

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
~ October 2015 ~*

Interim Pastor, Pastor Marie AK Anderson

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Worship Schedule
September 2015

Sunday, October 4

*9:00 a.m. Highland Prairie
10:00 a.m. Sunday school
11:00 a.m. Elstad*

Sunday, October 11

*9:00 a.m. Highland Prairie
10:00 a.m. Sunday school
11:00 a.m. Elstad
HP Council meeting
5:30 p.m.*

Sunday, October 18

*9:00 a.m. Highland Prairie
10:00 a.m. Sunday school
11:00 a.m. Elstad*

Sunday, October 25

*9:00 a.m. Highland Prairie
Confirmation Sunday
10:00 a.m. Sunday school
11:00 a.m. Elstad*

Pastor's Article...

This time of year is full of uncertainty. Will there be enough rain to grow the pumpkins into show pieces and will the rain stop in time to harvest beans and corn? Did the kid I love and watch over get the right teacher to help them develop both socially and academically? Will there be enough money left after buying winter coats and boots to pay for the heat? Will the summer slump in worship attendance and giving rise now that all the programs are going full speed ahead? Will there be enough people willing to volunteer to staff all the Sunday School rooms, fill the empty council positions and sit on the soon to be formed call committee?

Uncertainty is part of God's good creation. God could have decided to do all the thinking and choosing for us, but God did not. God created us to be able to make choices in life and therefore we have the possibility of doubting our choices. While it is true that there are many things in life that are uncertain, there is one thing that is absolutely certain; God's unconditional love for us. God has loved humanity enough to forgive and forgive and will continue to forgive. We can do nothing so bad that God will turn away from us.

The certainty of God's unconditional love is what we cling to when the going gets tough and what we take for granted when the goes is easy.

Most of life is uncertain when you really think about it, but the most important part of life, God's love in absolutely, rock-solid certain.

This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

John 3:16 (The Message)

Shalom, Pastor Marie AK Anderson

Prayer Corner

Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Eric Johnson, Don Anderson, Ashley Bergen, Arlan Peterson, Linda Wilson, Lila Jameson, Elaine Holm, Dagny Anderson, Jim Wangen, Amy Eberly, Jennifer Lee, Glen Johnson Family, Marge Abrahamson, Merwood Storhoff, Steve Storhoff, Allan Howe Family, Alice Topness, Allene Haugstad, Deb Topness and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.

Message from the Transition Task Force Committee

The church councils have chosen to form a "transition committee" that will survey our congregations. Our call is to identify goals and objectives for our congregations to prepare for the calling of the new pastor. We will be asking for all members of our churches to assist us as we go through this transition process. Within this newsletter is a survey containing, "Questions for Reflection for Highland Prairie & Elstad". Please take some time to fill out the survey. The questions are numbered. If you need more space than provided, reference the question's number on the back of the questionnaire or any additional paper as needed. Comments beyond our questions are also welcome. Additional questionnaires will be provided at each church for each member of your family that would also like to respond. We encourage everyone to respond. Circle your respective church. If you choose to include your demographics; no names, an example would be teenage female, middle age male, etc. A box for receiving completed questionnaires will be provided at each church. Thanks in advance from the TTF committee.

DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 11TH

Elstad – Highland Prairie Parish Council Meeting Highlights September 13, 2015

- The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by HP council president Gordon Johnson.
- A quorum was called.
- A congregation member was present with concerns about worship times and discussed pros and cons of the current schedule.
- Pastor Marie discussed confirmation and stated that mentors are needed from both churches. Pastor Mioche Rock from Haiti may be traveling through the area this fall and would like to spend time at our churches if time allows.
- Feed my starving children needs volunteers for 10/3/15 in Winona.
- New Business
 - * Transition task force would like some more responses from the questionnaire sent out; some copies will be available to pick up at each congregation and on the website.
 - * Possible removing carpet in parts of the parsonage was discussed.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Next meeting will be 11/8/15 7:00 p.m. at Elstad Lutheran Church

Full minutes will be made available for review upon request after formal approval by the Parish council.

Respectfully submitted by Kyle Chiglo, Highland Prairie Lutheran Church council secretary.

Highland Prairie Quilting & Craft Frolic

October 9th & 10th

We will be starting at 9am bring your own projects and potluck for food . Oct. 14th WELCA quilting 9:30, potluck for lunch, and meeting at 1pm. Nov. 8th is our stewardship Sunday and Bazaar so start thinking of things to donate, bake sale , gift baskets, and we need helpers, lots of hands make light work, for next year our church will be hosting the Root River Spring conference, the date is April 30th. More about this at a later date, thank you.

Elstad—Highland Prairie Congregational Members

We Need You!

*We are looking for members within our congregations to become mentors to our youth members in the confirmation program. If you think you may be interested please contact Pastor Marie or Lisa Chiglo. We will have an informative meeting for all interested to gather more insight to the mentoring program. If you are interested you should join us at this meeting, no strings attached. Mentor orientation will be October 21, 2015 time TBD.

*We are also looking for congregation members who wishing to join the “call committee.” If you are interested in joining this part of our ministry please contact Pastor Marie.

Silent Auction & Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser for Joy Hundorf Silent Auction October 12th—October 24th

Silent Auction items will be on display in the entrance of Sterling Pharmacy of Rushford. Auction items will be accepted Sept. 28th—Oct. 8. Please contact Barb Sarvi at 952-292-2659 to set up drop off or pick up times.

Spaghetti Feed Tuesday, October 13th from 4-7 p.m.

Rushford—Peterson High School Cafeteria ~ Public Welcome ~ Free Will Donation

Monetary donations may be sent to: Hundorf Benefit c/o
Rushford State Bank, PO Box 648, Rushford, MN 55971

First Communion

There will be a class for all students 5th grade and older who have not taken a class about the sacrament of Holy Communion. This class is for those who have not begun to take communion and those who have begun to take communion, but not had the opportunity to attend a class.

WHAT: Opportunity for parents and students to be more familiar with this sacrament

WHO: Parents and students from Highland Prairie & Elstad WHEN: October 11th, 25th & November 1st

TIME: 12:00pm—1:30pm (a light lunch will be provided) WHERE: Elstad Lutheran

Elstad WELCA

The Elstad WELCA will be meeting on **Sunday October 4th at 9:30 a.m.** before worship service. Our servers will be Carolyn Smith and Rita Kelly and the program will be given by the Elizabeth Circle. Also our November Thank offering Service will be **Sunday, November 1st** at 11:00. Please check your WELCA yearly program for the Lutheran World Relief Kits that you can offer that day.

Highland Prairie Financials for August 2015

YTD Income	\$ 59,225*
YTD Expenses	\$ 47,751
Income exc. Expenses	\$ 11,474
YTD Budget	\$ 59,667
YTD Income	\$ 59,225
YTD Over	\$ 442

*Includes sale of logs for \$7,500

Elstad Financials for August 2015

Budget	\$ 7804.83
Received	\$ 6849.00
Under	\$ 955.83
YTD Budget	\$ 62438.64
YTD Received	\$ 44936.00
YTD Under	\$ 17502.64

**Highland Prairie Council Meeting Highlights
September 13, 2015**

- The meeting was called to order by council president Gordon Johnson.
 - * A quorum was called; the agenda was approved.
- Pastor Marie talked about the plans for a high school Sunday school class and also mentioned a Norwegian group passing through the area on 9/16/15. In which Gerry Hallum has spent a lot of time researching ancestry for.
- The secretary's report was approved.
- The treasurer's report was approved with a note on a donation for some of the needed repair on the "Bowl Building"
- Committee Reports
 - * Church– the elevator was discussed and the congregation needs to be involved with the decisions made.
 - * Bowl service and ball games were discussed and would like to schedule together again.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.
- Next meeting 10/11/15, 5:30 p.m. at Highland Prairie.

Full minutes will be made available for review upon request after formal approval by the Highland Prairie council.
Respectfully submitted by Kyle Chiglo, Highland Prairie Lutheran Church council secretary.

***Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights
Sunday September 13, 2015***

There were no committee reports.

Old Business:

- A) Water treatment updates were given. With the treatment that is in place, nitrate levels are at acceptable level. Continued monitoring will occur.
- B) Steeple and bell tower repairs are complete. Further inside wall repairs will need to occur. However, this will be addressed at a later date to allow time to monitor for further leaks that may need to be repaired. Once we are confident all outside repairs are adequate, inside repairs will commence.
- C) Facebook page is up and running!
- D) The Elstad Lutheran Church Constitution has been reviewed and updated. It has been sent to the SEMN Synod for further review.
- E) Elstad Membership lists will be reviewed and updated. Members may be contacted to share information about friends and family members to help us update these records.

New Business:

- A) Front entrance railings need to be repaired, This will be addressed.
- B) Front entrance will need to be repaired, but will occur after a short waiting period to ensure outside repairs are adequate and no further inside damage will occur with heavy rain.
- C) We are looking for members interested in becoming nominees for 2016 Elstad Lutheran Church council. Please contact any council member if you are interested in participating as a council member.
- D) There is interest in providing activity bags for school aged children that can be used during worship. The "Spark" curriculum that the Sunday school uses does have additional activities that can easily be printed out and make assessable to families with children. There are also bags that have been made and used in the past that we will look for.

Full minutes will be made available for review upon request after formal approval by the Elstad council.
Respectfully submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Lutheran Church council secretary.

Questions for Reflection for Highland Prairie & Elstad

Circle your respective *Church* –Highland Prairie or Elstad

1. If you asked your neighbors, (personal and near to the church building) what words would they use to describe your *church*?
2. What would you name as the primary commitments of your *church*?
3. Why do people belong to /attend your your *church*?
4. What excites you about your *church*?
5. What are the strengths of your *church*?
6. What areas would benefit from strengthening?
7. What are your hopes for your *church* in the future?
8. What would attract new members?
9. What opportunities for mission do you see locally?
10. What do you believe to be the top three mission priorities for your *church* at the present time?
11. What challenges do we face in carrying out our mission?

CAMPUS MINISTRY SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 8

College is an impactful time in life. It is a season of learning, growth, and faith formation. As a synod, we celebrate the importance of campus ministry. Through opportunities for worship, service, learning and faithful conversations, campus ministry provides safe spaces for students to build a sense of community while at college. In our synod, there are two sites:

Lutheran Campus Center, Winona

Crossroads Campus Ministry, Mankato

Bishop Steven Delzer deeply supports the importance of campus ministry in our synod. “The Lutheran Campus Center in Winona and Crossroads Campus Ministry in Mankato are integral components in the life of our synod. They are centers of learning, faith, and service. Pastor Corrine Denis (Winona) and Pastor Tammy Dahlvang (Mankato) both have a deep appreciation of and giftedness for campus ministry leadership,” Delzer stated in his letter to all congregations in the synod.

On November 8, each congregation is invited to celebrate Campus Ministry Sunday in concrete ways.

There are a host of resources available online for you to use as you plan for the day. Visit <http://www.semnsynod.org/campusministry> for the full collection.

Do you have a friend or relative who has entered college? The campus pastors of our synod invite you to take a moment and fill out the **ELCA Campus Ministry Online Referral Form**. This form will help get students connected to campus ministries around the country! The form is short, and will not take much more than 90 seconds per student to complete! Here’s a link: <http://www.elcacampusministry.org/>

If you’d like to learn more about becoming a partner congregation for the campus ministries in our synod, please email semncampuspastors@gmail.com.

As a synod, let’s do all we can to support campus ministry! November 8 is a perfect opportunity. Please consider incorporating a petition for campus ministry into the prayers of the church that day during worship. Please also continue to uplift campus ministry in your personal prayers. We give great thanks for the Holy Spirit’s activity through campus ministry in our synod.

OCTOBER 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



1~ Charles Semmen
~ Brad Kelly
2~ Olive Peterson
~ Sylvia Passow
~ Kayla Volkman
~ Annika Nelson
3~ Marjorie Abrahamson
~ Jensyn Storhoff
6~ Ellen Eide
~ Valarie Howe
~ Maci Pontillo
~ Riley Pontillo
7~ Alyssa Berg
8~ Landon Volkman
9~ Beth Smith
~ Amy Jacobson
10~ Christopher Hoiland
~ Jeremy Burt
12~ Amber Arends
13~ Mary Carlson
~ Garion Bedney
~ Jade Butler
15~ Cathy Bakke
~ Creighton Hoiness
~ Dominic Humble
16~ Casey Pestle
17~ Brandon Rustad

18~ Jerry Barrett
~ Larry Topness
~ Alison Freese
20~ Joyce Dahl
21~ Robert Olson
22~ Gary Kiehne
~ Dustin Brookins
23~ Patrick Lombard
24~ Erik Nelson
~ Courtney Gravois
25~ Sharon Howe
27~ Tyler Knutson
28~ Merlin Halverson
29~ Karen Mierau
~ Rita Kelly
30~ Doris Dybing
~ Marv Eggert
~ Nicole Johnson
31~ Adam Woxland
~ Brittany Johnson
~ Hayden Stensgard



12~ Maynard & Sharon
Rustad
16~ Ken & Helen Jacobson
~ John & Kathy
Abrahamson
26~ Rick & Sandy Sjarpe

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<p>4 Feed My Starving Children</p> <p>Elstad WELCA 9:30</p> <p>HP- 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>SS- 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>EL- 11:00 a.m.</p>	5	6	<p>7 Confirmation @ HP 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Cantata practice @ Elstad 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	8	<p>9 HP-Tabitha circle 12:30 @ Burdy's</p> <p>Quilting & Craft Frolic 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>10 Quilting & Craft Frolic 9:00 a.m.</p>
<p>11 HP- council @ 5:30</p> <p>HP- 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>SS- 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>EL- 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>EL-Nelson Baptism</p>	12	13	<p>14 No Confirmation</p> <p>Cantata practice @ Elstad 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	15	16	<p>17 Jacobson/Rein Rehearsal-HP</p> <p>Jacobson/Rein Wedding- HP</p>
<p>18 HP- 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>SS- 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>EL- 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>19 Newsletter Deadline</p>	20	<p>21 Confirmation @ HP 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Cantata practice @ Elstad 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	22	23	24
<p>25 HP- 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Confirmation at HP</p> <p>SS- 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>EL- 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Howe-fellowship hall @</p>	26	27	<p>28 Confirmation @ HP 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Cantata practice @ Elstad 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	29	30	31

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

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October 2015 Newsletter

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015

ACOLYTES: PAULA HOWE, HANS LIND
READERS: PAULA HOWE, DARYL THOMPSON
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015

ACOLYTES: HANS LIND, JONAH SIEVERS
READERS: HANS LIND, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: DARYL & MICHELE THOMPSON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2015

ACOLYTES: JONAH SIEVERS, HALE STENSGARD
READERS: JONAH SIEVERS, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015

ACOLYTES: HALE STENSGARD, JENS LIND
READERS: HALE STENSGARD, DAVID LARSON
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

ELSTAD ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015

READER: JOHN ABRAHAMSON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015

READER: TOM DYBING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2015

ACOLYTE: WILSON STORHOFF
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, PETER HOLM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015

READER: CAROLYN SMITH

USHERS:

MIKE CHIGLO, ROBERT KNUTSON, TRENT EIDE,
MERWOOD STORHOFF, NATHAN BAKKE, TOM SMITH