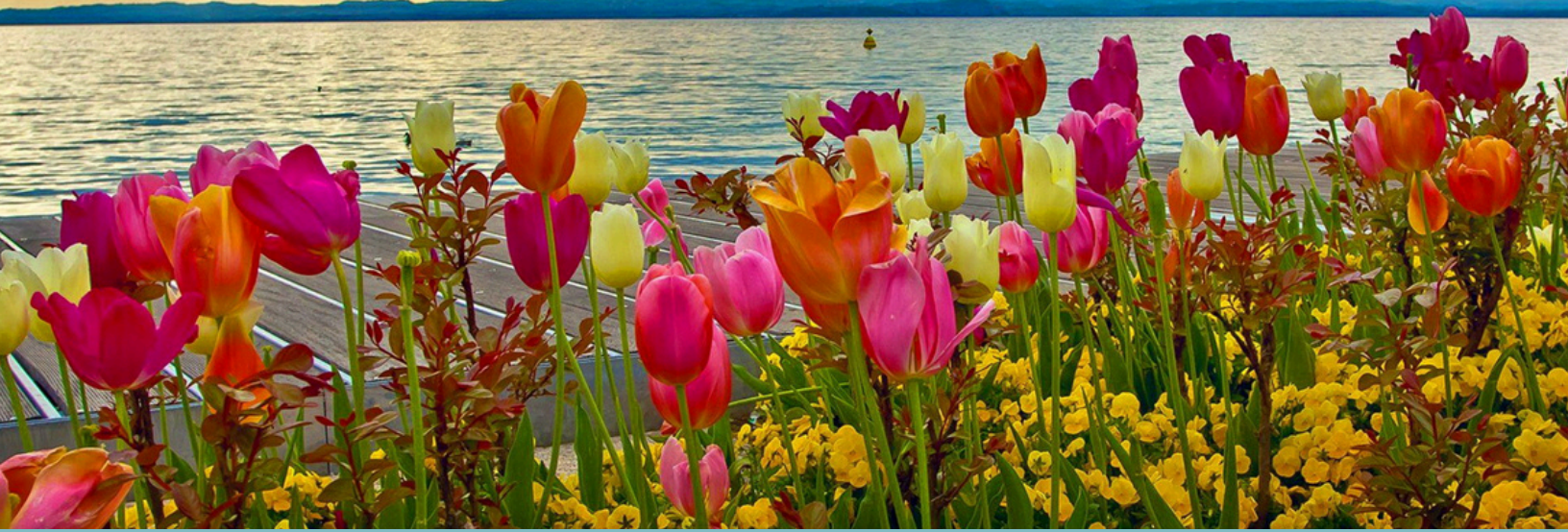


Rooted Together: Elstad–Highland Prairie Parish

# TWO CHURCHES, ONE FAITH

ELSTADHIGHLANDPRAIRIEPARISH@GMAIL.COM

MAY 2025



**Pastor:** Rev. Jackie Short ~ (507) 517-0769 ~ [pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com)

**Parish Administrator:** Courtney Lee

**Parish Office:** (507) 864-2731 ~ [elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com](mailto:elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com)

## Stay informed...

**Check us out on Facebook**

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church  
Elstad Lutheran Church

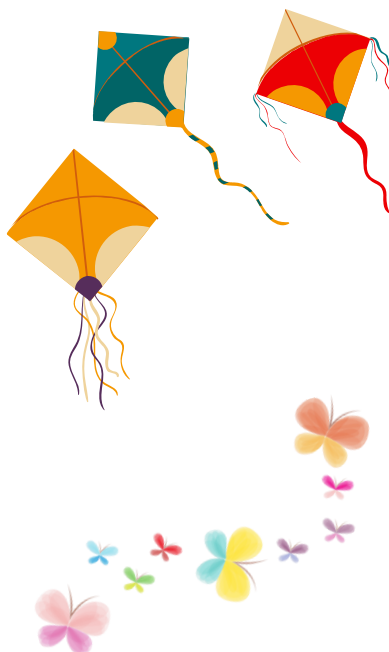
&

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish*

Visit our websites at...

[elstادلutheranchurch.org](http://elstادلutheranchurch.org)

[highlandprairielutheranchurch.org](http://highlandprairielutheranchurch.org)



## Office Hours

**Pr. Jackie**

**Wednesdays 8-4**

& by appointment.

**Please Call or email to set up  
a time that works for you.**

**Courtney Lee**

**Sundays 12-2p**

& by appointment.

**Please email to schedule  
a time.**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EHP PARISH OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR COURTNEY LEE

This past month has had me thinking a lot about change. Not only with the change in weather but also with the change in everything around me. I am enjoying watching my boys change into young men and growing in their faith. I am also enjoying learning new words for things for instance over lent I learned a Special K bar is actually a Scotcheroo. A BBQ is not a backyard party, its a sandwich. I call them Sloppy Joes, so you can imagine my disappointment when I think I am going to a BBQ and wind up getting a Sloppy Joe. I have never cared for change, but as each year passes, I have learned to adapt. How are you with change? Do you eat the sloppy joe or starve because you were expecting BBQ?



churchwindows

UPDATES & INFORMATION

Our goal is to keep everyone connected and ensure that you receive important updates about church events, worship services, and community opportunities. As we work to get our records transferred over to the updated version of Church Windows, we are asking that all members update their family and contact information.

We need the following information: address, phone number, email, household members. Getting this information updated is high on our priority list as it helps us serve you better and ensures you don't miss out on important church news.

You can update your details by:

✉ Emailing us at [elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com](mailto:elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com)

📄 Filling out a contact update form which can be found on the table in the back at Elstad and the table in the entryway at Highland Prairie.

Thank you for your help getting our records updated and keeping our church family connected!

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." When we look at change this way, we can be better prepared to manage it. As Christians, we know that everything happens for a purpose, and God can work through any situation.

I've been thinking lately about how much light can do with so little. A single candle can warm a whole room. A kind word can change the course of someone's day. A small act of love—delivered without fanfare—can open a heart that's been closed for years. Isn't that something?

We live in a world that loves the big and impressive. **But God?** God seems to specialize in **small things** that carry surprising power.

Like mustard seeds. Or loaves and fishes. Or your smile in the church hallway. Or the way you quietly check in on that neighbor who's been lonely.

The hope we carry as Christians isn't naïve—it's rooted in a promise that no matter how shadowed the day, the light has not gone out.

**It never will.**

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." – John 1:5

That's the heartbeat of Easter—and really, the heartbeat of every Sunday. Life wins. **Love wins.** And we are part of that good news, not just when we sing it in worship, but when we live it out in ordinary ways.

So if your week has been ordinary, take heart. That's holy ground. If it's been joyful, or messy, or unexpectedly beautiful—give thanks. God's been in it all.

And if you've had a rough patch, remember: God isn't waiting for you to get it all together. God's already with you, right where you are, offering strength for today and hope for tomorrow.

Let's keep showing up. **Let's keep shining light.**

One little flame at a time.

With joy and gratitude,

Pastor Jackie

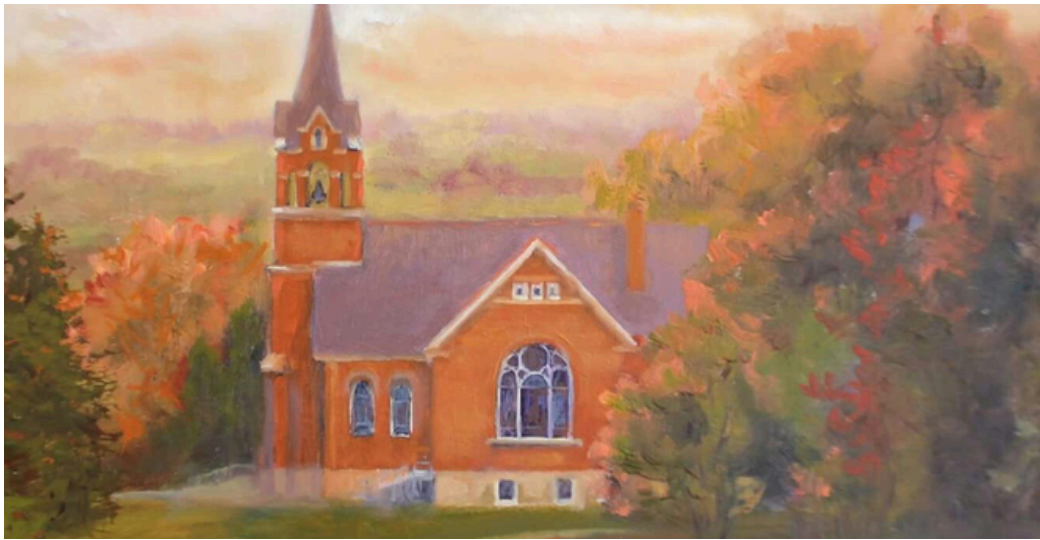


# *What's Happening at Elstad...*

The Leah Circle will meet on the second or third Tuesday of the month in the afternoon. They use "The Gather" magazine to guide their discussions. All are welcomed to join. They enjoy coffee and fellowship and have a good time. Reach out to Carol Dixon for more information if interested in joining.



**Elstad Worship  
9:00 AM**



Elizabeth Circle  
Meets on  
May 14 at  
8:45 AM  
at Park Lane  
Contact  
Lori Bakke  
for more  
information

The Esther Circle will meet on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at the Haight Home. Reach out to Ruth Abrahamson for more information if interested in joining.



Elstad WELCA is meeting on Sunday, May 25th after the 9 a.m. worship service. Coffee hour will be served. Hope to see you all there!

**Recognition Sunday**  
Sunday, May 18th.

This is a time to celebrate those who have made great accomplishments in their time at Elstad.

A special coffee time will be prepared in their honor.

Worship at 9 a.m. followed by refreshments in the church fellowship hall. 4





### Note from your Treasurer

As I am new the Treasurer role, I am asking that you please be sure to put down where you want your donations to go in the memo section of your checks if you want your donation to go to specific fund. If left blank it will be deposited in the General fund account.  
~ Courtney, HP Treasurer

## *What's Happening at Highland Prairie ...*

**June 22**

### **GRUBBY SUNDAY & OUTDOOR WORSHIP (in the park)**

Wear your work clothes to church and Join us after worship to help clean up the grounds. We will have a potluck Lunch in the shelter! Bring your lawn chairs, gloves and rakes.



**Bible Study  
May 7 at 1pm**

**QUILTING & POTLUCK  
MAY 14 AT 9:3**



## *Together In Faith Parish News*



We will be gathering on Wednesday night in the fellowship hall to watch and discuss Season one of "The Chosen"

We will begin on May 21<sup>st</sup>  
at 6:30

Bring your own Snack & Drink

## May Council Meetings

May 18th

HP: 12:00 pm @ HP

Parish: 5:30 @ HP

Elstad : 6:30p



COME & LEARN

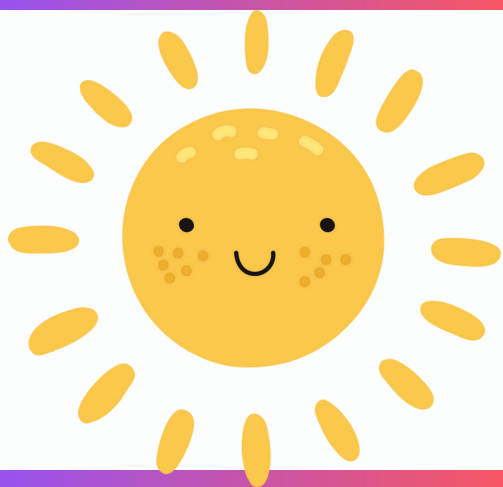
## Holy Communion Presentation & Potluck

SUNDAY 05.18.2025  
1:30

Seminarian Sadie Neigum will host a presentation about the evolution in practices and understanding surrounding the tradition of Holy Communion.

BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH  
TO SHARE AND MEET US AT

HIGHAND PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP HALL



## May Ministry Focus Daycare Blessings Bags/Buckets



- Fun Activities: Small, portable toys (like bubbles, sidewalk chalk, or small books)
- Snacks: Packaged snacks like granola bars, crackers, or fruit snacks.
- Hydration: Water bottles, sports drinks, or juice boxes



# Syrup Ministry

Team meeting

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** at

**6pm at Elstad.**

**We will label the syrup  
and prepare to sell !**



Thank you Krissy  
Overland and all her  
helpers for organizing the  
Awesome  
Easter Egg Hunt  
and Activities!!

## In our Prayers...

Sam & Caleb Hareldson, Annie,  
Gus & Clara Hoiland, family and  
friends of Scot Bestul, Ken &  
Helen Jacobson, Sylvia  
Markagaard, Ilene Larson, Elvin  
Paulson, Sheryl (Bakkum)  
Krahenbuhl, Dean Bakkum, Glen  
Bakken, Dave, Sue and Liz  
Larson, Eric Johnson, Mark  
Woodward, Laura Dahl, Lisa  
Gile, Amy Timmermann  
as well as for all who are ill,  
suffering or in need of prayers.



Rejoice always, pray continually,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God's will for you in  
Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



# Youth & Education



Tuesday, June 17th

**Bluff Valley**

**Community Youth Group**

Trip to Valleyfair

Students who have completed grades 6-12 are invited to join us!

We will be loading the bus at 8AM and spending the day at the park!

We will load up the bus to come home at around 3:00 PM.

Cost is \$50

Students are responsible for their own meals. You can pack a lunch or purchase food at the park!

Invite a friend and join the fun!

If you have any questions or concerns please

reach out to Pr. Jackie .

**Thank you to everyone who made the Basket Auction a huge success! We raised \$2522.00 towards the mission trip**



**JULY 20- 25**

**LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION  
SOUTH DAKOTA**

**We have two spots that have opened up on the Mission Trip- Please reach out to Pastor Jackie if you or someone you know is interested in joining us in South Dakota!**



# Senior Spotlight

**Graduate:** Kenna Gudmundson

**Parents:** Mike & Kristi Gudmundson

**School:** Rushford-Peterson

**Activities, accomplishments, awards:**

Volleyball 9-12, basketball (9-10) Girls basketball manager (11-12, Varsity letter both volley ball and basektball, Volleyball academic all-state & all-conference, basket ball academic all-conference. MSHSL EXCEL Certificate of recognition 2023, National Honor Society, Academic Letter winner 2022, 2023, 2024, Prom Court

**Summer Plans:**

Working at Good Shepard Child Care Center all Summer. Going to Costa Rica for 10 days in June with the R-P Spanish Club.

**Plans after High School:**

I am going to Winona State University. I am majoring in Elementary Education and minoring Middle level Math Education



**Graduate:** Laci Sievers

**Parents:** Erik and Lisa Sievers

**School:** Rushford-Peterson

**How has your faith prepared you for your next adventure?**

My faith has taught me that during good times and bad that God is always with me. College will be very demanding and likely cause lots of anxiety and stress at times. When I am having a difficult day, I will remember to ask God for his help and guidance.

**What is a favorite activity or event that happened at church?**

Singing in Sunday school; Helping with Feed my starving Children

**Summer Plans:**

Working at YMCA in Winona and spending time with friends

**Plans after High School:**

I am going to Minnesota State University, Mankato and will be studying Communication Sciences and Disorders with the goal of becoming a Speech Language Pathologist





1. Sawyer Wolfs
2. James Mensink, Mya Kingsley
3. Eric Storhoff
4. Hunter Lee
6. Joanne Anderson, Daniel Storhoff,  
Bruce Thompson
8. Danielle Yonts
9. Pamela Johnson, Adam Rislov
10. Sean Pederson, Carl Anfinson
12. Robert Dahl, Kiah Halverson,  
Kiera Pepin, Tommy Johnson
13. Alexander Mierau, Morgan Nelson
15. Aaron Topness
16. Faith Eide, Cashton Dahl, Jaxie  
Dahl
17. Loren Flattum
18. Jennifer Stensgard, Kimberly Lee
19. Martha Gudmundson, Yvonne  
Freese
20. Mike Chiglo, John Peterson, Clara  
Hoiland
22. Nicholas Bakke, Jana Boyum, Kai  
Fox

23. Kyle Daniels
24. Carson Johnson
25. Tina Westby, Harper Kanz
26. Lisa Sievers, Jarad Olson, Jacob  
James
27. Jordan Kiel, Quentin Daniels
28. Gavin Pearce
29. Diane Haight, Bereket Rebhahn
30. Paula Brand
31. Kate Gellersen, Nicole Woxland,  
Brody Gellersen, Kirsten Bakke



11. Peter & Shelly Stensgard
15. Wayne & Joan Finnegan
19. Robert & Sharon Knutson
22. John & Michelle Rein
27. Stan & Cindy Sveen
31. Douglas & Rebecca Lind



# MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>4 <b>Highland Prairie</b> W: 10:30 ~ SS: 9:30 <b>Elstad W: 9~</b> SS: 9:15</p>	<p>5 <b>Bible Study @</b> Bethlehem 9:30</p>	<p>6 <b>Leah Circle</b> 2:00</p>	<p>7 <b>Parish Office</b> 8-4 <b>Bible Study @ 1:30pm</b></p>	<p>1 <b>Esther Circle</b> 9:30 <b>Bulletin</b> Items Due</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>11 <b>Highland Prairie</b> W: 10:30 ~ SS: 9:30 <b>Elstad W: 9~</b> SS: 9:15</p>	<p>12 <b>Bible Study @</b> Bethlehem 9:30</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 <b>Parish Office</b> 8-4 <b>Quitting and potluck</b> lunch @9:30</p>	<p>15 <b>Bulletin</b> Items Due</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 <b>Highland Prairie</b> W: 10:30 ~ SS: 9:30 <b>Elstad W: 9~</b> SS: 9:15 <b>Parish council Meeting</b> HP: 12pm Parish: 5:30pm <b>Elstad: 6:30pm</b></p>	<p>19 <b>Bible Study @</b> Bethlehem 9:30</p>	<p>20 <b>Newsletter</b> Items Due</p>	<p>21 <b>Parish Office</b> 8-4</p>	<p>22 <b>Bulletin</b> Items Due</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 <b>Highland Prairie</b> W: 10:30 ~ SS: 9:30 <b>Elstad W: 9~</b> SS: 9:15</p>	<p>26 <b>Bible Study @</b> Bethlehem 9:30</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 <b>Parish Office</b> 8-4</p>	<p>29 <b>Bulletin</b> Items Due</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

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*Peterson, MN 55962*

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Permit No. #6

## *May 2025 Newsletter*

### **Highland Prairie Acolytes/Readers/Greeters**

#### **Sunday, May 4, 2025**

**Acolyte:** Hudson Lee, Hunter Lee

**Readers:** Hunter Lee

**Greeters:**

#### **Sunday, May 12, 2025**

**Acolytes:** Hunter Lee, Clara Hoiland

**Readers:** Hunter Lee

**Greeters:**

#### **Sunday, May 18, 2025**

**Acolytes:** Clara Hoiland, Mathew Gudmundson

**Readers:** Mathew Gudmundson,

**Greeters:**

#### **Sunday, May 25, 2025**

**Acolyte:** Mathew Gudmundson, Brody Gellersen

**Readers:** Brody Gellersen

**Greeters:**

### **Elstad Acolytes/Readers/Greeters**

#### **Sunday, May 4, 2025**

**Acolyte:**

**Readers:**

**Greeters:**

#### **Sunday, May 12, 2025**

**Acolytes:**

**Readers:**

**Greeters:**

#### **Sunday, May 18, 2025**

**Acolytes:**

**Readers:**

**Greeters:**

#### **Sunday, May 25, 2025**

**Acolyte:** Grant Daniels

**Readers:**

**Greeters:**