



WELCOME

we're glad you're here

TWO CHURCHES, ONE FAITH

JULY 2026

Rooted Together: Elstad-Highland Prairie Parish

ELSTADHIGHLANDPRAIRIEPARISH@GMAIL.COM

Pastor: Rev. Jackie Short ~ (507) 517-0769 ~ pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@ gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Courtney Lee

Parish Office: (507) 864-2731 ~ elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com

Summer Office Hours

Pr. Jackie

Please Call or email us to set up a time that works for you.

Stay Connected this Summer

Check us out on Facebook

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

Elstad Lutheran Church

&

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org



As our nation prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, many communities are beginning to reflect on the people, events, and values that have shaped our country over the past two and a half centuries. Anniversaries invite us to look backward with gratitude, forward with hope, and inward with reflection.

The same is true for our congregations.

Long before any of us were here, faithful people gathered on this prairie to worship, pray, baptize, teach children, bury loved ones, and serve their neighbors. Generations have left their fingerprints on this ministry through their prayers, sacrifices, and acts of faith.

The buildings may have changed, the community may have changed, and even the challenges we face today are different, but the mission remains the same.

In Deuteronomy, Moses reminds God's people:

"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father, and he will inform you; your elders, and they will tell you." (Deuteronomy 32:7)

As we remember the generations that came before us, we do so not simply out of nostalgia, but because their faith helps guide our own. They trusted God through times of prosperity and hardship, growth and decline, certainty and change. Their stories remind us that God has been faithful through each and every season.

Yet scripture reminds us that faith is never only about looking backward. The Apostle Paul writes:

"One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal." (Philippians 3:13-14)

We honor our history best not by preserving it in place, but by building upon it. The same God who guided our ancestors continues to call us forward into ministry today. We are not merely caretakers of a legacy; we are participants in God's ongoing work.

This summer offers us an opportunity to celebrate both heritage and mission. As we gather for worship, fellowship, service projects, community events, and simple conversations over coffee, we are writing the next chapter of our congregation's story.

Future generations will one day look back on this time and remember the choices we made, the faith we shared, and the ways we responded to God's call.

The Psalmist declares:

"One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." (Psalm 145:4)

May we continue to be that generation—receiving the gift of faith from those who came before us and passing it on to those who will follow after us.

Thank you for being part of this story and this ministry. Together, with gratitude for the past and hope for the future, we continue to trust in God's faithfulness.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jackie

A MESSAGE FROM THE EHP PARISH OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR COURTNEY LEE

As we welcome the month of July, we are reminded of the many blessings that summer brings—longer days, time with family and friends, and opportunities to enjoy God's beautiful creation. It is also a wonderful season to stay connected with our church family through worship, fellowship, and service. One of the highlights of our summer has been our Mid-Week Connection Campfires. These gatherings have provided a wonderful opportunity to come together in fellowship, share stories, enjoy conversation, and strengthen the connections that make our parish community so special. Thank you to everyone who has attended and to those who have graciously opened their homes and properties to host. We are always looking for additional hosts throughout the summer. Hosting a campfire is a simple and meaningful way to welcome fellow parishioners and help build community. If you are interested in hosting an upcoming Mid-Week Connection Campfire, please contact the church office. We would love to help coordinate a date and answer any questions you may have.

As many of you know, we are continuing to update our parish records to ensure that everyone receives important church communications. If you know of someone who is not receiving newsletters, emails, or other parish information, please encourage them to contact the church office. We would be happy to update their information and help them stay connected.

Thank you to everyone who participates in the life of our parish. Whether you volunteer your time, attend worship, support our ministries, or keep our congregation in your prayers, your presence makes a difference.

As you enjoy the summer months, may you find time for rest, renewal, and reflection on God's goodness. We look forward to seeing you at worship, around the campfire, and at our many parish activities throughout July.

May God bless you and your family with a safe, joyful, and faith-filled summer.

Grace and Peace,

Courtney-Parish Administrator



Jonah 2:5 reminds us that even in the depths of despair, we can call out to God, and He hears our cries. It's a powerful reminder of His unwavering presence and the hope we have in Him, no matter how dark our circumstances may seem.



Parish Happenings

Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Byron Rodger, Joey Stensgard | 18. Elizabeth Abrahamson, Kirstin Lawstuen |
| 2. Katy Laneville, Slade Pepin | 19. Shelly Nelson, Autumn Humble |
| 3. Mary Dunphy | 20. Joan Finnegan, Mary Gudmundson, Brent Storhoff |
| 5. Joshua Drinkall | 21. Colby Lind |
| 6. Richard Nepstad | 22. Nolan Eide |
| 7. Beckett Hovland, Lincoln Bakkum | 23. Karen Bakken |
| 8. Caroline Anfinson, Braxton Rodger | 25. Siri Dworschak |
| 9. Kyle Chiglo | 26. Chelsey Hungerholt |
| 10. Arlene Johnson | 27. Hudson Lee |
| 11. Allison Bauer | 29. Lori Bakke, Emily Bakke, Ashley Rein, Josie Bearbower |
| 12. Kathy Abrahamson, Kristi Oman, Jeremy Pederson | 30. Lee Johnson, Kayleigh Wangen |
| 13. Kyle Bearbower | 31. Susan Blagsvedt |
| 14. Riley Koop | |
| 16. Charles Pederson, Lyle Rustad | |
| 17. Nicole Howe | |

Anniversaries



- 9. Clair & Patty Olson
- 20. Kenny & Cathy Bakkum
- 22. Trinity & Emily Johnson
- 24. Adam & Jodie Daniels
- 28. Charles & Karen Mierau
- 29. Lee & Meredith Johnson

We love to celebrate with you, if we have missed somebody's Birthday or Anniversary, please email the church office so we can add them to the list!

Council Meetings ...

Parish Council Meeting @ Elstad

Sunday July 12th

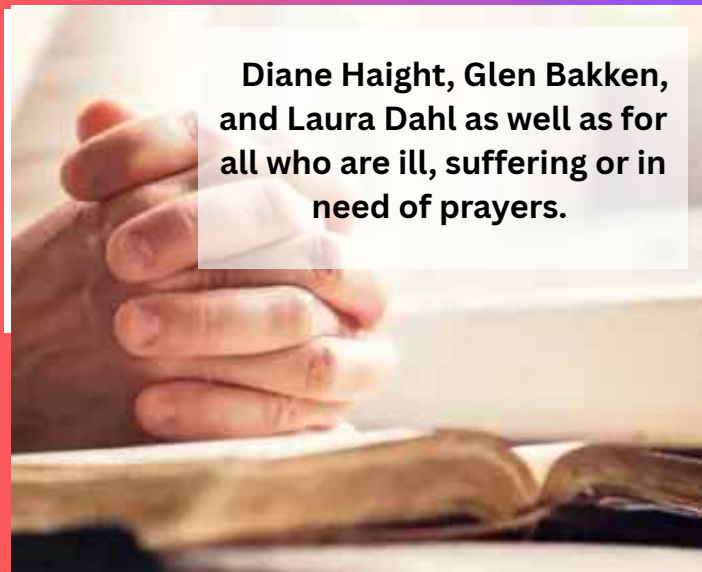
HP @ 4:30pm

Parish @ 5:30pm

Elstad @ 6:30pm



In our Prayers



Diane Haight, Glen Bakken, and Laura Dahl as well as for all who are ill, suffering or in need of prayers.



Elstad Worship
10:30 AM

What's Happening at Elstad...



Elstad Bible Studies

Esther Circle will meet on July 15th at 9:30 am at Glee Claussen's

The Leah Circle will meet on the second or third Tuesday of the month in the afternoon. They use "The Gather" magazine to guide their discussions. All are welcomed to join. They enjoy coffee and fellowship and have a good time. Reach out to Carol Dixon for more information if interested in joining.

The Elizabeth Circle usually meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:45 am. Reach out to Lori Bakke for more information if interested in joining.

Elstad WELCA Monthly Serving Commitee

July

Kay Wold
Krissy Overland
Kelly & Trent Eide
Shelby & Christopher Nelson

August

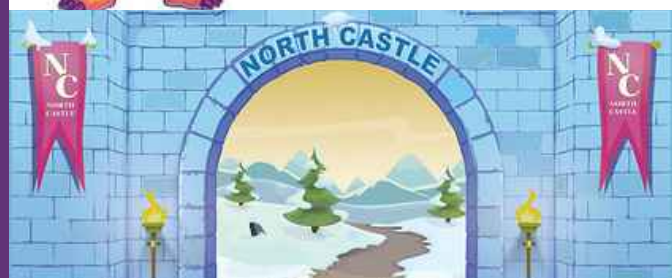
David & Lori Bakke
Carol Fogal
Tyler & Morgan Knutson
Bill & Heidi FishBaugher



Sparky, along with the Elstad Lutheran Church would like to invite all the children of the Kingdom (Preschool - 6th grade) to join them at North Castle for some VBS fun on July 11th!

Saturday July 11th 9am-2pm

If you have any questions please contact:
Pr. Jackie Short at 507-517-0769 /
pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com or
Morgan Knutson at 507-273-6634 /
morganknutson15@gmail.com



What's Happening at Highland Prairie ...

QUILTING & POTLUCK
JULY 7TH AT
9:30AM



WELCA Bible Study
July 1st @
1:30pm



Chair Aerobics



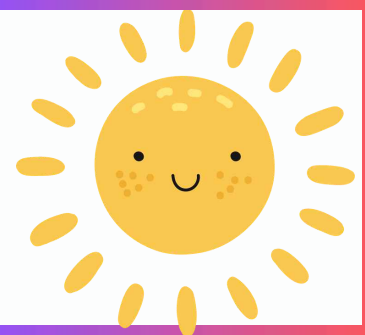
Wednesdays @ 11 am

"This is the day that the
Lord has made; let us
rejoice and be glad in
it."

— Psalm 118:24



Thank you to Hunter and Hudson Lee!
Thank you both so much for your help moving the picnic
tables to the parsonage for the graduation reception
and then bringing them back afterward. Your willingness
to lend a hand made the setup and cleanup much
easier, and your hard work was greatly appreciated.



Together In Faith Parish News

MID WEEK CONNECTION & CAMPFIRE

MID WEEK CONNECTION & CAMPFIRE SCHEDULE

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CONNECTION, CONVERSATION, REFLECTION,
AND COMMUNITY AROUND THE CAMPFIRE.

JULY 2026

- JULY 1 – HOSTED BY PASTOR JACKIE AT PARSONAGE
- JULY 15 – MARY & VAL GUDMUNDSON

AUGUST 2026

- AUGUST 5 – HOSTED BY PAULA HOWE AT HER HOME
- AUGUST 19 – AVAILABLE TO HOST

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A CAMPFIRE AT YOUR HOME OR AT CHURCH?
PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JACKIE TO SIGN UP FOR AN AVAILABLE DATE.
BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET, INVITE A FRIEND, AND JOIN US AS WE GATHER,
RECONNECT, AND ENJOY FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER THIS SUMMER!



Monthly Ministry 

CANNED FOOD COLLECTION

Together, we can help feed our neighbors in need.

Each month, our congregation collects canned foods to support local food shelves and families in our community.

Every can makes a difference! 



ITEMS MOST NEEDED:


Small gifts from many hearts can change lives.



CANNED SOUPS



CANNED VEGETABLES



CANNED FRUITS



CANNED TUNA/CHICKEN



CANNED BEANS



PASTA SAUCES



PEANUT BUTTER

Let's fill the shelves with love! 



Summer Bowl Worship Schedule

(June–September 2026)

Please join us for worship in the Bowl this summer:

June

6/7: Highland Prairie ONLY at 9:00 a.m.

6/28: Combined worship service at 10:30 a.m.

- **Parish Potluck following service**

July

7/5: Highland Prairie ONLY at 9:00 a.m.

7/26: Combined worship service at 10:30 a.m.

- **Meal following service**

August

8/2: Highland Prairie ONLY at 9:00 a.m.

8/16: Combined worship service at 10:30 a.m.

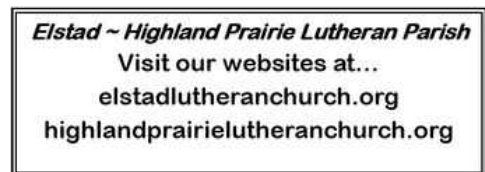
- **Meal following service**

September

9/6: Highland Prairie ONLY at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 HP Bible Study 1:30pm	2	3 250 th Celebration Youth selling Rootbeer Floats at Creekside	4 4 th of July
5 Highland Prairie W: 9am-Outside Worship Elstad W: 10:30am	6 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	7 Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm	8	9 Bulletin Items Duel!	10	11 VBS @ Elstad 9am-2pm HP Shelter-Reserved!
12 Highland Prairie W: 9am Elstad W: 10:30am	13	14 HP WELCA Quilting & Potluck 9:30am	15	16	17	18
Parish council Meeting @ ELSTAD HP: 4:30pm Parish: 5:30pm Elstad: 6:30pm	13 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	14 Education Committee Meeting 5:30pm	15 Traveling Campfire Location: Val & Mary Gudmundson's 6pm	16 Bulletin Items Duel!		
19 Highland Prairie W: 9am Elstad W: 10:30am	20	21	22	23	24	25
	20 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am	21 Newsletter Items Duel!		23 Bulletin Items Duel!		
26 Bowl Service 10:30am	27	28	29	30	31	
	27 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am			30 Bulletin Items Duel!		

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



Highland Prairie
Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Acolyte: N/A

Readers: Mary Gudmundson, Mathew Gudmundson

Greeters: Kay Dahl

Communion: N/A

Ushers: Mike Pepin, Mary Gudmundson

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Acolyte: Slade Pepin

Readers: Paula Howe

Greeters: Brode Vickerman

Communion: Sharon Boyum

Ushers: Ken Bakkum, Gary Rustad

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Acolytes: Caiden Dahle

Readers: Mary Gudmundson, Joseph Evenson

Greeters: Martha Stensgard

Communion:

Ushers: Mary & Val Gudmundson

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Acolytes: N/A

Readers: Elstad

Greeters: Elstad

Communion: N/A

Ushers: Elstad

Elstad
Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Acolyte: Nolan Eide

Readers: Dick Haight, Nolan Eide

Greeters: Pat Schwarting

Ushers: Shelly Nelson, Jeff Short

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Acolyte: Mason Wolfs

Readers: Carol Overland, Mason Wolfs

Greeters: Marcia Randall

Ushers: Shelly Nelson, Jeff Short

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Acolyte: Norah Eide

Readers: Carol Dixon, Norah Eide

Greeters:

Ushers: Shelly Nelson, Jeff Short

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Acolyte: N/A

Readers: Quentin Daniels

Greeters:

Ushers: