

Elstad – Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

February, 2013

Pastor Dan Watland

Phone: 507-864-2309

email: dwatland@gmail.com

February, 2013

Worship Schedule

Sunday, February 3

Highland Prairie

9:00 Worship

10:00 Sunday School

Elstad

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

Sunday, February 10

Highland Prairie

9:00 Worship

10:15 Sunday School

Elstad

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

**4-6 pm confirmation @
parsonage**

Sunday, February 17

Highland Prairie

9:00 Worship

10:00 Sunday School

Elstad

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

Sunday, February 24

Highland Prairie

9:00 Worship

10:00 Sunday School

Elstad

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

**4-6 pm Confirmation at
parsonage**

Ponderings From the Parsonage

As we start ministry together, I wonder: what new ministries, projects, and programs will begin in 2013? I realize that question can only be answered by another question: what new ideas has God given to the members of our congregation, and who will be willing to follow through on those ideas, get others involved, find the resources and make new ministries, projects, and programs happen?

In *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*, Frederick Buechner, a writer and Presbyterian minister, said "the kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work that you need most to do and that the world most needs to have done."

Work is good, it is part of being human. And the purpose of work is to use our talents to serve others. But there is something bigger than just our job: it is called vocation. One's calling or vocation includes one's job, but it also includes other things, other responsibilities. It's possible for the unemployed, retired people or children to have a calling. God calls us wherever we are, including our jobs, but not only there.

Often a person's deepest sense of vocation may not be what they get paid for. They may work at a grocery store, but sense God's deepest calling by reading to young kids at a school. They may work at a factory, but feel a deeper calling to help their elderly neighbor.

Our vocational awareness is part of our discipleship. Our vocational decisions are a reflection of our primary calling as Jesus' disciples. How we spend our time at work, in our homes, in the community, all these choices reflect faithful discipleship.

If our primary calling is to love God and our neighbor, then we're called to use all the areas of our life to reflect God's love by serving our neighbor. We are called to live in ways that help the entire community. Martin Luther always seemed to be pointing Christians back toward the community. "If your town needs a mayor," he said, "become a mayor. If it needs a school, help build a school." What can I do to help the community? How can I help my neighbor?

That is the work God is calling the church to do, too, and each member of the church as well. I hope you will take some time to prayerfully think about whether God is calling you to start something new, or support something ongoing in a new way. What new ideas has God given you to meet the needs of the community and church, and how can you get others involved, find the resources, communicate a proposal, and follow through on the ideas God has given?

Pastor Dan

Congregational Chatter

The birthdays and anniversaries in this newsletter are according to the records we have. If you spot an error, please let us know!

The best way to contact us with an announcement you want included in the bulletin or newsletter is via email with the topic in the subject line!

Please observe Pastor Dan's day off on Monday under normal conditions. He needs to have a day of rest just like we do!

Thank you to Deb Book who repainted our mailbox and even spelled "Lutheran" correctly!

Eleanor Peterson has moved! Her new address is Park Lane Estate
111 Fillmore Place SE #16
Preston, MN 55965

Additional annual reports for both churches are available at the rear of the churches.

If you know someone within our congregations who deserve some special recognition, let me know and we will have them recognized in this column!

To the Elstad Church Family,
Thank you so much for all your care, concern, cards, memorials, food, and prayers in regard to my sister Mary. She will be dearly missed, but she will always live on in our hearts. Your kindness will never be forgotten.
John and Carol Overland

Due to the weather at the time of Highland Prairie's Annual meeting, many people decided to be safe than sorry and stayed home. Therefore the meeting was not held and is in the process of being rescheduled, pending Elstad's agreement to change service times again. Listen on Sunday for plans. Those not in attendance will also be notified. The tentative rescheduling will be February 10.

Prayer Corner

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

James 5:16

1. Thank God for those who went before us in our country's development and our Christian training.
2. Pray for these people: Dagny Anderson, Doris Matson, Elizabeth Larson, Stanley Mann, Lorraine Fann, Marge Abrahamson, Elmira Rosheim and others who are ill or in need.
3. Pray for those don't feel loved
4. Pray for those who are cold
5. Adore God for loving us as we are.

HELP WANTED

Highland Prairie would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to the Jonsgaards for the many years of service as our parish custodial crew. We have appreciated the care and attention they have given the church, Sunday school area and shelters, keeping our facilities clean and tidy. They retired their custodial duties on December 30th, 2012.

The HP council is in the process of reviewing custodial duties and determining what needs can be met by volunteer committees or a custodial service. If you feel the spirit move you to take part in keeping our church bright and clean, please contact a HP Board member.

Along the same lines, Marv and Carol will be leaving their position of secretaries on March 31. While we have done our best to serve all of you, our responsibilities with our own business during the summer took most of our time and energy leaving us with little energy to serve you.

We will be happy to train someone in during the month of March, and feel confident that we will be leaving the church records in good shape for a new secretary. If you or someone you know would be willing to take on this job, please contact someone on either church council. We have a revised job description available to review. Contact us via email if you would like a copy.

ELSTAD PRAYER PARTNERS

We have all heard it said that what goes around comes around. This is true in being prayer partners as well as in other areas of life that we know so well. Some of those who are theologically bent might call this "circular blessings." Every blessing has the potential to bless both the giver and the receiver. Have you ever thought that you are a conduit for God's blessings? Just as you are busy praying for someone another person is praying for you. All sort of a gift within a gift. Blessings abound by the use of kind words and gestures, happy faces and prayers.

The words on the sympathy cards more often than not contain the words "you are in my prayers." We do not have to depend on such a card as we already know we are being remembered in prayer. How does it feel to be "remembered?" How does it feel to know that you are the recipient of prayers said often for you? When you put your head on the pillow at night do you reflect on the fact that you are loved by the one who created the stars above and that your name has been placed in the Creator's hand by someone that day? Picture yourself there. What a goose-bump realization that can be.

There is a spiritual principle that what you give comes back to you. Give blessings and prayers and you will receive blessings in return. February is a good love month. Pray that your prayer partner will be greatly blest and has a renewed awareness that she is being loved and you too will reap a great benefit from being a prayer and blesser!! Goose-bumps can be contagious but do not seek a balm from the medical profession as these goose-bumps are good to have hanging around.

Isabelle Ekstrom will be having a violin recital at Elstad at 2:00 pm on Saturday, February 9th. This recital is a requirement of graduation from the beginning levels of the Suzuki violin program. Music will include favorite hymns, folk songs, and classical pieces. In addition, some of Isabelle's musical friends will be joining her on the program. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome!

WELCA Meetings

The first meeting of the **Elstad WELCA** will be on Sunday, February 10th at 9:30 a.m. The program will be handled by the officers and servers are Carol Dybing and Lori Bakke.

HP Mary Circle will meet Tuesday, February 12th 6:00 pm at The Creamery.

Elstad Esther Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 12th at 9:30 a.m. Hostess is Doris Dybing.

Elstad Elizabeth Circle will meet at 6:30 on February 11 at Eleanor Peterson's apartment.

ELSTAD PEOPLE!

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, March 17th directly after the morning worship hour.

All church birthday party.

If you have ever had a birthday, this is the party for you.

SAVE THE DATE - details will unfold as you need to know them.

Lutheran married couples are encouraged to give a gift from your heart when you attend a **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend!** The communication in your relationship will improve by leaps and bounds on this special Weekend. Choose from March 15 - 17 in Alexandria or April 5 - 7 in Duluth! For more information or to apply, visit GodLovesMarriage.org, or contact Peter & Phyllis McMahon at mcmahonp@comcast.net or 763-561-1575. Weekends fill fast and applications are due soon - don't miss out!

The Scheie Lutheran Church WELCA will be hosting an **All You Can Eat Pork Loin Dinner**. It will be held at the Mable American Legion on Sunday, February 10 from 10:30am until 1:00 pm. The cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children.

Words of thanks have been received from SEMCAC for the generous gift of food and money from The Elstad church last December. They state that for a mere \$30 the food shelf is able to purchase about 126 pounds of food to help stock their shelves. That amount multiplied several times has helped a multitude of people with nutritious food and other basic needs. Thank you for caring and sharing. Many, many full grocery bags were given to the food shelf resulting from the Elstad

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, there will be a **Souper Bowl Dinner** of soup and bread at the Rushford First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall from 11am until 1pm or until gone. Bring donations of non-perishable food items for the local food pantry or money. Dine in or carry out.

Thrivent Insurance - New Rules again!

"Choice Dollars" ..as most people do NOT understand the Choice Dollars.

Now in 2013, you have to tell them WHERE you want your Choice dollars to go. You have to tell them again...

In other words...they are phasing out "recurring direction" and you have to tell them again for 2013 where you want your Choice Dollars to go

...by March 31, 2013

And in order to qualify for Choice Dollars, you have to pay at least \$800.00 in total yearly premiums or have invested \$20,000.00 minimum with Thrivent.

(I don't know if you know all this or not)

In the past, some of H. Prairie members, (myself included) have directed our Choice Dollars to H. Prairie Church for the WELCA. Then when it comes in to the Church, we also have to tell the Treasurer which account we want it to go to. A lot have chosen WELCA. Then The Treasurer sends me a check whenever for WELCA. She has to know from the member where they want it to go for any of HP funds or it will stay in General Fund of the church.

This is in place of matching funds, like they used to do, for our Meatball dinner

Marion Dahl

Highland Prairie Council Members

Glen Kopperud, president

864-2586, glen@normanselectric.com

Gordon Johnson, vice president

864-2345, skippy@acegroup.cc

Sarah Bearbower, secretary

864-7520 sbearbow@gmail.com

Karen Bakken, treasurer –

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Deb Book –

875-2555 debbook@acegroup.cc

Allen Howe - 864-2372,

Lyle Meldahl –

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Kay Eiken –

C 507-951-5316 eikenskalet@me.com

David Larson –

864-2690 dslarson@acegroup.cc

Gerald Hallum - gha17827@acegroup.cc.

I have something deep in my heart that I want to share with you. **On Feb 1, it is my birthday.** You won't find my name on the birthday list, but it is the day I had major heart surgery and got my new life. Heart health is so important. Some of the most important things you can know relating to health are the health risks of heart disease.

- Know your “numbers” such as cholesterol and blood pressure, and strive to make them in a healthy range.
- Know the risk factors such as diabetes and family history.
- Stop smoking if you smoke now.
- Maintain a healthy weight.

I wouldn't have known my condition was so critical had it not been for my sister getting sick. Perhaps the most important thing is to know the signs of a heart attack and get help if you experience any of them. They are different between men and women. Nausea, chest, jaw or arm pain, and sense of impending doom are some of the warning signs. Become educated in heart health. Go to www.heart.org.

Many of us have had heart issues. I thank God for my health. I thank Him from the bottom of my heart. Carol

**Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting
January 13, 2013**

On January 13, 2013, the Elstad Lutheran Church council meeting was **called to order** by President Marv Eggert at 8:20 p.m.

A **quorum** was declared at the Joint Council meeting. All members present.

Additions were made to the agenda. Motion made by John Rein, second by Carol Overland to **approve the agenda** as presented. Motion carried.

The **Secretary's Report** from the November 11, 2012 meeting was given by Lori Bakke. Motion by David Bakke, second by Robert Knutson to accept the report as read. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Reviewed year end report given by Jennifer Nepstad. Motion by Carol Overland, second by John Rein to accept the audited report. Motion carried.

President's Report: None

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports: None

Old Business:

- **Church Repairs:** Harlin Hudson will begin painting the interior of the church after the annual meeting.
- **Well Issues:** Nitrate level continues to be the same even after the flushing. Will do another flushing and bring a sample to Soil and Water in Preston.

New Business:

- **2013 Budget:** Jennifer Nepstad reviewed the 2013 budget. David Bakke made a motion to approve the proposed 2013 budget, Carol Overland second. Motion carried.
- **Annual Meeting Agenda:** Items for discussion were placed on the agenda. John Rein made a motion to approve the agenda, Robert Knutson second. Motion carried.
- **2013 Ballot:** David Bakke reviewed the proposed ballot.
- **Lawn Mowing:** Bearbower Family and Lawstuen Family were interested in lawn mowing. Robert Knutson will check with both parties on continued interest.

There being no further business Carol Overland made a motion to adjourn, second by David Bakke. Motion carried. The meeting was **adjourned** at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted by Lori Bakke, Elstad Lutheran Church Secretary

Elstad Council Members

Robert Knutson, President

467-2367, rsknut@acegroup.cc

Jerry Evenson, Vice President

467-2551, evensondorothy467@gmail.com

Michelle Rein, Secretary

765-3820, mlrein.md@gmail.com

Jennifer Nepstad, Treasurer

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Vicky Topness ,

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Carol Overland

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John Rein

765-3820, rein0195@hotmail.com

Elstad & Highland Prairie February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to

- 1 – Mackenzie Moore
 - Gudrun Storhoff
 - Glenn Thomas
 - Brady Stensgard
 - Noah Carlson
- 2 – Jeff Mueller
 - Bailey Bestul
 - Brooke Bestul
 - Tiffany Joy Johnson
- 3 – Paul Ryan
 - Carol Sjarpe
 - Elizabeth Ekern
 - Trent Eide
- 4- Megan Fox
 - Kaylee Peterson
- 6 – John Stadtmueller
 - Patty Horning
- 7 – Laura Severson
 - Andy Ask
 - Murton Boyum
 - Delane Horning
- 8 – Nina Richardson
- 9 – Courtney Dahl
 - Mary Jo Grimsrud
 - Andrew Howe
 - Robert Knutson
 - Cooper Hovland
 - Allan Skalet
- 10 – Patty Olson
 - Sylvia Passow
- 11 – Casey Ingvalson
- 12 – Samuel La Fleur
- 21 – Truman Dahl

- Marissa Grimsrud
- Erick James
- Ryan Maschka
- 14 – Kristen Peterson
Soren Eisner
Val Gudmundson
- 15 – Michael Halverson
 - Emily Johnson
 - Michael Rein
- 16 - Jennifer Younts
- 17 – Kenneth Olson
- 18 – Aubrey Ingvalson
- 20 - Hannah Kopperud
 - Gerald Hallum
 - Gertie Bakkum
- 21- Wayne Finnegan
Truman Dahl
Sandra Kenney
Erick James
Marissa Grimsrud
Ryan Maschka
- 22 – Brandon Sjarpe
Kenna Gudmundson
- 23 – Roger Bearbower
 - Linda Hundorf
 - Shannon Kopperud
 - Ann Meldahl
- 24 – LeRoy Johnson, Sr.
- 25 – Michele James
 - Richard Gullickson
- 26 – Dan Grimsrud
- 27 – Dorothy Evenson
 - Ann Jacobson Berg
 - Zachary Johnson
- 28 – Sharyl Bergen



Happy Anniversary to all of
you!

- 5 – Richard & Mindy Gullickson
- 9 – Lyle & Ann Meldahl
- 16 – Randy & Kari Drinkall
- 23 – Curtis & Robin Paulson

*Don't forget to wish
your
sweetheart.....*



February 14th



Preparing to Elect a Synod Bishop

“Electing a bishop is one of the most important responsibilities in the life of a synod and a key responsibility of the synod assembly,” according to Ann Peterson, Vice-President of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

At the 2013 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, to be held June 7-8 in Rochester, Minn., voting members will elect the third bishop of this synod. In this synod, bishops are limited to two terms so Bishop Usgaard’s time as bishop will come to an end.

When a congregation calls a new pastor, they go through careful self-study, prepare a congregational profile, and evaluate potential pastors based on the particular gifts the congregation seeks. The synod’s Committee on the Election of a Bishop is working to guide the synod through a similar process.

The process of electing a bishop is very different than most other elections. As Rev. Mark Boorsma, chair of the election committee, explains, “Unlike secular elections for leadership roles, the church does not wait for qualified women and men to ‘toss their hat in the ring.’ Instead, praying constantly for the Spirit’s guidance, congregations search proactively for persons with the gifts and vision necessary for leading God’s people well.”

Through January 2013, congregations have been asked to hold discussions on the qualities they thought were important in a future bishop of this synod. They have also been asked to raise up names of potential candidates for bishop and submit them to the committee.

The next step in the process takes place on February 10. The synod’s five conferences will hold their assemblies and there will continue the conversation on gifts needed in this new leader, expectations for our synod’s bishop, and expectations for our congregations.

Bishop Harold Usgaard describes the conferences assemblies as, “The ‘grassroots’ of our synod at work and...integral to the process of the election of a bishop.”

At these assemblies, voters will have access to names and biographical information from the individuals whose



Bishops have many responsibilities as outlined by the synod constitution. Bishops are pastors, leaders, uniters, and ambassadors. For more specifics, visit semnsynod.org/election-of-a-bishop/ for relevant excerpts from the synod constitution and the “Bishop Profile” publication.

names were lifted up by congregations. They will select up to three candidates to participate in forums around the synod leading up to the 2013 Synod Assembly. The Committee on the Election of a Bishop will select up to nine of the names raised up to participate in forums around the synod in March and April. The forums will be an opportunity for the members of the synod to meet the nominees and learn their gifts and perspectives.

Our synod’s 2013 election of a bishop comes as we mark the 25th anniversary of the ELCA and of our synod – a time to look back on where our journey together has taken us, but also a time to look to the future. Martin Luther wrote: “Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace so certain that you could stake your life on it one thousand times.” Ann Peterson reflects on Luther’s statement saying, “As we prepare for the election and the transitions that will follow, we are called to consider prayerfully what God is calling us to do together as a synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in southeastern Minnesota, and to move ahead with that living, daring confidence in God’s grace.”

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:

Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA
1001 14th St. NW, Suite 300
Rochester, MN 55901-2551
507-280-9457
semnsynod.org




February 2013



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

...Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate
us from the love of God that is revealed in
Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8: 39b

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|---|--|---|--|--|--|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 9:00 am Worship at HP 9:15 am SS at Elstad 10:00am SSat HP 10:30 am Worship at Elstad | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Bulletin deadline | 8 | 9 |
| 10 9:00 am Worship at HP 9:15 am SS at Elstad 9:30 WELCA Elstad 10:00am SSat HP 10:30 am Worship at Elstad 4:00 Confirmation at Parsonage | 11 6:30 El Elizabeth Circle at Eleanor Peterson's | 12 9:30 El Esther Circle at Doris Dybing's home 6:00 HP Mary Circle at The Creamery | 13 5PM Ash Wed HP 7PM Ash Wed Elstad | 14  Bulletin deadline | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9:00 am Worship at HP 9:15 am SS at Elstad 10:00am SSat HP 10:30 am Worship at Elstad | 18 | 19 | 20 7PM Lenten Service HP | 21 Newsletter deadline Bulletin deadline | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:00 am Worship at HP 9:15 am SS at Elstad 10:00am SSat HP 10:30 am Worship at Elstad 4:00 Confirmation at Parsonage | 25 | 26 | 27 7PM Lenten Service Elstad | 28 Bulletin deadline | <p>Elstad Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish 43267 Bowl Drive Peterson, MN 55962 507-864-2731</p> | |

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Address Correction Requested



HP READERS/ ACOLYTES/ GREETERS

February 3

Acolytes: Noah Carlson, Josie Bearbower

Readers: Noah Carlson, Jordy Markegard

Greeters: Glen and Karen Bakken

February 10

Acolytes: Josie Bearbower, Bailey Bestul

Readers: Josie Bearbower, David Larson

Greeters: Sharon and Paul Ehler

February 17

Acolytes: Bailey Bestul, Brooke Bestul

Readers: Bailey Bestul, Scott Bestul

Greeters: Doug Lind Family

February 24

Acolytes: Brooke Bestul, Emma Eide

Readers: Brooke Bestul, Sharon Rustad

Greeters: Marion Dahl, Norma Halverson

ELSTAD READERS/ ACOLYTES/ USHER

February 3

Acolyte

Reader: Vicky Topness

February 10

Acolyte

Reader: Kathy Abrahamson

February 17

Acolyte

Reader: Dick Haight

February 24

Acolyte

Reader: Marv Eggert

Ushers: John Abrahamson, Mike Chiglo, Phil
Abrahamson, David Bakke, Merwood Storhoff