

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
~ November 2014 ~*

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Circle Meetings

HP- Tabitha Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 11th, at Burdey's Cafe in Peterson (back room) at noon-order for self off menu. Bible Study about 1:00.

Elstad- Elizabeth circle will meet Tuesday, November 11th at 6:30 at Park Lane in Preston.

Mark your calendars.....

Elstad—Highland Prairie Sunday School
Christmas Programs

HP- December 7th during morning worship
time

EL- December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Takkefest

“Thanksgiving”

Rushford Lutheran Church

THURSDAY, November 27, 2014

Doors open @ 11 a.m. Serving @ 12 noon

Please RSVP (507)864-7593 or (507)864-2891
Leave a message

Walk-Ins are WELCOME!

Highland Prairie News

Highland Prairie WELCA

We will be having a bake sale, Christmas table and a “this and that table” after the stewardship worship service on November 9th. The morning includes our offerings of school, health and sewing kits and soap. Our quilts will be on display and you may purchase them for \$25 a piece. Funds collected will be put towards quilt and kit shipping expenses. There will also be a lunch with hot sandwiches, soup and dessert. If you are a soup maker, please tell your circle chair. We will also be asking for desserts of some kind. Please plan on spending the morning with us. Come and enjoy some lunch and, who knows, you may find a quilt or “a this and that” or homemade lefse!!

A special invitation is extended to all our Elstad family to come and enjoy.

Highland Prairie is in need of Communion servers, readers and greeters! If you are able to help with any of these please contact Lisa ASAP. Thank you. Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

Elstad News

Elstad Prayer Partners

There is a growing debate between a real lifestyle guru and a “wanna-be” lifestyle guru. The “wanna-be” talks about her “conscious uncoupling” from her husband. The real lifestyle guru talks about “flavor paring.”

Flavor paring brings out the best in each other...both are completely enamored despite their differences in taste and texture. Consider pumpkin pie without whipped cream. Consider bread without butter and jam.

Consider mashed potatoes smothered in turkey gravy without cranberry sauce. Get the idea? Together they bring a yummy experience to every bite. So it is with your prayer partner for the year of 2014.

Both of you are made of different textures and flavors. You have been blessed like a long-term married pair who bring out the best in one another. Shortly there will be a “conscious uncoupling” as prayer partners

Elstad WELCA

Thanks are in order for everyone who helped with the Thankoffering experience held in October. Despite our lack of multiple meetings during the year our WELCA has been busy. There will be two meetings that you might want to

Mark on your calendar, Sunday, November 9th after the worship service and Sunday, December 7th after the worship service. November will be a “catch-up” time with discussions of the treasury, plans of 2014 and changes desired for 2015.

December will be our annual Christmas tea celebration. (A suggestion has surfaced that perhaps a few good men could be invited to help serve the tea so the women can enjoy the experience.) Please check the program to see if you are scheduled to serve or prepare the program.

December will be the “last-call” to any changes that you might be asking for in the planning for next year. New officers are being recruited at this time.

November is the 2nd designated world hunger collection for Elstad. Food for the food shelf can be brought to the church until November 26th.

All foods collected will go to the Fillmore County food shelf. Monetary donations should be labeled as such and placed in the offering plates or handed directly to the treasurer.

Monetary donations will be accepted until November 30.

NEW ADDRESS FOR...

Dale Overland has moved please send cards and letters to his new address: Dale Overland, 277 320th St. Wilson, WI 54027-2707

Save the Date

Sunday, November 30th at 5 p.m. You are invited to come and enjoy the annual parish Advent cantata at the Elstad Church. The theme this year is Advent Praise and as usual the music is very inviting, very theologically sound and inspiring.

Holiday refreshments are followed directly after the concert. Consider yourself invited to this musical entry to the Advent season. Come early as the best seats are filled quite quickly.

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Sunday, September 14, 2014

The Meeting was held Highland Prairie Lutheran Church with President Larry Topness calling the meeting to order following the Joint Council Meeting with Highland Prairie.

Roll call was taken with Larry Topness, Jerry Evenson, Michelle Rein, Jennifer Nepstad, Carol Overland, John Rein and Vicky Topness present. A quorum was called.

The Agenda was reviewed, with the addition of front step repairs and kitchen floor repairs added to "Old Business"

Secretary's report was given and reviewed. Motion was made by Jerry, second by Carol, to approve. Motion carried.

Treasure's report was given and reviewed. We are still short funds given the high LP costs this winter, the April fundraiser did result in some additional giving. Report will be placed on file for audit at a later date.

There was continued correspondence with Minnesota Department of Health regarding the drinking water an issue.

There were no members wishing to address the council.

There were no committee reports.

Old Business:

High nitrates in the water continue to make drinking water an issue. We continue to work with the Minnesota Department of Health regarding a feasible timeline for correcting this issue. An updated compliance letter will be generated to update our goal to have this addressed by 2015. We continue to discuss feasible and affordable options. Jerry and Michelle will work together to formulate communication to the congregation prior to the Annual meeting

Damage to church roof from lightening has been repaired.

Sealing the church steeple also needs to be addressed to prevent further water damage to the church. Motion to move forward with necessary repairs by Gengrich Construction made by John, second by Carol.

Vicky will check with Aaron Topness to see if he is able to repair the tile in the kitchen floor near the classroom.

New signage for Reserved Parking has been received, installation is pending. Reserved parking will be for the pastor and handicap parking.

Cement on the front steps has been repaired with good results.

New Business:

Insurance claim has been received regarding the lightning strike damage to the steeple. Repairs have been made.

Fire extinguishers need to be checked and possibly recharged. There are several units located throughout the church. John and Michelle will talk to Andy Arends as he works near Clarey's Fire Safety in Rochester MN .

Three thousand gallons of LP has been contracted for the winter. We have discussed moving winter services to the basement to further reduced LP costs. This will be addressed further at future meetings.

New shingles have been placed on the storage shed. Further repairs will be considered based on needs.

The wall behind the organ is in showing damage. We will continue to monitor damage and ask Harlon Hudson to look at the changes and make recommendations to prevent further damage.

Congregation members are encouraged to contact Pastor Dan with concerns. Pastor Dan will communicate this to the congregations.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Vicky, meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Council Secretary

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
October 12, 2014

The meeting was **called to order** by Council President Gordon Johnson at 5:02 pm.

Roll Call was taken.

Present: Gordon Johnson, Sarah Bearbower, Deb Book, Karen Bakken, Kaye Eiken, Jerry Hallum, Chuck Pederson, Steve Howe, Lyle Meldahl

Absent: David Larson

Pastor Dan was also present.

Members wishing to address the council: Arlene Johnson, Doug Lind, Kyle Chiglo

Several items were added to new business on the agenda. Motion for **approval of the agenda** by Lyle, second by Sarah. Motion passed.

Arlene Johnson addressed the council and pastor commenting on the pastor's sermon during the worship service today that included information she felt was inappropriate to share with the congregation.

The **Secretary's Report** was given. Jerry noted the snowplowing service has been contacted. Motion by Jerry, second by Steve to approve. Motion passed.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Karen reviewing current expenses, and year to date income and expenses. A copy of the report is available for review and subject to audit. Motion by Deb, second by Chuck to accept the report. Motion passed.

Correspondence – A letter was received from the synod requesting congregations to share stories about the work our churches are doing to reduce hunger in our church family and our community.

The **Pastor's Report** (attached) of accomplishments and plans was presented. The second chapter of *Rich Church Poor Church* was reviewed, the focus on having a mission and service that makes a difference in people's lives in our church. A handout about the Behavioral Covenant used by another congregation was also reviewed. Arlene Johnson's concern was addressed and the parish review committee will take this into consideration at their scheduled meeting.

Doug Lind and Kyle Chiglo addressed the council of behalf of the families of the confirmation students. They would like to consider alternatives to Sunday night classes and to clarify the roles of the mentors and parents. Attempts at other class times have resulted in conflicts with other student activities. The parents of the students will meet with Pastor Dan and youth/education committee members to review options. The council does not have to approve a meeting time change but should be informed of their decision.

Committee Reports/Old Business

Church/Grounds:

The fence for the dogs at the parsonage has been completed. White vinyl was used on the front side for aesthetic purposes which increased the cost of the materials. *Motion by Deb, second by Sarah to reimburse the additional cost for materials purchased. Motion passed.*

Jerry is in contact with the contractor that will be doing the parsonage insulation project.

The band shell repairs have been completed.

Richards Sanitation will be contacted about the second dumpster.

Material has been moved away from the bowl building to prevent it from worsening.

Youth/Education:

Sarah reported on the Sunday School curriculum and that the Christmas program planning is underway. Sarah and Lisa will do some website updates. We would like updated photos, and Pastor Dan reminded us that photos of minor children cannot be displayed without parent's permission.

New Business

Motion by Deb, second by Lyle to approve the recommendation by Pastor Dan for Confirmation of three students – Collen Dahle, Peyton Hoiness, and Riley Koop. Motion passed. Confirmation will be on October 26th. The banquet will be on October 22nd, and the photographer will be contacted for photos that evening.

The weather cancellation process was reviewed. Pastor Dan and council presidents will make decision to cancel worship services due to inclement weather, WELCA groups will be contacted to make calls and Lisa to send emails, post on HP Facebook and website, and contact TV, radio stations to include in cancellation announcements.

An estimate was received for repairs to the garden shed, which will include raising the building, replacing the floor, and windows. *Motion by Sarah, second by Deb to proceed with the repairs. Motion passed.* An recently taken aerial photograph of the church and grounds is available for purchase. There is an aerial photograph displayed in the fellowship hall that is very similar to it so we opted not to purchase the new one.

The VA has a program that will pay for restoring headstones of veterans. Available to all veterans, they are currently working on restoration of Civil War monuments.

The rest house switches have not yet been installed. Kopperuds will continue to assist with electrical needs.

The Vintage Baseball League would like to have more games scheduled at Highland Prairie next summer. We will try to coordinate games on bowl service Sundays. Kaye will check on the open dates.

Two televisions and two DVD players are needed for Sunday school due to incompatibility of the current equipment. *Motion by Sarah, second by Chuck to purchase the equipment. Motion passed.*

No further business.

Motion by Lyle, second by Sarah to adjourn. Meeting **adjourned** at 7:17 pm.

Next Meeting: Parish Meeting at Elstad - Sunday, November 9th at 7:00pm

Submitted by Deb Book, Council Secretary

Highland Prairie Financials For September	
YTD Income	\$70,640
YTD Expenses	\$ 79,692
Expenses exc. Income	\$9,05?
YTD Budget	\$ 73,328
YTD Income	\$ 70,640
YTD Under	\$ 2,688
**Special Project Fund brought in \$4,703	
Through September 30, 2014	

Elstad budget for September	
	7772.50
Received	4246.00
Under	3626.50
Budget YTD	69952.50
Received YTD	55018.00
Under YTD	14934.50



To the Parish of Elstad/Highland Prairie,

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.

As a synod, November 9 gives us a shared opportunity to highlight the ministries taking place in Winona and Mankato. Through their Bible studies, worship services, food ministries and service trips, a multitude of lives and hearts are being impacted daily.

Thank you for helping us tell the story of Campus Ministry in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod! Your participation on November 9 is critical to engaging church members and bringing an awareness to the exciting ministries taking place on campuses in our synod.

With joy and thanksgiving,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven H. Delzer".

Steven Delzer,

Bishop

To Elstad and Highland Prairie

It's hard to believe it has been three months since I was with you for worship in July! Thank you again for welcoming me into your midst. Fall is now well underway, which means the Lutheran Campus Center in Winona and Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry in Mankato are once again filled with the energy, enthusiasm and passion of young adults! Student leaders and pastors have welcomed new students into their midst; Bible studies and independent theology groups are meeting; worship engaging a unique setting in the radical love of Christ is happening; service

opportunities of feeding stomachs and souls through the food pantry at Crossroads and a community meal at the LCC are sharing the love of God beyond our doors.

You are invited to celebrate these vital and vibrant ministries at Elstad's worship on November 9 with a team from the LCC-Winona. We are grateful for your partnership, prayers and support for our ministries and look forward to sharing more stories with you in person on November 9th!

In joy and gratitude,

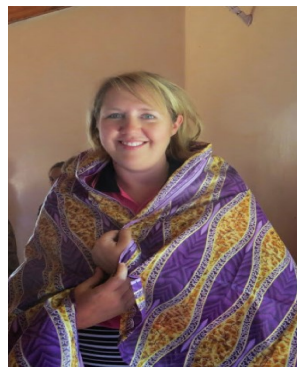
Pastor Corrine Denis,

Campus Pastor of the LCC

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.



Traveling to Tanzania

By Lisa Buss Prezler

“MAYBE THE TANZANIANS WERE THERE TO BE MISSIONARIES TO YOU....SMILES AND ALL.”

It was this text message, sent by my husband hours before my journey home, which helped me find a starting point in organizing what I experienced during a two-week mission trip to Iambi Lutheran Hospital in Nkungi, Tanzania.

Two weeks earlier, eight individuals met in the parking lot of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Rochester to start our journey to Tanzania. Our mission? To work with the palliative care program- volunteers as well as patients- at Iambi.

In my pharmacist mind, I was excited about the opportunity to share my knowledge and skills with the people we encountered. In my traveler mind, I was wary about what would go according to plan (some) and how much would not (plenty...two words: Africa time!). In my “what have I done” mind, I was hoping that I would have an amazing journey.

Everything, from seeing wildlife up close on safari to holding hands with children as we walked through Nkungi to dispensing medication to patients, was an amazing experience. (Okay, the bats and bathroom facilities weren’t so amazing, but we survived!) But as the trip wound down and I packed the several pieces of colorful cloth I received as gifts, I began to struggle with the feeling that I had not been able to do enough during my time in Tanzania.

In the early hours of our final morning in Tanzania, I video chatted with my husband (a sort of celebration of returning to Wi-Fi) and shared what I was feeling. While we didn’t find an answer at the time, I was thankful to receive that text message at the airport. It gave me a lot to think about on our day-long journey home.

The lessons I learned and the questions that linger extend beyond the space of this article. However, there are a few things that I return to repeatedly, both in daily life and when discussing the trip with others:

A Man’s Wealth Isn’t Measured by Money. One of our drivers, Bariqi, said this as we drove by yet another group of young boys, each tending their own herd of goats or cows. After Bariqi shared the things he considered to demonstrate wealth, I realized his list consisted of what many would consider basic necessities. During our time in Tanzania, it became evident that not everyone had those basic items. My thoughts turned to Black Friday, gift wish lists, lines for the latest e-device and my husband’s mantra: in the end, it all ends up at the thrift store. Since my return home, I have struggled to find a reason to make purchases as most would simply be a want. I am also more grateful for what my shower and roof provide.

There is no such thing as a stranger. Tanzanians are some of the friendliest people in the world. Not only were we greeted with smiles, handshakes, or hugs, but we were invited into someone’s home everywhere we went. We signed guest books, met village leaders, listened to their needs, and feasted on food prepared especially for our arrival. As I sat in these small rooms overfilled with people, I thought of home, where the mantra is “do not talk to strangers” (let alone invite them into our homes). Yet in Tanzania, displays of hospitality are ever-present.

As my fellow travelers could attest, I enjoy talking to strangers; I believe every person I meet has a purpose, even if I don’t know what it is at the time. But what if I, and everyone else, put down our cell phones and made that same effort to get to know the strangers around us every day? I have to believe it would be the start to something big.

Sometimes it takes years to build a house. While my home was built in about 100 days, a house in central Tanzania may take years before it is completed. Since few people have the means to pay for or build their house at once, they build their homes a few bricks at a time as money allows. It takes faith and patience to achieve a finished house. I realized the same can be said about mission trips (or even life in general). It takes time to build a strong foundation. In two weeks, you are not going to have completed your mission; it is barely enough time to start. The relationship is an ongoing process, sometimes with one step forward and two steps back. But it better to have taken that one step forward than not to have stepped at all.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod has partner relationships with the Lutheran church in Tanzania, Colombia, and South Sudan. To learn more, visit: <http://semnsynod.org/global-mission/> We also invite you to “like” our Facebook page for additional ways to stay connected to our synod: <http://www.facebook.com/semnsynod>

This issue is designed for use anytime after November 1, 2014.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

All Birthdays & Anniversaries are listed according to the information I have. If you see an error please contact me
 Email: highlandprairie_elstad@gmail.com ~ Thank You!

Happy Birthday!!

1- Allen Howe
 ~ Jennifer Dahl
 ~ Tiffany Humble
 2~ Kenny Bakkum
 ~ Amelia Dohlman
 ~ Kelsie Woxland
 ~ Miley Knutson
 3~ Darlys Storhoff
 ~ Ethan Rislov
 4~ Sylvia Markegard
 ~ Doug Lind
 ~ Rick Sjarpe
 ~ Shelly Stensgard
 5~ Scott Bestul
 ~ Glen Kopperud
 ~ Derek Grimsrud
 ~ William Maschka
 6- Kay Eiken
 ~ Ann Dolalie
 ~ Andrew Larson
 9~ Tim Dahl
 ~ Seth Humble
 10~ Becky Lind
 ~ Dani Esten
 ~ Dani Esten

11~ Randy Drinkall
 12~ Thora Lombard
 13~ Phil Dybing
 ~ Crystal Soppa
 ~ Ashlee Pontillo
 ~ Cody Ryan
 ~ Mason Wolfs
 17~ Jerry Dahl
 ~ Dana DeGeorge
 19~ Trina Overland
 ~ Adam Daniels
 ~ James McHan
 ~ Katie Hackbarth
 ~ Daryn Eisner
 ~ Grant DeGeorge
 20~ Melanie Przybylski
 ~ Kyle Lawstuen
 21~ Eric Howe
 22~ Kenneth Sjarpe
 ~ Peyton Hoiness
 ~ Caden Johnson
 23~ Lorriane Fann
 ~ Adam Overland
 ~ Danielle Kingsley
 24~ Taylor Ask

25~ Dan Book
 ~ Courtney Johnson
 26~ Doris Westby
 ~ Rebecca Lawstuen
 ~ Katrina James
 27~ Jennifer DeGeorge
 ~ Emarie Jacobson
 28~ Sandy Thomas
 ~ Kasey Nelson
 ~ Elvin Paulson
 ~ Aric Stensgard
 ~ Kainen Klug
 29~ Curtis Gidmundson
 ~ Bonnie Wangen
 30~ Benjamin Ryan

Happy Anniversary!!

6~ David & Cindy Howe
 ~ Cory & Nicole Woxland
 23~ John & Chris Knutson
 24~ Jeff Boland & Gretchen
 Engstrom
 26~ Michael & Jill
 Halverson

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 EL 8:30 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m.	3	4	5 Bulletin Deadline	6	7	8
9EL 8:30 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m. HP Fall Bazar/ Stewardship Parish Council @ Elstad 7:00 p.m.	10	11 HP-Tabitha Circle noon @ Burdey's Café EL-Elizabeth 6:30p@ Park Lane	12 Bulletin Deadline	13	14	15
16 EL 8:30 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m. HP-Baptism of Adeline Jo John-	17	18	19 Bulletin Deadline	20	21	22
23 EL 8:30 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m.	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ HP 7p.m. Bulletin Deadline	27	28	29
30 EL 8:30 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m. HP-Baptism of Madalynn Jo	Nov. 30th Cantata @ El- stad					

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

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Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6



Highland Prairie Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Acolyte: Brady Stensgard
Readers: Brady Stensgard, Norma Halverson
Greeters: Allen & Kay Howe

Sunday, November 9, 2014

Acolyte: Paula Howe
Readers: Paula Howe, Sharon Ehler
Greeters: Lyle & Ann Meldahl

Sunday, November 16, 2014

Acolyte: Brady Stensgard
Readers: Brady Stensgard, Sylvia Markegard
Greeters: Sharon & Paul Ehler

Sunday, November 23, 2014

Acolyte: Paula Howe
Readers: Paula Howe
Greeters:

Sunday, November 30, 2014

Acolyte: Brady Stensgard
Readers: Brady Stensgard, David Larson
Greeters: Charles & Lynnette Pederson

Elstad Acolyte/Reader/Ushers

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Reader: Peter Holm

Sunday, November 9, 2014

Reader: John Overland

Sunday, November 16, 2014

Reader: Gene Topness

Sunday, November 23, 2014

Reader: Lori Bakke

Sunday, November 30, 2014

Reader: Tom Dybing

Ushers: Mike Ask, John Overland, Larry Topness, John Rein, Robert Nelson