

Highland Prairie ~ Elstad Lutheran Parish
43267 Bowl Drive
Peterson, MN 55962-9722

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JUNE
NEWSLETTER

HP Readers/Acolytes/Greeters

Sunday, June 2, 2013

Acolyte: Kjersta Lind, Madison Smith

Readers: Leah Jacobson, Kjersta Lind

Greeters: Allen & Kay Howe

Sunday, June 9, 2013

Acolytes: Madison Smith, Brianna Koop

Readers: Norma Halverson, Madison Smith

Greeters: Charles & Lynnette Pederson

Sunday, June 16, 2013

Acolytes: Brianna Koop, Hayden Stensgard

Readers: Shannon Kopperud, Brianna Koop

Greeters: Arlene & Gordon Johnson

Sunday, June 23, 2013

Bowl Service

Sunday, June 30, 2013

Acolytes: Hayden Stensgard, Aric Stensgard

Readers: Marion Dahl, Hayden Stensgard

Greeters: Sharon & Paul Ehler

Elstad Readers/Acolytes

Sunday, June 2, 2013

Acolyte: Christopher Freese

Reader: Glee Clausen

Sunday, June 9, 2013

Acolyte:

Reader: John Overland

Sunday, June 16, 2013

Acolyte: Kody Bearbower

Reader: Carol Dybing

Sunday, June 23, 2013

Bowl Service

Sunday, June 30, 2013

Acolyte:

Reader: Carolyn Smith

Ushers: Mike Ask, John Abrahamson, Dave Lawstuen, Steve Storhoff, Colin Bakke

Highland Prairie ~ Elstad Lutheran Parish

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

June 2013

Pastor Dan Watland, Pastor Phone: (507) 864-2731 Cell: (507) 459-1411 Email: dwatland@gmail.com

Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary Home: (507) 864-2086 Cell: (507) 459-5450

Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

June Worship Schedule

Sunday, June 2, 2013

Elstad

9:00 a.m. Worship

Highland Prairie

10:30 Worship

Sunday, June 9, 2013

Elstad

9:00a.m. Worship

Highland Prairie

10:30 Worship

Sunday, June 16, 2013

Elstad

9:00a.m. Worship

Highland Prairie

10:30 Worship

Sunday, June 23, 2013

Bowl Service @

10:30a.m.

Sunday, June 30, 2013

Elstad

9:00 a.m. Worship

Highland Prairie

10:30 Worship

Ponderings from the Parsonage

Consistent prayer is important to each congregation's mission. Are you open to a prayer invitation?

The first invitation is to pray for those who are close to you: your husband or wife, kids, brothers and sisters, parents, or others who are close to you. Jesus prayed for his disciples. They had spent years of ministry together and had become like a family. Jesus asked his Father to protect his disciples. Our prayers for those we love can be that simple: for God to bless, protect and encourage them.

Second, I invite you to pray for your congregation's mission. In our day-to-day world, it is easy to forget that we as the church have a God-given mission to accomplish. Jesus gave a mission to his disciples: to proclaim "eternal life," that they may know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3). What do you see as the specific mission of Highland Prairie and Elstad? Pray for that mission!

Third, I invite you to pray for your enemy, for the person that you struggle with daily or weekly. It might be someone at work, at home or in your neighborhood. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus told the disciples, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

A friend told me about his struggle to love his enemy. Every day as he went to work he saw a picture of the person and felt this bitterness rise up. It got to the point where he would take a different route to avoid the picture. He was telling his wife about this. She suggested that instead of avoiding it, he simply pray for God's blessing and joy to be with his enemy, to see that person covered in God's light. He listened to his wife and started praying. At first there was no change in the way he felt, but he continued to pray. Gradually he felt his bitterness go away. He began to see his enemy in a new light: as a fellow follower of God, made in his image. Are you willing to accept the invitation?

Pastor Dan

The meeting was called to order at 6:52pm by Highland Prairie President Glen Kopperud.

Roll call was taken. None were absent.

Staff Present: Lisa Chiglo

Members Present:

Elstad Council Members:

Robert Knutson, President

Jerry Evenson, Vice President

Michelle Rein, Secretary

Jennifer Nepstad, Treasurer

Vicky Topness

Carol Overland

John Rein

Highland Prairie Council Members:

Glen Kopperud, President

Gordon Johnson, Vice President

Sarah Bearbower, Secretary

Karen Bakken, Treasurer

Deb Book

Allen Howe

Lyle Meldahl

Kay Eiken

David Larson

Gerald Hallum

A quorum was called.

Motion by Sarah second by Jennifer to approves the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Devotions were given by: Sarah & Glen - The lesson of spring soil

Congregation members wishing to address the Council: None

The Secretary's Report from the March 10th 2013 joint meeting was given. Motion by Gordon and second by John to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

President's Report: None

Pastor's Report:

Accomplishments: Great feedback on the Holy Week Services and Easter. Prayer ministry is organized at Highland Prairie via email. Had a "thank you" lunch with the parish call committee. One baptism in April and two baptisms in May. 42 visits in April and May to nursing home and home-bound members, including 4 hospital visits. Attended Root River Pastor's meetings in Lewiston, rural Fountain and Mabel. Helped initiate a weekly pastor's text study in Rushford. The Winona text study has disbanded. Helped review the job description for parish secretary. Helped review the wedding policy for Highland Prairie. Completed the

confirmation classes for this school year in April. Led the Bible studies at Good Shepherd on May 1 and May 15. The parsonage now has a garage door. Thank you! On the task force for the Healthy Communities project for Rushford and Peterson. Kick-off event is June 1 at the high school gym. Gayle and I gave devotional Bibles to all the high school graduates who are members of the parish. Gayle has been giving tours of the grounds and doing lots of raking at Highland Prairie!

Plans: A forum to meet the bishop candidates is this Wednesday May 22 at Chatfield Lutheran at 7 pm. All are encouraged to attend. The 2013 Synod Assembly will be June 7-8 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, MN. ELCA Bishop Mark Hansen will attend. A new SE MN Synod bishop will be elected. I preach June 9 at Good Shepherd in Rushford. A mission trip/Twins Game is planned for Thursday June 20. Work @ Global Health Ministries from 9-11 am, game at noon and home after the game. We may need to rent a van for the trip, depending on interest/availability. Bishop Harold Usgaard will preach at the Bowl Service at Highland Prairie on June 23, 2013. As of now we still need music for that day. I will be taking the following Kairos continuing education classes at Luther Seminary: "Welcoming Newcomers: How to Stop the Revolving Door," May 20-22. "Stewardship with Adults under 40" July 29 - 31, 2013 and "Narrative Lectionary 2013-2014" October 9-10, 2013. I plan to take vacation May 30- June 5, Aug 1-Aug 7 and Aug 27- September 1. This will include 3 Sundays. I am checking with local supply preachers for those Sundays. Plans continue for confirmation for next year. I plan to use a curriculum that will have minimal cost to the parish. Students are encouraged to adopt a service project as part of their confirmation requirements. Confirmation will take place on Reformation Sunday in October. There are weddings planned for Highland Prairie for September and December. Highland Prairie will host the Root River Pastors meetings on May 13, 2014.

Correspondence: none

Old Business:

Parsonage repairs - garage doors - Door is in, trim work still needs to be finished up. Garage door opener is in. The front might be a potential project for conformant.

Parsonage porch - The screens need replacement and rotting wood around the screens. Also there might be some floor finishing work needs to be done. (Jerry & Glen are on the Parsonage committee)

Bulletin Stock - We have bulletin stock to Sept. Auto fill has been discontinued.

New Business:

Pastor's contract - Review Guidelines at individual meetings tonight and recommend changes.

Bulletin inserts - Both church's will use the same inserts

Sundays & Seasons Online - Yearly subscription would give us copyright to print hymns and literary. Discussion at individual meetings for approval.

Software - Access/Church Windows - We will look into what we are actually paying for during computer upgrade.

Secretary Job Description - Vicky, Deb & Pastor would work as the backup for Lisa, in case of emergency.

Motion made by Robert to accept, Jerry 2nd, Motion carried.

Secretary Computer - A new laptop with virus scanning for 2 years, Office Professional Suite and a minimum of a single year warranty should cost no more than \$1200. Motion made by Deb, Carol 2nd to allow for Sarah to move forward with a purchase not to exceed \$1200. Motion carried.

Sheet Folder - \$1500 for a stand alone. \$750 for the one that goes on the copier. If Lisa should determine the parish needs one we will look closer at the option that adds onto the copier.

There being no further business: motion made by Vicky to adjourn, second by David.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm

Submitted by: Sarah Bearbower, Highland Prairie Lutheran Council Secretary.

May 19, 2013

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by President Robert Knutson.

Roll call was taken with all council members present.

A quorum was called.

The Agenda was approved by the council.

Congregational members wishing to address the council: none

The secretary's report from the March 10, 2013 was given. The minutes were approved by the council.

President's report: Elstad Lutheran Church was recognized by the SE MN Synod for our generous financial gifts in 2012. We are amongst the top rated churches in SE MN. A certificate of recognition will be posted on the church bulletin board.

Correspondence: none

Treasurer's report was given. While not at budget, we are in good standing and meeting immediate financial needs.

Committee Reports: none

Old Business:

- A) Church repairs continue. The council received an update on repairs made to the upstairs and basement, future repairs currently planned, and options for continued improvements/maintenance to prevent further water damage.
- B) Well water nitrate levels remain elevated despite attempts to flush the well. It is probable that a long term solution will need to be considered. It was felt that posting the well water in not for drinking and purchasing drinking water may be the most cost effective solution given the relatively small amount of water utilized for drinking. More discussion will follow as we hear more from MDH.
- C) Basement speakers have arrived and will be installed as repairs continue.

New Business:

- A) Voting on new member request. Kay Wold has expressed a desire to join our congregation. Motion was made by Carol Overland, second by Vicky Topness to accept her membership. Motion carried.
- B) Several long distance calls have been made from the church telephone. As this was seen as an unnecessary service, long distance has been removed from the church telephone line. The council approved this decision.
- C) Treasurer Jennifer Nepstad has received an option to pre-pay for propane used to heat the church. The council approved pre-payment.

- D) Marv and Carol Eggert have expressed interest in participating in an exit interview as they transition out of the role of parish secretary. Since Lisa Chiglo has already assumed this role fully and the job description was recently reviewed and updated, it was felt that an exit interview was not needed. The council approved the decision not to proceed with an exit interview at this time.
- E) Carol Overland, Ruth Abrahamson, and others have been working on plans for a musical fundraiser. Proceeds would go towards continued church repair expenses. It was proposed this fundraiser would take place at Elstad in place of the June HP Bowl service. HP council was addressed and will have further discussion.
- F) The basement repairs/updates have been nearly completed! The council would like to express our sincere THANK YOU to all of our members who have shared their time and gifts. Your efforts are a gift to us all and to our Heavenly Father. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.
- G) Pastor Dan has requested a subscription to "Sunday and Service." This would allow copyright for LBW, allow us to print large-print bulletins, and print/project hymns. Motion was made by Michelle Rein, second by Jerry Evenson to approve this request. Motion carried.
- H) Pastor Dan has approached the councils to review his contract and consider updates to his salary and retirement contribution. Pastor Dan felt this was to be part of the 6 month review process agreed upon with his call to service at Elstad and Highland Prairie. Each council was to meet individually and discuss Pastor Dan's request. Discussion was had. The need to review past minutes to understand the review process was identified. Further discussion will continue at a later date.
- I) The council asked if there needed to be, or should be, more involvement with the Sunday school. Specific concerns included the timing of the Sunday school Christmas program. It was determined that flexibility in date selection needs to be maintained to ensure maximum participation, but date selection will also take into consideration the congregation's concerns and attempt to be closer to Christmas if possible.
- J) Storage continues to be a problem. There has been interest expressed in some unused items currently in storage. The council will consider options available to disperse unused items in an appropriate manner.
- K) The bi-fold door in the basement is broken. Its current location is proving difficulty with trim finish work. The council approved removing the bi-fold door and placing it in storage so it can be accessible if needed at a later time.

Announcements: none

There being no further business, the council meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Lutheran Church Council Secretary.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Council

May 19th, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:39pm by Highland Prairie Council President Glen Kopperud. Roll call was taken at the joint meeting, none were absent.

Staff Present: Lisa Chiglo

A quorum was called.

Congregation members wishing to address the Council: None

No Secretary's report was read.

Treasurers report - YTD expense exceed revenue by \$6209. Most of this is due to the parsonage and furnace investments in the current year. We will put announcements into newsletter for funding needs for specific additional funds to cover the deficit for the furnaces. Motion made by Lyle, 2nd by Allen, to accept the Treasurers report, subject to audit. Motion carried.

President's Report: none

Pastor's Report: Given at joint meeting

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Church Task force (Jerry): duties outline is complete, He has some volunteers, hope to meet next Sunday.

Grounds Task force (David): duties outline is complete, However, David would like to get a list of potential volunteers for project contacts as needed. Would like to silicate a call list.

Worship Task force (Deb): Updated worship committee listings and responsibilities, Questions about the function of the Life & Growth committee, should we change this group to be the

Mission & Ministry Taskforce: Worship committee will be work with the current group to build a job description. Youth & Education will be put as a sub-group of the Mission and Ministry Team.

Old Business:

- **Worship committee requests:** Gordon motioned to allow the Worship committee to purchase communion ware and advent oil candles Lyle 2nd, Motion carried.
- **Pastor contract revisiting** - Sarah motioned to increase Pastor's compensation to the 2013 rate and increase the pension from 10%-12% due to his age. Deb 2nd Motion carried.
- **Sundays & Seasons** - Use Sept. Joint meeting discuss costs and purchase of the program.

New Business:

- **Wedding Policies** - Pastor and Lisa will finalize the Wedding Policy and in addition contact members about the wedding coordinator and alternate that will need to be available for all weddings.
- **Facility use fees** - Worship committee will come to the counsel with the finalized fee listing for approval at the next meeting.

- Move mail slot box - Discussion about moving the mail slot boxes to the storage area was discussed. This move can happen without further council action. Make sure to communicate with the congregation about the change.
- A subcommittee with review the current Insurance policy, the group will consist of chairpersons of grounds, church, and parsonage. If there are any recommended changes those will be brought to council at a future meeting.
- Dumpster future contract: We are locked into WM until next year. However, there seems to be an advantage to look at other providers. Jerry & David will work towards a proposal.
- Service Project: Nicole Blagsvedt will be proceeding with her project for the flag replacement and plant area. Her Mentor will be someone from the Cemetery committee. Josie Bearbower, Peyton Hoiness & Nicole Blagsvedt will also be proceeding with a playground equipment painting and refresh project. Sarah Bearbower will be their Mentor.

There being no further business: motion made by Lyle to adjourn, second by Jerry.
 Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Submitted by: Sarah Bearbower, Highland Prairie Council Secretary Sarah Bearbower

Elstad April Budget

April Budget	\$8074.17
Received	\$4422.00
Under	\$3652.17
YTD Budget	\$ 32296.68
Received YTD	\$23777.00
Under YTD	\$8519.68

Highland Prairie Financials
January-April

YTD Income	\$27,122
YTD Expenses	\$33,331
Expenses exc. Income	\$6,209
YTD Budget	\$ 28,858
YTD Income	\$ 27,122
YTD Under	\$ 1,736

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all of our church family and friends for their warm wishes, prayers, food, flowers and cards since my surgery and return home. Also, a special thank you to Pastor Dan for his visit at the hospital and special prayers.

May God bless each and every one of you for your encouragement and thoughtfulness.

Norine and Mike Ask

A mission trip/Twins Game is planned for Thursday June 20. Work @ Global Health Ministries from 9-11 am, game at noon vs. the White Sox and home after the game. All are invited and especially those in confirmation and those recently confirmed. Deadline for signing up is Monday June 10 at noon. We need a minimum of 10.

Bishop Harold Usgaard will preach at the Bowl Service at Highland Prairie on Sunday June 23. Let's take this time to thank him and celebrate his leadership during a challenging time in the ELCA.

THANK YOU

A BIG THANK YOU to Gordon Johnson, his sons, Chris and Tim, Jerry Hallum and David Larson for installing the new parsonage garage door.

!ATTENTION!

If you want urns watered at the Highland Prairie Cemetery please contact
 Becky Lind @ (507) 864-7710

The Bridge

A monthly publication for congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

Connecting the congregational, synodical, and churchwide expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Resolved to Reimagine Confirmation

“Monkey business.” That’s what Martin Luther called confirmation in his day, as well as “fanciful deception” and “mumbo-jumbo.” Despite his critique that it had no scriptural basis and it was being used to change the meaning of baptism, it is a time-honored, valued rite of passage in congregations of many denominations, including ours. Faith leaders in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod have been having conversations to explore finding ways to balance the tradition of confirmation, the opportunity for faith formation, and the cultural disconnect from the way confirmation programming is done in many communities. How might this be reimaged?

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministry Task Force has taken steps to broaden these conversations. In February 2013, they presented a resolution to the Synod Council to continue “innovative exploration” of confirmation ministry and to call on the wider Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to join in the conversation.

Karen Gieseke, the synod’s Children, Youth, and Family Ministry coordinator and advisor of the CYF Task Force, says, “Confirmation as a means to affirm Christian faith is a thread in the Lutheran tradition. It also is one of the most challenging areas of ministry in churches today.” She seeks to find ways to connect content and experiences to challenge and build the faith of young people.

The resolution cites several national studies focused on youth and faith, studies that local congregations affirm in their own stories, that indicate that youth aren’t connecting to and living out a Christian way of life, even after participating in confirmation.

After the resolution was adopted by the Synod Council, it was passed on to the ELCA Church Council. At their April meeting, they affirmed the importance of this conversation on confirmation and referred it to the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit to extend this conversation and resource sharing with other Christian education networks, including those who teach Christian education at our seminaries and colleges. Resources reflecting these conversations about faith formation can be



Confirmation class of 1906 from Grace Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill. Photo courtesy ELCA Archives (www.flickr.com/elcaarchives)

expected in the next re-development of ELCA.org.

The conversation about confirmation ministry impacts the national church body as well as each individual and family in our congregations. People throughout this church, from parents to pastors, seminary professors to synod staff, ELCA Church Council members to congregational council members at our smallest congregations are collaborating to develop sustainable and transformative faith formation practices.

More Information

The text of this resolution and the ELCA Church Council’s action on it are available online at semnsynod.org/resolved-to-reimagine-confirmation

About Our Synod

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 124,000 baptized people in 176 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

The Bridge is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

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Rochester, MN 55901-2551
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semnsynod.org

Happy Birthday!

- 1- Ron Stensgard
~Janette Dragvold
~Marley Benedum
- 3- Glen Johnson
~Glen Bakken
~Ruth Moraski
Elizabeth Benedum
- 4- Cynnette Pederson
~Kelly Bearbower
~Andrew Bacon
- 5- Tony Knutson
~Siena Heydt-Nelson
- 8- Jason Dragvold
- 9- Richard Todd
~Christopher Berge
- 10- Julie Koop
- 11- Bob Brand
~Jessica Rebhahn
~Lisa Chiglo
- 12- Irma Wangen
~Jay Dahl
~Elisa Beach
~Lakyn Lind
~Carter Ask
~Adam James
- 13- Kathy Dahl
~David Combard
- 14- Riley Koop
- 15- Tom Dybing
~Chris Schwichtenberg
~Andrea Waldron
- 16- Paul Ehler
- 18- Alison Feine
~Wilson Storhoff



- 19- Julie Dragvold
~Allyson Lee
- 20- Gary Wangen
- 21- Megan LeFleur
~Tony Semmen
~Karl Bergen
- 22- Agnes Koenings
~Kalin Dahl
- 23- Scott Meldahl
~Rebekah Solum
- 24- Jeffery Self
- 25- Cindy Howe
~Sari Rein
~Kyson Klug
- 26- Lucile Ask
~Kim Halverson
~Annemarie Pederson
- 27- Dick Haight
~Cathy Bakkum
~Deb Topness
~Andrew Nepstad
- 28- Kristi Berge
~Avalon Jacobsoon
- 29- Charles Mierau
~David Howe
~Kari Drinkall
~Jessie Rustad
~Joshua Howe
- 30- Sherrie Nurkala
~David McHan

Happy Anniversary!

- 2- David & Cori Bakke
- 4- Todd & Michele James
- 5- Michael & Kristi
Gudmundson
- 7- Mike & Brenda Chiglo
- 9- Irving & Marjorie
Abrahamson
~Richard & Jennifer
Nepstad
~Ashlee Pontillo
- 10- Ceroy & Darleen
Johnson
- 11- Nick & Beth Smith
- 12- Casey & Shannon
Ingvalson
- 14- Travis & Melissa
McCabe
- 16- Russ & Sheryl
Stadmueller
- 17- Adam & Bobbie Jo Eide
~David & Barb Lee
- 19- James & Irma Wangen
- 20- Ron & Martha
Stensgard
- 21- Murton & Sharon
Boyum
~Erik & Lisa Sievers
~Paul & Karen
Schumacher
- 25- Duane & Angel Bakke
~Truman & Pat Dahl
- 27- Steven & Lynn Ryan
~Mike & Barb Soppa
- 29- Glen & Karen Bakken

June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Elstad Worship 10:30 Highland Prairie Worship	3	4	5	6 Bulletin Deadline @ Noon!	7	8
9 9:00 Elstad Worship 10:30 Highland Prairie Worship Hungerholt Reunion	10	11 Naomi Circle 2p.m. @ Lillian Gravos's Home	12 Highland Prairie Council Meeting @ 7:00p.m.	13 Bulletin Deadline @ Noon!	14	15
16 9:00 Elstad Worship 10:30 Highland Prairie Worship	17 EL Elizabeth Circle 6:30 p.m. @ Park Lane in Preston	18	19 HP Mary Circle 6p.m. @ Highland Prairie Church	20 Bulletin Deadline @ Noon! Newsletter Deadline!	21	22
23 Bowl Worship Service 10:30	24	25	26	27 Bulletin Deadline @ Noon!	28	29
30 9:00 Elstad Worship 10:30 Highland Prairie Worship	<p style="text-align: center;">Highland Prairie - Elstad Lutheran Parish 43267 Bowl Drive Peterson, MN 55962 (507) 864-2731</p>					