

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish  
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
~ April 2014 ~*

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*Worship Schedule  
April 2014*

*Wednesday, April 2*  
Lenten Service @ HP 6:30 p.m.

*Sunday, April 6*  
Elstad 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Highland Prairie 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

*Wednesday, April 9*  
Lenten Service @ EL 6:30 p.m.

*Sunday, April 13*  
Elstad 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Highland Prairie 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

*Thursday, April 17*  
Maundy Thursday Service @ EL  
7:00 p.m.

*Friday, April 18*  
Good Friday Service @ HP 7:00  
p.m.

*Sunday, April 20*  
Sunrise Service @ EL 6:30 a.m.  
Festival Easter Service @ EL 8:30  
a.m.  
Festival Easter Service @ HP  
10:30 a.m.

*Sunday, April 27*  
Elstad @ 8:30 a.m.  
Highland Prairie @ 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.

*Ponderings from the Parsonage...*

In John 20: 19-29 we hear two stories. The first is when Jesus appears to the disciples in a locked room. He appears and gives them two blessings: peace and the Holy Spirit. The appearance is brief but left an impact on all the disciples, except Thomas who was not there. The disciples could not wait to tell Thomas about what he had missed.

Who knows why Thomas was not there when Jesus appeared. Maybe he was the only disciple with enough guts to go out and pick up some food for supper. Maybe he just needed to spend some time alone. But we are told clearly that Thomas had missed all the excitement.

When the rest of the disciples tell Thomas what he had missed, he chose to rain on their parade: "Unless I see the marks, touch the wounds, I will not believe." Talk about a downer. I bet his skepticism was a bummer for the disciples. How could they even tell others about Jesus being alive if one of their own refused to believe them?

Did Thomas base his doubt solely on his own experience? Did he refuse to go along because it had never happened before? Was the possibility of something altogether new too much for Thomas?

I wonder what happened between Thomas and the other disciples? Did they get into an argument? We are not told. Did the other disciples begin to doubt too, in spite of what they had witnessed? Did the logic and past experience of Thomas get to them, or did they continue to believe?

The second story happens a full week later. Jesus showed up and turned doubting Thomas to confessing Thomas. A week of wonder, questions, and pondering. I wonder how Thomas and the others got along during that time. It is a powerful witness to their relationship that Thomas is still hanging out with the rest of the disciples when Jesus shows up again.

The reluctance of Thomas to believe causes Jesus to praise those who believe without seeing. What about you? Are you willing to risk believing even if it means giving up your well-founded doubts? Or will you stick to your own ways and refuse to believe in this new way, this new kingdom that Jesus is bringing?

*Pastor Dan*

# ELSTAD NEWS

## Elstad Prayer Partners

On the calendar spring is officially here. Most have been scanning the horizon for a long time now, looking for the rainbows and experiencing a hastening heart beat at the sign of the first robin to grace your lawn. Remember the old song from 1921 first sung by Al Jolson, *April Showers* with words of May flowers, raining violets, crowds of daffodils and the blue bird song? Many of those rainbow songs fit well into spring with the constant reminder of the driving force for something more in life. *Somewhere over the Rainbow, Following your dreams, Look to the rainbow, the Rainbow Connection. I Can Sing A Rainbow.*

To the people of faith we look to the rainbow with passion and hope. We can search the earth over and cannot escape the rainbow. This covenant made by the hand of the creator of the universe - that the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow is our gift of promise. Pray for your prayer partner this month that the fresh breath of promised spring and all that it has to offer will be truly a time of refreshing and assurance and blessing.

### WELCA gathering

Root River Conference Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at Christ Lutheran Church in Preston. Registration and Coffee 8:15AM-9:00AM. Program, business meeting and installation of officers before the noon lunch. Presenter is Pr. David Larson, accomplished gospel singer and song writer and radio evangelist. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend this event

### World Hunger - April newsletter and every April Sunday bulletin

April is the first of two months designated for world hunger offerings. Just as there are never enough Lutheran World Relief quilts to keep the needy of the world warm there is also never enough food to satisfy the hungry. Any gifts for this offering can be placed in the offering plates (designated for world hunger) or handed to the treasurer. Thank you for your gift of sharing and caring.

### Thank you - Newsletter and Sunday bulletin of April 6.

Thank you again to those who remembered me in any manner, said a prayer, sent a card, gave food or other gifts or shared a thought with me. It is good to be able to see a light at the end of the tunnel and return to the tasks assigned to me. It is also good to have caring companions on the journey. God is good. All the time. Ruth Abrahamson

### Elstad Budget

February budget	7772.50	Budget YTD	15545.00
Received	4142.00	Received YTD	11371.00
Under	3630.50	Under YTD	4174.00

**\*The Elstad Treasury is very low at this time. This is mostly due to the extremely cold, long winter and the high cost of LP. If you can give extra at this time it would help get us thru till the warmer spring weather arrives! Thank you.**

## Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 12, 2014

The meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church and was called to order by President Robert Knutson following the Joint Council meeting with Highland Prairie.

Roll Call was taken with Robert Knutson, Jerry Evenson, Jennifer Nepstad, Carol Overland and Vicky Topness in attendance. Michelle and John Rein were absent.

A quorum was called.

Motion made by Vicky Topness, second by Jerry Evenson, to approve the agenda as presented.

There were no congregation members wishing to address Council.

The Secretary's Report from the November 10, 2013 meeting was not available tonight. It will be read and approved at the next Elstad Council meeting.

The Treasurer's Report has been finalized and audited. Carol Overland made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and have it presented to the Congregation at Elstad's Annual meeting, January 19, 2014. Jerry Evenson seconded.

There was no President's Report or Correspondence.

Old Business:

- A. Drinking water solution – John Rein was planning to talk to Kingsley's in Harmony about a water treatment system that may be able to correct our high nitrate problem at church. In his absence, the Council is unsure if he has had a chance to do that or not, or what he found out. Jerry Evenson is planning to contact Kingsley's sometime this next week and he'll also check to see if anything has been discussed, what's available, cost, etc.

New Business:

- A. The council discussed what will need to be brought up at annual meeting. Robert will get an agenda to the Parish Secretary.
- B. Carol and Vicky presented the slate of officers for 2014 for the Annual Meeting election. Robert Knutson will contact one usher who has an unlisted number and then forward the slate of officers to the Parish Secretary for printing ballots for the Annual Meeting.
- C. The budget for 2014 was discussed and set, with a motion by Vicky and second by Carol to approve and submit for approval by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Jerry made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Carol. Meeting adjourned.

# HIGHLAND PRAIRIE NEWS

## Highland Prairie Annual Meatball Dinner Sunday, April 6th

Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

MENU: Meatballs, mashed potatoes & gray, glazed carrots, coleslaw, rolls, lefse, dessert & beverage

Adults: \$9      Children 6-12: \$5      Children 5-under: Free

There will be a bake sale sponsored by WELCA

Raffle ticket will be for sale on a handmade quilt. The quilt will be on display at the dinner. The quilt pattern is titled:  
"A Tip Around The World"

### Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday Announcements

There will be a coffee hour before the festive Easter worship at Highland Prairie.

All the Sunday school kids will be singing on Palm Sunday during the worship.

Highland Prairie Stewardship donations to LWR:

The Personal Care Kits and New School Kits were shipped on 1/3/14 to Yemen.

The Quilts were shipped on 2/28/14 to Lebanon.

**Circle Meetings** ~ Mary Circle will meet April 3rd at 4:30 at the church. We will be setting up and decorating for the meatball dinner. Our regular meeting and bible study will follow the decorating and set up. Supper will be provided.

~The HP Tabitha Circle will meet on April 23 at 1 pm at the home of Joanne Anderson

### Highland Prairie Financials For Feb.

YTD Income	\$11,553
Ym Expenses	\$13,780
Expenses exc. Income	\$2,227
YTD Budget	\$16,295
YTD Income	\$11,553
YTD under	\$4,742

Attention Highland Prairie Members: An email contact-list for members would provide better communication opportunities. If you would like to submit your email please send your name and email address to...  
highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com  
Thank You!

## HIGHLAND PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Special Council Meeting

March 23, 2014

Present: Gordon Johnson, Sarah Bearbower, Karen Bakken, Deb Book, David Larson, Chuck Pedersen, Lyle Meldahl, Steve Howe

Absent: Jerry Hallum, Kaye Eiken

A special council meeting was called to order on March 23 at 11:30 a.m. to review the **mowing contract** bid from Cutting Edge Lawn Care. It was the only bid received. Motion by Lyle, second by Steve to accept the bid as presented. Motion passed.

Additional Item: **Special offering fundraising envelopes.**

Envelopes printed with amounts from \$1 to \$100 could be used for contributions to special projects. Members would choose the amount they wish to contribute and take the envelope with that amount printed on it to use for their special offering.

Motion by Sarah, second by Lyle to begin using the envelopes for special projects fundraising. Motion passed.

Motion by David, second by Chuck to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Submitted by Deb Book, Highland Prairie Council Secretary

## HIGHLAND PRAIRIE COUNCIL MEETING

March 9, 2014

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was **called to order** by President Gordon Johnson at 7:55 pm.

Roll Call was done at the parish meeting. A quorum was called.

Five items were added to the agenda. Motion by Lyle, second by David to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

The **Secretary's Report** was read. Motion to approve by Jerry, second by Chuck. Motion passed.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Karen with a review of previous month and year to date income and expenses comparing actual and budgeted expenses, and a review of account balances. Motion by David, second by Lyle to accept the report. Motion passed. Report available for review and subject to audit.

The **President's Report** was given at the parish meeting. Gordon asked that committees keep him posted and updated on projects.

The **Pastor's Report** was given at the parish meeting.

### **Correspondence:**

A thank you letter was received from Camp Winnebago for our donation.

A letter offering her services and requesting support for Carina Schiltz, a Wartburg Seminary student from Rushford, was received from Trinity Lutheran Church in Rushford. A motion by Jerry and a second by Deb was made to give her \$500. Motion passed. Carina will be asked to attend a worship service to talk about her studies, and we will also check her availability as a supply pastor in Pastor Dan's absence.

### **Committee Reports:**

Jerry thanked Glen and Karen Bakken for the complete and accurate records they keep to assist with information requested, and Lisa for being accommodating when he misses deadlines.

A key has been issued to the Rushford Fire Department.

Four new designated outlets were installed in the kitchen. WELCA covered the expense.

### **Old Business:**

*Disability Solutions:* An estimate of \$26,977 for a lift had been received. This does not include the estimated \$5000 of additional construction costs. Annual fees, service fees, permits, testing and inspection fees are also required. Another estimate is pending. There is a facility that is replacing a lift with an elevator so there may be a chance to make an offer on a slightly used one. This is not a budgeted expense and congregation approval would be required.

### **New Business:**

*Committee Vacancies:* We will distribute sign-up sheets to encourage more involvement with our committees and projects.

*Member email list:* An email contact list for members would provide better communication opportunities. A notice will be placed in the newsletter.

*Park Improvements needed:* Entrance arch trellis, Rest house roof, Log cabin restoration

*Bowl improvements needed:* Repair building wall, Steps, Seating

*Facility Use Fees for Funerals:* The fees for funerals have changed for members. After a review and discussion it was decided to leave the fees as stated due to the utility and custodian expense when the church is used.

*Usher schedule:* Lisa has not been getting a list of scheduled ushers to include in the bulletins. Contacts will be made for someone to be responsible for the usher schedule.

*Website:* The website does not have accurate information. It should be updated on a regular basis.

*Video Equipment:* We would need a new projector in order to use the screen effectively.

*Confirmation:* Worship services on Wednesday evenings for students, parents, and mentors. All are welcome to attend.

No other business.

Motion by David, second by Lyle to adjourn, **Meeting adjourned** at 9:27pm

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, April 13

## ELSTAD-HIGHLAND PRAIRIE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

March 9, 2014

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was **called to order** by Highland Prairie Council President Gordon Johnson at 7:01pm.

**Roll Call:** Sarah Bearbower, Steve Howe, John Rein were absent. A quorum was called.  
Others in attendance: Pastor Dan, Parish Secretary Lisa Chiglo and Elstad member Ruth Abrahamson.

**Devotions** were given by Larry Topness.

Three items were added to the agenda. Motion by Larry, second by Kaye to **approve the agenda**. Motion passed.

The **Secretary's Report** from the January meeting was approved as read.

### **President's Report**

Council presidents Gordon and Larry along with Jerry E and Jerry H met recently for an evaluation and review of parsonage needs. The roofing project has been started.  
There is enough LP purchased at the pre-paid price to get through the winter.

### **Pastor's Report**

(Pastor Dan's report of accomplishments and plans is attached.) An ELCA handout "Establishing Safe Connections" was distributed. A video was shown with facts about social media use.

### **Old Business**

Jennifer shared concerns about printing costs of the welcome/communication cards and color printing on the bulletins.

Deb shared concerns of some Highland Prairie members about the new worship times and complaints that the 8:30am service is too early. Elstad has a couple of families that are not able to make it at that time. We will wait until the service times change to see how many are affected at Highland Prairie.

Bowl service dates on the worship calendar are June 22 and July 22. Highland Prairie WELCA has them on their calendar as June 8 and July 13. We were unable to determine who scheduled the dates and will keep the dates on the worship calendar and let the WELCA officers know.

The parsonage roofing project is in progress. In addition to the previous deposit for roofing materials, a deposit for gutters and downspouts has been paid.

### **New Business**

The bricks on the chimney for the main furnace in the parsonage are deteriorating and breaking. The roofers can do the chimney repair work which will include removing the chimney that is falling apart, placing a liner and replacing the chimney with a shiny pipe. The fireplace chimney is not damaged.

The parsonage energy audit has been done and we should get the report soon.

The parsonage committee will get an estimate to install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in the parsonage to comply with current mandates.

Plans for the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration were discussed. The Highland Prairie worship committee has begun planning a "Celebration Our Heritage" themed event for the August 17<sup>th</sup> Bowl Service. Representing Elstad WELCA, Ruth Abrahamson indicated Elstad would not be doing anything additional for the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The August 17<sup>th</sup> service is a joint service and they would like to be included in plans for the service and meal.

No other business.

Motion to adjourn by Vicky, second by Chuck Motion passed. Meeting **adjourned** at 7:50 pm

**Next Meeting:** May 18<sup>th</sup> at Elstad

Submitted by Deb Book, Highland Prairie Council Secretary

## **March Pastor's Report by Pr. Dan**

### **Accomplishments.**

Participated in the SE MN Synod boundary workshop on Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Confirmation students and parents and a few mentors are worshipping every Wednesday at Highland Prairie. They participate in worship readings, take quizzes and get a preview of upcoming lessons.

Ash Wednesday service was at Elstad at 5 pm and Highland Prairie at 7 pm. Attendance was down significantly at both services. Is it time to do just one?

Two confirmation classes were cancelled due to the weather. Makeup dates are on the calendar.

Led the Bible Study at Good Shepherd Nursing Home on January 8 and 22. Led worship at Good Shepherd Nursing Home on January 12 and February 23.

Led Devotions with the quilting group at Highland Prairie on January 8 and February 12.

Met with Root River Pastor's Conference in Rushford on January 14<sup>th</sup> and at Union Prairie on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Met with Rushford Ministerium on January 22 and February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Attended the Root River Conference Assembly in Spring Valley on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Each congregation can have up to 6 delegates. Two delegates from Elstad attended and nobody from Highland Prairie. Should Conference Assembly delegates be elected at the annual meeting?

Attended the MN State HS League One Act Play Finals in St Paul on Feb 14. Many Highland Prairie students were on the Rushford/Peterson team.

Attended the Lanesboro/Highland Prairie basketball game in Rochester on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>.

Energy audit by SEMCAC was done on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Expect full report in about 2 weeks. Two obvious needs: increase attic insulation to R50 and insulate the sill where the house meets the basement. Blower door test could not be done because of potential asbestos in the attic.

Met briefly on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> with a company about putting in an elevator at Highland Prairie.

Work began on the parsonage roof on Friday March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Attended the annual birthday party and "Laugh Yoga" program at Elstad today.

Continue to meet weekly with a pastor's text study group in Rushford.

Continue to meet monthly with the worship committee at Highland Prairie.

Very positive feed back on the confirmation mentor program by all involved!

### **Plans**

Root River Pastor's meeting at Chatfield on Tuesday March 11.

Lenten services begin Wednesday March 12 at Elstad.

Hosting the Root River Pastor's meeting on May 13 at Highland Prairie

Registered for the Festival of Homiletics Preaching Conference May 19-23 in Minneapolis.

Preliminary plans are in the works for celebrating the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the parish.

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

*\*All Birthdays & Anniversaries are listed according to the information I have.*

*If you see an error please contact me @ [highlandprairie\\_elstad@ymail.com](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com) Thank You!*

## **Happy Birthday!!**

1~ Sharon Rustad

2~ Matthew Soppa

~ J.T. Rein

3~ Kristi Jacobson

4~ James Wangen

~ Janet Todd

~ Alex Kopperud

5~ Taylor Thompson

~ Kylie Woxland

~ Madison Ingvalson

6~ Erick Berland

~ Waylon Colwell

~ Chloe Peterson

~ Amber Eide

7~ Rodney Humble

~ Gary Stennes

8~ Lillian Gravos

9~ Vicky Topness

~ Sarah Bacon

~ Melissa Hallum

~ Colin Bakke

~ Chase Bakke

10~ Jill Halverson

~ William Book

~Hudson Stensgard

11~ Gary Rustad

~ Barbara Onomija

~ Hans Lind

~ Makenna Peterson

3~ Tim Stensgard

14~ Richard Howe

15~ Phyliss Passow

~ Marlys Paulson

~ Christian Dahl

~ Kody Bearbower

16~ Elinor Olson

~ Cindy Johnson

~ Dawn Steffes

~ Adam Eide

17~ Darla Rislov

18~ Leah Jacobson

19~ Carrie Kelly

~ Evan Johnson

20~ Casey Howe

21~ Sharon Boyum

~ Jennifer Klug

~ Melissa McCabe

~ Jenna Root

22~ Chealsy Eide

23~ Erik Sievers

~ Nick Wangen

~ Zachary Mierau

24~ Everette Dolalie

~ Bradley Johnson

~Jeffrey Passow

~ Brenda Oian-Vaust

26~ Christopher Nelson

27~ Robert Nelson

~ Jeremy Volkman

~Matthew James

28~ Paul Halverson

~ Nicole Woxland

~ Jessica Woxland

~ Ethan Tober

29~ Jerry Dragvold

~ Suzanne Mueller

~ Michael Lee

30~ Steven Howe

~ Elizabeth Larson

## **Happy Anniversary!!**

1~ Larry & Deb Topness

7~ John & Carol Overland

8~ Mark & Cindy Johnson

9~ Daniel & Katie Hackbarth

17~ Delane & Patty Horning

24~ Glenn & Sandy Thomas

27~ Robert & Ellen Lawstuen

# April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  Lenten Worship @ HP 6:30 p.m.	3  H.P. Mary circle 4:30 @ Church	4	5
6  EL @ 8:30 a.m.  S.S. EL & HP @ 9:30 a.m.  HP @ 10:30 a.m.	7	8	9 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  Lenten Worship @ EL 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12
13  EL @ 8:30 a.m.  S.S. EL & HP @ 9:30 a.m.  HP @ 10:30 a.m.	14	15	16 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	17  Maundy Thurs- day @ EL 7:00 p.m.  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	18  Good Friday Ser- vice @ HP 7:00 p.m.	19
20  Sunrise Service @ EL 6:30 a.m. Festival Easter EL 8:30 a.m. Festival Easter HP 10:30 a.m.	21	22	23 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  HP Tabitha cir- cle mtg. 1p.m.	24	25  HP-Quilt & Craft Frolic	26  HP-Quilt & Craft Frolic
27  EL @ 8:30 a.m.  S.S. EL & HP @ 9:30 a.m.  HP @ 10:30 a.m.	28	29	30 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  EL-Abrahamson Piano recital			

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

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Permit No. #6

# *April Newsletter*

## Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

### Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Reader: Sharon Ehler

### Sunday, April 6, 2014

Acolytes: Riley Koop, Hans Lind  
Readers: Riley Koop, Sylvia Markegard  
Greeters: Doug Lind Family

### Sunday, April 13, 2014

Acolytes: Hans Lind, Jack Kopperud  
Readers: Hans Lind, Norma Halverson  
Greeters: Allen & Kay Howe

### Good Friday, April 18, 2014

Acolytes: Jack Kopperud, Paula Howe  
Reader: Jack Kopperud, Sylvia Passow

### Sunday, April 20, 2014

Acolytes: Paula Howe, Collen Dahle  
Readers: Paula Howe, Arlene Johnson  
Greeters: Roger & Sarah Bearbower

### Sunday, April 27, 2014

Acolytes: Collen Dahle, Peyton Hoiness  
Readers: Collen Dahle, David Larson  
Greeters: Gordon & Arlene Johnson

## Elstad Acolyte/Reader/Ushers

### Sunday, April 6, 2014

Acolyte: Caleb Gravos

Reader: Glee Claussen

### Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Reader: Peter Holm

### Sunday, April 13, 2014

Reader: John Overland

### Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2014

Reader: Vicky Topness

### Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014

#### Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.

Acolyte: Chris Freese

Reader: Lori Bakke

#### Festival Easter 8:30 a.m.

Acolyte: Kody Bearbower

Reader: Tom Dybing

### Sunday, April 27, 2014

Reader: Carolyn Smith

Ushers: Mike Chiglo, John Overland, Dick Haight, Brad Kelly, Gene Topness