

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

*~ March 2022 ~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

*Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com*

*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*

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

**March Worship Schedule**

**Ash Wednesday, March 2nd**

**Highland Prairie-5:00 p.m.**

**Elstad, 7:00 p.m.**

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51.1-17

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-22

**1 Lent, March 6th**

**Elstad-9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.**

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Psalm 91.1-2, 9-16

Romans 10.8b-13

Luke 4.1-13

**Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer #1,**  
**March 9th**

**Highland Prairie, 7:00 p.m.**

"The Word that Kills and Makes Alive"

**2 Lent, March 13**

**Elstad-9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.**

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3.17-4.1

Luke 13.31-35

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**Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer #2,**  
**March 16th**

**Elstad, 7:00 p.m.**

"Baptism and the Church's Faith"

**3 Lent, March 20th**

**Elstad-9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie-10:30 p.m.**

Isaiah 55.1-9

Psalm 63.1-8

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

Luke 13.1-9

**Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer #3,**  
**March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Highland Prairie, 7:00 p.m.**

"Holy Communion: The Ordinary Meal of the Christian"

**4 Lent, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Elstad-9:00 a.m.**

**Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.**

Joshua 5.9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5.16-21

Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

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**Pastor's Page**

**March 2022**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

On Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, the gospel text recounted the event in which Jesus took the chosen three disciples, Peter, James, and John, to the top of Mount Tabor. There, he was transfigured before their eyes, "the appearance of his face was altered," and his clothing became dazzling white (see Luke 9). On impulse, Peter said, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah..." He didn't know what he was saying. Then a cloud from heaven overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A piercing voice came forth from heaven, saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One; listen to him!" "And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And (the disciples) kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen."

Those versed in Sacred Writ have noted the play of light and darkness in this event upon the Mount of Transfiguration. The 3 disciples were overshadowed in a cloud. They were afraid as they entered it. Think about how this event hearkens to the past history of God's people and the early days of mankind. In the creation story in Genesis 1, we read that "darkness was upon the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. It also draws our minds to a future event, for an instant opening upon another mountain, Mount Calvary, about to come; that day when darkness shall cover the land, and the earth shall tremble, tearing in two the veil of the Temple, and graves open giving forth their dead. What a stunning scene for eyes to behold!

And what other happenings in Scripture bear witness to such darkness experienced by mere mortals only to be shot through with the light of God's own brilliant light? Think of Jesus, whose spit mixed with dirt, was pressed into the eyes of a man whose vision was dark as the mud. And think of what Christ's command to go wash in the pool of Siloam meant to this man living in the darkness of his condition? In the darkness of Christ-formed mud was brilliant light, and a blindman, made a new creation, came forth! Furthermore, consider Christ's dark and agonizing cry from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" What darkness, indeed! And yet there Christ, our Savior, is piercing the silence of suffering and death. Out of such darkness he, the bearer of Light, breaks forth in a radiance unimagined for all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Yes, Jesus, our Christ, augurs a great transfiguration of our lives and all of our days. To our great surprise, and that of the world's, he operates in a backassward way. He enters into the heart of the thick shadows and darkness of our lives, and that of the world's, and breaks forth in the brilliant and saving radiance of his divine love and mercy. (Mysteriously and wonderfully, even as I write, the great hymns of Christmas and Holy Week have begun to stream through my head announcing this great Truth---"It came upon a midnight clear," "All my heart this night rejoices," "O little town of Bethlehem," "From heav'n above to earth I come," "Christ is risen! Alleluia" "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain,"etc.). Get your hymnbook and see how this the transfiguring love of God sings. It did to St. Clement in the following verse that sings, indeed!

Sunset to sunrise changes now,  
For God doth make his world anew;  
On the Redeemer's thorn-crowned brow  
The wonders of that dawn we view.  
E'en thought the sun withholds his light,  
Lo! A more heavenly lamp shines here,  
And from the cross on Calvary's height  
Gleams of eternity appear.

----St. Clement

May your journey through Lent be a blessing. Your brother in Christ, Pr. Luther+

## Worship Notes

>Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, begins our annual journey through the season of Lent. It is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is also a time to immerse yourself in the daily reading of the Scriptures. (If you need guidance and/or resources for this discipline, please speak with me. plm+) The season ends on Holy Thursday (Maundy). In the midst of practicing these disciplines, we prepare to celebrate the Lord's resurrection at Easter. The color of the season is purple, a penitential color. Ash Wednesday Holy Communion will include "imposition of ashes" for those who desire it.

>During the Wednesday of Lent we will be utilizing Holden Evening Prayer as our order for worship. Pr. Mathsen will be offering a series entitled, "The Marks of the Church." We will be addressing the question: What are the marks by which Christian people are recognized? What do these marks mean? And why are they important? Each Wednesday evening will begin with a soup supper served at 6:00 p.m.

## Mission Table

These higher costs of nearly every provision needed for daily life in these waning days of winter make life difficult for those who are in need. You continue to be encouraged to help those who have suffered nature's wrath through the ELCA's Disaster Relief Fund. Also, the ELCA World Hunger Appeal continues to provide much needed support to those of meager means. Through our financial support, we can help make a difference in the lives of those in need. Designated donations to these causes can be placed in the offering plate of your congregation. Make your checks out to your congregation and write either ELCA Disaster Relief Fund or ELCA World Hunger Appeal on the MEMO line.

Members of both congregations are encouraged to continue supporting the local food shelves for all the reasons stated above. Our area SEMCAC food shelves' addresses are: Rushford (113 East Jessie St.) and Preston (515 Washington Street, NW).

During the season of Lent both congregations will be collecting canned goods and/or dry goods for the food shelves in Preston and Rushford. Receptacles will be provided near the entrance of the sanctuary.

For the 2022 season of Lent, the SE MN Synod invites members to explore ministry together with our partners around the globe. **40 Together: 1 Body, 1 Ministry, 40 Days** is an initiative designed to practice ministry together in accompaniment of our sisters and brothers in Christ in Tanzania, Columbia, the US/Mexico borderlands, and our local south Sudanese communities. Please go to the SE MN Synod website (semnsynod.org and click on RCWEEKLY). You'll find the link under Upcoming Events. The synod will provide you with weekly devotionals, prayers, activities for all ages, discussions questions to use with family members, and other interesting and useful resources.

## **Youth Education/First Communion Instruction**

First Communion instruction will be offered on the following Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. All sessions will take place at Elstad Church. Please let Pr. Luther know if your child intends to attend.

## **Adult Education**

The Bible study on Paul's letter to the Galatians will meet in final session on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at Elstad.

## **Provisional Concerns of Congregational Life**

Your parish council is most grateful for your financial support of the parish during 2021. Your 2022 continuing consideration of your offerings that help the church carry out her public ministry 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), 713 Johnson Court, Rushford, MN. 55971 or Highland Prairie Church, 43267 Bowl Drive, Peterson, MN 55962,

## **Pastoral Care**

Pr. Mathsen is making in-person home and nursing home visits. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of pastoral care or a pastoral visit, please let him know.

## *Prayer Corner*

*Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Wendy Will, John Harrisville, Margaret Hungerholt, JoAnne Vitse, the families of Shauma Meyer, and the families of Martha Ferden and all others who are ill or in need of our prayers.*



H.P. WELCA will hold a bake sale on Friday, April 8 in the entrance to Sterling Pharmacy/Rushford Clinic. It will begin at 10 a.m. but food can be brought beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please label and identify everything also note if it has nuts. Package bars and cookies 2,3,4, or 6 to a plate. If you have any questions, call Lynnette Pederson 507-864-2593 or Joanne Anderson 507-864-7849.

### **Highland Prairie Financials for January 2022**

YTD Income	\$ 3,795
YTD Expenses	\$ 7,739
Expenses Exceed Income	\$ 3,944
YTD Budget	\$ 8,200
YTD Income	\$ 3,795
YTD Under	\$ 4,405

---an excerpt from a sermon by Roy A. Harrisville entitled “There’s Your Sign”

(Text: 1 Corinthians 1.22-24)

People were always after him to perform like Houdini. His enemies: “C’mon, Jesus, ‘rar up and do a miracle, like Elisha with the floating ax-head!” His disciples: “Lord, give us a peek at God!” His mother: “Now Son, this is a dandy time to climax the festivities. Make with the wine!” Ever since, men have been nagging Jesus for some kind of razzle-dazzle. Indeed, the whole history of Christianity could be written in terms of men’s serving up to the world some kind of carnival act in the name of Jesus.....

Now the word to you is that there is no tearing of the veil, no sight of the naked God, but there is a sign---a palpable, concrete, tangible something to which to anchor yourself and from which to take your confidence that God is and that he is true, that is, if you have the eyes. Jesus of Nazareth, a man mighty in word and deed before God and all the people, and put to death at God’s design, was raised from the dead to be Lord. In him there is deliverance and freedom. Repent and believe the Gospel, receive the Holy Ghost, call on his name, and take the world captive with your love! There’s your sign! And in a moment or two you’ll chew a flat-tasting wafer and swallow a bit of wine. There’s your sign! And this is all there is---the word of the cross uttered through human lips and a little bit of unleavened bread and port in the gullet. No Shekina in the temple, no seraphim with a burning coal in his hand, no vision of wheel within a wheel. But if this sign is all there is, it is really *all*, everything! For it is God’s own flesh, his humanity, his birth and baptism, temptation and hungering, his withdrawal and journey to death, his cross! Wake up and peer behind it to his incarnation and anointing, his exorcism of demons and feeding of the multitude, his transfiguration and exaltation!

You sense, you hear, and taste only the sign, only the humanity---sometimes not even that clearly enough, because of me (your preacher) and some other poor fellow who couldn’t leave a wafer alone but had to emboss a creature of his own imagination upon it---you perceive only the sign because he will not bludgeon you into his arms with legerdemain but takes this form so as to win you on your own ground. He wants your freedom! And what a risk he runs! For what if you should spurn the sign and go seeking him in some running brook, or in the eyes of a child, in a cause or even within yourself? What if you should count it too mean and too small and think to discover him in some grandiose worldview? Or what if you should decide that there is no sign of him anywhere since he does not exist? And what a risk *you* run! For to abandon yourself to this sign and to no other, to see deity behind humanity here and only here, you must always be a lover of freedom—first, of God’s who in the very moment he is encountered beneath the sign must be acknowledged to be Lord over that sign and never compelled to inhabit it by anything else than his love; then, of your own, rejecting, repudiating every other sign for the sake of this one which demands the free verdict of your heart!

# MARCH 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@ymail.com](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com)

happy  
birthday!

1~ Kaelynn Evenson  
2~ Sharon Knutson  
~ Mark Johnson  
3~ Kristopher Gudmundson  
~ Rebecca Wangen  
~ Gavin Wangen  
4~ Tanya Wolfs  
~ Jeremy Berge  
6~ Nicole Paulson  
~ Treyton Wangen  
~ Ava Fox  
~ Brooks Fishbaugher  
8~ Aaron Dybing  
~ Timothy Knutson  
~ Isaac Freese  
~ Norah Eide  
9~ Philip Abrahamson  
~ Miriah Mieru  
~ Britney Fretland  
~ Mathew Gudmundson  
11~ Emma Peck  
12~ Mitchell Lee  
13~ Mary McHan  
~ Brian Paulson  
~ Tyler Dahl  
13~ Hillary Eide  
14~ Ellen Shofner

15~ Quinn Nelson  
~ Harper Nelson  
16~ Duane Bakke  
17~ Caryn Butler  
~ Taylor Gravos  
~ Emme Grant  
18~ Glee Claussen  
~ Helen Jacobson  
20~ Robert Anfinson  
~ Elizabeth McHan  
~ Jonah Sievers  
~ Liam Nelson  
21~ Cammy Johnson  
22~ Sandy Sjarpe  
~ Sarah Bearbower  
~ Kjersta Lind  
23~ Sharon Ehler  
~ Julie Ekstrom  
25~ Matthew Brookins  
27~ Sandra Overland  
~ Ben Markegard  
28~ Tom Smith  
~ Wendy Overland  
~ Naomi Howe  
~ Channing Lind  
29~ Brianna Koop  
30~ Melissa Paulson  
~ Roman Ritter  
31~ Guthrie Johnson  
~ Hattie Holst

Happy  
Anniversary

20~ Robert & Caroline  
Anfinson  
24~ Robert & Shelly Nelson

# MARCH

## 2022

***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	2 Ash Wednesday HP—5:00 p.m. EL—7:00 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	3 Bible study 10:00 a.m.—EL	4	5
6 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—HP 9:30 a.m.—SS	7	8	9 Lenten Service @ HP—7:00 p.m. Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	10	11	12 Youth Communion Instruction @ EL 10:00 a.m.
13 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—HP 9:30 a.m.—SS Council Meetings Host—Elstad 5:30 p.m.—HP 6:30 p.m.—Parish 7:30 p.m.—EL	14	15	16 Lenten Service @ EL—7:00 p.m. Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18   Newsletter Deadline	19 Youth Communion Instruction @ EL 10:00 a.m.
20 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—HP 9:30 a.m.—SS	21	22	23 Lenten Service @ HP—7:00 p.m. Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	24	25	26 Youth Communion Instruction @ EL 10:00 a.m.
27 9:00 a.m.—EL 10:00 a.m.—SS 10:30 a.m.—HP 9:30 a.m.—SS	28	29	30 Lenten Service @ EL—7:00 p.m. Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	31		

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

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## *March 2022 Newsletter*

### HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

#### ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

##### ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

ACOLYTES:

READERS:

GREETERS:

##### SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022

ACOLYTES: GUS HOILAND, GRANT DEGEORGE

READERS: MICHAEL EVENSON, LYNNETTE PEDERSON

GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

##### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022

LENTEN SERVICE @ 7:00 P.M.

##### SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022

ACOLYTES: GRANT DEGEORGE, CHASE HUMBLE

READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, SYLVIA PASSOW

GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

##### SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022

ACOLYTES: CHASE HUMBLE, CHEYANNE DAHLE

READERS: BRODE VICKERMAN, ARLENE JOHNSON

GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

##### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022

LENTEN SERVICE @ 7:00 P.M.

##### SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

ACOLYTES: CHEYANNE DAHLE, CARSON JOHNSON

READERS: GRANT DEGEORGE, SHARON EHLE

GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

### ELSTAD

#### ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

##### ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

ACOLYTE:

READERS:

##### SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022

ACOLYTE: MILEY KNUTSON

READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

##### SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022

ACOLYTE: AUBREY DANIELS

READERS: J.T. REIN, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

##### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

LENTEN SERVICE, 7:00 P.M. @ ELSTAD

##### SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022

ACOLYTE: SAWYER WOLFS

READERS: ALISON FREESE, LORI BAKKE

##### SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

ACOLYTE: THEA ARENDS

READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, VICKY TOPNESS

USHERS: CAROL OVERLAND, JOHN OVERLAND,  
TOM SMITH, DAVID LAWSTUEN,  
KYLE DANIELS