

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

~ July 2013 ~

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July Worship
Schedule

Sunday, July 7, 2013

Elstad

9:00 a.m. Worship

Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday, July 14, 2013

Bowl Service

Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 21, 2013

Elstad

9:00 a.m. Worship

Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday, July 28, 2013

Elstad

9:00 a.m. Worship

Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m. Worship



50th Wedding Anniversary!

Ken and Catherine Bakkum will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary with an Open House on July 6th from 2-9 at the Rushford American Legion, Hosts will be the children and families, No gifts requested, There will be karaoke from 5-9. They were married July 20, 1963 at Grace Lutheran Church in Peterson, MN

Thank You!

First my heart was saddened and then my heart was gladdened!! Thank you to everyone who took the time to think of me these last few weeks. Your cards, gifts, foods, telephone calls, prayers and such a lovely prayer shawl. Just to look all of these evidences of caring makes the heart glad! Thank you to Pastor Dan and Pastor Kay for your hospital visits. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a loving community.

Ruth Abrahamson

Heavenly Harp Gives Concert Sunday, July 21, 2013

Karin and Joy Gunderson, a mother-daughter musical duo known as Heavenly Harp, are back in Kalispell with a brand new, free concert, "With Thankful Hearts" on Sunday, July 21, 2013 beginning 7:00 p.m. at Rushford Lutheran Church. "With Thankful Hearts" features some of the harpists' favorite songs, and Karin will relate inspiring stories from her work as a harpist for hospice. The Gundersons also will play harp duets, sing together and add occasional flute accompaniment. There is no admission charge; offerings are accepted. For more information, contact 864.7152 or view their web site www.HeavenlyHarp.org. CDs and DVDs will be available.

**Thrivent Financial
for Lutherans
along with
Honkers Baseball
& Channel One
Food Bank**

Thrivent Financial
Night @ the Honkers!
Wednesday, July 17th,
7:05 p.m. Honkers
Baseball @ Mayo
Field

Tickets: **FREE TICKETS**
for your congregation
from your Two Rivers
Regional Office;
Tickets will be
distributed on a first
ask—first receive
basis!

Contact: Marlene
Erickson at
Marlene.Erickson@thrivent.com or call
(507) 289-6325
You can also contact
your local chapter
President.



Prayer Chain Information:

E-mail Prayer Group has 27 members participating

Telephone Prayer Chain has 6 members participating

From March 1st to May 20th ---We've had 9 prayer chain requests for 10 people

We've given out 8 shawls at this time & 4 of them have been mailed. Postage in a Priority Box costs from \$5.80--\$6.85 per shawl.

I'm buying card paper/envelopes and making personalized cards with prayer request names on them. I use the program—"American Greetings".

So far we've received \$110.00 in donations towards the postage & shawls. Expenses paid have been \$24.95 for the postage. This money will be handled through the WELCA account and Marion Dahl.

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I'll be asking new prayer requests if they would like to have their name put in the Prayer Corner of our church bulletin & mentioned in our church prayers.

Ann Meldahl will be donating fleece throws to be cut & sewn for prayer shawl usage from a pattern that she saw displayed at JoAnn Fabrics.

Shawls will be given to all of our Shut-Ins as Pastor Dan visits.

Our next Prayer Shawl meeting will be in September.

Prayer shawls ready for use-- 11 Crocheted or knitted, 2 prayer lap blankets, & 1 child's flannel quilt. Out of this--- 5 were taken for our Good Shepherd Shut-Ins.

Arlene Johnson—Prayer Support Leader



Elstad Prayer Partners

American author Melody Beattie has a very interesting quote..."Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life...It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend." How fitting this is for our prayer partners. Being grateful for one another makes life much more meaningful and turning that known stranger (your prayer partner) now in a one sided friendship (to be revealed in December) is something to look forward to. Be encouraged in your faith to as we continue to be grateful in this Endeavour.

Elstad WELCA

A huge, huge thank you is in order for everyone who participated in the bake sale which was held at the Lanesboro Rhubarb Festival earlier in the month of June. The day was lovely and the crowd was there to enjoy all things rhubarb! There only 2 scheduled events for the month of July, first is a board meeting of the officers and any others who so desire to attend. Now is the time to bring up any concerns or ideas that you might have on your mind at this time. The time and date have not been set yet but all of the officers are open to listen to your joys or concerns. Secondly, the WELCA will be serving lunch at the next bowl service at Highland Prairie. The serving committee has been notified and their plans will be made as the time draws near. Stay tuned for more information. Food is always a welcome addition to the morning activities.

The next WELCA event will be an all church family picnic in the park at 6:30 p.m. This will be a pot luck with beverages and paper serving products being provided. Sylvan Park will be the gathering place and as the time draws near details will be available in the August newsletter.

For those who like to plan way ahead...The S.E. M.N. Syndical Women's Convention will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2013 at the Grace Lutheran Church in Albert Lea, MN. This is an all-day session (8 a.m. till 4 p.m.) Elstad could use a delegate plus visitors to this event. If this is of interest to you please notify any officer and we will see to it that you are registered.

*HP Circle Meetings

Naomi Circle, July 2nd will meet at the home of Pat Dahl 2p.m.

Mary Circle, Wednesday, July 10th will meet at church @ 6 p.m. potluck meal

Quilting

July 10th @ HP church start quilting at 9:30 a.m. potluck lunch

*Elstad Circle Meetings

The Esther circle will be meeting in July. Time, place and date yet to be determined but plan on lessons for June and July

Save the Date

From the Elstad Council:

August 25th ... another Save the Date. This Sunday morning will be a music festival at the Elstad Church. After the worship service a brunch and other activities will be available for fun and participation. Requests for hymns or musicians are welcome. More details to follow. This event will be a fund raising event to help with the church maintenance expenses.

Elstad budget for May

Budgeted	8074.17
Received	5168.00
Under	2906.17

YTD budgeted	40370.85
YTD Received	28945.00
Under	11425.85

Highland Prairie Financials Jan.-May

YTD Income	\$32,530
YTD Expenses	\$41,395
Expenses exceed Income	\$ 8,865

YTD Budget	\$36,070
YTD Income	\$32,530
YTD Under	\$ 3,540

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council

Meeting Report 6/22/2013

Meeting was called order at 7pm by Council President Glen Kopperud.

Roll Call - None were absent

Quorum Call - yes

Devotions - Jerry Hallum

Congregation Members - Elstad Council

Secretary read the meeting notes from May 19th, 2013. The following corrections were made: Youth & Education has not been listed as a subcommittee. It is still separate. Motion was made to approve meeting notes with these corrections by Gordon, 2nd by Jerry, Motion carried.

Treasurer report was given. Motion was made by Sarah, 2nd by Kay to approve as read, Motion carried. Report will be filed and subject to audit.

President -none

Pastor's Report was handed out to the council.

Correspondence - Pastor Mary Drier sent a correspondence in response to a letter.

BUSINESS WITH ELSTAD

Pastor's Contract - Highland Prairie's May vote regarding Pastor's contract changes was a vote that needed to be done as a Joint meeting. That vote is void.

Elstad's Fundraiser - Elstad will host a fundraiser in August. They would like to have it as a joint service with a brunch following.

Insurance Report - The coverage on the parish is adequate for our needs.

Prayer Corner in Bulletin/Newsletter - Prayer requestors should be asked if they want to be put in the newsletter.

Meeting Minutes - Should not be called minutes, call them Meeting Report until they are approved.

Bowl Service - Would Elstad like to plan the July service? Elstad will serve the food. The date is July 14th.

Bowl Service - June 23rd, Bishop Usgaard is preaching. We will extend a personal invitation to all ELCA churches. Parsonage has some basic repairs that are needed. Looking for volunteer for some basic carpentry.

Old Business

Wedding Policies - A motion was made by Deb, 2nd by David to approve Wedding Policy as written, Motion Carried. Lisa will have a final copy of the Wedding Policy.

Facility Fees - A motion was made by Sarah to approve the facility fees as presented, 2nd by Lyle. Motion passed.

New Business

Church parking lot - cracks

Deb made a motion to fill the cracks in with the bid presented from Jerry. 2nd by Allen, Motion carried.

Church task force - 10 of the 22 listed items have been addressed already. Mail slot will have a locked door added instead of moving it. They are still looking at a way to accommodate a wheel chair area that is central to our worship area. The septic tank has been located - we would like to do a septic pump. Church Task force will continue to move forward with these.

Grounds would like a sign up listing to should be started soon. Deb may do a presentation to the congregation to start an educational campaign.

There being no further business a motion was made by Deb to Adjourn, 2nd by David. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Sarah Bearbower, Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Secretary.

Ponderings from the Parsonage:

God is There: Just Look

I've been in a lot of peoples' homes recently. It is easy for me to get caught up in sermon writing and planning for worship. There is always more to do, more to plan, more to organize, more emails to send. Much of the "Sunday" work feels like it can't wait, so other things get pushed aside. Last week, I had the opportunity to make many, many pastoral visits. (Thanks to Bishop Usgaard preaching, I had no sermon to prepare.)

And what did I see? I saw God. You come to expect to meet God at church. So much work, so much planning goes into each and every service. And when it is the bowl service or a baptism or a funeral, (all 3 happened last week) you expect God to show up. And God does.

But the homes I visit are holy places, too. For all the time I spend in at church, one assumes I often feel God's presence there, and I do, especially in worship. Yet sometimes I overlook how God is present everywhere—in our homes, at work, in our everyday life and in our hearts. I became a witness this past week to God's presence in the lives of those around me, and what a privilege it has been. We often talk about what God can do, but do we really, truly believe it? And do we believe not only in what God can do, but in what God is doing, in the ordinariness of our lives?

I can tell you what I've seen.

I saw God in the tears of a man recently diagnosed with dementia.

I saw God in the contentment of someone who recently went on hospice.

I saw God in the way an elderly woman graciously accepted a prayer shawl even though she is retreating into dementia.

I saw God in a man who has not been in church for years. He sat across his kitchen table from me, and told me how grateful he was for this church.

I saw God in the face of the baby I held, and in the way his parents looked at him with pride. This baby was so quiet through my prayer and blessing over him, and I saw God in his gentle spirit too.

I saw God in the hospitality of the family who welcomed me into their home for a visit about becoming part of our church, and in the fellowship and pie we shared.

I saw God when I visited a proud grandma who delighted in sharing the pictures of a recent family wedding.

At nearly every visit, we shared communion together, and God formed us into a community of grace, mercy and joy.

After I absorbed all these God experiences, I began to ask myself, what about my own home? It can be easy to see God in the lives of others, but it's often hard to see God in my own home. I get distracted by the flaws and what needs to be done next to prepare a home for sale.

Is God really present in my interactions with my family, in our struggles to manage three homes? Oh yes. And God is in the midst of the storm damage. God is in the midst of the days we let the garage stay cluttered while we walk the dogs. God is in the moments of laughter as we watch reruns of "The Big Bang Theory."

God is an awesome God who is there in the midst of our everyday life. May God let us really see through eyes of faith, what God is doing, right in front of us.

So here's my invitation for this month: Take your day-to-day life, your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, everyday life and look for God there.

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
23267 Bowl Drive
Peterson, MN 55962-9722*

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Peterson, MN 55962
Permit No. 6#



JULY NEWSLETTER

HP Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, July 7, 2013

Acolytes: Aric Stensgard, Josie Bearbower

Readers: David Larson, Aric Stensgard

Greeters: Glen & Karen Bakken

Sunday, July 14, 2013

BOWL SERVICE!

Sunday, July 21, 2013

Acolytes: Josie Bearbower, Noah Carlson

Readers: Glen Kopperud, Josie Bearbower

Greeters: Roger & Sarah Bearbower

Sunday, July 28, 2013

Acolytes: Noah Carlson, Cody Ryan

Readers: Scott Bestul, Noah Carlson

Greeters: Jerry & Shannon Kopperud

Organists: Karen Bakken, Martha Stensgard

Elstad Readers/Acolytes/Ushers

Sunday, July 7, 2013

Acolyte: Christopher Freese

Reader: Kathy Abrahamson

Sunday, July 14, 2013

BOWL SERVICE!

Sunday, July 21, 2013

Acolyte: Kody Bearbower

Reader: Vicky Topness

Sunday, July 28, 2013

Acolyte:

Reader: Lori Bakke

Organist: Julie Dragvold

Ushers: Mike Ask, Stanley Sveen, Rich Nepstad,
Gene Topness, Adam Daniels, John Rein

July Birthday's & Anniversaries!

Happy Birthday!

- 1- Hilda Eiken
 - Joey Stensgard
- 2- Katy Redalen
- 3- Mary Dumphy
 - Debbie Book
- 4- Gary Vust
- 5- Christopher Johnson
 - Peter Ask
 - Joshua Drinkall
- 6- Richard Nepstad
 - Kent Christenson
 - Richard Johnson
 - Paul Peterson
 - Johnathan Dahl
- 7- Beckett Hovland
- 8- Glenn Peterson
 - Caroline Anfinson
 - Christine Knutson
- 9- Dean Berland
 - Kyle Chiglo
 - Calvin Bergen
- 10- Arlene Johnson
 - Hali Richardson
 - Adleigh Brisebois
 - Gaige Volkman
- 11- Allison Bauer
 - Marguerite Abrahamson
- 12- Kathy Abrahamson
 - Kristi James
 - Jeremy Pederson
- 13- Ilene Larson
 - Kyle Bearbower
- 16- Charles Pederson
 - Lyle Rustad
 - David Stockton



- 17- Shelly Nelson
 - Jade Grabau
 - Nicole Howe
- 18- Elizabeth Abrahamson
 - Kirstin Lawstuen
- 19- John Knutson
- 20- Joan Finnegan
 - Mary Gudmundson
- Brent Srorhoff
- Adrienne Britson
- 21- Colby Lind
 - Jackson Ingvalson
- 22- Ken Jacobson
 - Karen Bakken
 - Jerod Chiglo
 - Nolan Eide
- 23- Ray Humble
 - Gayle Watland
- 24- Craig Jonsgaard
 - Jimmy Sharpe Jr.
- 25- Siri Dworschak
- 29- Lori Baakke
 - Josie Bearbower
- 30- Lee Johnson
- 31- Susan Blagsvedt

Happy Anniversary!

- 7- Allan & Marion Dahl
- 9- Clair & Patty Olson
- 12- Richard & Sharon Howe
- 18- Rodney & Christine Humble
- 20- Ken & Cathy Baklum
- 21- Richard & Pam Johnson
- 22- Trinity & Emily Johnson
- 23- Nick & Katie Bakke
- 24- Glenn & Olive Peterson
- Adam & Jodie Daniels
- 28- Charles & Karen Mierau

