

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

*~ December 2015 ~*

*Interim Pastor, Pastor Marie AK Anderson*

*Email: marieannka@aol.com*

*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*

*Home: (507) 864-2086 Cell: (507) 459-5450 Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

*Worship Schedule  
December 2015*

*Sunday, December 6th*

*9:00 a.m. Elstad*

*10:00 a.m. Sunday school*

*11:00 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*Sunday, December 13th*

*9:00 a.m. Elstad*

*10:00 a.m. Sunday school*

*11:00 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*Sunday, December 20th*

*9:00 a.m. Elstad*

*10:00 a.m. Sunday school*

*11:00 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*Christmas Eve December 24th*

*5:00 p.m. Elstad*

*7:00 p.m. Highland Prairie*

*Sunday, December 27*

*9:00 a.m. Elstad*

*10:00 a.m. Sunday school*

*11:00 a.m. Highland Prairie*

**Highland Prairie** Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 6th during the worship service.

**Elstad** Christmas program will held on Sunday, December 13th during the worship service.



The **Elstad WELCA Christmas Tea** will be held on **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**, at **10:00** following the worship service. The program will be given by the Leah Circle, and our servers will be: Shelly Nelson, Debbie Topness, Carol Dybing, Ferne Brewster, Ruth Abrahamson, and Kay Wold.

**~ Highland Prairie Bazaar December 6th ~**

Bazaar will include a benefit for Jennifer Lee with lunch, bake sale, Christmas items, and auction. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate and donate. Suggested auction items: artwork, themed baskets, handmade items, jewelry, figurines, glassware, holiday items, plants, collectibles, dinners, services. Christmas items and auction items may be brought to church beginning November 22nd. Please provide written description with the auction items to assist the auctioneer and please list basket items. Bake sale items may be brought the day before or the morning of the bazaar. Please contact WELCA officers or circle leaders with any questions.

Highland Prairie WELCA will be collecting food items and cash donations for the local Food Shelf from November 22nd – December 13th. Food items may be placed in the cart in the narthex and cash donations may be given to WELCA treasurer, Marion Dahl.



## Congregational Vote—December 13th during worship service

### 1) **Easter Sunday**

- a) continue with a Sunrise service at 7 and a Festival service at 9 at one church followed by another Festival service at the other church
- b) Sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. at one church and the Festival service at 9:00 at the other church (reason being attendance doesn't support 3 worship services)

### 2) **Summer worship schedule**

- a) continue with one parish worship service (alternating every other Sunday between EL & HP at 10:00 b) separate into two individual worship services at both churches each Sunday except for three "Bowl" services

### 3) **Worship schedule time**—we first tried 8:30 and 10:30 with Sunday School a constant 9:30, but many complained the 8:30 service time is "too early". We did find that the Sunday Schools REAL- LY like a constant scheduled time and it seems to have improved attendance. So we then tried 9 and 11 with Sunday School a constant 10 a.m., but we've received complaints that 11 a.m. is "too late". So.....we would like to know what the majority of our two congregations prefer and we'll try to do what's best for most. You will have the choice to vote for

- a) 8:30 and 10:30 with Sunday school always at 9:30
- b) 9:00 and 11:00 with Sunday school always at 10:00

Dear Elstad Friends, Thank you for all your friendships, prayers and support over the course of the last 12 years. Elstad and Lanesboro will always hold a special place in our hearts. We have now moved to Rochester and Hillcrest Hide-Away has closed. With some of my health issues, it was time to move on to the next chapter in our lives. Our new address is 4477 Meadow Lakes Dr NW, Rochester 55901. Our new phone number is 507-206-3861. We pray for God's blessings for you in the future. Marv and Carol Eggert

Dear Friends of Highland Prairie and Elstad Lutheran Churches,

Joas and I are so grateful for your warm welcome at your churches last week. What a powerful meeting we had where we worshiped our Lord and fellow-shipped together. We were surprised to hear the children at the Sunday school welcoming us in French. We can't imagine how difficult this might have been for you to teach the children these songs in French. It was beautiful and they did a good job. We thank you for the big potluck dinner you had prepared. So much food. It was a real buffet and Joas enjoyed it very much. We are also grateful for the generous offering you provided to help our ministry in Haiti. We now feel more prepared to tackle the many needs; we have such food for the children this December. Thank you again. We will continue to pray for you and your wonderful Pastor Marie. She has been such a blessing to our communities in Haiti. We are thankful for her. May God bless you all and perhaps we will see you in Haiti soon. Happy Thanksgiving Dear Friends.

Thanks again,

Joas & Mioche Rock

### *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, Lila Jameson, Dagny Anderson, Jim Wangen, Jennifer Lee, Marge Abrahamson, Cathy Bakke, Merwood Storhoff, Allene Haugstad, Dick Haight, LeRoy Johnson and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.*

### **Message from Pastor Marie December 2015**

Most Christian families will put up some kind of nativity scene as part of their Christmas decorations. It may be generations old, small child friendly or outside covered with snow. It may have dozens of pieces or only one. I have one with four dozen sheep, so I can be sure to have one for each child during the Children's Sermon. For some reason, I have become the owner of a few dozen nativity scenes, each unique in its own way. Most are gifts and all have a story. Perhaps I'll be able to find room for a few in my office this Advent and Christmas season.

The family nativity goes up when the Christmas tree does; maybe it even sits under the tree, and goes back in the box when the decorations are put away, except when it stays up all year. I encourage you to keep your nativity out, or at least a few pieces of it, all year. Why leave up a nativity all year? There are practical reasons and aesthetic reasons aplenty, but the best reason of all is a nativity scene in July gives you an opportunity to witness to your faith. It works like this.

- \* A visitor notices the nativity scene and lets you know your forgot to put it away.
- \* This gives you the perfect opening to share your faith as you tell the visitor that you leave it up intentionally.
- \* Saying something like; *in this home we want to be reminded that God's love is year around. Jesus, God's love for us in human skin, came at Christmas and changed every day thereafter.*

Yes, there has been at least one nativity in my office since I moved in last February. I look forward to hearing from you about your year-around nativities and how they have helped you to witness to your year-around faith. I also invite you to stop by my office and look at some of my nativities; especially this Advent and Christmas.

May your Advent waiting and Christmas celebrating be filled with opportunities to share your faith.

Shalom, Pr. Marie

## *Elstad/Highland Prairie Parish Council Meeting Highlights*

Sunday, November 8, 2015

The Pastor's report was given with many updates. First Communion class completed. Pastor Marie will be on vacation Dec 27. Kay Wold will cover worship. Nov 22 is "Christ the King Sunday" there will be additions to worship including extra music and reading...the confirmation class will be assisting. Pr. Marie recently attended the Theological Conference, focused on preaching. Confirmation is going well, parents are present to provide additional adult supervision. Confirmation mentorship program is fully staffed.

### Business Items:

- A) Norby's tree service evaluated the tree in question and it appears healthy.
- B) Heat options for the downstairs bathroom in the parsonage was discussed.
- C) Parsonage carpet needs to be removed in living room and entry way for sure. Refinishing the wood floors would be preferred.
- D) Water leak into basement, drain tile may be an option to redirect water.
- E) The dog fence was removed as it was not needed, the material will be stored.
- F) The parish printer was recently repaired after a number of service calls, currently is working better but is near the end of its anticipated lifespan.
- G) Lifetouch has contacted us to consider setting up a session for photos and updated parish directory. We need a committee/chairperson from each church to coordinate.
- H) Worship committee update: Christ the King Sunday will be a special service, Communion will be given Christmas Eve, candle lighting services will be held during advent, Christmas Eve will include a candle light service.
- I) Worship times were reviewed and discussed. There is concern that 11:00 worship is too late. We will consider further input from the parish by straw ballot Dec 13.
- J) Pastor Mioche will be visiting from Haiti on November 15. Pr. Mioche and Pr. Joas will participate in Sunday School and worship. A pot luck meal will follow.
- K) Transition task force update. We will be looking for volunteers for the call committee.
- L) Secretary salary for 2016 was discussed. Job description is vague. Feedback regarding Lisa's performance has been very positive. Feedback should be directed toward the council.
- M) Prayer list. A person will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks, if longer time is needed please contact the prayer list.

The meeting was adjourned.

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.

## **Highland Prairie Council Meeting Highlights**

Sunday, November 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 p.m. by council president Gordon Johnson.

All members were present.

The meeting moved along quickly with some items already being discussed at the Parish council meeting.

The Secretary and Treasurer's report were approved.

### Committee Reports:

**Church**– The elevator committee has determined that it would be best to hire a general contractor to address the elevator challenges.

**Grounds**– The committee will move forward with the removal of the dangerous trees on the grounds. Norby's Tree Service will be contacted by Kyle Chiglo to inform them when they can be removed.

Continued on the following page.....

\*Sarah Bearbower gave us some information on the constitution review and its complexity.

\*Council terms were discussed with two trustees going off and President Gordon not running, Kyle Chiglo would be willing to run for the President position, leaving the secretary position open as well.

\*Salaries were discussed and it was decided to leave the organist, custodian and treasurer's salaries the same  
Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Kyle Chiglo, Highland Prairie Council Secretary.

### ***Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights***

Sunday November 8, 2015

The President's report was given, worship service planning is underway and will be discussed further in during the parish council meeting.

The Pastor's report was given. Pr. Marie has suggested adding directions to Elstad to our website. In addition, First Communion Class has been completed.

#### Old Business:

- A) Water treatment continues to go well.
- B) Steeple and bell tower repairs are complete and bill received. The bill was close to the initial estimate.  
We will need to take money from savings to cover the cost.
- C) Our Constitution was been updated and approved, and ready to be voted on at the Annual Meetings 2016 and 2017.
- D) Railing repairs are planned, hopefully prior to the Cantata.
- E) 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. Outgoing trustees will be looking for replacements.
- F) We will need about 3 Elstad members to participate in the call committee. Volunteers are welcome.  
Please contact a council member if interested,
- G) Elstad Membership lists will be emailed to council members for review.

#### New Business

- A) Salary staff salaries were reviewed and discussed.
- B) Communion will be given Christmas Eve.
- C) Worship schedule and times were reviewed and discussed.
- D) Elstad would like to add a summer council meeting in July.
- E) Waste management options will be discussed in January.

The meeting was adjourned.

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.

#### **Highland Prairie Financials for October 2015**

YTD Income	\$ 74,885*
YTD Expenses	\$ 60,252
Income exc. Expenses	\$ 14,633
YTD Budget	\$ 74,583
YTD Income	\$ 74,885
YTD Over	\$ 302

\*Includes sale of logs for \$7,500

#### **Elstad Financials for October 2015**

Budget	\$ 7804.83
Received	\$ 4314.00
Under	\$ 3490.83
YTD Budget	\$ 78048.30
YTD Received	\$ 54134.00
YTD Under	\$ 23,914.30

## *New Tools to Stay Connected*

By Emily Carson, Director of Communications

carson@semnsynod.org

The Holy Spirit is at work through our synod and denomination in fruitful, life-giving ways. As the staff of the Office of the Bishop, we strive to empower all congregations to feel

connected to the work of our synod and denomination. We are all on the same team working toward the same goals, and we can do far more together than we can on our own. All three expressions of our church – congregational, synodical, and denominational – are important ways we live out our shared calling to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

One of the ways we link southeastern Minnesota congregations to the work of our synodical and denominational ministries is through the work of Mission Interpreters. These are lay, volunteer leaders from each congregation around the synod with an integral role in building a sense of connectedness and unity. Their primary task is to express the love of Christ by sharing stories. Mission Interpreters empower congregational members to feel connected to God's activity in and outside the walls of the sanctuary. Mission Interpreters also have the opportunity to keep the staff of the Office of the Bishop aware of exciting ministries happening at the local level.

Signs you would make a great Mission Interpreter:

You like to listen to stories.

You like to tell stories.

You enjoy making connections with others.

When you think about your church, you feel joyful!

When you think about our synod and ELCA, you feel excited!

You enjoy reading the weekly e-news Bright Spot.

It is our goal that all congregations have at least one Mission Interpreter and more than that will be a wonderful bonus! As a synod, we provide all the training and resources you'll need to serve as an effective Mission Interpreter. Our next training for all existing and prospective Mission Interpreters will be held on December 4 at Assisi Heights in Rochester. We invite pastors and lay leaders to attend. Please register at <http://bitly.com/midec4>. You can still serve as a Mission Interpreter, even if you are unable to attend.

The resources we provide for Mission Interpreters are also available for use by anyone in the synod. This means that even if your congregation does not have an identified Mission Interpreter, there are still many ways for you to uplift the ministries of our synod and denomination. The new set of resources we are launching as of December 1 includes our Mission Interpreter Calendar for 2015. Each month uplifts a unique ministry of our synod and denomination. Related links to those ministries will also be provided including a related issue of *The Bridge*. The goal of this calendar is to make it as easy as possible to continue building a sense of connectedness between all three expressions of the ELCA.

To access all of our Mission Interpreter resources and the full 2015 calendar, please visit: <http://semnsynod.org/ministries/mission-interpreters/>

Please contact our synod's Mission Interpreter Coordinator, Shirley Gangstad, at [sgangstad@hotmail.com](mailto:sgangstad@hotmail.com) to learn more about this wonderful program.



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.**

# DECEMBER 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](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com)



1~ Ruth Abrahamson  
~ Sara Pederson  
~ Isabella Eide  
2~ Kathleen Wold  
~ Christopher Drinkall  
3~ Lorraine Anfinson  
~ Margret Zack  
4~ Ellen Lawstuen  
~ Kathy Kendhammer  
5~ Carol Overland  
6~ Krisit Gudmundson  
7~ Ann Fretland  
8~ Hannah Pearce  
11~ Peter Peterson  
13~ Heidi Evenson  
15~ Renee Ryan  
~ Madison Smith  
~ Isaac Ask  
~ Chase Humble  
16~ Christopher Freese  
17~ Mavis Dragvold  
~ Sue Larson  
~ Tom Feine  
~ Sandra Johnson

18~ Kaia Drinkall  
19~ John Abrahamson  
~ Rachel Bearbower  
~ Lynn Ryan  
~ Christopher Eide  
20~ Noelle Graham  
21~ Clair Olson  
~ Steven Ryan  
~ Maddie James  
~ Ethan Grimsrud  
22~ Matthew Halverson  
23~ Nikol Rislov  
24~ Gustav Hoiland  
25~ Mary Lawstuen  
~ Tristen Chiglo  
26~ Allan Dahl  
27~ Matthew Halverson  
~ Stephanie Erickson  
28~ Sarah Stensgard  
29~ Jimmie Wangen  
30~ Ashley Johnson  
~ Parker Storhoff  
31~ Jesse Nelson  
~ Jarod Dybing  
~ Tracy Lind



13~ Charles & Lynnette  
Pederson  
~ Kevin & Allyson Christian  
18~ Gordon & Arlene  
Johnson  
19~ Tom & Carolyn Smith  
27~ Philip & Ruth  
Abrahamson

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish*

Visit our websites at...

[elstadlutheranchurch.org](http://elstadlutheranchurch.org)

[highlandprairielutheranchurch.org](http://highlandprairielutheranchurch.org)

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> HP-Tabitha Circle 12:30 @ Burdy's Confirmation 6:30	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m.—Elstad 10:00 a.m. SS 11:00-Highland Prairie HP– SS X-Mas Program during worship & Ba- zaar EL– Christmas tea	7	8	9 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  Confirmation 6:30	10	11	12
13 9:00 a.m.—Elstad 10:00 a.m. SS 11:00-Highland Prairie EL– SS X-Mas Program during worship HP-Lind Recital 1:00 p.m. w/ fellowship hall	14	15	16 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  Confirmation 6:30	17	18 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	19
20 9:00 a.m.—Elstad 10:00 a.m. SS – HP EL - No Sunday school 11:00-Highland Prairie	21	22	23 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 p.m.—EL 7:00 p.m.—HP	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26
27 9:00 a.m.—Elstad No Sunday school 11:00-Highland Prairie	28	29	30 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	31		



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

*Address Services Requested*

Non-Profit Organization

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Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6



## *December 2015 Newsletter*

### HIGHLAND PRAIRIE ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015

ACOLYTES: JONAH SIEVERS, HALE STENSGARD

READERS: JONAH SIEVERS, ARLENE JOHNSON

GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

ACOLYTES: HALE STENSGARD, JENS LIND

READERS: HALE STENSGARD, DAVID LARSON

GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015

ACOLYTES: JENS LIND, TRENTEN CHIGLO

READERS: JENS LIND, SHARON EHLER

GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015 (CHRISTMAS EVE)

ACOLYTES: TRENTEN CHIGLO, BRADY STENSGARD

READERS: TRENTEN CHIGLO, BECKY LIND

GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015

ACOLYTES: BRADY STENSGARD, PAULA HOWE

READERS: BRADY STENSGARD, BECKY LIND

GREETERS: CHARLES & LYNNETTE PEDERSON

### ELSTAD ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015

READER: TOM DYBING

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

READER: PETER HOLM

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015

ACOLYTE: ALISON FREESE

READERS: ALISON FREESE, CAROLYN SMITH

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015 (CHRISTMAS EVE)

READER: VICKY TOPNESS

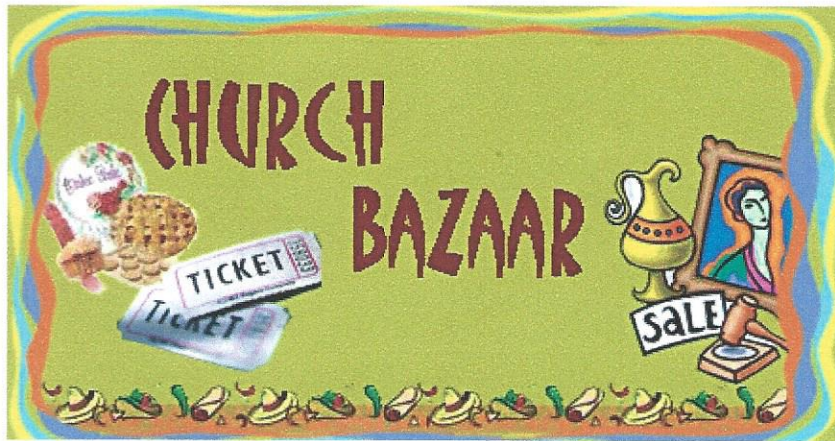
#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015

READER: LORI BAKKE

#### USHERS:

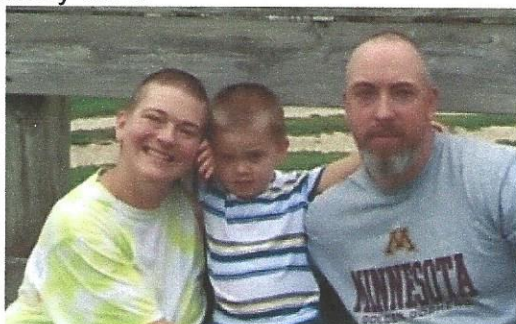
MIKE CHIGLO, JOHN OVERLAND, DUANE BAKKE,  
RICHARD GULLICKSON, PHILIP ABRAHAMSON, ERIK  
NELSON

# HIGHLAND PRAIRIE WELCA



## SUNDAY, DEC 6TH BAZAAR AND BENEFIT FOR JENNIFER LEE LUNCH, BAKE SALE, AUCTION

Jen was diagnosed with leukemia in January 2014. She is a nurse and has been unable to work since then due to her aggressive chemotherapy schedule. As a result of recent complications, she will need a bone marrow transplant. She and husband, Mitch have a four year old son, Brogan. He attends a program in La Crosse that specializes in getting children with autism ready for school. Jen also doctors in La Crosse, which is about an hour away from home. Her kindness and ability to make others feel special has always inspired us all. She has spent her entire life helping others. Now it is our turn to help her! Funds raised will be used for medical expenses, travel expenses and family care.



Jennifer, Brogan, Mitch Lee

11:00 Worship

12:00 Lunch

Bake Sale

1:00 Auction

Huge Assortment of  
Baked Goods and  
Auction Items!  
Buy gifts or buy for  
yourself.  
Something for  
Everyone!

DON'T MISS  
THIS EVENT!  
Everyone is welcome!  
Bring your family  
and friends.

Hosted by  
Highland Prairie  
WELCA

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

43267 Bowl Dr  
Peterson, MN 55962  
507-864-2731

One mile south of  
Bratsberg on Hwy 43, then  
one mile west on Hwy 37