

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

~ November 2021~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator ~ Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

November Worship Schedule

All Saints Sunday, November 7th

Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.

Elstad-10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 25.6-9

Psalm 24

Revelation 21.1-6a

John 11.32-44

Thanksgiving Eve, November 24th

Elstad-7:00 p.m.

Joel 2.21-27

Psalm 126

1 Timothy 2.1-7

Matthew 6.25-33

25 Pentecost, Sunday, November 14th

Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.

Elstad-10:30 a.m.

Daniel 12.1-3

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10.11-25

Mark 13.1-8

Advent 1, November 28th

Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.

Elstad-10:30 a.m.

Jeremiah 33.14-16

Psalm 25.1-10

1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

Luke 21.25-36

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Christ the King Sunday, November 21st

Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.

Elstad-10:30 a.m.

Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1.4b-8

John 18.33-37

Mission Table

You are encouraged to help those who have suffered nature's wrath through the ELCA's Disaster Relief Fund. Also, the ELCA World Hunger Appeal continues to provide much needed support to those of meager means. Through our financial support, we can help make a difference in the lives of those in need. Designated donations to these causes can be placed in the offering plate of your congregation. Make your checks out to your congregation and write either ELCA Disaster Relief Fund or 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).

Support for our Haitian brothers and sisters

Reminder: Pr. Mioche plans to be present at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pine Island, MN, on November 7th, barring Covid19 issues. Worship begins at 9:00 a.m. You may also access worship on St. Paul's website.

Christian Education

First Communion Instruction for 5th graders and others

Pr. Mathsen will be holding instruction sessions to prepare all 5th graders and others who desire to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Instruction will be held on 3 consecutive Saturday mornings at both Elstad (9:00 a.m.) and Highland Prairie (10:30 a.m.). The dates: Saturday, November 6th, 13th, and 20th. Register directly with Pr. Luther.

Mid/High School Movie Afternoon Youth

All mid-high school youth are invited to a Sunday afternoon at the movies event on Sunday, November 21st, 4:30 p.m. We will watch the movie, "A Hidden Life". It depicts the life of Fraz Jagerstatter, an Austrian farmer and devout Christian, who refused to fight for the Nazis in WW II. Because of the need for internet connection, this event will take place at Highland Prairie. Youth are asked to bring a treat to share. Please let Pr. Luther know if you plan to attend.

Adult Book Study and Bible Study

The study of the book, Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery, by Richard Lischer, continues on Thursday, November 4th and 11th, 10:00 a.m., at Elstad.

On the Thursdays of December 2nd, 9th, and 16th, 10:00 a.m., a Bible study on Paul's Letter to the Philippians will take place at Highland Prairie. Second Lessons for worship during 2 Sundays of Advent will come from this letter.

Join with us as we study how this letter lends themselves to the season of preparation for Christ's advent. Please let Pr. Luther know you plan to participate.

Parish Life

Many thanks to the youth planners of both congregations for the events that took place on Sunday, October 31st. Your commitment to the lives of these young disciples is gratifying.

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.

Pastor's Page
November 2021

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We are on the cusp of a national holiday, Thanksgiving Day, formally established by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. While I am not sure what our schoolchildren are taught about our Pilgrim forbearers these days, the first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621, one year after their arrival to the new world at Cape Cod in 1620. I remember I was taught that the Pilgrims left their native land, England, to escape religious persecution by the state church. Arriving at Plymouth Rock, they were generally unprepared for life on the frontier. More than likely they would have all perished were it not for the kindness and skill of an Indian named Squanto who taught them how to cultivate crops that would help them get through the brutal winter. After a long and difficult year, Plymouth Colony celebrated its first successful harvest with a three day long feast of thanksgiving. Their gracious Indian neighbors were invited to join them.

What is a "pilgrim"....literally?

The word comes from the Latin *peregrinnus* which means "*somebody who wanders across the fields,*" and was adopted in the Middle Ages to refer to one who made the long and arduous trip overland---and finally over the Pyrenees mountains---to the shrine of St. James of Compostella, in Galicia.

Such journeys were, and continuing to be, of the essence of Christian piety. While Lutherans are not known for such pilgrimages as those of the early Christians, most of us know of people who have traveled to the land of Martin Luther, to include Wittenberg and its Castle Church, where Luther nailed his 95 Theses; the act that has been called the start of the Protestant Reformation. Many Christians, including Lutherans, have participated in pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and to the places where Jesus' ministry took place.

Truth be told, however, such pilgrim piety predates the aforementioned ones. Think of the story of Abraham who, by camel and on foot, wended his weary way from Ur of the Chaldees to the land where God would show him. Think of the story of the children of Israel at the Passover. Having been delivered from Pharaoh's bondage, they set forth on their journey of haste to the land God's promised them with staff in hand and a sack of unleavened bread to boot. Think, also, of the twelve disciples, always on the move from place to place, in the company, and in the promise of, their Lord and Master, Jesus. And think of Jesus, himself, going before us to Galilee, then to his Father's house, to prepare a dwelling for us.

We are pilgrims on the way. And the Lord God is leading and guiding us all the way.

Indeed, the Christian faith is a faith that has us on the move, secure in the kingdom of God that is already among us in Christ (refer. Mark 1.15) but awaiting the kingdom to come in its fullness. "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face" (1 Corinthians 13.12). Here and now, we pitch our tents. Then, we take our place "in my Father's house...of...many mansions" (John 14.2, King James Version)

Pastor's page continued...

We, like Abraham, our father in faith, are strangers in a strange land. We know that we are on "the way" to our true homeland.

In the reality of that truth, we experience a strange liberation that affects our earthly life in the places where we presently live. It frees us to find goodness where we are at, regardless of what we find to be lacking...no matter the trouble we find in it. In fact, we can be determined and steadfast in hope---working hard to be good and faithful stewards in the place where we are, giving; our utmost attention, making it spring forth and give life. Yet, no farmland however rich, no forests however lush and green, no city however Gotham-like can lay claim to our finally allegiance as our truest home.

Again, the fact that we are pilgrims...on our way to our homeland, promised by God...is liberating. And this liberated spirit is what I have seen among people of this beloved parish. I have seen you love the land. I have seen you devoting yourselves to the caring and stewardship of it. I have seen you doing this as a response of gratitude to God from whom the blessing of our earthly dwellings come, AND, because they are a shadow of the land and home you truly love, the homeland toward which you, and the rest of us, are always walking. And walking we are as pilgrims with the assurance of the Father's grace and mercy which calms our fears, and spurs us onward day by day, to our final destination...our promised and eternal homeland!

Graceful travels to you in these days, dear fellow pilgrims. And Happy Thanksgiving!

Your brother and fellow pilgrim in Christ,

Pr. Luther+

Worship Notes:

We are on the cusp of the two great celebrations of the Church Year that occur during the month of November. The first occurs on **November 7th, All Saints Sunday**, wherein we remember and give thanks for the lives and witness of saints and martyrs of the faith, and those of our dear departed loved ones. You are invited to submit the name(s) of your beloved departed to be listed in the bulletin and named in the Great Thanksgiving.

The second occurs on **Sunday, November 21st**, the last Sunday of Church Year, known as **Christ the King Sunday**. This relatively new Sunday to the Church Year was initiated in 1925 during the papacy of Pope Pius XI. He established it to counter what he regarded as the destructive forces of the modern world: *secularism* in the west and the rise of *communism* in Russia and *fascism* in Italy and Spain, harbingers of the *Nazism* soon to seize Germany. Pius intended to set the rule of Christ in opposition to the totalitarian claims of these ideologies. This feast day continues to speak in opposition to any other modern totalitarian claims among us.

A new Church Year begins on **Sunday, November 28th, the First Sunday in Advent**. The main theme of Advent is taken from the words of John the Baptist: "Prepare the Way of the Lord." We prepare for the celebration of Christ's first arrival (advent) in the manger at Bethlehem. We also look forward to His second coming (advent) "to judge the quick and the dead." The primary symbol of the Advent season is the advent wreath. The color of the season is "blue", the color ascribed to royalty.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

October 10, 2021

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

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

A quorum was determined and a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Steve Howe, Tim Stensgard seconded. Motion carried.

Devotions were given by Pastor Luther.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. Year to date information provided are income \$62,650.00 expenses \$67,476.00; expenses exceed income by \$4,826.00. A motion to approve as presented was made by Tim Stensgard, Lyle Meldahl seconded. Motion carried.

President Gordon Johnson reported mi energy will take care of trimming some of the trees.

Pastor's Report addressed Worship and Covid 19 concerns left to individuals to distance themselves and mask as needed; attendance information for in person and online given; 14 confirmation students; Worship at Good Shepherd; Rislov-Culhane wedding October 2; upcoming festivals All Saints Nov 7th, Thanksgiving Eve at Elstad Nov 24th; student activities held; Bible Study finished, book study at Elstad beginning on Thursdays; acknowledge work of Sunday School leaders; Bible Study at Parklane continues; Continuing Education in Chicago Oct 14-16 followed by vacation; attending Theological Retreat next month in Onalaska; home bound visits continue.

Correspondence received were flyers from Lutheran Campus Center and ELCA and MN Dept. of Transportation regarding Hwy 43 work.

Committee Reports: Discussion of basement air flow registers need replacing, tree trimming, snow removal and other winter preparations, parsonage concerns to be addressed at next joint council meeting.

Old Business: Door replacements discussion after receiving Kendall Doors quotes for kitchen and Sunday School entrances of \$2278 and \$2578; double doors at main entrance \$8132.00; rekeying \$500. Motion by David Markegard, Steve Howe seconded to proceed with the kitchen and Sunday school doors. Motion carried.

New Business: Mission budget discussion with motion by Tim Stensgard to give half to Christmas in Fillmore County and half to local Food Shelf, Karen Bakken seconded. Motion carried.

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

A motion to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer by Pastor Luther was made by Tim Stensgard, Steve Howe seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next meeting will be on November 14th at 5:30 pm at Elstad.

Elstad Budget for September

September budget	\$ 7033.58
Received	\$ 4972.00
Under for July	\$ 2061.58
Elstad YTD budget	\$63,302.22
Received YTD	\$52,400.00
Under YTD	\$10,902.22

NOVEMBER 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@gmail.com



1~ Jennifer Dahl
~ Tiffany Humble
2~ Kenny Bakkum
~ Amelia Dohlman
~ Miley Knutson
~ Kelsie Woxland
3~ Darlys Storhoff
~ Ethan Rislov
4~ Sylvia Markegard
~ Doug Lind
~ Rick Sjarpe
~ Shelly Stensgard
5~ Scott Bestul
~ Derek Grimsrud
~ William Maschka
6~ Kay Eiken
~ Ann Dolalie
~ Andrew Larson
9~ Tim Dahl
~ Seth Humble
10~ Rebecca Lind
11~ Randy Drinkall
12~ Thora Lombard
13~ Phil Dybing
~ Crystal Soppa
~ Ashlee Pontillo
~ Cody Ryan
~ Mason Wolfs
15~ Finn Patrick

17~ Jerry Dahl
~ Dana DeGeorge
~ Finn Christian
19~ Trina Overland
~ Adam Daniels
~ James McHan
~ Sarah Wangen
~ Katie Hackbarth
~ Daryn Eisner
~ Grant DeGeorge
~ Ryder Colbenson
20~ Melanie Przybylski
~ Kyle Lawstuen
21~ Eric Howe
22~ Kenneth Sjarpe
~ Peyton Hoiness
~ Caden Johnson
~ Tucker Smith
23~ Adam Overland
~ Danielle Kingsley
24~ Taylor Ask
26~ Doris Westby
~ Rebecca Lawstuen
~ Katrina James
27~ Jennifer DeGeorge
~ Emarie Jacobson
28~ Kasey Nelson
~ Sandy Thomas
~ Elvin Paulson
~ Aric Stensgard
~ Kainen Klug
29~ Curtis Gudmundson
~ Bonnie Wangen
30~ Benjamin Ryan



6~ David & Cindy Howe
6~ Cory & Nicloe Woxland
23~ John & Christine
Knutson
24~ Jeff Boland & Gretchen
Engstrom
26~ Michael & Jill
Halverson
27~ Gary & Nancy Rustad

November 2021

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. @ HP	4 Book study @ Elstad 10 a.m.	5	6 First Communion instruction ~ 9:00 a.m. @ EL 10:30 a.m. @ HP
7 Set your clocks back! Daylight Savings time! 9:00 a.m.—HP 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—EL 9:30 a.m.—SS	8	9	10 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. @ HP	11 Book study @ Elstad 10 a.m.	12	13 First Communion instruction ~ 9:00 a.m. @ EL 10:30 a.m. @ HP
14 9:00 a.m.—HP 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—EL 9:30 a.m.—SS Council Meetings @ Elstad 5:30 p.m.—HP 6:30 p.m.—Parish 7:30 p.m.—EL	15	16	17 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. @ HP	18	19	20 First Communion instruction ~ 9:00 a.m. @ EL 10:30 a.m. @ HP
21 9:00 a.m.—HP 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—EL 9:30 a.m.—SS Mid/High youth movie @ HP, 4:30 p.m.	22	23	24 No Confirmation Thanksgiving Eve service 7:00 p.m. @ Elstad	25 <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>	26	27
28 9:00 a.m.—HP 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—EL 9:30 a.m.—SS	29	30				

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, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

ACOLYTES: CHASE HUMBLE, CHEYANNE DAHLE
READERS: LUCAS REDALEN, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021

ACOLYTES: CHEYANNE DAHLE, CARSON JOHNSON
READERS: CHEYANNE DAHLE, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021

ACOLYTES: CARSON JOHNSON, CREIGHTON HOINESS
READERS: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, SHARON EHLE
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

ACOLYTES: CREIGHTON HOINESS, LUCAS REDALEN
READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

ACOLYTE: JENSYN STORHOFF
READERS: LIZ HAGEMAN, LORI BAKKE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021

ACOLYTE: MILEY KNUTSON
READERS: SARI REIN, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021

ACOLYTE: AUBREY DANIELS
READERS: AUBREY DANIELS, CAROL OVERLAND

NOVEMBER 24TH ~ THANKSGIVING EVE

ACOLYTE: SAWYER WOLFS
READERS: SAWYER WOLFS, CAROLYN SMITH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

ACOLYTE: THEA ARENDS
READERS: THEA ARENDS, TOM DYBING

USHERS: GENE TOPNESS, VICKY TOPNESS,
ROBERT KNUTSON, MIKE CHILGO,
JOHN REIN, ROBERT NELSON