

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

*~ November 2020~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

*Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com*

*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator ~ Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

**October Worship Schedule**

**\*\*\*Both congregations are worshipping indoors.**

**\*\*\*All previously posted Covid19 precautions continue to be observed.**

**\*\*\*Holy Communion will be received in one kind until further notice.**

**(See the explanation below.)**

**+Sunday, November 1**

**All Saints Day**

**Elstad – 9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.**

Revelation 7.9-17  
Psalm 34.1-10, 22  
1 John 3.1-3  
Matthew 5.1-12

**+Sunday, November 8**

**Pentecost 23**

**Elstad – 9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.**

Amos 5.18-24  
Psalm 70  
1 Thessalonians 4.13-18  
Matthew 25.1-13

**+Sunday, November 15**

**Pentecost 24**

**Elstad – 9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.**

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18  
Psalm 90.1-12  
1 Thessalonians 5.1-11  
Matthew 25.14-30  
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**+Sunday, November 22**

**Christ the King**

**Elstad – 9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.**

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 95.1-7a  
Ephesians 1.15-23  
Matthew 25.31-46

**+Wednesday, November 25**

**Thanksgiving Eve**

**Highland Prairie – 7:00 p.m.**

Deuteronomy 8.7-18  
Psalm 65  
2 Corinthians 9.6-15  
Luke 17.11-19

**+Sunday November 29**

**Advent 1**

**Elstad – 9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie – 10:30 a.m.**

Isaiah 64.1-9  
Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1.3-9  
Mark 13.24-37

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On Sunday, November 8th, both Elstad and Highland Prairie will welcome all who wish to become member of the community of faith. Please contact Pr. Mathsen if you wish to be received into membership of either congregation.

### **On Holy Communion reception in one kind**

At the time of this writing, we continue to observe Covid19 precautions for worship services. Those receiving the Sacrament of the Altar will receive the Host in one kind (the bread). We continue this practice out of caution for the well-being and health of all worshippers.

### **Opportunities for Mission Beyond Our Walls**

#### **ELCA Disaster Relief Fund**

Brothers and sisters around our nation have experienced nature's wrath in unimaginable proportions. Recent hurricanes and fire have destroyed lives and property. The ELCA Disaster Relief teams are provided much needed assistance for those who have survived water, wind, and fire and are trying to rebuild their lives. You are encouraged to make a gift to the fund. Please make your check out to your congregation and put ELCA Disaster Relief on the MEMO line.

#### **Local Food Shelves**

Shelf in either Rushford (113 E. Jessie St. Rushford), or Preston (515 Washington St. NW, Preston).

### **Confirmation Instruction, 2020-2021**

Wednesday evening confirmation instruction for parish 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders continues. At the time of this writing we are meeting online (Zoom). Youth and parents will be notified when in-class, on-site, instruction resumes at Highland Prairie. Class will continue to meet at Highland Prairie through December 2020. When 2021 commences, we will be meeting at Elstad. The 2020-2021 class consists of the following 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Kenna Gudmundson, Lindsey Hoiness, Caden Johnson, Larissa Ryan, and Laci Sievers; 6<sup>th</sup> graders: Thea Topness & Sawyer Wolfs; 7<sup>th</sup> graders: Cheyanne Dahle, Aubrey Daniels, Damon Hubbard, Miley Knutson, and Jensyn Storhoff.

### **Parish 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Instruction**

Participants who have completed the October first communion instruction will receive their 1<sup>st</sup> communion on All Saints' Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will gladly welcome them to the Lord's table.

### **Fall Adult Study**

The adult Bible study is in hiatus after the October periscope studies. An adult study on the book, "Losing Susan: Brain Disease, the Priest's Wife, and the God Who Gives and Takes Away, will be take place at Highland Prairie on the following Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. The book can be purchased online at Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Please let Pr. Luther know if you plan to participate.

### **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), 210 North Elm St., Rushford, MN. 55971 or Highland Prairie Church, 43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962,

### **Pastoral Care**

Pr. Mathsen will make in-person home visits, if desired, on a limited basis. He expects any visits will be under Covid19 precautions. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of pastoral care or conversation, please let Pr. Luther know. He wants the parish to know he is available for pastoral visits whether by telephone or other health safety means.

## November 2020

### Pastor's Page

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

With the onset of a new church year and the season of Advent , we can only hope that we will once again be singing hymns during worship. As I stated in last month's newsletter, I miss....really miss... being able to sing the liturgy and the hymns.

One of the hymns I look forward to singing during Advent is: "*Lo, He comes with Clouds Descending.*" It has a double edge. On the one hand, its text underscores the love and joy with which the Son of Man, the Messiah, is greeted when "he comes, with clouds descending." On the other hand, it underscores the dismay, even hatred, with which others greet him upon his arrival. And, of course, Sacred Writ testifies to this truth. Jesus said that the Son of Man would come like a thief in the night (see Matthew 24.43, 1 Thessalonians 5.2, 2 Peter 3.10). The rich man, who sought to secure himself and his life with granaries full to overflowing, is loathe to hear, "You fool! Even this night your life will be required of you" (Luke 12.13-21). The "ill-prepared virgins" are dismayed when the Bridegroom arrives on his terms, while those who have prepared well greet him with joy (Matthew 25.1-13). And remember what the old man Simeon said to Mary upon finally seeing the Christ-child, the Messiah. "Behold, this child is appointed for *the fall and rising of many* in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through you own soul also), so that "thoughts from many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2.34-35). Recall, also, that as Jesus breathes his last upon the cross, his enemies gloat, but the pagan centurion, looking upon him in godly fear and love, said, "Truly this man was the Son of God" (Mark 15.39).

We, like the characters of the biblical narrative, await the coming of the Son of Man. In the darkness of the Advent season we wait for the coming of "the true light, which enlightens everyone" (John 1.9). And yet we should remember that that "true light" of which we speak and sing brings joy and comfort to those who love the light, and dismay, loathing, anger, and hatred to those who hate it.

This double-edge is exactly what the aforementioned great Advent hymn reveals. Note the joy of "favored sinners" with which the Son of Man is greeted.

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending,  
Once for favored sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train;  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Christ the Lord loves all of his sinners!!!!

But note how the he is greeted by some of those sinners who he favors and loves.

Every eye shall now behold him,  
Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at nought and sold him,  
Pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Shall their true Messiah see.

Yes, it's true. Those who fear and love the Lord and those who abhor and hate him look upon the same God of mercy, the same King "who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself,....and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2.5-8). And though we may not like it, Christ is met with joyful "alleluias" by some, and "deep wailing" by others.

And when will we (when do we) see him? And what will be the signs (what are the signs) that we see? And what do those signs mean, but glorious mercy come to us "in the flesh" of Jesus Christ!

Those dear tokens of his passion  
Still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To his ransomed worshippers:  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

An edgy hymn...A hymn with a double edge? Yes. To the loathing, angry, and hate-fill and unrepentant sinner, he comes like a thief; to the contrite, poor, and repentant sinner, he comes as a liberator...the bringer of salvation...

And out of the mouths of such as those come what???? The full-throated singing of freed men, women, and children to the glory of God who reigns on high. That's what!!!!

Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory,  
Claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

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Worship Notes:

**-Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**, is All Saints' Sunday. We will remember our faithful departed during worship. You may submit names you wish to be remembered to Pr. Luther prior to worship that day.

**-Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00 p.m., the parish will gather at Highland Prairie to give thanks for all the blessings of this life. There is no worship on Thanksgiving Day.

**-Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**, is the First Sunday of Advent. During Advent we prepare ourselves to celebrate God's first advent in the flesh in the Christ-child in the manger in Bethlehem. We also look forward to his second coming to judge the living and the dead at the end of time.

# Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council

October 11, 2020

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

Council Members were all present except Joyce Dahl and Chris Hoiland were absent.

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

Devotions were given by Pastor Luther.

There were no congregation members present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken and a motion to approve as presented was made by Steve Howe, Nancy Rustad seconded. Motion carried.

The President's Report given by Gordon Johnson with concerns regarding cleaning and fly issue.

The Pastor's Report stated that singing will continue to be postponed for worship services, online video services continue, prayer concerns will be added to worship service. Confirmation service for two students was held, the new confirmation class for 13 students has been Zoom due to COVID 19 concerns, hope to get back to in-person soon. A Zoom subscription has been purchased so that meetings may exceed the 40 minute limit without a subscription. Bible study will continue to be one and done and the book study is beginning on Losing Susan. A Zoom meeting with Conference for congregation leadership will be Thursday, October 22 at 6:30, Pastor encouraged the council to participate. Pastoral care as needed continues with concerns for those isolated not being reached. Gratitude was given for Gordon Johnson making parsonage improvements and Steve Howe for shelter repairs. Pastor continues his work on the rock garden. There are three weddings scheduled for 2021.

Correspondence received: Lutheran Campus Ministry letter

Committee Reports: None as no gatherings to date for concerns. Current issues are lights and water.

Old Business: None

New Business: Seal coating the parking lot estimate from B and D Seal Coating without inspection is \$7000.00 as per email from Chris Hoiland. Nancy moved to proceed, Tim Stensgard seconded with amendment to motion that we look into fall or spring timing and if it would be possible to do one lot at a time without additional costs. Chris Hoiland will be advised to follow up on the details and a updated estimate. Parish Zoom contract for one year subscription was made for \$160.00 by Pastor Mathsen. Budgeted Donations for \$250.00 to local food shelf and \$250.00 to ELCA Disaster Relief to be paid as per motion by Tim Stensgard, seconded by Nancy Rustad. Motion carried.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Howe, seconded by Tim Stensgard, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next meeting will be November 8<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm at Elstad.

## Elstad Budget for September

September budget	\$ 6718.42
Received	\$ 5284.00
Under for July	\$ 1434.42
Elstad YTD budget	\$60465.78
Received YTD	\$46146.00
Under YTD	\$14319.78

# 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](mailto: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 2020

***Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish***  
 Visit our websites at...  
[elstadlutheranchurch.org](http://elstadlutheranchurch.org)  
[highlandprairielutheranchurch.org](http://highlandprairielutheranchurch.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EL—9:00 a.m. SS - 10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.  First Communion	2	3	4 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. @ HP  Bulletin Deadline	5 Adult Study 10:00 a.m.—HP	6	7
8 EL—9:00 a.m. SS - 10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.  Council Meetings @ Elstad 5:30—HP 6:30—Parish 7:30—EL	9	10	11 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. @ HP  Bulletin Deadline	12 Adult Study 10:00 a.m.—HP	13	14
15 EL—9:00 a.m. SS - 10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.	16	17	18 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. @ HP  Bulletin Deadline	19 Adult Study 10:00 a.m.—HP	20	21
22 EL—9:00 a.m. SS - 10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Eve service @ HP— 7:00 p.m.  No Confirmation  Bulletin Deadline	26 Happy Thanksgiving!	27	28
29 EL—9:00 a.m. SS - 10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.	30					

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

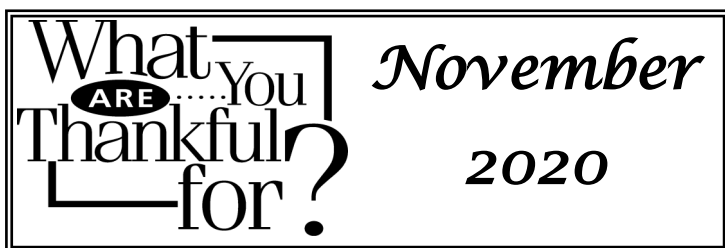
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**HIGHLAND PRAIRIE**  
**ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS  
READERS: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, SYLVIA PASSOW  
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020**

ACOLYTES: LINDSEY HOINESS, DANA DEGEORGE  
READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, ARLENE JOHNSON  
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020**

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS  
READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, BECKY LIND  
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KEY EIKEN

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020**

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, KENNA GUDMUNDSON  
READERS: LARISSA RYAN, SCOTT BESTUL  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**NOVEMBER 25TH ~ THANKSGIVING EVE**

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN  
READERS: CADEN JOHNSON, SCOTT BESTUL  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, CHEYANNE DAHLE  
READERS: LARISSA RYAN, SYLVIA PASSOW  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**ELSTAD**  
**ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

ACOLYTE: MACKENZIE KNUSTON  
READERS: INDY QUALY, CAROL OVERLAND

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020**

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS: LIZ HAGEMAN, CAROLYN SMITH

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020**

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS  
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, TOM DYBING

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020**

ACOLYTE: INDY QUALY  
READERS: J.T. REIN, GENE TOPNESS

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN  
READERS: ALISON FREESE, JOHN ABRAMHAMSON

**USHERS:** DAVE LAWSTUEN, ROBERT KNUSTON,  
MIKE CHIGLO, JOHN REIN,  
ROBERT NELSON