

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

*~ August 2019~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

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*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*

*Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

**August Worship Schedule**

**+Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m., Elstad**

**10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**+Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m., Elstad**

**10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 p.m., Highland Prairie Parsonage Lawn

\*Bring your own lawn chair.

S'mores and fellowship to follow.

**+Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Worship in the Bowl**

**Guest Musicians: Jacob Olson Band**

**\*Lunch in the picnic shelter**

**\*\*Wade Davick Memorial Car and Tractor Show on the ballfield.**

**+Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m., Elstad ~ Parish Worship**

**Elstad Music Festival**

**Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 p.m., Highland Prairie Parsonage Lawn

\*Bring your own lawn chair.

S'mores and fellowship follow.

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## Pastor's Page, July 2019

Dubbed as it is, the "Pastor's Page," this is installment #2, with no more to follow.

### Part 2: Story and Song

I grew up in a home where Sacred Writ was believed because of the God who it revealed. And the church was the community of that God; a God revealed in "the story of Israel and its Jesus, told as a message of final destiny" (Lutheranism, by Robert Jenson and Eric Gritsch).

Because of my father's and mother's love of music, the over arching biblical drama often came to me in the medium of music, both hymnody and choral, more so even than in biblical texts. I still find myself singing those powerfully moving renditions of biblical truth during the day, and surely in times of trouble and extreme joy. I am still drawn by the way in which they serve to help proclaim the hope we have in Jesus Christ. These are some of the hymns that have shaped me: "O That I Had a Thousand Voices," "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less," "O God Our Help in Ages Past," "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer," Praise to the Lord," "O Day Full of Grace, and the list could go on and on. At an early age, I was steeped in the church's worship and grew to appreciate the entire liturgy of the Holy Communion as the spiritual anchor for life lived from day to day. As a singer in choirs in high school and college, I continued to learn the faith through anthems and spirituals from the great composers and arrangers of the church's sacred music; J. S. Bach, Palestrina, Heinrich Schutz, Benjamin Britten, William Dawson, Carolyn and Kenneth Jennings, Paul J. Christianson, and so many more. They all made their mark on me. They gave the gospel to my ears and, one and the same, to my voice: the gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead. I owe them a debt of eternal gratitude for the gift I will sing to the end of my earthly sojourn and on into life in the eternal church. For "through church with the song goes on....."

Pr. Mathsen+

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### **Mission opportunities for you to consider:**

FOOD SHELF ASSISTANCE-1) Consider a gift to one of our local food shelves in Preston (SEMCAAC) 515 Washington, St. NW, or, 2) Rushford (SEMCAAC) 113 E. Jessie St.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES-Mid/High School- notebooks-college ruled, loose leaf paper, erasers, pens (blue, black, red) and pencils. 2) ruled, 3x5 index cards (1 pkg), 2 or more highlighters, post-it notes (2x3 or 3x3), 3-ring binder for loose leaf paper, colored folders, 2 pkgs of Kleenex.\*\*\*You may want to purchase supplies for grader schooler children. Call your local school district for more specific information regard supply necessities. The above list is not official.

HAITI MISSION-See the letter outlining Haiti mission needs from Pr. Marie Anderson in this newsletter.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER FUND or ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE FUND-Make your check out to your congregation and designate your gift on the MEMO line of your check. We will make sure it gets to its proper destination.

## *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, Peter Holm, Jerry Hallum and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.*

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

The August men's prayer breakfast will take place at Highland Prairie on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 a.m. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary or narthex.

### **Parish Boards of Education Pre-Fall Planner**

The boards of Christian education for both Elstad and Highland Prairie will meet jointly after worship around the campfire on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. We'll plan rally day and other parish youth and family education events from September through December. Other adults and youth interested in being a part of this planning meeting are encouraged to attend.

### **Mid-school/High-school**

Pr. Mathsen is hosting a mid-school/high school youth cookout at the parsonage on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m. We'll play some games, cook some burgers and hot dogs, and do some planning for study, fun, and service for 2019-20. We'll also determine if there is interest in a summer 2020 mission trip. Sign up with Pr. Luther.

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

Worship around the parsonage campfire continues on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Bring your own lawn chair. Fellowship and treats will follow worship.

### **A friendly reminder**

We kindly ask that you remember that the expenses for congregational ministry have continued during the summer. Income to expenses is lagging in both congregations. Thank you for considering your financial support of the congregation to which you belong.

#### **Elstad June 2019 Budget**

Elstad Budget	\$7241.75
Received	\$4998.00
Under for June	\$2243.75
Elstad budget YTD	\$43450.50
Received YTD	\$31348.00
Unter YTD	\$12102.50

#### **Highland Prairie Financials for June 2019**

YTD Income	\$ 40,899
YTD Expenses	\$ 40,394
Income exc. Expenses	\$ 505
YTD Budget	\$ 47,150
YTD Income	\$ 40,899
YTD Under	\$ 6,251

# Elstad's Annual Music Festival

Sunday, August 25th, 10:00 a.m.

The festival will be followed by a potluck dinner and silent auction.

It is that time of the year again. Sunday morning, August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Elstad church worship service. The annual music fest will be held with guest musician Bill Wilson, a friend recommended by Pr. Luther. Mr. Wilson is a gifted musician on the organ and is excited about the possibility of playing the organ at Elstad. In addition to his music the message of the day will focus on the stained glass windows of the church building. Fellowship will follow with a luscious pot luck meal and a really fun silent auction.

Mark your calendars for this exciting event.

## 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)

Highland Prairie Council  
July 14th, 2019 5:30 p.m  
Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

1. Call to Order - call to order at 5:27pm by President Gordon
2. Roll Call - Chris Hoiland absent
3. Quorum - yes
4. Devotions - at joint meeting
5. Approval of Agenda - Tim motioned, Scott seconded, motion carried.
6. Congregation members wishing to address Council - Jerry Hallum - Would like to dedicate the annual Tractor, Truck, Car show to Pastor Wade Davick. Lyle motioned, Sarah second to approved, motion carried.

7. Treasurer's Report -

YTD Income-----	\$ 40,899
YTD Expenses-----	\$ 40,394
Income Exceeds Expenses-----	\$ 505
YTD Budget-----	\$ 47,150
YTD Income-----	\$ 40,899
YTD Under-----	\$ 6,251

Nancy motioned, Tim Seconded, motion passed, subject to audit.

8. President's Report - none

9. Pastor's Report - Summer worship attendance has been low due to summer vacations. Would like to thank Sharon and Paul for filling in as a janitor at Highland Prairie. Sharon has arranged for Cowboy worship in July and Thompson Valley for August. Steve Lee and Lucille Ask funeral remembrance from this last month. More will be reported at the joint meeting.
10. Correspondence - Thank you from Rillie Koop, Thank you from SE MN Synod. Semcac update letter received regarding the push for July food donations. Put a notification in the bulletin to bring donations or give funds to be collected at the July 28th bowl service. Joyce will bring a donation bucket. Pastor will get it in the bulletin.

11. Committee Reports:

- A. Church - Eternal light bulb should be looked at. The wall in the downstairs entry should be painted and patched from where the bulletin board was taken down. Tim is setting up a time to meet with Judy to discuss cleaning the church.
- B. Grounds - Tree work still needs to be arranged. We are awaiting contact from Dave Norby. Would like to make sure they are taken down when it is dry or frozen. Steve Howe has been helping with cleanup at the grounds. Thank You Steve.
- C. Worship - at joint parish meeting
- D. Youth & Education - at joint parish meeting

12. Old Business:

1. Shelter roof - Bid from Dan Gingerich for steel roof. Shingles left in place. Recommendation to get another bid and also a bid on shingles to be brought to the next meeting.

13. New Business:

- A. Propane Contract: will look at options for the next years contract.
- B. Rushford Days parade float: Joyce will look into a wagon. She would need a driver for it. Mary will assist with planning.

14. Secretary's Report - submitted by Sarah Bearbower - Scott motioned, Mary seconded, motion passed.

15. Adjournment - Scott motion, Lyle seconded, motion passed. Adjourned at 6:22pm

Next regular meeting, Sunday August 11th, 2019, 5:30pm at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

Dear friends of the Haiti ministry of Pastor Mioche Rock,

With the season of VBS arriving (along with other great MN summer traditions) I reached out to Pastor Mioche to see what we might be able to do as part of VBS to be of help to the students in Haiti.

He shared that his greatest need right now is for money to replace teacher desks and chairs and buy books for students. More details to follow.

To provide a desk and chair will cost apx. \$500. Yes, we could get something cheaper here, but he is not purchasing them here. Also, these classrooms are used by the general public (like our fellowship halls) and the desks become table and so much more, so the desk and chairs need to be extra sturdy. He needs a total of 11 sets for classrooms, principal and media room.

To provide a year's book for one student is \$50. Parents need to provide the books and about 60% can't. About 250 students will be short of books when school starts in Bouyaha Haiti in the fall. Students share as possible.

In Haiti, as in many countries in the world, there are no free public schools and this is why 60-70% of adult Haitians cannot read. Pastor Mioche charges no tuition for his school AND provides a meal nearly every day there is class. He cannot pay for books too. Haiti like many countries in the world does not have a history of the school owning the books and lending them to the students for many years of use. Also most books are workbook and text in one so handing them down does not work.

I know gathering money instead of pencils is not as rewarding for the students, but it is so necessary. Here at Saint Paul Lutheran, working with the Education staff, I'm hoping we can set up some highly visual enticements to give to the book fund. We have a highly underused library and I am hoping we can make a pile of books from our library to represent each set of student books offerings come in for. I plan to place the piles of books in high traffic places so adults may be encouraged to support the offering too.

As always I am at your disposal for questions, ideas and additional information;  
marieannka@aol.com (507) 951.4366

Shalom Pastor Marie

*From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded. Luke 12:48*



# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



## We Belong to the Truth

*By Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton*

*“Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’ ” (Matthew 5:37).*

When I was a girl, dinner table discussions in our family were lively. We could state our position on an issue, but then we had to be ready to back up our argument with facts. In that pre-Google time, the World Book Encyclopedia was often our source. Out came the dark blue volumes. Their very weight and color brought gravitas. One’s presentation could be critiqued, but not the facts—they were printed in the World Book Encyclopedia after all!

Those were simpler times, or maybe I was just more naïve. Now we live in the era of “truthiness” and “fake news” and “alternative facts.” One prominent attorney declared in an interview: “Truth is not truth.” I was stunned when I heard that, but even more stunned when I realized he had a point.

We have weaponized facts and forced truth into the service of spin. Often conversations are no longer the exchange of ideas and convictions but barrages of accusations. It is not enough to let our word be “yes, yes” or “no, no.” Now we need to shade and embellish and selectively “factify” our position. And if that doesn’t work, then shout or use ALL CAPS.

Jesus and Pilate have an interesting exchange about truth in the Gospel of John. “[Jesus said]: ‘For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.’ Pilate asked him, ‘What is truth?’ ” (John 18:37-38). A remarkable claim by Jesus and an interesting reply by Pilate. I wonder, was Pilate earnestly seeking for truth or was he cynically dismissing the existence of truth? Are we, followers of Jesus, able to listen to Jesus’ voice?

So how do we live as people of Truth in a time of spin? We need to return daily to the new creation God made us when we were baptized. Our new life in Christ is our foundation and our horizon, our beginning and our end. An ancient Celtic blessing puts it this way: “God to enfold me, God to surround me, God in my speaking, God in my thinking.”

In baptism God has claimed us as beloved children joined to the death and resurrection of Christ, sealed by the Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Baptism makes a difference and makes us different. We now belong to the Truth. That doesn’t mean we have the Truth or even know everything about truth. The Truth doesn’t belong to us. No, by God’s gracious act we belong to the Truth. We don’t make truth claims—Truth claims us.

How then do we live? In deep humility, profound gratitude and real joy.

**Humility:** It is God’s good and gracious favor to be merciful to all, even, and perhaps especially, to those with whom we fervently disagree. This is the severe mercy of grace—no one, not even those we determine are beyond the pale, is beyond the reach of God.

**Gratitude:** God claims us. We are not our own and we are not alone. Paul wrote: “For while we were still weak ... for if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son” (Romans 5:6-10). The deep human struggle for worth and meaning is over. We are the beloved of the Most High, thanks be to God.

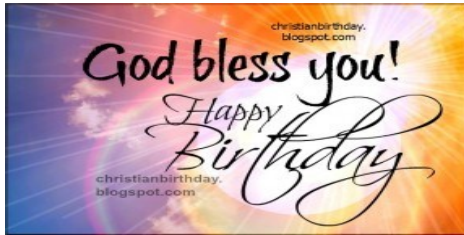
**Joy:** Dear church, we are free! Free to love, free to serve, free to listen, free to be challenged. We can “lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and ... run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

Here is my prayer: *There is a lot of noise in this world, gracious God, including our own that lays claim to the truth. Bring us to a place of stillness where we can listen to you. Your truth has claimed us and set us free. Amen.*

*This column originally appeared in the July 2019 edition of Living Lutheran. <https://www.livinglutheran.org>*

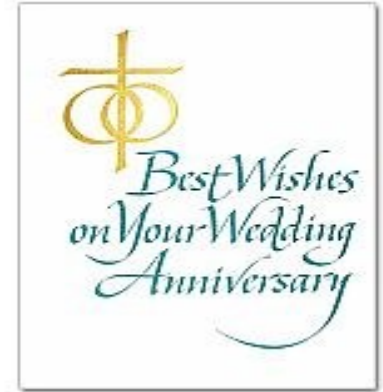
# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

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](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com)



1~ Lori Keller  
2~ Trinity Johnson  
3~ Tyler Schafner  
~ Abigail Bacon  
4~ Jodie Daniels  
5~ Larry Dahl  
~ Michael Gudmundson  
6~ Steven Good  
~ Kayla Nelson  
~ Oliver Kendhammer  
7~ Ione Hallum  
~ Anna Kiel  
~ Jens Lind  
8~ Brittany Olson  
9~ Norm Overland  
10~ Gerrad Eide  
~ Brady Boyum  
11~ Barb Soppa  
~ Shelly Berg  
~ Bennett Vitse  
12~ Jordan Johnson  
~ Lindsay Hoiness  
13~ Karen Schumacher  
~ Keith Halverson

14~ David Larson  
~ Rhonda Good  
~ Matthew Ehler  
~ Amy Kelly  
16~ Kenny Peterson  
~ Cheryl Halverson  
~ Tanya Self  
~ Denise Evans  
~ Chellsey Olson  
~ Laci Sievers  
17~ Erik Topness  
18~ Pat Dahl  
~ Daniel Lind  
~ Ella Dammen  
19~ Debbie Lawstuen  
~ Monica Lee  
~ Brianna Horning  
20~ Norine Ask  
~ Thea Arends  
24~ Sanna Pederson  
~ Aimee Nelson  
~ Adeline Johnson  
25~ Sander Michel  
26~ Gene Topness  
28~ Willow Kelly  
29~ Logan Rein  
31~ Steve Storhoff  
~ Nicole Blagsvedt



4~ Jerry & Bonnie Hallum  
4~ Jeffrey & Sylvia Passow  
6~ Roger & Sarah Bearbower  
9~ Ryan & Leah Jacobson  
14~ Terry & Susan Blagsvedt  
15~ Erik & Kallee Nelson  
20~ Tim & Jennie Stensgard  
20~ Rex & Rachel Bearbower  
21~ David & Brenda Markegard  
29~ Jerry & Joyce Dahl  
31~ Kyle & Lisa Chiglo



# August 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
				1	2	3
4 <i>EL- 9:00 a.m. worship</i> <i>HP-10:30 a.m. worship</i>	5	6	7  Bulletin Deadline	8	9	10
11 <i>EL- 9:00 a.m. worship</i> <i>HP-10:30 a.m. worship</i>	12	13	14 ~6:30 p.m. <i>Campfire worship</i> <i>~Christian education mtg.</i> <i>7:30 p.m. @ HP</i> Bulletin Deadline	15	16	17
18 <i>Outdoor Worship</i> <i>10:00 a.m. @ HP</i>  <i>EL-Storhoff reunion</i>	19          <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	20	21    Bulletin Deadline	22	23	24          <i>Parish Men's breakfast</i> <i>7:30 a.m.</i>
25 <i>10:00 a.m. EL Music Festival</i>          <i>Mid-school/High school youth cook-out 4 p.m.</i>	26	27	28    <i>6:30 p.m. Campfire worship</i>   Bulletin Deadline	29	30	31

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

*Address Services Requested*

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Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6



**HIGHLAND PRAIRIE**  
**ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019**

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

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2019**

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN  
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, SHARON EHLER  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019**

READERS: HALE STENSGARD, SCOTT BESTUL  
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019**

ELSTAD MUSIC FESTIVAL WORSHIP @ 10:00 A.M.

**ELSTAD**  
**ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019**

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2019**

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS  
READERS: J.T. REIN, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019**

WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019**

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN  
READERS: ALISON FREESE, LORI BAKKE

**USHERS:** GENE TOPNESS, DAVE LAWSTUEN,  
DUANE BAKKE, CHASE BAKKE,  
CHRISTOPHER NELSON