

AUGUST 2025

NEWSLETTER

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

Parish Administrator: Courtney Lee

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

Office Hours

Pr. Jackie: Wednesdays 8-4 & by appointment.

Courtney Lee: Sundays 12-2p & by appointment.

Please call or email to schedule a time.

Happy Anniversary to...

1~ Colby & Tracy Lind

4~ Gerald & Bonnie Hallum

Jeffery & Sylvia Passow

6~ Roger & Sarah Bearbower

9~ Ryan & Lean Jacobson

14~ Terry & Susan Blagsvedt

Larry & Kay Dahl

15~ Erik & Kallee Nelson

16~ Christopher & Shelby Nelson

20~ Tim & Jennifer Stensgard

Rex & Rachel Bearbower

21~ David & Brenda Markegard

29~ Jerry & Joyce Dahl

31~ Kyle & Lisa Chiglo

Happy Birthday to...

2~ Trinity Johnson

3~ Abigail Bacon

4~ Jodie Daniels

Laramie Lind

5~ Larry Dahl

Michael Gudmundson

6~ Chellsey Lind

Kayla Nelson

Oliver Kendhammer

7~ Jens Lind

8~ Brittany Olson-Sangillo

10~ Brady Boyum

11~ Barb Soppa

Shelly Berg

12~ Jordan Johnson

Lindsay Hoiness

14~ David Larson

16~ Cheryl Halvorson

Laci Sievers

18. Darrell Highum

Daniel Lind

19~ Brianna Horning

20~ Thea Arends

24~ Aimee Rodger

Adeline Johnson

25~ Mira Anderson

26~ Gene Topness

29~ Logan Rein

31~ Steve Storhoff

Nicole Blagsvedt

A MESSAGE FROM THE EHP PARISH OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR COURTNEY LEE

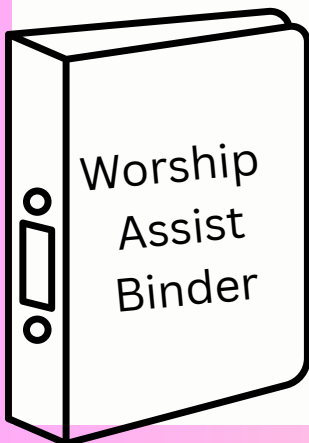
And just like that, I blink, and summer is almost over. This past month has been very busy. Our offices have officially been moved to the back. I grateful for the additional space. I have room for extra chairs so now you can stop by for a chat. **Something new** we will be working on is getting worship assist binders out. These will be out with the years' worth of worship dates. They will be located on the tables at both churches (back table at Elstad & big table in the Narthex at HP). Also, we still have items in our overflow room at Highland Prairie. If you can use these items or are able to load them up and take them for donation that would be greatly appreciated.

~Courtney, Parish Administrator



Worship Assist Binders

Our hope is by having these binders, it will allow our congregation to sign up for dates in advance help with worship assist. We would like to have the dates for the upcoming months filled in by the 15th of the month so that we can have the information for our newsletters.



Who Can sign up?

It's simple! Anyone can sign up! **There is no age requirement or limit**, and training is available.

Dear Beloved Members

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing to you today with a pastoral heart, prompted by recent conversations and concerns that have surfaced within our Highland Prairie community. It seems that, lately, a spirit of negativity and rumor has found its way among us—quiet words shared in hallways, assumptions made without conversation, and stories repeated without clarity or context.

Friends, this is not who we are called to be.

As followers of Christ, we are called to speak the truth in love (**Ephesians 4:15**), to build one another up rather than tear each other down

(**1 Thessalonians 5:11**), and to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger (**James 1:19**). When rumors or negativity take hold, they hurt real people, strain our relationships, and distract us from the shared mission God has entrusted to us.

If you have concerns, questions, or frustrations, I warmly invite you to bring them forward—to me, to our council members, or to those directly involved. Honest, face-to-face conversation is always more faithful and fruitful than whispers or speculation. Let us choose transparency, curiosity, and grace over assumption and complaint.

As your pastor, I want you to know my door is open. I am here to listen.

And together, we can seek clarity and understanding in ways that strengthen us rather than divide.

Let us keep praying for one another, speaking kindly, and remembering that each of us is a beloved child of God—even when we disagree. May our words and actions reflect the love and hope that first called us together as the body of Christ.

In Christ's love and service, Pastor Jackie



Elstad

Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00



The Leah Circle meets on the second or third Tuesday. Their study is from "The Gather" magazine, all are welcomed to join. Reach out to Carol Dixon for more information if interested in joining.

The Esther Circle will meet at 9:30 on August 14 at the Haight Home. Reach out to Ruth Abrahamson for more information if interested in joining.

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



Artaria String Quartet and
Stringwood Chamber Music
Festival 7pm at Elstad

Elstad budget for June \$7665.00
Received \$5230.00
Under for June \$2435.00

Elstad budget YTD \$45993.00
Received YTD \$38624.00
Under YTD \$7369.00

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



Elstad WELCA

Coffee Hour

Starting **September 7th** coffee will be served before worship.

Ester Circle will host for the month of September.

Leah Circle will host the month of October

Elizabeth Circle will host the month of November



Watch for more details coming soon about
Thankoffering 2025

Lutheran World Relief

SCHOOL CARE KIT

- 70 SHEET NOTEBOOK
- RULER WITH CENTIMETERS
- PENCIL SHARPENER
- BLUNT SCISSORS
- UNSHARPENED #2 PENCILS
- BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PENS
- BOX 16 OR 24 CRAYONS
- 2 1/2 ERASER

Did you know that throughout the year the ladies in our congregation work to gather and assemble care kits for Lutheran World Relief?

The Lutheran World Relief Kits & Quilts will be blessed and prepared to be sent to those in need.

We invite you to help with this years kits by donating the items needed to assemble the “School Care Kits”. School Supplies are filling the shelves! This is a great time to start gathering items for the LWR gathering in October.



Highland Prairie

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30



Roof Update:

Shingles have been replaced on most of the church roof. The steeple will need to be removed to allow for the remaining shingles to be placed.

The steeple will be power washed and then replaced. The fascia and gutters will be added.



Committee Meetings:

Worship - 1st Tuesday of the Month @ 6:30pm

Education - 2nd Tuesday of the Month @ 5:30pm

Joint Ministry Meeting - 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30pm

In an effort to coordinate our shared ministry we have decided to meet together monthly to pray, discuss, and decide how God might be calling the congregations to serve our congregation and community—now and into the future—in hopes of fostering communication and unity by supporting both current and emerging ministries. This will be an opportunity to share information, ideas, and concerns so everyone stays connected and feels part of a larger faith family.

August Council Meetings

August 10th

HP: 12:00 pm @ HP



Highland Prairie Financials June 2025

Monthly Income-----	\$ 27,326.00
Monthly Expenses-----	\$ 10,807.58
Income exceeds exp's-----	\$ 16, 518.42
YTD Budget-----	\$58,050.00
YTD Income-----	\$ 50,976.00
YTD Under-----	\$ 7,074.00



**August 6th:
Bible Study @ 1:30pm**




August 13th - Quilting and Potluck @ 9:30am


Education

At every age and stage, our congregation's walk a path of faith together.


From **Faith Builders** laying foundations in our youngest hearts, to teens Exploring their faith in confirmation class and stepping "**Faith Forward**" after Confirmation, to adults continuing on our "Faith Journey" — we keep learning, questioning, and growing in Christ, together.

 **Faith Builders: (PreK–6th grade)** "Building strong hearts and minds in Christ." Through stories, music, crafts, and prayer, our youngest disciples lay the first blocks of faith — learning about God's love, Jesus' life, and what it means to belong to God's family.


All are Welcome to Join us @ Highland Prairie at 3pm on the first Sunday of the Month.

 **Faith Explorers (Confirmation: 7th–8th grade)** "Asking, seeking, discovering together." Middle school youth dive deeper: asking big questions, exploring scripture, and discovering how faith fits into real life — all while building community and service habits.

Informational Meeting for all students 7-9 on August 31st @ 2pm at Highland Prairie.

 **Faith Forward (September/October Confirmation: 9th grade)** "From learning to living." The final year before Affirmation of Baptism focuses on personal faith statements, deeper reflection, and preparing to live faith out loud as confirmed members of our congregation.

Class starts on September 3rd at 6:30pm at Elstad

 **Faith Journey (Adult education)** "Different paths, same purpose: growing together in Christ." A collection of small groups and ministries where adults explore scripture, create, read, serve, and share life. "**Growing, questioning, and walking together.**" For adults of every age and stage: Bible studies & book clubs keep faith alive, relevant, and ever-growing through conversation & fellowship.

 **Faith & Word (Bible Study)** "Digging deeper into God's story and ours."


Bible studies are open to all who want to explore scripture, ask questions, and share insights.


HP WELCA: 1st Wednesday of the month@1:30, **Ester:** Meets Monthly on the 2nd Thursday @

9:30 **Leah:** Meets monthly on Tuesday, **Elizabeth:** Meets monthly in the morning

Naomi: Our newest Bible study will meet monthly on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

(starts in September)

 **Book Club** "Stories that spark conversation." A welcoming group reading a mix of faith-based and thought-provoking books. *Meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6pm*

 **Faith & Fabric (Quilting Ministry)** "Stitching love into every square."

HP Quilters gather on the second Wednesday of the month to create comforting quilts and projects shared with those in need.

 **Feeding our Neighbors(Food Ministry)** "Cooking, serving, and sharing Christ's love."

This is a new outreach ministry where volunteers will help prepare freezer meals for community members. *Join us for our first meeting on August 31 at 12pm at Highland Prairie. Members of both congregations are invited to attend.* ✨ **How it all fits together:** All these groups are part of our Faith Journey ministry. Whether you love discussion, creativity, books, fabric, or food, there's a place to keep growing and connecting with one another in faith.

Parish Happenings

Monthly Ministry

We will be collecting school supplies for the local schools. Please consider donating helping our monthly ministry by donating...

- #2 Pencils
- Crayons
- Notebooks
- Folders
- Gluesticks
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Rulers
- Erasers
- Scissors



Mission Trip Debrief



August 13th @ 6pm
Meet at the Parsonage for
Campfire & Conversation!

Confirmation Information Meeting

2 pm on August 31st @
Highland Prairie
for parents & students.
7-9th grade

YOU are invited to Join us on the First Sunday of the month
at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church for

FAITH BUILDERS



August 3rd

Week-

6th grade
3-5pm

7-12th grade
5-7
Dinner and
Bible Study

Learn
Play
Create

SNACKS
SMILES
& Lots of
FUN!!

Bring a friend
and get a
prize!!

All Age Parish

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

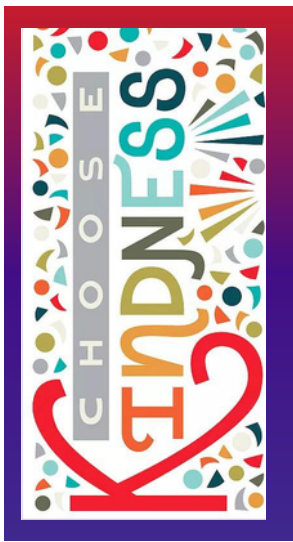
Wednesday August 20th at Elstad

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.





We believe that no neighbor should go hungry and we feel called to do something about it.

Please join us for an open meeting to explore starting a new ministry dedicated to feeding our neighbors. Mark your calendar and plan to attend **Sunday August 31st at noon** at Highland Prairie At this meeting, we'll:

- ~ Share the vision behind this ministry
- ~ Discuss the needs we see in our community
- ~ Brainstorm ways we might respond together
- ~ Talk about next steps & how you can be part of this effort

Whether you're interested in volunteering, have ideas to share, or simply want to learn more, your voice matters. Together, we can help nourish bodies and spirits in our community.

We hope to see you there! Pr. Jackie

Together In Faith Parish News



IN OUR PRAYERS...

The family of Elvin Paulson, Shelly Nelson, Ken Jacobson, Sylvia Markagaard, Glen Bakken, Josh, Jason and Laura Dahl, as well as for all who are ill, suffering or in need of prayers.



Thank you to everyone who helped to pick up the items in the overflow room. Your work has not gone unnoticed, and we appreciate you all so much!



Thank you to Jeff, Pr.

Jackie, Nolan, Dave and Steve for cleaning up the trees and big branches so quickly on 7/29! We appreciate all your hard work and dedication to keeping the Church and its grounds beautiful.



Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

July 13, 2025

President Val Howe called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm

Council Members present were Robert Anfinson, Mary Gudmundson, Val Howe, and Courtney Lee, Chellsey Lind. Kristi Gudmundson, Amy Jacobson, David Markegard, and Mike Pepin were absent.

Devotions were given by Pastor Short. A quorum was determined, and a motion to approve the agenda as presented, was made by Chellsey Lind, Robert Anfinson seconded. Motion carried.

WELCA members were present to address the council regarding fellowship hall, sanctuary furnishings, and ADA bathrooms.

Treasurer's Report was given by Courtney Lee for June. The Month-to-date information provided was income of \$27,326.00 expenses of \$10,807.58; Income exceeded expenses by \$16,518.42. A motion to approve the report was made by Mary Gudmundson, Chellsey Lind seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report – Update on meetings, thanked everyone's talents in keeping things moving forward.

Pastor's Report – Will be given at the Parish meeting.

Correspondence – Good Shepherd Golf Tournament info

Committee Reports: Church Committee – roof update, ADA bids

Grounds Committee – Water line leak update, tree branches need trimming

Worship Committee – Altar candle options explored

Youth & Education Committee – Community Sunday School update, mission trip fund raiser, Confirmation curriculum

WELCA – August Bible Study will begin a new series on the Women of the Bible.

Quilting needs to complete many more quilts by October.

Endowment Committee – Scholarship funds of \$500.00 were awarded to Kenna Gudmundson.

Old Business – Wifi updating is progressing.

Hats/shirts update – Pending bids

New Business – Outbuilding Repairs The log cabin needs windows puttied, and a gap along the bottom repaired. Chapel needs painting inside and out, electrical updates, flooring, window sills are beginning to rot. Marquee needs repair to some bricks and crosses need painting/staining.

HP Cemetery wants the Biesanz stones from old church removed from the roadway.

Reflection Time

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve as read was made by Chellsey Lind, Robert Anfinson seconded. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 2:38 p.m. was made Mary Gudmundson, Chellsey Lind seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Gudmundson

Next Meeting is August 10th at Noon at Highland Prairie

Highland Prairie & Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 13, 2025

Elstad Lutheran Church The meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church with Elstad's president Gene Topness calling the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Roll call was taken. Council members present were Val Howe, Robert Anfinson, Courtney Lee, Mary Gudmundson, Kathy Abrahamson, Amber Arends, Tanya Wolfs, Gene Topness, Jennifer Nepstad, Morgan Knutson and Matt Nelson. Amy Jacobson, Chellsey Lind, David Markegard, Mike Pepin, and Kristi Gudmundson were absent. A Quorum was called.

Others present: Pastor Jackie Short

Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve the agenda made by Kathy Abrahamson, seconded by Mary Gudmundson. Motion carried. Devotions were read by Robert Anfinson.

Congregation members present to address the council: None

President's report: Highland Prairie's president Val Howe updated the group that Highland Prairie's roof repair will start soon, and they are looking to start exploring the ADA-accessible bathroom project. Community Sunday School at Highland Prairie is going well and kids are having fun!

Pastor's report: Emily Carson from the Synod will be speaking to the joint council about stewardship following the July 27 bowl service. Pastor Jackie is excited to announce continuing education plans. She worked with Barb Streed from the Synod on crafting a 3-yr confirmation program. She will pilot this program in our parish and if it works well, Barb can pass it off to other congregations. Pastor Jackie reviewed other continuing education (from birth through adulthood) - sunday school, faith builders (confirmation) and faith journey (adult programs, bible studies, book club). Pastor Jackie has created a calendar of these offerings to provide structure, continuity and less overlap. Pastor Jackie and the kids are leaving on the youth mission trip to South Dakota after the joint worship service at Elstad on Sunday, July 20.

Correspondence received: None

Old business/committee reports:

1. Immediate parsonage concerns have been resolved. The stove may need to be replaced in the future. There might be some concrete needs on the front porch as well.
2. Courtney Lee's probationary period is up, and Amber Arends made a motion to increase her monthly salary to \$770/mo. effective Aug. 1, 2025. Morgan Knutson seconded. Motion approved.

New business:

1. The church's 40 acres are on a 3-yr lease, and the lease is up this fall. Courtney will put an ad for bids in the newsletter, bulletin and the church Facebook page.
2. Joint workshop service will be at Elstad on Sunday, July 20 at 9:00 a.m.
3. Val Howe asked for Elstad congregation support for collecting community sunday school supplies (gallon milk jugs) for the August sunday school project. Courtney will put an announcement in the newsletter and bulletin. Anyone interested in donating can drop their empty milk jugs off at Elstad. Please rinse them out and leave the cap off.

The secretary's report was given. Motion to approve was made by Mary Gudmundson, seconded by Amber Arends. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jennifer Nepstad, seconded by Matt Nelson.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next joint council meeting is at Highland Prairie on Sunday, Sept. 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Tanya Wolfs, Elstad council secretary

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, July 13, 2025 Elstad Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Gene Topness at 6:17 p.m.

Roll call: All council members were present. A Quorum was called.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Morgan Knutson, seconded by Matt Nelson. Motion carried.

Congregation members present to address the council: None

Pastor's report: No additional report at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was reviewed by the council. Amber Arends made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathy Abrahamson. Motion carried. Report will be placed on file and audited at a later date.

President's report: None

Correspondence received: None

Old business:

- Raffle ticket sales have been going well. Anyone interested in buying or selling raffle tickets, please contact one of the council members. Winners will be drawn at the service on Sunday, Sept. 14.
- Morgan Knutson updated the council on possible ideas for Sunday School for the 2025-26 school year. Sunday School will be every other Sunday starting Sept. 28, 2025. She will distribute a teacher sign-up sheet for those able to volunteer.

New business:

- The council decided not to move forward with the drive-thru dinner this year, since they are in the middle of selling raffle tickets. They will re-evaluate next year.

The secretary's report was given. Motion to approve was made by Amber Arends, seconded by Jennifer Nepstad. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Next council meeting is at Highland Prairie on Sunday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Tanya Wolfs, Council Secretary

Elstad Council Report

Elstad Steeple Update

They have completed the work on the steeple. They tuckpointed and re-shingled the steeple. Currently the Elstad Council is selling raffle tickets to help cover the costs of the repairs. If you know if anyone who might be interested in purchasing any tickets be sure to reach out to Council Members: Gene Topness, Matt Nelson, Tanya Wolfs, Amber Arends, Kathy Abrahamson, Morgan Knutson, Jennifer Nepstad.

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Bulletin Items Due!	1	2
3 Elstad -9am HIP~ 10:30am Faith Builders Pre-K -6 th 3-5 pm 7th-12 th 5-7 pm	4	5 Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm	6 Pastor Office 8-4 HP Bible Study~1:30p	7 Bulletin Items Due!	8	9 Kerska Family Reunion
10 Elstad -9am HIP~ 10:30am HP Council Meeting @ 12p	11	12 Education Committee Meeting 5:30pm	13 Pastor Office 8-4 Quilting & Potluck @ 9:30am Mission Trip Debreif 6pm	14 Bulletin Items Due!	15	16
17 Bowl Service 10:30am Lunch, Market, Baseball & water in the Park after worship Shorhoff Elstad Fellowship Hall	18	19 Joint Ministry Meeting @ 6:30pm	20 Pastor Office 8-4 Bonfire at Elstad @ 6pm	21 Bulletin Items Due!	22 Newsletter Items Due!	23
24 Elstad -9am HP~ 10:30am	25	26	27 Pastor Office 8-4	28 Bulletin Items Due!	29	30
31 Elstad -9am HP~ 10:30am Feeding our Neighbor's Meeting @ 11:30a Confirmation Meeting @ 2pm						

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

August 2025 Newsletter

Highland Prairie Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Acolyte: Hunter Lee, Clara Hoiland

Readers: Hunter Lee, Mary Gudmundson

Greeters: Mary Gudmundson

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Acolytes: Caiden Dahle, Clara Hoiland

Readers: Caiden Dahle

Greeters: Stephanie Dahl

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Acolytes: Hunter Lee, Brody Gellersen

Readers: Brody Gellersen

Greeters:

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Acolyte: Hudson Lee, Brody Gellersen

Readers: Hudson Lee, Kristi Gudmundson

Greeters: Kristi Gudmundson

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Acolyte: Hudson Lee, Mathew Gudmundson

Readers: Mathew Gudmundson, Paula Howe

Greeters: Val Howe

Elstad Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Acolyte:

Readers:

Greeters:

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Acolytes:

Readers: Glee Claussen

Greeters:

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Acolytes:

Readers:

Greeters:

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Acolyte:

Readers: Lori Bakke

Greeters:

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Acolyte: Grant Daniels

Readers: Grant Daniels

Greeters: