

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish  
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
~ February 2015 ~*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*

*Home: (507) 864-2086 Cell: (507) 459-5450 Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

**Worship Schedule**

**\*TIME CHANGE\***

**February 2015**

**Sunday, February 1**

Highland Prairie 9:00 a.m.

Sunday school 10:00 a.m.

Elstad 11:00 a.m.

**Sunday, February 8**

Highland Prairie 9:00 a.m.

Sunday school 10:00 a.m.

Elstad 11:00 a.m.

**Sunday, February 15**

Highland Prairie 9:00 a.m.

Sunday school 10:00 a.m.

Elstad 11:00 a.m.

**Ash Wednesday  
February 18**

Highland Prairie 5:00 p.m.

Elstad 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, February 22**

Highland Prairie 9:00 a.m.

Sunday school 10:00 a.m.

Elstad 11:00 a.m.

**Lenten Service  
February 25**

Highland Prairie 7:00 p.m.

**Prayer Corner**

*Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Michele Thompson, Alysta King, Jennifer Lee, Eric Johnson, Janell Schefers, Ashley Bergen, Fred Kiel, Sharon Knutson, Eric Johnson, Carol Eggert, Josh Howe, Kalin Dahl, Gordon Johnson, Janet Ryan, Don and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.*

**Elstad WELCA**

\*Sunday, February 1st WELCA will meet at 9:30 a.m. before worship service. Servers are Marilyn Soland & Darlys Storhoff

\*February 12th, at 12 noon ~ Quilting

\*February 17th Leah circle will meet at Cathy Bakke's apartment...Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM

**ELSTAD ADDRESS CHANGE FOR...**

Irving & Marge Abrahamson -

Park Lane Estates #17, 111 Fillmore Place SE, Preston MN 55965

**Highland Prairie WELCA**

Highland Prairie WELCA sent the following to LWR in November: 69 quilts, 47 School Kits, 25 Personal Care Kits and 60 bars of soap. Locally 21 shawls and 9 quilts were given.

On Stewardship Sunday, money was received for shipping. The WELCA used this money and added to it to total \$500. and sent it to LWR. When a minimum of \$500 is sent for shipping, a brick at the entrance to the LWR Headquarters building in Baltimore, Maryland can be sponsored. We requested the brick be engraved with: Line 1--Highland Prairie, Line 2--Lutheran Church, Line 3--Peterson, MN

January 8, 2015, the personal Care Kits were shipped to Angola, the new school kits were shipped to Georgia (country), part of the quilts were shipped to the UNHRD Dubai Warehouse, and the rest of the quilts were shipped to Angola.

Thank you to all who made the quilts, contributed and to all who helped pack and label the boxes for sending to LWR.

# ELSTAD - HIGHLAND PRAIRIE STAFF

~ 2015 ~

## ELSTAD:

**President-** Larry Topness

**V-President-** Jerry Evenson

**Secretary-** Michelle Rein

**Treasurer-** Jennifer Nepstad

**Trustees-** John Rein (17)

Vicky Topness (17)

Jodie Daniels (17)

### **Board of Life & Growth:**

Darlys Storhoff - Carolyn Smith

Dorothy Evenson

Larry & Deb Topness

### **Synod Assembly Voting Member:**

Larry & Deb Topness

### **Synod Assembly Alternates:**

Tom & Carolyn Smith

### **Head Ushers:**

Mike Chiglo - Mike Ask

### **World Hunger Representatives:**

Philip & Ruth Abrahamson

### **Auditors:**

Tom Dybing - John Abrahamson

### **Cemetery Board:**

Rich Nepstad (16)

David Lawstuen (17)

Duane Bakke (17)

## HIGHLAND PRAIRIE:

**President-** Gordon Johnson

**V-President-** Sarah Bearbower

**Secretary-** Kyle Chiglo

**Treasurer-** Karen Bakken

**Trustees-** Lyle Meldahl (16) Steve Howe (16)

Charles Pederson (16) David Larson (17)

Allan Skalet (17) Kay Dahl (17)

### **Board of Education:**

Kristi Gudmundson

Linda Bedney

Sharon Boyum

### **Synod Assembly Voting Member:**

Lyle & Ann Meldahl

### **Good Shepherd Delegates:**

Lynnette Pederson - Nancy Rustad

### **Head Ushers:**

Elvin Paulson - Steve Howe

### **Endowment Committee:**

Nancy Rustad (17) Allan Skalet (16) Maynard Rustad (17)

### **Auditors:**

Val Howe - Sarah Bearbower

### **Cemetery Board:**

Gerry Hallum

Glenn Peterson

Ellen Eide

## Elstad Annual Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2014 10:00am

The Annual meeting was called to order by President Robert Knutson.

The agenda was approved by Philip Abrahamson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Dybing. The motion carries.

Pastor Dan read a devotion from John 16:13

Pastor's report was printed in the Annual Report

There was no Secretary's report, as Secretary Michelle Rein was absent.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed by Treasurer Jennifer Nepstad. Our giving has continued fairly steady, however, the fuel bill will be very high due to the extremely cold weather and high price of LP. The Shared expense will be higher due to a number of parsonage repairs.

Robert thanked all the volunteer that have helped in any way with all the church projects completed this year. There were too many to mention, but we could not have accomplished as much without all of their help.

### Old Business:

The nitrated levels in the drinking water remain too high. The council is reviewing options to correct it. The water we have now is not suitable for drinking-especially for infants. John Rein was going to get an idea from Kingsley's Hardware in Harmony about a reverse osmosis system. In his absence, Tom Dybing made a motion to let the council decide about a reverse osmosis system, with a \$5000 spending limit. It will then be taken to a congregational vote. Larry Topness seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Dan Gingerich got the bid (\$19,050.00) to replace the singles on the parsonage, garage, and garden shed at Highland Prairie. They have received money for materials and will begin work when the weather allows. The eaves and down spouts need to be replaced to eliminate problems in the basement.

### New Business:

Pastor Dan has requested more time between services to be more available to parishioners before and after worship. The council suggested changing the early worship to 8:30am, the late worship to 10:30am, and Sunday School will always be at 9:30am. After some discussion, Darlys Storhoff made a motion, second by Dick Haight. Motion carried. If Highland Prairie approves this proposal at their annual meeting, the change in worship times will start the first Sunday in February.

With 8:30am worship, a motion was made by Jerry Evenson, second by Steve Storhoff, to have Easter Sunrise service moved to 6:30 am (instead of 7 am) to allow time for the Easter breakfast between the two services. Motion carried.

The Budget for 2014 was discussed. "The Lutheran" subscription cost was increased, as well as raises for the Pastor and staff, insurance, and pension. Fuel costs will also be higher. \$5000.00 will be set aside for steeple repairs and the water issue. Shared parsonage expenses will be higher again due to continued upkeep and maintenance. Merwood Storhoff suggested that we increase the amount given to the Synod to at least reflex inflation. A 3% increase would be \$300 so Merwood made a motion to increase the ELCA Synod donation to \$9300.00. Philip Abrahamson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Dick Haight made a motion to approve the budget as listed, second by Merwood. The motion carried.

### Fundraising:

Ruth Abrahamson spoke about "Great Changes in WELCA, supporting and caring for one another" on March 9. There will be potluck and entertainment. May need to switch service times with Highland Prairie to make attendance possible.

August 25<sup>th</sup> will be the Music Festival with Rachel Storlie performing. Rachel Storlie is a Norwegian singer, born and raised in Spring Grove, MN. A silent auction will follow.

There was conversation about a bake sale during Rhubarb Festival in June.  
Recognition Sunday will be held in May to recognize the many special people here at Elstad.  
Elstad Election of Officers was held.

### Other New Business:

The Cemetery fund was discussed. In order to continue to provide for care of the cemetery, a motion was made by Larry Topness, second by Merwood Storhoff to keep the cemetery fund interest in the cemetery fund.

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Storhoff, second by Dick Haight

Submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Council Secretary

Special thanks to Vicky Topness for taking notes during my absence.

## ELSTAD-HIGHLAND PRAIRIE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

January 11, 2015  
Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was **called to order** by Elstad Council President Larry Topness at 7:01pm.

### Roll Call

Present: Gordon Johnson, Sarah Bearbower, Deb Book, Karen Bakken, Kaye Eiken, Jerry Hallum, David Larson, Chuck Pederson, Lyle Meldahl, Larry Topness, Jerry Evenson, Jennifer Nepstad, Carol Overland, Vicky Topness  
Absent: Steve Howe, Michelle Rein, John Rein

**Others in attendance:** Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary  
Kyle Chiglo, Highland Prairie Member (wishing to address council)  
Arlene Johnson, Highland Prairie Member  
Pastor Marie Anderson, Interim Pastor candidate

A **quorum** was called.

**Devotions** were given by Larry Topness.

Motion to **approve the agenda** by Jerry E, second by David. Motion passed.

Kyle Chiglo addressed the council about the confirmation schedule and curriculum, and questioned the expectations of the council and the role of the council regarding the confirmation program.

Pastor Marie Anderson, a prospective interim pastor, introduced herself and told us about her family, interests, past work experience, call to ministry, pastoral experience and the Intentional Interim Ministry training that has prepared her to assist congregations in determining their needs as she serves as an interim pastor. She answered questions from council members. Contract options were reviewed and she would be available to start February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Vicky, second by Chuck to amend the meeting agenda to include an additional item: Interim Pastor. Motion passed.

The **Secretary's Report** from the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting was read. Motion by Sarah, second by Carol to approve as read. Motion passed.

### President's Report

Larry has been communicating with the current supply pastor and prospective interim pastor.

### Old Business

The proposed 2015 Worship Schedule was reviewed. Motion by Lyle, second by Jerry E to approve the schedule and present it for approval at the annual meetings. Motion passed.

The Parish Secretary job review was done by Deb and Vicky. Lisa will update the job description that is on file. Motion by Jerry, second by Deb to increase monthly salary from \$575 to \$600.

### New Business

The parsonage committee did a tour of the parsonage. Everything appeared clean. There are items in the basement and garage that will need to be cleaned out when there is room in the dumpster. Kaye has been approached by someone who has volunteered to help finish painting the interior walls. Smoke alarms and CO detectors have not been installed. There is a mirror ready to be hung. Door locks do not work. Door handles and locks should be replaced. Motion by Sarah, second by Vicky to purchase new locking door handles. Motion passed. Kyle volunteered to install the door handles and alarms/detectors.

The church copier needs service. Lisa will call to schedule it.

Council meeting time options were discussed. Motion by Vicky, second by David to keep the parish council meeting time at 7:00pm. Motion passed.

Interim pastor was discussed. Motion by Sarah, second by Vicky to move forward with the process to call Pastor Marie Anderson as an interim pastor and organize a committee to detail the terms of a contract with her. Motion passed.

The interim pastor contract committee will include four council members - two from Elstad and two from Highland Prairie. They will organize and arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

A meeting with the Interim Pastor, Lisa, Highland Prairie Worship Committee and Elstad representatives should also be arranged after the hiring process is completed to review the worship service order that will be used.

No further business.

Motion by Jerry, second by David to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** Sunday, March 8 - 7:00 pm at Elstad

Submitted by Deb Book, Highland Prairie Council Secretary

**HIGHLAND PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Council Meeting**  
**January 11, 2015**

The meeting was **called to order** at 9:47am by Council Vice President Sarah Bearbower in the absence of President Gordon Johnson.

**Roll Call**

Present: Sarah Bearbower, Deb Book, Karen Bakken, Kaye Eiken, Jerry Hallum, David Larson, Steve Howe, Lyle Meldahl

Absent: Gordon Johnson, Chuck Pederson

Others in attendance: Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary  
Kyle Chiglo, Member

A **quorum** was called.

**Devotions** will be given at the parish meeting.

Several items were added and the **agenda** was approved.

**No Pastor's Report**

**Secretary's Report** was read with motion to approve by David, second by Jerry. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report** was given by Karen with a review of December expenses including donations made from our remaining budgeted mission funds. A 2014 Income/Expense statement has been completed for review by the council to assist in preparing the 2015 budget. Motion to accept as reported by Lyle, second by Kaye. Motion passed. The report is available for review and subject to audit.

It was noted that our snowplowing service had not plowed prior to the Christmas Eve service and a member did the plowing to make the driveway and parking lot accessible that evening. Also noted was that Bowl Drive is still recorded as a township road, not a private driveway. This will be checked to see what is correct.

**President's Report**

A message was received by Karen from Gordon requesting that the documents he had emailed to council members regarding a prospective interim pastor be reviewed prior to the parish meeting.

**Old Business/Committee Reports**

Jerry reported that a walk-through of the vacated parsonage has been done and noted there are some small projects in process that should be completed. Kaye has been approached by someone who would volunteer to finish painting the interior rooms. The door locks do not work properly. Regular checks should be made. The parsonage projects will be directed to the parsonage committee and discussed at the parish meeting.

**Church:** The door at the landing of the stairs has been replaced by a window that will be more energy efficient as well as an esthetic improvement providing a great view.

**Grounds:** Tree removal has not been done but is expected to be done sometime this winter. We will be responsible for some of the cleanup.

**Worship:** The proposed 2015 worship schedule will be reviewed at the parish meeting. Vintage baseball games and possibly a car show will be coordinated with our outdoor services. A new Christmas tree and decorations were purchased by the Decorating Committee. Another key should be made to open the marquee sign because one was bent in an effort to open the cover when the frame was frozen shut.

**New Business**

A 2015 budget was prepared based on Karen's recommendations and anticipated income/expenses. Discussion was held about increasing our self-mission budget. A significant amount of our budgeted mission giving is through the Synod contribution. This will be addressed at the annual meeting during our budget review to get input from members to determine if the Synod contribution should change in order to have more funds available for other mission related donations.

A reminder will be given at the annual meeting and should be placed in the newsletter/bulletins that members can designate where their offering goes and Karen will place it in the appropriate fund.

The sanitation service will be contacted to change the pick-up schedule for the parsonage dumpster.

"Committee Review Ideas" was placed on the agenda by Gordon. This will be tabled in his absence.

## HIGHLAND PRAIRIE COUNCIL CONTINUED...

Motion by Deb, second by Steve to provide camperships for our youth attending Good Earth Village/church camps this year and pay 75% of the early registration camp fees from the Magelssen fund designated for youth activities/programs. Motion passed.

Council terms will end for officers and two trustees after the annual meeting. A review of vacancies and those seeking re-election indicates there are still positions available.

Lisa will prepare a draft of the Annual Meeting Agenda for council review and will finalize it after she has received replies from all council members.

Annual reports are due and Lisa will contact those responsible for submitting the reports so she can prepare the booklet for the January 25<sup>th</sup> annual congregation meeting.

In order to accommodate schedules, 2015 council meeting times will be at 5:30pm on Sundays. Parish meeting times are at 7:00pm and our council meetings will take place before rather than after the parish meetings. We will ask the Elstad Council about their meeting times at the parish meeting.

We will get information about EFT, Bill Pay services for church contributions/offerings for our members. Karen said EFT would probably involve significant transaction fees and she will research the Bill Pay option.

The copy of the church constitution that was in the church office was borrowed and not returned.

An energy audit of the church should be scheduled.

No further business.

Meeting **adjourned** at 11:45am

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, February 8 at 5:30pm

Submitted by Deb Book, Council Secretary

## ~GOOD EARTH VILLAGE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION~



**Good Earth Village is accepting registrations for summer camp!**

**Highland Prairie campers please note the church will pay 75% of your campers early bird fee. Elstad campers contact one of your WELCA leaders to find out their contribution to your camper fees. Register on or before February 28, 2015 and receive a FREE limited edition**

**Good Earth Village T-shirt!**

**Information available at [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org)**

## *Councils as Leaders 2015*

By Emily Carson, Director of Communications

carson@semnsynod.org

Congregational life can be life-giving, challenging, and joyful. Some aspects of church life remain the same and many are in an ongoing state of transition. As the Office of the Bishop staff, we provide leadership tools to empower both lay and rostered leaders to make the most of every ministry opportunity.

The annual Councils as Leaders gathering is coming up on February 22, and you're invited! The theme this year is focused around the question: *"What are the questions of congregational leaders in the 21st century church?"* This gathering will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. **Attendance is open to council members, lay leaders, congregation members, pastors, and rostered leaders.**

The keynote speaker of the event will be leadership consultant Mary Kay DuChene. DuChene is passionate about helping all people identify and embrace their authentic leadership gifts! She has vast experience in developing both lay and clergy church leaders and has created a non-profit called Leading Pastors, which serves pastors across the United States in leadership development.

The event will take place from 2-5pm, and the schedule overview includes:

- 2pm: Welcome and Opening Word with Bishop Delzer
- 2:15pm: Keynote address, Mary Kay Duchene
- 3pm & 4pm: Workshops (with each workshop being presented twice)
- 5pm: Farewell

Participants will be able to choose from 10 different workshops based on the following topics:

- Giving & stewardship in the 21st Century
- Position descriptions and staff performance reviews
- Congregational communication: Creating a strategy
- Team building in the congregation
- Ministry based on the assets your congregation already has: Asset Mapping 101
- Governance within the congregation
- How does your facility serve your congregation's mission?
- Raising up leaders in your congregation
- Call process and intentional interim ministry
- Enough Food for All: An update on our synod-wide initiative

### **Event details:**

**Councils As Leaders 2015**

**Sunday, February 22**

**2:00pm-5:00pm**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**609 Lincoln Avenue, Owatonna MN**

For additional details and online registration visit the Councils as Leaders page on our synod website: <http://www.semnsynod.org/cal>

### *Synod Online Connections:*

Website: <http://www.semnsynod.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/semnsynod>

E-news sign-up: <http://bitly.com/semnnews>

THIS ISSUE IS DESIGNED FOR USE AFTER 2/1/15

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

All Birthdays & Anniversaries are listed according to the information I have. If you see an error please contact me  
Email: [highlandprairie\\_elstad@gmail.com](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@gmail.com) ~ Thank You!

## Happy Birthday!!

1~ Gudrun Storhoff

~ Glenn Thomas

~ Noah Carlson

~ Brady Stensgard

2~ Jeff Mueller

~ Tiffany Johnson

3~ Carol Sjarpe

~ Paul Ryan

~ Trent Eide

4~ Megan Fox

~ Kaylee Peterson

6~ John Stadtmueller

~ Patty Horning

7~ Murton Boyum

~ Andy Ask

~ Delane Horning

~ Laura Severson

8~ Nina Richardson

9~ Allan Skalet

~ Robert Knutson

~ Andrew Howe

~ Courtney Dahl

~ Cooper Hovland



10~ Patty Olson

11~ Casey Ingvalson

13~ David Markegard

14~ Val Gudmundson

~ Kristen Peterson

~ Soren Eisner

15~ Michael Halverson

~ Emily Johnson

~ Michelle Rein

18~ Aubrey Ingvalson

20~ Gertie Bakkum

~ Gerald Hallum

~ Hannah Kopperud

21~ Truman Dahl

~ Wayne Finnegan

~ Sandra Kenney

~ Erick James

~ Marissa Grimsrud

~ Ryan Maschka

22~ Brandon Sjarpe

22~ Kenna Gudmundson

23~ Ann Meldahl

~ Linda Hundorf

~ Shannon Kopperud

~ Kendal Tober

25~ Richard Gullickson

~ Michelle James

27~ Dorothy Evenson

~ Anne Jacobson

~ Zachary Johnson

28~ Sharyl Bergen



## Happy Anniversary!

9~ Lyle & Ann Meldahl

16~ Randy & Kari  
Drinkall



# February 2015

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**Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat**

<p>1 HP WORSHIP-9:00 A.M. SS- 10:00 A.M. EL WORHSIP- 11:00 A.M. EL-WELCA 9:30 A.M.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4   <b>Bulletin Dead- line</b></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 HP- Tabitha circle 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>8 HP WORSHIP-9:00 A.M. SS- 10:00 A.M. EL WORHSIP- 11:00 A.M.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11   <b>Bulletin Dead- line</b></p>	<p>12 EL-QUILTING 12 - NOON</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 HP WORSHIP-9:00 A.M. SS- 10:00 A.M. EL WORHSIP- 11:00 A.M.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 EL- Leah circle 6 p.m.</p>	<p>18 Ash Wednes- day Service EL- 7 p.m. HP- 5 p.m. <b>Bulletin Dead- line</b></p>	<p>19   <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 HP WORSHIP-9:00 A.M. SS- 10:00 A.M. EL WORHSIP- 11:00 A.M.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Lenten Service @ HP- 7 p.m.  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

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

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Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6

# *February 2015*

## *Newsletter*

### Highland Prairie Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

#### Sunday, February 1, 2015

Acolyte: Brady Stensgard  
Readers: Brady Stensgard, Arlene Johnson  
Greeters: Charles & Lynnette Pederson

#### Sunday, February 8, 2015

Acolyte: Paula Howe  
Readers: Paula Howe, Scott Bestul  
Greeters: Allen & Kay Howe

#### Sunday, February 15, 2015

Acolyte: Hans Lind,  
Readers: Hans Lind, Sylvia Markegard  
Greeters: Roger & Sarah Bearbower

#### Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Acolyte: Jens Lind, Trenten Chiglo  
Reader: Jens Lind, Becky Lind  
Greeters: Kyle & Lisa Chiglo

#### Sunday, February 22, 2015

Acolyte: Trenten Chiglo, Brady Stensgard  
Reader: Trenten Chiglo, Sylvia Passow  
Greeters: Sharon & Paul Ehler

### Elstad Acolyte/Reader/Ushers

#### Sunday, February 1, 2015

Acolyte:  
Reader: John Overland

#### Sunday, February 8, 2015

Reader: Carolyn Smith

#### Sunday, February 15, 2015

Acolyte:  
Reader: Carol Overland

#### Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Reader: Tom Dybing

#### Sunday, February 22, 2015

Reader: Gene Topness  
**Ushers:** Mike Chiglo, John Abrahamson, Philip Abrahamson, David Bakke, Merwood Storhoff