

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

~ April 2022 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com

Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator ~ Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

April Worship Schedule

5 Lent, April 3rd

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 43.16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3.4b-14

John 12.1-8

Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer #5,

April 6th

Highland Prairie, 7:00 p.m.

"Office of the Ministry"

Passion/Palm Sunday, April 10th

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 50.409a

Psalm 31.9-16

Philippians 2.5-11

Luke 22.14-23-56

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Maundy Thursday, April 14th

Elstad, 7:00 p.m.

Exodus 12.1-14

Psalm 116.1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11.23-26

Joan 13.1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 15th

Stations of the Cross-10 a.m., Elstad

Tenebrae-7:00 p.m., Highland Prairie

Easter Sunday, April 17th

Highland Prairie-7:00 a.m.

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Isaiah 65.17-25

Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15.19-26

John 20.1-18

2 Easter, April 24

Elstad-9:00 a.m.

Highland Prairie-10:30 a.m.

Acts 5.27-32

Psalm 118.14-29

Revelation 1.4-8

John 20.19-31

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Pastor's Page

April 2022

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

What follows is the letter of resignation I submitted to the joint parish council on Sunday, March 31, 2022. Pr. Luther+

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Dear beloved sisters and brothers in Christ of Elstad/Highland Prairie Parish,

After nearly thirty-eight years of ordained ministry, the last five with you in this beloved parish, I have decided it is time for me to retire. It is a decision I have made after much prayer to God and much conversation with Bobbi.

Words cannot express my gratitude to God for using me as his instrument. And words cannot express what a privilege it has been to serve in this beloved parish in the midst of such stalwart servants as you. You have blessed me, my wife, and family with love, support, and witness to Christ. You have been a great source of strength and joy to us. How thankful we are that God put us in this community of the faithful.

My last day of ministry as your pastor will be Sunday, May 15th, 2022. I will be communicating my intention to retire from the ministry to Bishop Regina Hassanally tomorrow morning, Monday, March 14th, 2022, so that arrangements can be made to begin preparations for the pastoral transition.

In the meantime, I will continue to carry out my responsibilities as your pastor between now and May 15th. And I will continue to hold you in heartfelt love and fervent prayer as we, together, meet the days ahead in trust and hope in Christ in whom grip we all remain.

Your brother in Christ, Pr. Luther+

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Addendum: I have been in contact with the office of our bishop, Rev. Regina Hassanally. Bishop Hassanally has assured me that her staff will be providing all necessary guidance during the pastoral transition and the process of parish preparation for the calling a new pastor. Assistant to the bishop, Rev. Barb Streed, will be meeting with me on Tuesday, March 22nd. I will relay any information for that meeting that will be helpful to parish leadership.

April Worship Notes

Holy Week begins with **Passion/Palm Sunday**. On this day we, we celebrate the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. On that day, the people laid palms before Him, a gesture reserved for triumphant leaders. **Holy (Maundy Thursday)** marks the day when Jesus celebrated the Passover feast with the disciples. We know this feast as the Lord's Supper. Before sharing this meal with his beloved, he washed their feet. This is the night in which he was betrayed by Judas and arrested. On **Good Friday** we commemorate the trial, punishment, and crucifixion of our Lord. He was condemned for blasphemy and, presented to Pontius Pilate for trial. He was stripped, flogged, and crowned with thorns. He was then forced to carry his cross to the place of his crucifixion. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves who were likewise crucified. On **Holy Saturday**, we remember that Jesus was descended into hell. Holy Week gives way to **Easter Sunday**, the day on which it was discovered the tomb was empty, and our Lord was raised, triumphing over death once and for all time.

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. Remember that this is a good way for us to support our sisters and brothers in war-torn Ukraine. 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).

Youth Education

Confirmation instruction will resume on Wednesday, April 20th, 6:30 p.m. at Elstad. This will be the final class that both grades 7 and 8 will meet together. This will be the final class of the 2021-2022 year. The 8th graders confirmation review will be on Wednesday, April 27th, 7:00 p.m., at Elstad. Confirmation pictures will be taken that evening as well.

Final project instructions for 8th grade confirmation students (those completing the 2nd year of instruction) will be distributed on Sunday, April 3rd, following worship. See Pr. Luther following worship to get your assignment. Deadline for the completion of the final projects will be Tuesday, April 26th, 5:00 p.m.

Holy Communion with the Rite of Confirmation will occur on Sunday, May 1st, at both services.

Adult Education

A 3-week adult Bible study on the post-Easter Sunday gospel texts will occur on Thursday, April 21st, 28th, and May 6th. See Pr. Mathsen if you are interested in participating. The texts will be: John 20.19-31, John 21.1-19, and John 10.22-30. We will meet at Highland Prairie.

Provisional Concerns of Congregational Life

Your 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, Margaret Hungerholt, Marge Jamieson, the families of John Harrisville and Terry Gannon, 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.

Attention Parish Congregational Members

There will be a pastoral transitional meeting with Barb Streed
Tuesday, April 5th, 6:00 p.m. at Highland Prairie

Highland Prairie Financials for January 2022

YTD Income	\$ 9,767
YTD Expenses	\$ 14,214
Expenses Exceed Income	\$ 4,447
YTD Budget	\$ 16,400
YTD Income	\$ 9,767
YTD Under	\$ 6,633

Root River Conference WELCA

2022 Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 30th

Chatfield Lutheran Church (304 Fillmore St. SE, Chatfield, MN)

8:00 a.m.—Registration, Displays/Vendors, Coffee Fellowship

9:00 a.m.—Program ~ 12:30 p.m. Lunch

\$10 includes program, morning coffee and lunch

Lutheran World Relief

The count is in for 2021. Lutheran World Relief has reported just how many items your love has reached, totaling 361,225 neighbors in need in 19 countries. 122,400 quilts, 3,230 blankets, 60,030 personal care kits, 103,880 school kits, 38,850 baby care kits, 915 fabric kits, and 31,920 face masks.

LWR is grateful to the volunteers who have graciously increased their generosity to this cause.

April is the month that Elstad has designated to world hunger. It seems as though the global needs are huge and requests for funds is great. Any donation to the world hunger cause will be more than welcome during the month of April.

If you would like to support the ELCA's fund to help the people of Ukraine, write your check out to either Elstad or Highland Prairie and put Ukraine support on the Memo line.

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 13th, 2022

The Meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church with Elstad's president, Gene Topness calling the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Roll call was taken. A Quorum was called.

Missing Members: Amber Topness, Jennifer Nepstad, and Mary Gundmunson

Others present: Pastor Luther.

Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda made by Gordon Johnson and second by Kathy Abrahamson. Motion carried.

Devotions were given by Pastor Luther.

Congregation members present to address the council include: none.

Communication received none.

President's report was given. There is no additional President's report in addition to Elstad or Highland Prairie council meetings.

Pastors Report

Pastor Luther is wrapping up lent and preparing for Holy Week. Pastor is grateful that we can gather together again during lent and enjoy each other's presence. Pastor continues his ministry at homes of age. Bible study for adults continues. Confirmands are not at class, but are expected to be at worship midweek and preparing for their final projects. Council leaders is being held in Owatonna next Sunday, March 20th at 1:00, but it is available online for those that would like to attend. Pastor Luther asks for prayers for his mother inlaw and his wife Bobbi as his mother inlaw is being moved into memory care.

Pastor Luther regretfully shared his letter of resignation for Sunday, May 15th 2022. Pastor Luther and Bobbie will be moving closer to their children and grandchildren.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

- A) Installing mini splits for heating and cooling - will continue to discuss and address to the parsonage committee
- B) Doors (2) upstairs porch and entrance from downstairs porch (1)- will continue to discuss and address to the parsonage committee.
- C) Gutter Leaf Guards (Filter)- would like to consider installing in the spring of 2022. Latch Island Gutter quoted 1600 last year. Robert Anfinson will look into this for some more quotes.

New Business:

- A) Parsonage Committee - Gene and Gordon will be seeking members. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- B) Trees - Winona Nursery provided pictures and information as well as quotes on trees available at their nursery. This will be revisited at a later date.

Secretary's report was given. Motion to approve by Gordon Johnson, and second by Sharon Ehler.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Gordon Johnson and second by Joyce Dahl. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

Submitted by Aimee Rodger, Elstad Council Secretary

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday March 13th, 2021

Elstad Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Gene Topness at 7:43pm.

Roll call: all members were present. A Quorum was called.

Amber Topness and Jennifer Nepstad are not present

Meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Luther.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Krissy Overland second by Christopher Nelson. Motion passed.

There are no congressional members present to address the council..

Pastor Luther continued to express his gratitude of his resignation

The treasurer's report was reviewed and placed on file for audit at a later date.

There is no presidents report

Correspondence received: A Thank you from the Synod of our offerings was reviewed

Old Business:

- Church Repairs - will continue to discuss

New Business:

- Parsonage Committee - Gene Topness and Christopher Nelson have Volunteered to be members of the committee. We are looking for at least one more member to join to committee
- Stump Grinding - Gene will address the cemetery board about their plans for the stumps in the cemetery

Secretary's report was given. Motion was given by Christopher Nelson, second by Krissy Overland. Motion passed.

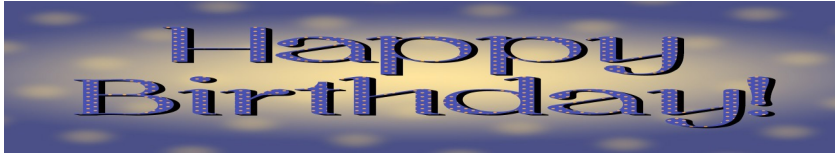
Motion was made by Kathy Abrahamson to adjourn, second by Christopher Nelson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.

Closed in prayer by Pastor Luther.

Secretary's report submitted by Aimee Rodger

APRIL 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



1~ Sharon Rustad
~ Cora Olson
~ Grayden Knutson
2~ Matthew Soppa
~ J.T. Rein
3~ Krisit Rein
4~ Janet Todd
5~ Taylor Thompson
~ Kylie Woxland
~ Tyler Britson
6~ Erick Berland
~ Waylon Colwell
~ Chloe Peterson
~ Amber Eide
7~ Rodney Humble
8~ Lillian Gravos
9~ Vicky Topness
~ Sarah Bacon
~ Melissa Hallum
~ Chase Bakke
~ Colin Bakke
~ Linnea Schommer
10~ Jill Halverson
~ Hudson Stensgard

11~ Gary Rustad
~ Barbara Onomija
~ Hans Lind
~ MaKenna Peterson
13~ Tim Stensgard
14~ Richard Howe
15~ Marlys Paulson
~ Kody Bearbower
~ Hattie Grant
16~ Cindy Johnson
~ Dawn Steffes
17~ Darla Rislov
18~ Leah Jacobson
19~ Carrie Kelly
20~ Casey Howe
~ Hudson Keller
21~ Sharon Boyum
~ Jennifer Klug
~ Jenna Root
~ Chealsy Eide
22~ Tyler Chiglo
23~ Erik Sievers
~ Nick Wangen
24~ Jeffery Passow
26~ Christopher Nelson
27~ Robert Nelson

1~ Larry & Deb Topness
7~ John & Carol Overland
8~ Mark & Cindy Johnson
24~ Glenn & Sandy Thomas

April 2022

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10: 00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m.	4	5 Pastoral Transitional meeting @ HP 6:00 p.m.	6 Lenten Service @ Elstad 7:00 p.m. Soup supper @ 6	7	8 HP WELCA Bake Sale 10 a.m.	9
10 Palm Sunday EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10: 00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m. HP Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m.	11	12	13	14 Maundy Thursday Service @ EL 7:00 p.m.	15 Stations of the Cross 10:00 a.m. @ EL Good Friday Servcie @ HP 7:00 p.m.	16
17 Easter Sunday HP—7:00 a.m. EL—9:00 a.m.	18	19	20 Confirmation 6:30 p.m. @ EL	21 Bible study 10:00 a.m. @ HP	22	23
24 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10: 00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m.	25	26	27 Confirmation review 7:00 p.m. @ Elstad	28 Bible study 10:00 a.m. @ HP	29	30 Root River WELCA Conference— 8:00 a.m.

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

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April 2022 Newsletter

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

ACOLYTES: CARSON JOHNSON, CREIGHTON HOINESS
READERS: LUCAS REDALEN, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

ACOLYTES: CREIGHTON HOINESS, BRODE VICKERMAN
READERS: CREIGHTON HOINESS, LYNNETTE PEDERSON
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

ACOLYTES: BRODE VICKERMAN, LUCAS REDALEN
READERS: CHEYANNE DAHLE, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022

ACOLYTES: LUCAS REDALEN, GUS HOILAND
READERS: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022

ACOLYTES: GUS HOILAND, GRANT DEGEORGE
READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, SHARON EHLER
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

ELSTAD ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

ACOLYTE: SARI REIN
READERS: MAKENZIE KNUTSON, CAROL OVERLAND

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

LENTEN SERVICE @ 7:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

ACOLYTE: JENSYN STORHOFF
READERS: KYLE DANIELS, CAROLYN SMITH

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

ACOLYTE: MILEY KNUTSON
READERS: INDY QUALY, TOM DYBING

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022

ACOLYTE: AUBAUBREY DANIELS
READERS: LIZ HAGEMAN, GENE TOPNESS

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022

ACOLYTE: SAWYER WOLFS
READERS: SARI REIN, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

USHERS: DIANE HAIGHT, DICK HAIGHT,
PHILIP ABRAHAMSON, JOHN REIN,
ADAM DANIELS