

TWO CHURCHES, ONE FAITH

JULY 2025

ELSTADHIGHLANDPRAIRIEPARISH@GMAIL.COM



A Note About Our Prayer List

One of the sacred gifts we share as a church is the way we hold one another in prayer. Each name on our prayer list is there because someone took the time to say, **“This person matters. Please help me lift them up.”** We will be refreshing the prayer list at the end of June. If you or a loved one is currently listed and would like to remain on the list, please reach out to the church office and let us know by June 30. And as always, if there is someone new you'd like us to pray for, please forward their names to the parish office. Let us continue to be a community that prays—with hope, with faith, and with love.

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

Parish Administrator: Courtney Lee

Parish Office: (507) 864-2731 ~ elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com

Stay Connected this Summer

Check us out on Facebook

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church
Elstad Lutheran Church

&

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

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



Summer has started off like every other month lately. BUSY! We have started the process of moving our church offices to the back. I am very excited for the new working space. I continue to enter the updated member forms as they come in. I have been getting returned newsletters. If you know of someone that is no longer getting our newsletter and wants to get back on our mailing list, please have them reach out so we can get this corrected. If you have yet to fill out the updated member form, please do so as soon as possible. I can email them out as well.

~Courtney, Parish Secretary



churchwindows
MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

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

✎ **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!

Jonah 2:5 reminds us that even in the depths of despair, we can call out to God, and He hears our cries. It's a powerful reminder of His unwavering presence and the hope we have in Him, no matter how dark our circumstances may seem.

Dearest friends in Christ,

Here we are, right in the heart of summer. The gardens are growing wild, the daylight stretches long, and the pace of life is supposed to have shifted just enough to make space for porch-sitting, iced tea sipping, and maybe even a nap in the shade.

Sometimes in the quieter times, our souls can feel cluttered. The world keeps spinning fast, the news doesn't stop, and our calendars fill quicker than we'd like. It's easy to miss the gentle invitation of Jesus, who says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) That's not just an invitation for a weekend getaway or a vacation (though those are good and needed!). It's a daily invitation to bring our whole selves—our hopes, our heartaches, our to-do lists, and our tiredness—to the One who never stops holding us in love.

July is a month that I will be away from the office more than usual. Some of that time away will be spent learning—stepping back to reflect on how we as a church can grow deeper in faith, stronger in connection, and bolder in love.

Some of it will be spent on the road with our youth, watching them serve, stretch, and shine as they experience what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow and walk alongside our young people as we serve others in Christ's name. Thank you for your prayers and your grace in this season of being "on the move. Even in the busyness, I see God at work—in the planning meetings and packing lists, in the prayers shared before departure, and in the quiet moments when I get to listen for the Spirit's whisper.

I know this season has its own kind of pace for each of you, too. Vacations. Family gatherings. Long days. And still, God meets us. Whether we're close to home or far away, God's presence travels with us.

Please know that even when I'm not in the church building, I carry you with me in my prayer. I'm grateful for our staff and volunteers who keep the heart of our congregation's beating strong.

Whether you're tending tomatoes or traveling across the state, may you find small, sacred moments of rest. May you hear God's voice not just in worship on Sunday but in birdsong, bonfires, and belly laughs with loved ones. And may the peace of Christ meet you right where you are.

With gratitude for you all,
Pastor Jackie

HP PRESIDENTS NOTE

Hello HP Church Family

We have been busy with activities and projects. I am filled with joy and want to thank everyone for their hard work and offering their talents and being supportive of all the church activities and projects.



Some of the activities and projects are:

Putting a new roof on the church

Building a bathroom upstairs

Youth Mission Trip to South Dakota and their fundraisers

New Community Sunday School first Sunday of the month

Endowment Fund offering scholarships to our seniors

Fellowship activities-traveling bomb fire, watching the Chosen TV series and Bible studies

HP outreach food program. Making and freezing meals to deliver when people need a little help

Moving the Pastor and Secretary offices to back Sunday School rooms

Garden of Eden Syrup Ministries

Updating our church software for membership and financials

The Parish personal committee and presidents did a Pastor review in May. We conducted a few surveys of different age ranges of both congregations.

The feedback was very positive with a suggestion of better communications. We set 3 goals for the pastor for the coming year.

Goal 1: Start cleaning up membership and visit those members who are not coming (this will take longer than a year).

Goal 2: Develop a Mission & Vision statement for both churches and also a Parish Mission & Vision statement.

Goal 3: Find and schedule more special music for worship.

I ask to communicate better with the process of the 2-building project, roof and bathroom. I am sorry for the delay, and I dropped the ball. Here are the updates:

Church Roof: We had our insurance company and looked at our roof for damage from a hailstorm from last year. The insurance company gave us \$19,000 for damage plus \$14,000 for getting the roof repair this year. So started with the roof and got bids for the roof repair which took 2 months to get. We had a congregation meeting on Sunday June 22 nd to decide what bid to accept and how to finance the roof repair.

ADA Bathroom Upstairs: We will start getting bids in July. Bids will take a couple of months to get. Then we will have another congregation meeting in September or October to decide on the bid and how to finance the bathroom. When the congregation approves the bid for the bathroom, then we will apply for grants to help financially to pay for the bathroom. The grant process will also take several months. Hopefully we can start in the bathroom upstairs and downstairs. The bathroom downstairs just needs the stalls removed and replaced the old doors with locked doors.

If you have any questions, please ask and may God Bless you and give you

-Val Howe, Highland Prairie Council President

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



The Esther Circle will meet on July 10th at 9:30 at the Haight Home. Reach out to Ruth Abrahamson for more information if interested in joining.

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

Elstad budget for May \$7665


Received	\$4599
Under for May	\$3066

Elstad budget YTD 38327

received YTD	33394
Under YTD	\$4933

Elstad will be having a Raffle Fundraiser with tickets available for sale starting **June 29** with the drawing for prize winners on **September 14, 2025**. All prizes will be cash prizes. Please contact one of the Elstad Council members to purchase tickets. Money raised will be put toward church repairs. Council Members: Gene Topness, Matt Nelson, Tanya Wolfs, Amber Arends, Kathy Abrahamson, Morgan Knutson, Jennifer Nepstad



**Highland Prairie
Worship
10:00 AM**

What's Happening at Highland Prairie ...

Highland Prairie Financials
May 2025

Monthly Income-----	\$ 23,650.00
Monthly Expenses-----	\$ 7508.24
Expenses exceed Income-	\$16141.76
YTD Budget-----	\$ 48,375.00
YTD Income-----	\$ 31,714.00
YTD Under-----	\$ 16,661.00



**July 2nd Bible
Study @
1:30PM**

**July 9th- Quilting and
Potluck starting at
9:30a**



Highland Prairie

Together In Faith Parish News

July Council Meetings July 13th

**HP: 12:00 pm @ HP
Parish: 5:00 pm @ Elstad
Elstad: 6:00 pm @ Elstad**



In our Prayers...

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

Bowl Services

You are invited to join us for Community Worship & Fellowship in the Bowl !!

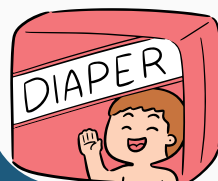
July 27: Worship @ 10:30 , Lunch & Outdoor Market begin @ 11:30, Vintage Ballgame Starts @ noon

August 17: Worship @ 10:30 , 11:30 Lunch & Outdoor Market, Water Play in the Park !

New Monthly Ministry



Our Ministry focus this month will be collecting diapers and baby wipes for the local food shelf. Any size or quantity welcome!



Mark Lee has again been working hard getting internet to the new offices and the Sunday school rooms. We really appreciate all the hard work he has put in to get this accomplished. We are very excited to have internet throughout the whole Church!



We need to give a BIG shout to Jeff, Zowie, Hunter, Hudson and Mark for helping us move the new furniture into the new offices. We are loving our new spaces!!!



Thank you just doesn't seem like enough for all the work this guy does around the church. He's always around in the background doing things around the grounds from mowing, trimming, pulling weeds, planting. He does it all. If you see him around thank him for all his hard work. Steve Howe, we appreciate everything you do to keep everything looking so beautiful.

Mission Trip



JULY 20- 25

**LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION
SOUTH DAKOTA**

We have one spot that is still open for the Mission Trip- Please reach out to Pastor Jackie if you or someone you know is interested in joining us in South Dakota!

YouthWorks is partnering with Enemy Swim Tribal School, a local school & Camp Dakota Sonshine, a local camp and church. These two places will distribute donations to community members in need.

A list of the donations that we will be collecting include:

new or gently used hats, gloves, coats, new socks, and new packages of underwear.

We will also be collecting school supplies. Examples of school supplies are pencils, scissors, dry erase markers, crayons, glue, book bags, etc.

Mission Trip Get-Together

As we prepare for our upcoming mission trip, I am excited to bring all participants together for a special evening of connection, information, and fun!

When: July 2nd @6pm

Where: Highland Prairie

Who: All mission trip participants

What to Expect: Get to know fellow travelers

Learn important details about the trip

Ask questions and share ideas. Enjoy light refreshments and casual conversation. Pray and prepare our hearts for the journey ahead

This is a great opportunity to build community before we hit the road—and to make sure everyone feels prepared and excited for the adventure to come! **Please RSVP** to Pr. Jackie

We can't wait to see you there!

PARISH: Opportunities to Get Connected



Join us in the fellowship hall at Highland Prairie to watch & discuss
“The Chosen ”
at 5pm
July 13th & 27th

All Age Parish

Mid - Week **Traveling Bonfire** at 6pm

Wednesday July 16th at Highland Prairie

Wednesday August 20th at Elstad

Grab your lawn chair, yard game and marshmallow roasting stick and join us for some fun & fellowship.

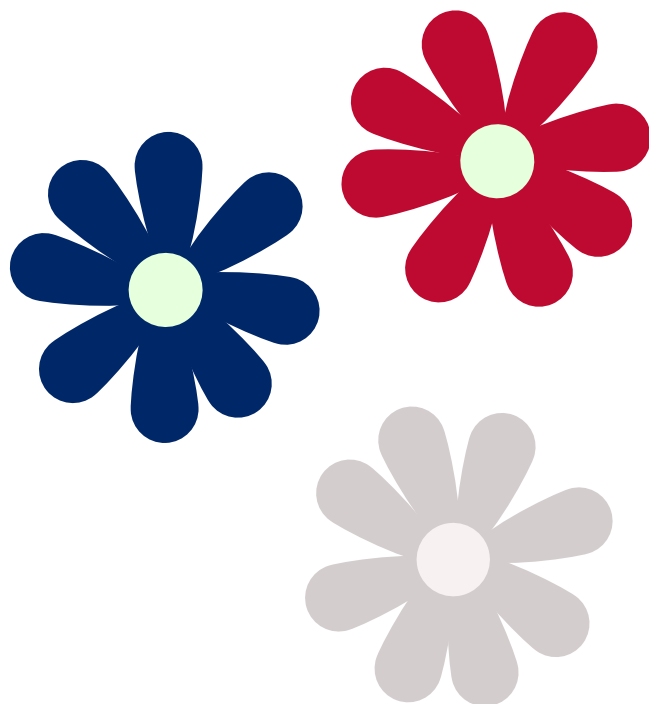
We are deeply connected to one another, this summer let's get to know each other better. I encourage you all to attend and discover ways that we are connected!

Reach out to Pr. Jackie with any questions or concerns.



"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

~Matthew 18:20



HP Council meeting- 6/8/2025

12:15 Call to order

Dave M and Mary G absent

Quorum is met

Devotions by Amy J

Approval of Agenda- Motion to approve- Mike P- 1, Amy- 2

Congregation members to address council- none present, Pr. Jackie addressed a concern from a

member at a home visit- They expressed their concerns about communicating things and the process of moving forward with upcoming building projects.

Treasurers Report-Monthly Income- reports were overviewed, discussion was made about where to apply the check received for the roof. Motion to approve- Amy-1, Kristi-2

Presidents report- Val commented on community Sunday school and we had a total of 9 children and there are fliers around town to help spread the word. A thanks was given to Mike

and Dave for all the work they have done getting bids for the roof. The pastoral review was completed by the parish personnel committee and presidents. The mission trip is coming up and the chairs for the auction are being worked on. By-laws and constitution will be worked on

in August. Val will get something to put in the newsletter for the building projects

Pastor Report- Pastor had her review and it went well, pastor will work on a better breakdown

of visits for both councils. Pr spoke at baccalaureate for Lanesboro and it went well and she heard a lot of positive feedback and it was nice to have our parish in community involvement.

Pr was able to obtain office furniture from the synod and will be able to go on Tuesday and should be able to get enough items for both offices. GSLS service scheduled for June 12.

There

has been an increasing number of people inquiring about what needs to be done to become a

member which is a wonderful thing. There will be a wedding in the bowl in July. Mission trip planning is being done. Pastor will be gone for continuing education July 7-13.

Correspondence- none

Committee Reports- Binders for each committee are made and will house all information regarding the doings of each committee to be looked at for future reference and also to keep change of committee members and information smooth in the future.

Endowment- there is a form that will get sent out for endowment scholarship

Grounds- cleanup day is scheduled and will be a busy day, order a handicap sized Porta potty from Kimo's for bowl services

COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 8, 2025

Highland Prairie Cont...

Old business-

Internet- Mark has been here and working on ordering the bridge and when that has arrived he can get moving forward. He will need to run a cable to connect the secretary's

desktop because it is not wireless. It is still looking like it will be roughly around \$500 and a total

will be provided before the purchase is made. The router is several years old and should probably be updated at the same time for maximum efficiency.

Apparel- We need a slogan and to see if Val Gudmundson has made any contacts with apparel businesses.

Pastor Review- The review was held last month and surveys were reviewed and had good things to say about Pr. Jackie. Three goals were set for the next year for Pr., they are listed below.

Goal 1- start cleaning up membership and visit those members who are not coming.

Goal 2- form a mission and vision statement (for both individual and joint parishes); cottage meeting will be scheduled to help with this. A cottage meeting is a group meeting place to enjoy a snack and talk about vision and mission from members and is more of an informal group information gathering. The cottage meeting will help gather information for a vision and

mission statement which we currently do not have.

Goal 3- find and schedule more special music at worship

Review bids for roof- Bids for the roof were provided by Mike P. A notice letter will be sent out to inform congregation members about the roof congregation meeting on June 22nd at

10:30 and worship to follow.

New Business

Secretary Hours Proposal- Pr. proposed 5 flex hours for Courtney to use if and when extra hours are needed for HP uses. Motion to approve extra hours- Chellsey-1, Amy-2

Emily Carson Stewardship meeting- July 27 th after bowl service lunch. It will be a joint gathering with Elstad council. This meeting is for council members only, not congregation members.

Review congregational letter for special meeting- all council members in attendance reviewed letter.

Synod Assembly offering- No money has been donated by HP in the past. Motion to contribute \$150.00- Amy -1, Kristi-2

Reflefction

Secretaries report- Motion to approve- Amy, Mike-2

Adjournment- meeting adjourned at 1:50, motion to adjourn- Kristi-1, Amy-2



1. Byron Rodger, Joey Stensgard
2. Katy Laneville, Slade Pepin
3. Mary Dunphy
5. Peter Ask, Joshua Drinkall
6. Richard Nepstad, Paul Peterson
7. Beckett Hovland, Lincoln Bakkum
8. Caroline Anfinson, Christine Knutson,
Braxton Rodger
9. Dean Berland, Kyle Chiglo
10. Arlene Johnson
11. Allison Bauer, Marguerite Abrahamson
12. Kathy Abrahamson, Kristi Oman,
Jeremy Pederson
13. Kyle Bearbower
14. Riley Koop
16. Charles Pederson, Lyle Rustad,
David Stockton
17. Jade Grabau, Nicole Howe,
Kreedon Wangen
18. Elizabeth Abrahamson,
Kirstin Lawstuen
19. Shelly Nelson, John Knutson,
Autumn Humble
20. Joan Finnegan, Mary Gudmundson,
Brent Storhoff
21. Colby Lind
22. Ken Jacobson, Jerod Chiglo
Nolan Eide
23. Karen Bakken

24. Jimmy Sharpe Jr., Brandon Neigum
25. Siri Dworschak
26. Chelsey Hungerholt
27. Hudson Lee
29. Lori Bakke, Emily Bakke, Ashley Rein
Josie Bearbower
30. Lee Johnson, Kayleigh Wangen, Palmer Root
31. Susan Blagsvedt



9. Clair & Patty Olson
20. Kenny & Cathy Bakkum
22. Trinity & Emily Johnson
24. Adam & Jodie Daniels
28. Charles & Karen Mierau
29. Lee & Meredith Johnson

JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Farmers Market 3:30- 6pm HP Worship Committee Meeting 6:30	2 Pastor Office 8-4 HP Bible Study ~ 12:30pm Mission Trip meeting @ HP 6p	3 Esther Circle 9:30 a.m. Worship @ 1:30 Shepard Good Bulletin Items Due	4	5
6 Elstad -9am HP~ 10:30am	7	8 Farmers Market 3:30- 6pm	9 Elizabeth Circle 8:45am Quilting & Potluck @ 9:30am	10 Bulletin Items Due	11	12
Pr. Jackie gone for continuing ed through 7/12						
13 Elstad -9am HP~ 10:30am HP Council Meeting 12p Parish Meeting @5p @ Elstad Elstad Council Meeting @ 6p	14	15 Farmers Market 3:30- 6pm	16 Pastor Office 8-4 Campfire @ HP 6pm	17 Bulletin Items Due	18	19 Knutson Elstad Fellowship Hall Wedding in the Bowl
20 Elstad -9am HP~ 10:30am Leave for the Mission Trip @ 10a	21 Mission Trip	22 Farmers Market 3:30- 6pm Mission Trip Newsletter Items Due!	23 Mission Trip	24 Bulletin Items Due Mission Trip	25 Return from Mission Trip	26
27 Bowl Service 10:30am Stewardship Presentation at 12p Chosen Watch & Talk 5-7 @HP	28	29 Farmers Market 3:30- 6pm	30 Pastor Office 8-4	31 Bulletin Items Due		

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

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Permit No. #6

July 2025 Newsletter

Highland Prairie Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, July 6, 2025

Acolyte: Hunter Lee, Hudson Lee

Readers: Hunter Lee, Jeff Short

Greeters:

Sunday, July 13, 2025

Acolytes: Hudson Lee, Brody Gellersen

Readers: Hudson Lee, Paula Howe

Greeters: Val Howe

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Acolytes: Brody Gellersen, Mathew Gudmundson

Readers: Brody Gellersen, Val Howe

Greeters: Mary Gudmundson

Sunday, July 27, 2025

Acolyte: Mathew Gudmundson, Caiden Dahle

Readers: Mathew Gudmundson

Greeters:

Elstad Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, July 6, 2025

Acolyte:

Readers:

Greeters:

Sunday, July 13, 2025

Acolytes:

Readers:

Greeters:

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Acolytes: Grant Daniels

Readers: Grant Daniels, Jeff Short

Greeters:

Sunday, July 27, 2025

Acolyte:

Readers:

Greeters: