

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish*  
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
*~ September 2019 ~*  
*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*  
*Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com*  
*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*  
*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*  
*Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

**September Worship Schedule**

**+Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**10:30 a.m., Elstad**

**+Sunday, September 8th**

**Rally Day**

**Worship at the Band Stand in the Park**

**10:00 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**\*followed by lunch in the park shelter**

**\*Sunday school will follow lunch.**

**+Sunday, September 15th**

**9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**10:30 a.m., Elstad**

**+Sunday, September 22nd**

**9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**10:30 a.m., Elstad**

**+Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**10:30 a.m., Elstad**

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### *Prayer Corner*

*Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Marion Dahl, Wendy Will, Michele Thompson, Eleanor Peterson, Dee Westby, and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.*

### **Confirmation Instruction, 2019-2020**

A meeting of parents (only) who desire that their 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth participate in confirmation instruction during 2019-2020 will take place at Highland Prairie on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. A schedule for the year of class will be provided. There will be time for questions as well. Formal class for the youth will begin on Wednesday, September 11, 6:30 p.m., at Elstad. Classes will be held at Elstad from September – December. Class will take place at Highland Prairie from January-April.

### **Parish Men's Breakfast**

The September men's prayer breakfast will take place at Elstad on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 a.m. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary or narthex.

### **Summer Outdoor Mid-Week Campfire Worship**

Summer outdoor mid-week worship around the campfire is now on hiatus until June 2020.

### **September Bible Study**

A four-week Bible study on Jesus' parables of judgment will be offered in September. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex or in the back of the nave. We will determine the day and time after interested persons are polled.

### **Coming: October Book Study**

A book entitled, *Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery*, by Richard Lischer will be studied in October. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex or in the back of the nave. You may order it on Amazon.com. You may check with the public library for a copy, too.

### **Feed My Starving Children**

Our parish has committed to participate in the annual *Feed My Starving Children* event at Riverstar in Winona once again. This is an event of intergenerational service for the hungry. The date is Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. We will serve from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please sign up in the narthex or in the back of the nave.

Several weeks ago, while driving on Dogwood Road past the Lawstuen homestead and gazing up the valley to the west, I saw a field dotted with bundles of oats. The beauty of that scene moved me to think about those wonderful hymns of the church that we sing in the fall of the year. While those hymns lend themselves to autumn harvest time and Thanksgiving Day, they point directly to the harvest of souls for the kingdom of God. Consider the hymn, *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*, #694, in our hymnal.

*Sing to the Lord of harvest your songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise;  
by him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.*

*God makes the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring,  
the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.  
God fills them with his fullness, all things with large increase,  
and crowns the years with goodness, with plenty and with peace.*

*Bring to this sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,  
the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before him when at his feet you fall,  
and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.*

Sacred writ refers to the harvest in a number of places. More particularly, it refers to the place where the harvest occurs, the threshing floor. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 24 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 3, we read about the threshing floor that David bought from Araunah, the Jebusite, upon which Solomon built the temple. In Matthew 3, we hear John the Baptist announcing the coming of the one who, on the threshing floor, will be carry out the harvest of a people saved and redeemed through Christ Jesus.

*"His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing  
floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will  
burn with unquenchable fire."*

What might this all mean for you and me? May I suggest that our worship is like that. We are God's field. We are his planting. We are the grain of his harvest...grain made to be ground into flour. In worship we are subjected to the intense, cleansing heat of God's word...as by fire...and then baked into bread.

In worship, we hear the Word of God and eat the bread of God to become living bread, offered to God for his delight and to the world for its nourishment. Our corporate prayer in the Great Thanksgiving prior to the distribution of the bread and wine of Holy Communion bear this out.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:

ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love,  
through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

And so on the threshing floor of worship, God speaks to us with the threshing rod of his Word, calls us to repentance, and gives us new life. He removes the chaff. And he feeds us with the Bread of Life, that in Christ, we might become bread for the world. And all for his sake.

Call to meeting to order 5:36pm by Sarah Bearbower, Secretary August 11<sup>th</sup> 2019

Roll call: Mary G., Gordon, Nancy R., Scott B. were absent.

Quorum – yes

Devotions by pastor

Approval of Agenda – Lyle motioned to accept with additions, Joyce 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed

Congregation member to address the council – None

Treasurer's Report: YTD income 46,560 YTD Expenses: 48,153 Expenses exceed income 1593 YTD budget 55008 YTD Income 46560 YTD Under 8448 Lyle motioned to accept, Chris 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed subject to audit

President's report: None

Pastor's Report: Next outdoor fire pit service is Wednesday. After the campfire service Pastor will meeting with adults that have volunteered for Sunday school to plan Rally Day service. Next bowl service in the 18<sup>th</sup>. We will have special music and the Pastor Wade Davick Car and Tractor memorial event. Men's breakfast was on the July 27<sup>th</sup>, attendance is running 8-12 persons. 24<sup>th</sup> of August is the next breakfast at HP. Bible study was completed in July, next one will be offered in Sept after Labor Day. In Oct. there will be a book study of "Open Secrets" by Richard Lischer. Confirmation starts Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. Synod has elected a new bishop in June, Regina Marie Downing Hassanally, installed Sept 14<sup>th</sup> at St. John's in Owatonna at 2pm. The church wide assembly just completed. Details on events can be found at the synod website. Pastoral care has been ongoing. Pastor also would like to thank us for the ability to take a vacation. Pastor and Bobbi spent time at the north shore and did some cycling, relaxing and reading.

Pastor read a paragraph from "The Benedict Option" some discussion occurred. Things to consider are who we are as a congregation of Christians.

Correspondence - None

Committee Reports:

- A. Church – Friday a group will be coming to tour and WELCA will be serving.
- B. Grounds/Parsonage – Board Store has looked at the library windows but we've not heard anything further. Pastor would like to acknowledge the work that Steve has been doing at the grounds.
- C. Worship – Nothing new
- D. Youth & Education – Nothing new

Old Business

- A. Cleaning – Tim gave information related to Spic & Span. She is full and can't take on another cleaning location. We will need to continue to look for a permanent solution. We are looking for somebody for every other week approx. 3 hours. Sarah will reach out to her contact. Joyce will reach out to another contact.

New Business

- A. Propane Contract – Karen presented the contract amount from Severson's. Tim will reach out to Hokah to compare prices and we will sign a contract with the lowest bid.
- B. Haiti - Opportunity to ship supplies with a truck but they are needed by August 18<sup>th</sup> in Kasson. Haiti has also asked for monetary donations for desks/tables. Joyce will find out if the ladies have funds or supplies to send to Kasson. Tim made a motion to send \$500 to Haiti for a desk/ chair Chris 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Secretary's Report – Lyle motioned to accept as presented, Tim 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Passed

Adjournment (The Lord's Prayer) – Joyce motioned to adjourn, Lyle 2<sup>nd</sup> motion passed. Adjourned at 6:36pm

Next meeting Sunday Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7:30pm at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church. Joint meeting starts at 6:30pm

## SCHOOL KITS for Lutheran World Relief

***WELCA members please be thinking of your Lutheran World Relief kits in the coming weeks. Our Thank Offering service will be on October 6th this year. We have gotten a notice saying they are short of school kits this year and with all the flooding and storms they will ne in need of personal care kits.***

***August is the month for back-to-school sales and the best time to buy supplies for our LWR school kits!***

**The following items are included in each school kit that we assemble and send to LWR:**

- \* Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper (no loose leaf paper)
- Five ballpoint pens, black or blue ink only (no gel ink)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- One pencil sharpener
- One eraser, approximately 2- 1/2" long
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 30-centimeter ruler (or with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)
- \* One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Project Promise School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford.

**Pencils and paper can help write a positive future.**

***If you wish to contribute to this WELCA project by purchasing items for the school kits, please take advantage of the back-to-school sales this month.***

**There is a basket in the narthex for donations of LWR School Kit supplies.**

**THANK YOU!**

Lists of items for the other Lutheran World Relief kits (Personal Care, Baby Care, Fabric) are on the website:

[lwr.org](http://lwr.org)

### **Elstad Budget for July**

July budget	\$7241.75
Received	\$3467.00
Under for July	\$3574.25
Elstad YTD budget	\$50692.25
Received YTD	\$34815.00
Under YTD	\$15877.25

### **Highland Prairie Financials for July 2019**

YTD Income	\$ 46, 560
YTD Expenses	\$ 48,153
Expenses exceed Income	\$ 1,593
YTD Budget	\$ 55,008
YTD Income	\$ 46,560
YTD Under	\$ 8,448

The July Bridge page is printed and hard copies will be left at both congregations.  
If you need a printed version please contact Lisa Chiglo.

# Youth Events

## Elstad and Highland Prairie

### September 2019-December 2019

#### September



#### **Sunday, September 8th**

##### Rally Sunday

10:00 Bowl Service

11:00 Potluck Lunch

11:30 Sunday School Rally Games

12:00 Vintage Baseball Game

#### **Sunday, September 29th**

##### Joint Parish Hayride

Time: 11:30 Starts at Elstad. Sack lunch and hayride to Highland Prairie.

Loop back to Elstad for those who need.



#### October

#### **Saturday, October 5th**

Feed My Starving Children at Riverstar in Winona, MN

Time: 1:00-3:00



#### **Sunday, October 27th**

##### Trunk or Treat

Time: 3:30 Highland Prairie

4:00 Elstad

Kids can trunk or treat at both locations.



**November**

**Sunday, November 3rd**

Daylight Savings-PJ Day for youth at church

**December**

**Sunday, December 15th**

Christmas Caroling

Meet at Elstad at 3:30 end at Highland Prairie for snacks

All are welcome to join!



**Wednesday, December 18th**

7:00pm Live Nativity Scene

Location: Highland Prairie

All are welcome to attend!

2020 Youth Events are in the works.

Any great ideas welcome.



# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



## **A Letter of Farewell**

*By Bishop Steven Delzer*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, and all of you share in God’s grace with me.”*

-Philippians 1:2-7a

Thank you for sharing with me in the gospel and in God’s grace over these past six years. We may never know how many lives have been touched by the grace and love of God through our commitment to our ministries of Word and Sacrament, or through our commitment to our Enough Food For All initiative (our synod-wide effort to alleviate food insecurity in Southeastern Minnesota), or through our commitment to developing and equipping spiritual, resilient leaders and congregations, or through our commitment to accompanying our global partners in Columbia, Tanzania, and South Sudan.

God is indeed a God of possibilities, and I am confident that God, who has begun this good work among you, will continue to guide and bless your sharing of the gospel and God’s grace. And I am confident that many people will continue to be blessed by God through the ministries of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

Know that I will continue to hold you in my prayers as you transition to ministry with Bishop-Elect Regina Hassanally who begins her term on September 1, 2019. She is a talented and effective leader who will be guided by the Spirit. Together you will be supported by a gifted and committed staff and Synod Council. As you walk together into the future, trust the promise of God in Isaiah 43: *“Thus says the Lord, who created you, who formed you: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine, you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you; Do not fear, for I am with you.”* Trust the promise of God in Jeremiah 29: *“Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare . . . to give you a future with hope.”* Trust the promise of Jesus in Matthew 28: *“Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Finally, thank you for the privilege of serving as your bishop over these past six years. Thank you for holding me and my family in your hearts and prayers over these past six years. I’ve always known that I could never serve effectively in this call unless I knew that the Spirit was leading and the people were praying. I give thanks to God for you and for the multitude of ways you have been a blessing.

Peace & Joy in Christ,

Bishop Steve Delzer

*Bishop Delzer’s 6-year term as bishop concludes on September 2, 2019. The synod’s newly called bishop is Rev. Regina Hassanally.*



# 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
- ~ Kenzie Woxland
- 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
- ~ Parker Root
- 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 Yonts
- ~ Mabel Thomas
- ~ Miken Grabau
- 30~ Kendall Bakkum
- ~ Cory Woxland
- ~ Erika Wangen
- ~ Katherine Halverson
- ~ Andrew Hoiness



- 4~ Charles & Sharon Ehler
- ~ Dave & Debbie Lawstuen
- 5~ Darrel & Ellen Highum
- 6~ Marv & Carol Eggert
- 6~ Gerrad & Amber Eide
- 8~ Gordon & Glee Claussen
- 10~ Nick & Sarah Wangen
- 14~ William & Doreen Semmen
- ~ Bob & Paula Brand
- ~ Tom & Carol Dybing
- 16~ Dick & Diane Haight
- 23~ Elvin & Marlys Paulson
- ~ Christopher & Ann Hoiland
- 25~ Leigh & Kayla Volkman
- 27~ Gene & Vicky Topness
- 30~ Val & Mary Gudmundson

# September 2019

**Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish**  
 Visit our websites at...  
[elstadlutheranchurch.org](http://elstadlutheranchurch.org)  
[highlandprairielutheranchurch.org](http://highlandprairielutheranchurch.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>HP— 9:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m.</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>Confirmation- Parents Mtg. 6:30 p.m. @ HP</p> <p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>Outdoor Parish Worship 10:00 a.m. Rally day!</p>	9	10	<p>11</p> <p>Confirmation 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>HP—9:00 a.m. SS— 10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Council Mtg. @ HP 5:30 p.m.—Elstad 6:30 p.m.—Parish 7:30 p.m.—HP</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>Confirmation 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>	19	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>HP—9:00 a.m. SS— 10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m.</p>	23	24	<p>25</p> <p>Confirmation 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>HP—9:00 a.m. SS— 10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Hayride 11:30 a.m. @ Elstad</p>	30					

**Newsletter  
Deadline!**

Parish Men's  
Breakfast 7:30  
a.m. @ Elstad

*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, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019**

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS  
READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, MICHELE THOMPSON  
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019**

READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, SYLVIA MARKEGARD  
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALLET & KAY EIKEN

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019**

ACOLYTES: LINDSEY HOINESS, KRISTINA STENSARD  
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, ARLENE JOHNSON  
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019**

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS  
READERS: HALE STENSGARD, BECKY LIND  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019**

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN  
READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, SHARON EHLER  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**ELSTAD**  
**ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019**

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF  
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, VICKY TOPNESS

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019**

OUTDOOR WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE  
RALLY SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019**

ACOLYTE: MAKENZIE KNUTSON  
READERS: MAKENZIE KNUTSON, GLEE CLAUSSEN

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019**

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS: MICHAEL REIN, CAROL OVERLAND

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019**

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS  
READERS: KYLE DANIELS, CAROLYN SMITH

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