Rebhahn
30~ Paula Brand
31~ Katie Gellerson
~ Nicole Woxland
~Brody Gellerson



3~ Brad & Rita Kelly
11~ Peter & Shelly
Stensgard
15~ Wayne & Joan
Finnegan
19~ Robert & Sharon
Knutson
22~ John & Michelle Rein
27~ Stan & Cindy Sveen
29~ Pastor Luther & Bobbi
Mathsen
31~ Doug & Becky Lind

MAY 2020

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

All worship services and church activities are presently suspended, indefinitely. Go to the Facebook pages and websites of both congregations for information regarding the resumption of worship services and activities.

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3 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m.	4	5	6 Bulletin Deadline	7	8	9
10 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m.	11	12	13 Bulletin Deadline	14	15	16
17 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m. Council Meetings @ HP EL—5:30 p.m. Parish—6:30 HP—7:30 p.m.	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Bulletin Deadline	21	22	23
24 EL—9:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 EL—9:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.			27 Bulletin Deadline			

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6

Address Services Requested



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, KENNA GUDMUNDSON
READERS: LARISSA RYAN, SHARON EHLE
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLE

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS
READERS: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

ACOLYTES: LINDSAY HOINESS, KRISTINA STENSGARD
READERS: LINDSAY HOINESS, MICHELE THOMPSON
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

ACOLYTES: KRISTINA STENSGARD, DANA DEGEORGE
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS
READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

ELSTAD
ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF
READERS: KYLE DANIELS, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020

ACOLYTE: MAKENZIE KNUTSON
READERS: INDY QUALY, CAROL OVERLAND

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN
READERS: LIZ HAGEMAN, CAROLYN SMITH

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, TOM DYBING

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020

ACOLYTE: INDY QUALY
READERS: J.T. REIN, GENE TOPNESS

USHERS: LARRY TOPNESS, GENE TOPNESS,
PHILIP ABRAHAMSON, JOHN REIN