

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

*~ July 2021 ~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

*Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com*

*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator ~ Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

**Worship Notes:**

\*The parish has returned to "in-person" worship. Parish Covid19 precautions have been discontinued. We are now singing, unhindered by masks. Distancing and masking, while no longer required, can still be observed by those who think it is wise given their individual circumstances. We do ask that if you have not been vaccinated, you wear a mask.

Sunday worship will continue to be taped and posted online each week.

\*Please note: On Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be one joint outdoor service, 10:30 a.m., at Highland Prairie. You are encouraged to bring your own lawn chair.

**July Worship Schedule**

**+ 6 Pentecost, Sunday, July 4th**

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

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

Ezekiel 2.1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12.2-10

Mark 6.1-13

**+7 Pentecost, Sunday, July 11th**

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

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

Amos 7.7-15

Psalm 85.8-13

Ephesians 1.3-14

Mark 6.14-29

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**+8 Pentecost, Sunday, July 18th**

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

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

Jeremiah 23.1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2.11-22

Mark 6.30-34, 53-56

**+9 Pentecost, Sunday, July 25th**

**Outdoor Worship**

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

2 Kings 4.42-44

Psalm 145.10-18

Ephesians 3.14-21

John 6.1-21

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## Pastor's Page

July 2021

Our daughter, her husband, and our granddaughters, three, came to our home for a visit over the weekend. We had a wonderful time together during which I observed the daughter we reared rearing her daughters. To watch the "tables turned" is interesting....fun....and gratifying.

Throughout the weekend I noticed her engaged in the task of civilizing her daughters. (*Children are not born civilized.*) When they asked for "more milk", this is what I heard: "How do you ask for something?" And, upon receiving "more milk," this is what I heard: "What do you say to Papa?"

Parents teach their very young children to say "please" and "thank you." A wise teacher of the church of years ago said that gratitude is the just repayment for a gift.

Our very life comes to us unasked and unsought. When I asked our confirmation youth if they asked to be born, not a one of them said, "Yes." It is a truism that most of what makes us the people we are is also given. It is part of the parental task that they teach their children to say "thank you" for the gift of life and all that comes with it.

And isn't it interesting and wonderful that the wheels in the minds and hearts of, yes, even children(!), whose parents have ingrained habits of thanks, lead to the ultimate question: "If life, itself, the universe and everything, is a gift, who, ultimately, do we thank?"

Yes! There is a ultimate Giver who deserves eternal thanks!

Teach such thanksgiving and model it, dear parents! And all the rest of us, too!

### **Mission Table**

Any monetary gifts to the ELCA World Hunger fund are a meaningful way to help make a difference. Designated donations to this cause can be placed in the offering plate of your congregation . Make your checks out to your congregation and write ELCA World Hunger Appeal on the MEMO line.

Members of both congregations are encouraged to continue supporting the local food shelves. Our area SEMCAC food shelves' addresses are: Rushford (113 East Jessie St.) and Preston (515 Washington Street, NW).

### **Youth Ministry**

Vacation Bible School for parish youth, pre-k – grade 6, is scheduled for July 12-14, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at Highland Prairie. The title of the program is Kingdom Heroes. Parents are encouraged to register their son/daughter for VBS by July 6th so the information can be passed on to the planning team. Forms are available on the congregations' Facebook pages, respectively, and in the bulletin on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Please submit them via snail mail (43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962) or drop them in the Sunday morning offering plate.

### **More Youth Ministry**

Junior and Senior High Parish youth: A July cookout and fun on the Highland Prairie ballfield is being planned. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and beverage will be provided for a small fee of \$2.00 per person. A new game called "9 Square in the Air", an awesome group game, is on back-order and is expected to arrive towards the middle of the month. The game has elements of volleyball and 4-Square, but expands the court to 9 squares and raises it off the ground. The game in a nutshell: The player in the center square serves the ball to any other square. The player receiving the ball must hit the ball out the top of their square and into another square. And so it goes until the ball drops to the ground in a player's square and player rotation occurs. As soon as the game arrives, we'll schedule the event. But if you would be so kind: Email Pr. Mathsen and let him know what day of the week would work best for you ([Immathsen@gmail.com](mailto:Immathsen@gmail.com)). Parental presence and help would be much appreciated.

### **Adult Christian Education**

A July adult book study will commence on Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m., at Highland Prairie. We'll be studying a book by a top-rate Lutheran teacher, Steven Paulson. The book is entitled: Luther for Armchair Theologians. It can be purchased on Amazon.com. The back-cover summary states: "...Paulson's introduction to Luther's thought, coupled with the illustrations, provides an engaging introduction to Luther's multifaceted self and the ideas that catapulted him to fame." If you're interested in participating in this study, please sign up with Pr. Luther by July 5th.

### **Elstad Maintenance Items 2021**

A sheet listing Elstad church building needs is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the nave. Should you desire to assist with a donation or with your time and skill. See council president, Dick Haight or treasurer, Jennifer Nepstad if you have questions.

### **Highland Prairie Maintenance Items 2021**

Re-staining the church building is more than half-way complete (thanks to Steve Howe and David Markegard.) The re-configuring-to-code of waterlines from the shelter to the park house restroom is in process. Your financial contributions to the building fund are appreciated. See council president Gordon if you have questions.

### **Provisional Concerns of Congregational Life**

Your continuing consideration of your offerings that help the church meet its financial commitments is most appreciated. If you do not attend communal worship, you are encouraged to mail your offering to: Jennifer Nepstad (Elstad Treasurer), 20707 Co. 21, Lanesboro, MN 55949, or Karen Bakken (Highland Prairie, Treasurer), 713 Johnson Court , Rushford, MN. 55971 or Highland Prairie Church, 43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962,

### **Pastoral Care**

Pr. Mathsen is making in-person home and nursing home visits. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of pastoral care or a pastoral visit, please let him know.

## **Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

**June 13, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members present were Robert Anfinson, Karen Bakken, Joyce Dahl, Mary Gudmundson, Gordon Johnson, Lyle Meldahl, Chris Hoiland, Steve Howe and David Markegard, Tim Stensgard was absent.

A quorum was determined and a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by David Markegard, Lyle Meldahl seconded. Motion carried.

Devotions were given by Pastor Luther.

There were no congregation members present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. Year to date information provided are income \$38,161.00 expenses \$31,864.00; income exceeded expenses by \$6,296.00. A motion to approve as presented was made by Chris Hoiland, Joyce Dahl, seconded. Motion carried.

The President's Report: Appreciation for those working on maintenance tasks.

Pastor Luther appreciated the time off and Pastor Kay for filling in; outdoor worship coming up; Baccalaureate service at Lanesboro; book study was well received; Parish Bible study at Highland Prairie and Parklane; Parish youth event interest and support needed; meeting with couples for upcoming weddings; pastoral care and shut-in visits are now being made; vacation time July 24-31.

Correspondence received: None.

Committee Reports: Park and Bowl clean up to be done. Staining on church exterior in progress. Parish Vacation Bible school for PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grade at Highland Prairie July 12-14.

Old Business: Parking lot expense may be eligible for Endowment funds. Work on water at shelter has begun and may be turned off to the cemetery intermittently.

New Business: Bowl clean-up and repairs need to be done before July outdoor services. June 27th worship service will be at band stand.

Endowment position not filled at the annual meeting and we are looking for someone to volunteer.

Another air conditioner unit was purchased for the parsonage during the recent extreme temps.

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve was made by Lyle Meldahl, Joyce Dahl seconded. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer by Pastor Luther was made by David Markegard, Karen Bakken seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next meeting will be on July 11th at 5:30 pm at Elstad Lutheran Church.

Elstad/Highland Prairie Parish

Vacation Bible School Registration

July 12-14, 2021----9:00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

**Event Location: Highland Prairie Lutheran Church**

\*Please fill out a form for each child participant.

**Child's Information**

Child's Name

\_\_\_\_\_

First Name

Last Name

Birth Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Month

Day

Year

Age

\_\_\_\_\_

Gender

\_\_\_\_ Male

\_\_\_\_ Female

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address

City & State

Zip Code

Parent/Guardian Information

\_\_\_\_\_

First Name

Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number at which to be reached

Emergency Contact Information

\_\_\_\_\_

First Name

Last Name

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

## **Helpful Information**

Does your child have any allergies, chronic illness, or medical conditions? If yes, please describe.

Is there anything about your child we should know that has not been mentioned above?

I will send my child with their own sunscreen and bug spray. \_\_\_\_\_

Yes    No

I give consent to use sunscreen and bug spray provided by VBS. \_\_\_\_\_

Yes    No

\*Each child should have a hat to wear for protection from the sun.

\*A bottle of water for hydration is highly recommended.

\*Each child is asked to bring his/her own bag lunch. Lunch will be at 11:30.

\*A mid-morning snack and beverage will be provided.

\*Dress appropriate to weather conditions and outdoor play is strongly recommended.

*Prayer Corner*

*Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Deb Topness, Thora Lombard, Ione Hallum, Wendy Will, Dylan Ghoorah, Lorraine Anfinson and all who are ill or in need of our prayers.*



The Highland Prairie quilters extend an invitation to all Elstad women to join them in quilting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Elstad Budget for May 2021

May	\$ 7033.58
Received	\$ 7289.00
Under	\$ 255.42
Elstad budget YTD	\$ 35167.90
Received YTD	\$ 35365.00
Over YTD	\$ 197.10

Highland Prairie Financial for May 2021

YTD Income	\$ 38,161
YTD Expenses	\$ 31,864
Expenses exceed Income	\$ 6,296
YTD Budget	\$ 39,875
YTD Income	\$ 38,160
YTD Under	\$ 1,714

# JULY 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@yahoo.com](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@yahoo.com)



1~Joey Stensgard

2~ Katy Redalen

~ Slade Pepin

3~ Mary Dunphy

5~ Peter Ask

~ Joshua Drinkall

6~ Rich Nepstad

~ Richard Johnson

~ Paul Peterson

7~ Beckett Hovland

~ Lincoln Bakkum-Mohwinkel

8~ Glenn Peterson

~ Caroline Anfinson

~ Christine Knuston

9~ Dean Berland

~ Kyle Chiglo

10~ Arlene Johnson

~ Adleigh Brisebois

11~ Allison Bauer

~ Marguerite Abrahamson

12~ Kathy Abrahamson

~ Kristi Oman

~ Jeremy Pederson

13~ Kyle Bearbower

16~ Charles Pederson

~ Lyle Rustad

~ David Stockton

17~ Jade Grabau

~ Nicole Howe

~ Kreedon Wangen

18~ Elizabeth Abrahamson

~ Kristin Lawstuen

19~ Shelly Nelson

~ John Knutson

~ Autumn Humble

20~ Marilyn Soland

~ Joan Finnegan

~ Mary Gudmundson

~ Brent Storhoff

21~ Colby Lind

22~ Ken Jacobson

~ Jerod Chiglo

~ Nolan Eide

23~ Karen Bakken

~ Bobbi Mathsen

24~ Jimmy Sharpe Jr.

25~ Siri Dworschak

28~ Taylor Johnson

29~ Lori Bakke

~ Josie Bearbower

30~ Lee Johnson

~ Kayleigh Wangen

~ Palmer Root

31~ Susan Blagsvedt

9~ Clair & Patty Olson

20~ Kenny & Cathy  
Bakkum

21~ Richard & Pamela  
Johnson

22~ Trinity & Emily  
Johnson

24~ Adam & Jodie Daniels

28~ Charles & Karen  
Mierau



# JULY 2021

***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 Pr. Luther @ Good Shepherd 1:30 p.m.	2	3
4 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	5	6	7 HP WELCA Bible Study 1:30 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	8 Pr. Luther @ Park Lane 9:30 a.m. Adult book study 1:30 p.m.	9	10 HP Shelter— JoAnne Anderson
11 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP  Parish Council Mtgs. @ Elstad HP—5:30 p.m. Parish—6:30 p.m. Elstad—7:30 p.m.	12	13	14 HP WELCA Quilting 9:00 a.m.  Bulletin Deadline	15 Adult book study 1:30 p.m.	16	17 Allan Dahl Memorial
18 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:30 a.m.—HP	19  Newsletter Deadline	20	21  Bulletin Deadline	22 Adult book study 1:30 p.m.	23	24 Pr. Luther Vacation
25 Outdoor Parish Worship @ HP 10:30 a.m. Pr. Luther Vacation	26	27	28  Bulletin Deadline	29	30	31

*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, JULY 4, 2021**

**ACOLYTES:** LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON  
**READERS:** LINDSEY HOINESS, ARLENE JOHNSON  
**GREETERS:** SHARON & PAUL EHLER

**SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2021**

**ACOLYTES:** CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN  
**READERS:** LACI SIEVERS, SHARON EHLER  
**GREETERS:** ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021**

**ACOLYTES:** LARISSA RYAN, CHEYANNE DAHLE  
**READERS:** CADEN JOHNSON, SCOTT BESTUL  
**GREETERS:** DOUG LIND FAMILY

**SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021 ~ OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

**READERS:** LARISSA RYAN, SYLVIA PASSOW  
**GREETERS:** LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

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

**SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021**

**ACOLYTE:** AUBREY DANIELS  
**READERS:** KYLE DANIELS, GENE TOPNESS

**SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2021**

**ACOLYTE:** SAWYER WOLFS  
**READERS:** INDY QUALY, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

**SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021**

**ACOLYTE:** THEA ARENDS  
**READERS:** LIZ HAGEMAN, LORI BAKKE

**SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021**

PARISH WORSHIP @ HP 10:30 A.M.

**USHERS:** DICK HAIGHT, LARRY TOPNESS,  
RICH NEPSTAD, JOHN ABRAHAMSON,  
JONH KNUTSON, MICHAEL REIN