

2025 January

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
ELSTAD HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN PARISH

January Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed January 1-2.

Pr. Jackie is regularly in the office

Wednesdays 8-4

as well as by appointment. Please Call or
email to set up a time that works for you.

You're Invited to join us for Sunday
Worship.

Beginning January 5th

Highland Prairie

**will worship at 9 with fellowship after
service.**

43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson

Elstad will worship at 10:30.

37784 Dogwood Rd, Lanesboro



Pastor: Rev. Jackie Short

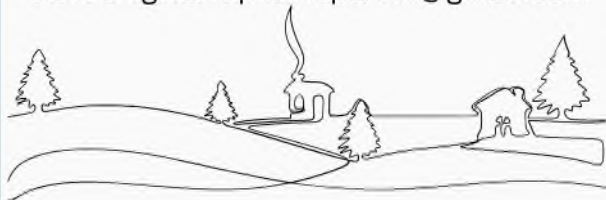
(507) 517-0769

[pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@
gmail.com](mailto:pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com)

Parish Office:

(507) 864-2731

elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com



THIS MONTH:

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A note from your Pastor

Happy New Year! As we step into January, a season of new beginnings and fresh opportunities, I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13-14: "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

The start of a new year gives us a unique chance to reflect on the past, but more importantly, to look forward with hope and renewed purpose. It's a time to set our sights on the plans God has for us—as individuals, as families, and as a church community.

This January, I want to encourage each of us to embrace the spiritual discipline of seeking God's guidance in all that we do. What new steps of faith is He calling you to take? Are there areas of your life where He is inviting you to grow deeper in your relationship with Him? Perhaps it's through more consistent prayer, engaging with Scripture, serving others, or stepping into a ministry that stretches your faith.

As a church, we have many exciting opportunities ahead as we continue to seek God's direction for our congregation in 2025.

Let's also remember that January can be a challenging time for many. The holiday season is behind us, and for some, the winter months bring feelings of loneliness or uncertainty. Let's be intentional about reaching out to those around us, offering encouragement, and extending the love of Christ in practical ways. A simple phone call, a shared meal, or a word of prayer can make all the difference.

As we embark on this journey through the year, let's commit to running the race together, with our eyes fixed on Jesus. He is our source of strength, our hope, and our joy. Let's press on toward the goal He has set before us, trusting that He will be faithful to guide and sustain us every step of the way.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in this new year. I am so grateful to be serving alongside each of you as we continue to grow in faith and strive to share God's love with the world.

With joy and anticipation,

Pr. Jackie



Where is Pastor Jackie this month....
Continuing Ed: Strong Start @ Gustavus 1/12-1/14
Conference Meeting: Jan. 14 in Chatfield
Synod Assembly Meeting:
Days off: January 10-11, January 27-28
Vacation Days: January 29 - February 5



Together In Faith

PARISH NEWS

Come Craft with us on the second Saturday of the February at **ELSTAD!!**

Grab whatever project you are working on and join us for a day of

Food, Fun and Fellowship!

Please bring a snack to share and we will see you there!

***** ALL are welcome bring a friend!!**

9-3 on February 8th

37784 Dogwood Rd, Lanesboro

Council Meetings
Sunday January 12
at Highland Prairie

Elstad: 5:30

Parish: 6:30

Highland Prairie: 7:30



Watch your email & bulletin
for Parish Bell
Choir Practice times.



Elstad Worship @ 10:30
Sunday School: during worship



Highland Prairie Worship @ 9:00
Sunday School @ 10:00

Book Study

Meet @
Elstad
1st Monday of
the month

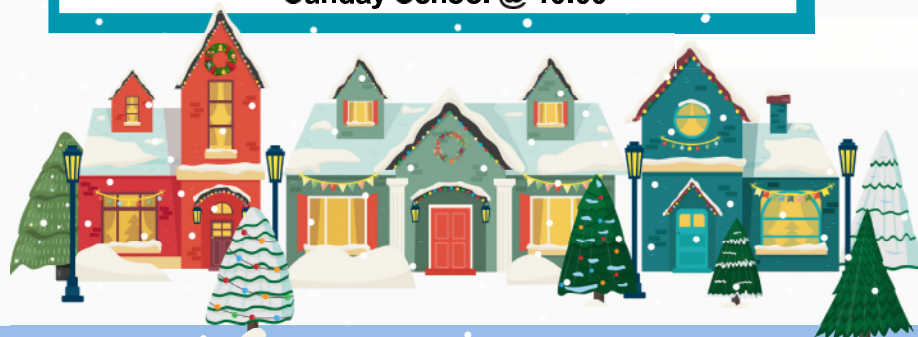
January 6

6-6:30
snacks & chat

Meet @
Highland Prairie
3rd Monday of
the month

January 15

6:30-7:30
Book Study



Elstad Highland Prairie Parish is looking for a part-time Parish Administrative Assistant. We are seeking a detail-oriented and organized person to join our team. The ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills, be proficient in administrative tasks, and enjoy working in a faith-based environment. This role involves supporting our parish by managing schedules, handling correspondence, and performing various office tasks.

Contact Pr. Jackie Short (507) 517-0769 for more information or to apply.



Thank you to our Elstad Friends for the donations of Poinsettias this Christmas.

David and Lori Bakke: In memory of loved ones
Carol Dixon, Gordan & Glee Clausen, Darlys Storhoff,
Gene & Vicky Topness

David Wangen Family: In memory of: Peter, Naomi, Kim, and Jerry Wangen:

In our Prayers...

People of Elstad – Highland Prairie Parish pray for Carol Overland, Diane Haight, Julie Dragvold, Ashley Lax, Danielle T, Valerie Askeland, Dave, Sue and Liz Larson, Val Howe, Solveig Scroggins, Eric Johnson, Larry & Deb Topness, Mark Woodward, Glen Bakken, Donna Boyum, DeLane Horning, Laura Dahl, Lisa Gile, Ellen Highum, Amy Timmerann, Cathy Bakke, Sharon Ehler, Emily Charlebois, Scott Bestul, Julian Highum, Marlys Paulson, Pete Kennedy, as well as for all who are ill, suffering or in need of prayers.

Thank you
 Josh & Steph Dahl & family
 for hosting an afternoon at
 the Jem Theater
 to watch **“A Drummer Boy
 Christmas”**



Thank you to the **“Big”** kids who show
 up for the **“Little”** kids.



Highland Prairie

Join us for Bible Study on
January 8th @ 1:30

WELCA invites you to join
us for Quilting/DO Day
and potluck on
January 15th @ 9:30



ELSTAD

Happy New Year!!
Prayer partners for this year have been
chosen for the year!
May we all be blessed abundantly
as we begin a new year!

Stewardship

The Joy of Giving

Giving is more than just a financial contribution—it's an expression of our faith, our trust in God, and our love for one another. Each time we give, we participate in God's work, supporting ministries that make a difference and sharing Christ's love with the world. In **2 Corinthians 9:11**, we're reminded that "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." As a church, our generosity shines God's light into our community, showing His love in real and powerful ways. Whether large or small, every gift matters. Thank you for being a part of this community of faith and for your faithful generosity. Together, we're building something truly lasting in God's kingdom.

January Ministry
Focus:
~Boxed Dinners~
You can help by
purchasing your
favorite Hamburger,
Tuna or Chicken
helper items and
placing them in the
basket at
church. You can
include a can of
chicken or tuna as
an extra blessing!



JULY 20 - JULY 25, 2025



LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION, SD

Mission Trip

Pastor Jackie needs a final count for who is going to join us for this adventure!! There are limited spots available!! We will have our first planning meeting in February.

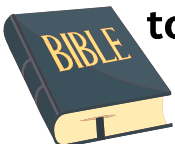
Let Pastor Jackie know if you are interested in going and reserve your spot today!

This month in Confirmation we will be learning about **HEROS** in the Bible!

CONFIRMATION



Bring your
BIBLE
to class !



DECEMBER

Jan.08: Class @ HP
Jan.15: Class @ HP
Jan.22 : Class @ HP
Jan.29 : Class @ HP

SCHEDULE

Parents, we will transition to meeting at **Elstad** starting in February



Elstad

Sunday school resumes on
1/19/25

First Communion



Christmas Program 2024



Highland Prairie

The month of December was a short month for Sunday school but that doesn't mean it wasn't eventful. We worked on and organized the Christmas program the first Sunday of the month and then had our pageant the next Sunday. There were 13 kids that participated in the Christmas program this year as we told the story of Jesus' birth with a modern style, narrated story. We also want to express our thanks to those who are not on the education board but volunteered their time to help with the program. Although the program closed out our Sunday school for the month, Pastor Jackie was able to involve many children of our parish into the Christmas Eve church service and they all did wonderful with their given jobs.

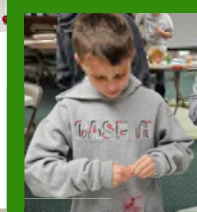
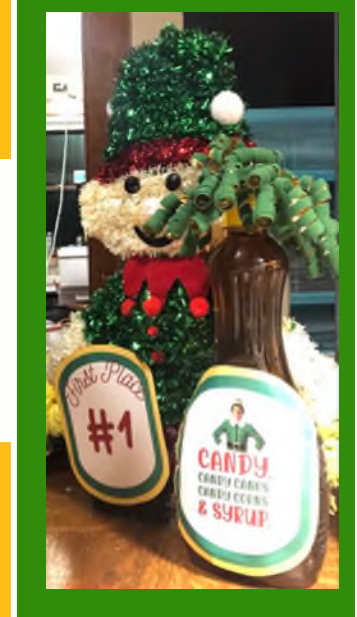
We are excited to see what the new year brings for the children of Highland Prairie and will **resume Sunday school on 1/19/25**.

Submitted by Chellsey Lind on behalf of the education board





The Winner is.... Team Gumdropsons!!



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

December 8, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 p.m. by President Kyle Chiglo. Council Members present were Karen Bakken, Kyle Chiglo, Kristi Gudmundson, Mary Gudmundson, David Markegard and Mike Pepin. Robert Anfinson, Mary Gudmundson, Val Howe, and Amy Jacobson were absent. Kristi Gudmundson was designated as secretary in Mary Gudmundson's absence.

Pastor Jackie led everyone in prayer. A quorum was determined, and a motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Pepin, seconded by David Markegard with the addition of Online Giving to New Business. Motion carried. No congregation members were present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. The year-to-date information provided was income of \$84,618.00, expenses of \$94,631.00; Expenses exceed income by \$10,013.00. A motion to approve as presented made by Kristi Gudmundson, Mike Pepin seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report – None

Pastor's Report – 28 youth received instruction for first communion. Pastor Jackie noted that plans are proceeding for a Middle School/High School Mission trip to South Dakota in July 2025. An informational meeting will be held December 8 at 2:30 p.m. at Elstad for those interested. **Correspondence shared**

Committee Reports:

Church – David Markegard noted that paint is peeling on some areas of the soffit and trim.

Grounds Committee – a discussion was had regarding the continuing Box elder/Asian Beetle infestation and possible solutions. Use of spray designated as safe for indoor/outdoor use will be purchased and sprayed around foundation and windows.

Worship Committee –

Youth & Education Committee – the Christmas Program took place December 8th. Thank you to the youth, teachers, and other helpers for offering their time and talents to bring the Christmas message to life. MS/HS Sunday School will be paused at this time because of zero attendance.

Old Business:

Constitution and Bylaws – Communication with the Synod office continues in regard to necessary steps to bring the Highland Prairie Constitution and Bylaws into compliance.

Garbage situation update – Garbage service is now being provided by S&S Sanitation.

Parish Administrator update – There are 2 applicants for the position.

Wages need to be finalized with interviews tentatively taking place in January.

New Business:

2025 salaries (custodian, organist, treasurer) – Organist and treasurer salaries to stay the same as 2024. A motion was made by Mike Pepin to raise the custodian wages from \$13.80/hr to \$15.00/hr starting Jan. 1, 2025. David Markegard seconded. Motion carried.

Online Giving: A discussion was had regarding setting up a Church Venmo account for online giving. Karen Bakken and Pastor Jackie will investigate options.

The Secretary's report was submitted by email

A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 1:15 p.m. was made David Markegard, Mike Pepin seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted Kristi Gudmundson

Next Meeting is Sunday, January 12, 7:30 pm at Highland Prairie following the 6:30pm Parish Meeting.

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE FINANCIALS FOR NOVEMBER 2024



YTD Income-----	\$ 84,618
YTD Expenses-----	\$ 94,631
Expenses exceed Income-----	\$ 10,013
YTD Budget-----	\$ 102,212
YTD Income-----	\$ 84,618
YTD Under-----	\$ 17,594



2: John Smith

4: Michelle Rein

6: Sandy Kiel

Bricker Dahl

7: Angel Bakke

8: Mark Dahl

9: Nathan Bakke

10: Philip Dragvold

Nancy Rustad

Sawyer James

11: Mollee Johnson

12: Kay Dahl

13: Steve Chiglo

Joshua Dahl

Daniel Sjarpe

13: Tyler Berg

Darren Stockton

14: Michelle Ryan

Colton Horning

15: Carolyn Smith

Kaston Klug

16: David Bakke

Owen Dammen

17: Jennifer Nepstad

Stacy Mensink

Shane Jacobson

18: Barb Lee

Brenda Chiglo

Peter Stensgard

Annie Hoiland

19: Easton Grabau

23: Katherine Chiglo

Aubre Dybing

Brianna Dybing

James Bearbower

August Mention

24: Martha Stensgard

Deborah Mensink

25: Sarah Feine

Sarah Freese

26: Arden Nepstad

27: Michael Oian

Dave Lawstuen

29: Freda Kiel



15: Jerry & Julie
Dragvold

28: David & Sue
Larson

Please help us keep our records updated. If your phone number, email or mailing address have changed let us know.

We love to celebrate with you. If we have missed somebody's Birthday or Anniversary, please email the church office so we can add them to the list!

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Happy New Years	2 Bulletin Items Due	3	4
5 Highland Prairie W: 9 ~ SS: 10 Elstad W: 10:30 ~ SS: 10:45	6 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30 Book Study Elstad 6-7:30 pm	7	8 Elizabeth Circle 8:30 Parish Office 8-4 HP Bible Study 1:30 Confirmation @ Highland Prairie 6:30-8	9 Esther Circle 9:30 Bulletin Items Due	10 Pr. Jackie off	11 Pr. Jackie off
12 Highland Prairie W: 9:00~SS: 10:00 Elstad W: 10:30~SS: 10:45 Council Meetings @ Highland Prairie E: 5:30 Parish: 6:30 HP: 7:30	13 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30 Pr. Jackie @ Gustavus 1/12-1/14	14 Leah Circle 2:00	Parish Office 8-4 Confirmation @ Highland Prairie 6:30-8	16 Bulletin Items Due	17	18
19 Highland Prairie W: 9:00~SS: 10:00 Elstad W: 10:30 ~ SS: 10:45 Elstad Annual Meeting & Potluck after worship	20 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30 Book Study Highland Prairie 6-7:30	21 Newsletter Items Due	Parish Office 8-4 Confirmation @ Highland Prairie 6:30-8 Synod Assembly Planning Meeting @ 1	23 Bulletin Items Due	24	
26 ATTENTION WORSHIP TIME CHANGE Highland Prairie W: 10:30 ~ SS: 10 Elstad W: 9:00 ~ SS: 10:45 Highland Prairie Potluck & Annual Meeting after worship	27 Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30 Pr. Jackie off	28 Pr. Jackie off	29 Parish Office 8-4 Confirmation @ Highland Prairie 6:30-8 Pr. Jackie vacation 1/29- 2/5	30 Bulletin Items Due	31	

Annual Meeting



Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual meeting.

Elstad's Meeting will be on **January 19th** after worship.

*** Worship times swap on January 26th for **Highland Prairie's** meeting **January 26** after service .

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

Address Services Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6



Highland Prairie

Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Acolyte: Brody Gellerson, Caiden Dahl

Readers: Brody/

Greeters: Mary & Val Gudmundson

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Acolyte: Clara Hoiland/Hudson Lee

Readers:

Greeters:

Sunday, January 26, 2024

Acolytes: Mathew Gudmundson/ Hunter Lee

Readers: Mathew Gudmundson/ Hunter Lee

Greeters:

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
Visit our websites at...
elstadlutheranchurch.org
highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Elstad

Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Acolyte:

Readers: Carol Overland/Mogan Knutson

Greeters: Shelly Nelson

Ushers: John & Carol Overland

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Acolyte:

Readers: Glee Claussen, Carol Dixon

Greeters: Sawyer, Liam & Carson Nelson

Ushers: John & Carol Overland

Sunday, January 26, 2024

Acolytes:

Readers: Lori Bakke

Greeters: Gorden & Glee Claussen

Ushers: John & Carol Overland