

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

~ April 2021 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com

Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

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

Worship Notes:

*The parish has returned to "in-person" worship. Covid19 precautions (masking and physical distancing) continue to be observed for those in attendance. All Sunday services continue to be offered on the Facebook and website pages of both congregations.

*The parish council acknowledges that worshippers are singing hymns (while masked). We will resume singing the liturgy of Holy Communion beginning on Easter Sunday (while masked).

*Beginning on Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion in both kinds (bread and wine) will be offered even while those who wish only to receive in one kind (bread only) may continue to do so. The full benefit of the sacrament is present whether in reception of one kind or two kinds.

April Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 1
Highland Prairie-7:00 p.m.

Exodus 12.1-14
Psalm 116.1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11.23-26
John 13.1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 2
Stations of the Cross – Highland Prairie-
10:00 a.m.

Tenebrae – Elstad-7:00 p.m.

Isaiah 52.13-53.12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10.16-25
John 18.1-19.42

+Easter Sunday, April 4
Elstad-7:00 a.m.
Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.

Acts 10.34-43
Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15.1-11
Mark 16.1-8

+Sunday, April 11

2 Easter

Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.

Elstad-10:30-a.m.

Acts 4.32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1.1-2.2
John 20.19-31

+Sunday, April 18

3 Easter

Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.

Elstad-10:30 a.m.

Acts 3.12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3.1-7
Luke 24.36b-48

+Sunday, April 25

4 Easter

Highland Prairie-9:00 a.m.

Elstad-10:30 a.m.

Acts 4.5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3.16-24
John 10.11-18

+++

Easter Triumph, Easter Joy

If any person is devout and loves God, let him come
to this radiant triumphant feast.

If any person is a wise follower, let him enter
into the joy of his Lord, rejoicing.

If any have lasted long, let him now receive refreshment.

If any have labored from the first hour, let him today
receive his just reward.

If any came at the third hour, let him keep the feast
with thankfulness.

If any arrived at the sixth hour, let him have not
misgivings for he shall not be deprived.

If any delayed to the ninth hour, let him draw near,
fearing nothing.

If any have waited even until the eleventh hour,
let him not be alarmed at this tardiness.

For the Lord will accept the last even as the first.

Therefore, all of you, enter into the joy of your Lord.

Rich and poor together, hold high festival.

Diligent and heedless, honor this day.

Both you who have fasted, and you who did not fast,
rejoice together today.

The table is full; all of you, feast sumptuously.

The calf is fatted; let no one go away hungry.

Enjoy the feast of faith; receive the riches of God's mercy.

Let no one bewail his poverty, for the fullness
of the kingdom is revealed.

Let no one weep for his iniquities, for forgiveness
shines forth from the grave.

Let not one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free.

He who was help prisoner by death has annihilated it.

By descending into death, he made death captive.

He angered it when it tasted of his flesh.

Isaiah saw this, and cried:

"Death was angered when it encountered you
in the lower regions."

It was angered, for it was defeated.

It was angered, for it was mocked.

It was angered, for it was abolished.

It was angered, for it was overthrown.

It was angered, for it was bound in chains.

It received a body and it met God face to face.

It took earth and encountered heaven.

It took that which is seen and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting?

O Grave, where is your victory?

Christ is risen and you are overthrown.

Christ is risen and the devils have fallen.

Christ is risen and angels rejoice.

Christ is risen and life reigns.

Christ is risen and not one dead remains in the grave.

For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, and to him be glory and honor, even to eternity. Amen.

ELCA Disaster Relief Fund-The need continues...

You are encouraged to make a gift to the fund. Please make your check out to your congregation and put ELCA Disaster Relief on the MEMO line.

Local Food Shelves-The need continues.

Members of both congregations are invited to bring 2 food items each Sunday during the Lenten season. These items will be delivered weekly to the food shelves listed below. No outdated items will be accepted.

Our area SEMCAC food shelves: Rushford (113 E. Jessie St. Rushford), and Preston (515 Washington St. NW, Preston).

Confirmation Instruction, 2021

7th and 8th grade confirmation students are reminded that in-class instruction will resume on Wednesday, April 7th, 6:30 p.m., at Elstad. Pr. Mathsen will be checking on how each student's memorization of the Small Catechism is progressing. 8th grade students will receive instructions for their final projects. They will be due on Wednesday, April 28th.

Adult Christian Education

The adult book study planned for the weeks after Easter has been postponed until May. It will be held on Thursday's beginning, May 20th, @ 10:00 a.m. We'll be reading a novel by Michael D. O'Brien, entitled, The Lighthouse. One reviewer of the book, and fellow author, writes: "Can a man be an island? Can he be the captain of his soul? And what's the difference between solitude and loneliness? Such questions are at the heart of this story of one man's quest to make sense of himself and the world in which he finds himself." Please let Pr. Mathsen know if you're interested in participating in the study of this book.

Elstad Maintenance Items 2021

As with any historically significant building, Elstad church requires perpetual care and upkeep. The church council has identified some specific building and grounds concerns. A sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the nave, should you desire to assist with a donation or with your time and skill. See council president, Dick Haight or treasurer, Jennifer Nepstad if you have questions.

- 1) Bathroom repair & painting
- 2) Screen door replacement
- 3) Back entry overhand and soffit paint or stain
- 4) Basement window sills
- 5) Shed repairs
- 6) Cemetery bench paint & Stain
- 7) New church sign stain/paint

Some Highland Prairie Maintenance Items 2021

Among items of repair/upkeep that will be taking place this year are parking lot repair and re-staining the church building. Your financial contributions are appreciated. Also, the landscaping around the church foundations needs to be re-worked. Perhaps you'd like to lend a hand or provide financial help. See council president Gordon if you have questions.

Provisional Concerns of Congregational Life

Your continuing consideration of your offerings that help the church meet its financial commitments 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 will make in-person home visits, if desired. He expects any visits will be under Covid19 precautions. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of pastoral care or conversation, please let Pr. Luther know. He wants the parish to know he is available for pastoral visits whether by telephone or other health safety means.

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 14th, 2021

The Meeting was held at Elstad Lutheran Church with Elstad president, Dick Haight calling the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Roll call was taken. A Quorum was called.

Others present: Pastor Luther.

Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda made by Lyle and second by Kay. 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

Future of the church during the pandemic- Continue to be masked and distant, but no attendance limit. There has been a 30-40% worship attendance. Pastor Luther is concerned about the effects on families and the long term effects on the congregation and living in fear. Pastor Luther is concerned if singing unmasked poses a threat to spreading the virus. Pastor Luther wants to know what others have heard from members who are not attending.

Gordon - Hearing members want a loosening of restrictions

Joyce- Hearing members waiting for the second vaccine to return to worship

Kay shares recommendations on keeping members active in the church such as writing down fears or prayers and dissolving them or burning them.

Joint Parish Youth:

Confirmation and Sunday school

Old Business/Committee Reports: None

New Business:

Church Directory - Bart sent materials on a pictorial directory. Last one was in 2016. We need to update members. A discussion in more detail will take place at the next council meeting

Parsonage Committee - Nothing gone on since the pandemic started. Need to start looking for participants on the committee. There are updates still needed on the parsonage. The upstairs bathroom needs attention. No shelves in the downstairs bathroom. Linoleum needs attention in the kitchen and the bathroom. There is a doorway to the porch covered in plastic. The committees from both congregations would do a walk through.

Pastor Luther shares the rock garden was reconstructed. Need black dirt to finish covering and start some perennials.

Secretary's report was given. Motion to approve by Amber, and second by Steve.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by President Dick Haight, and second by Amber. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Submitted by Aimee Rodger, Elstad Council Secretary

Next Meeting is Sunday April 11th, 2021 at Highland Prairie.

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday March 14th, 2021

Elstad Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Haight at 7:19 pm.

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

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Jennifer second by Amber. Motion passed.

Tom Dybing was present to share information he received from Dean Berland at Highland Church to the council.

The Pastor's report was given.

Taping continues at Highland Prairie. There was a microphone problem last Wednesday. 2 online prayer services a week continue. Confirmation will take place on May 2nd. Holy week is approaching. Youth have been doing weekly take home assignments totaling in 18. Adult book study continues. Synod assembly will take place on May 8th. Pastor Luther, Dick and Diane Haight will be attending from Elstad Lutheran Church. Pastor continues to meet members outside of the church. Waiting on Good Shepheard to resume visits there.

Pastor shares concerns related to the pandemic and the future of worship.

The treasurer's report was reviewed and placed on file for audit at a later date. The PPE loan was approved. We are indebted to Jennifer for her work.

The president did not have a report to give

Correspondence received: none

Old Business:

Church Repairs- There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church for small church repairs members can sign up for. This will be added to the bulletin and the church newsletter. We could also make this available for the younger members to see through Facebook.

Tom Dybing also spoke of the large cracks in the cement leading up to the stairs. President Dick Haight will contact Jessie Rein regarding this concern.

Sunday School - Krissy and Amber share that the Sunday school has been meeting in person since February 21st using Shared Faith for prek - 8th grade. This is also available to families not attending in person. The expense was taken care of by the Sunday School funds. Highland prairie was invited to piggy back, however we have not heard back from Chelsie at Highland prairie.

New Business

Dean shared with Tom that a rain guard micro seal was used and could be purchased on Amazon. It is a water repellant not waterproof. This would keep moisture from going through the wall. The cost is \$78 a quart. It took them 20 gallons. A lift is also needed to spray the higher parts which would cost \$300 - \$400. They paid \$200 - \$250 for the person applying it. In total it cost \$850 for them to do this. This may need to be done every 4-5 years. Dean estimated to Tom that it would cost roughly \$1000 to complete today. Tom will look into this more.

Jennifer made a motion to look into the rain guard micro seal and Krissy second. Motion passed

Secretary's report was given. Motion was given by Amber, second by Kathy. Motion passed.

Motion was made by President Dick Haight to adjourn, second by Amber. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Closed in prayer by Pastor Luther.

Secretary's report submitted by Aimee Rodger

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

March 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members present were Robert Anfinson, Karen Bakken, Joyce Dahl, Mary Gudmundson, Chris Hoiland, Steve Howe, Gordon Johnson, David Markegard, and Lyle Meldahl. Tim Stensgard was absent.

A quorum was determined and a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Chris Hoiland, Steve Howe seconded. Motion carried.

Devotions were given by Pastor Luther.

There were no congregation members present.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen Bakken. The SBA Payroll Protection loan has been forgiven. Year to date information provided are income \$9,744.00 expenses \$ 12,550.00; expenses exceed income by \$2,806.00. A motion to approve as presented was made by Steve Howe, Joyce Dahl, seconded. Motion carried.

The President's Report: Little activity to report.

The Pastor's Report was given by Pastor Luther. One year into COVID we have seen a 30-45% decrease in attendance. Online worship and two prayer services per week continue. The Passion according to Mark will be heard this year with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday services. Confirmation continues with parental involvement in assignments. May 2nd will be the Rite of Confirmation service. Bible Study continues. Conference Clergy meeting attended online on topic "Pay Attention to What you are Paying Attention To". Invitation given to come and preach. Synod Assembly will be held online. Providing monthly Bible Study at Parklane and looking to provide the same at Good Shepherd once we are allowed; phone calls to shut ins and Communion served as requested, as well as preparations for fall weddings.

Correspondence received: Synod 40 days of food shelf donations, school donation request.

Committee Reports: Grounds and buildings – we need to keep in mind the roof, staining, walkway and stairs, curb and gutter and air conditioners should be looked at.

Old Business: Parking lot – Bid from B & D Sealcoating was received and a decision needs to be made so it can be scheduled for this year. Steve Howe moved to proceed with proposal as presented, David Markegard seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: Discussion on the possibilities of singing during worship, an Easter Breakfast, and Rental of Church facilities for Lind piano recital to following masking and distancing Chris Hoiland, Joyce Dahl seconded. Motion carried.

Good Earth campership fund approval motion to cover 75% of the cost was made by Joyce Dahl, Nancy Rustad seconded. Motion carried at the January council meeting. We will table any further action at this time.

Approval of Auditors – Currently Jenny Stensgard is continuing, Val Howe and Alan Skalet will join as auditors. Steve Howe moved to approve; Chris Hoiland seconded. Motion carried.

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve was made by Steve Howe, Karen Bakken seconded. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer was made by Joyce Dahl , Chris Hoiland seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gudmundson

Next meeting will be on April 11th at 5:30 pm at Highland Prairie.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

February 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by President Gordon Johnson.

Council Members present were; Joyce Dahl, Gordon Johnson, Tim Stensgard, Lyle Meldahl and Chris Hoiland.

Devotions were given by Pastor Luther.

There were no congregation members present.

The Council reviewed the treasurer's report, and will approve next month when Karen is available to answer any questions.

The President's Report: None

The Pastor's Report:

Pastor Luther thanked the congregation for the time off, it is appreciated. Today was the last Sunday after Epiphany, and Pastor Luther wanted to thank Martha for the music and Bobbi for the technical support. Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. Services will be at 5 PM at Elstad, and 7 PM at Highland-Prairie. The Highland-Prairie service will be taped. All midweek Lenten Services following Ash Wednesday will be at 7 PM. beginning with the service on 2/24/21 at Elstad. The theme for Lent this year is "Life together in Christian Community. Members are encouraged to bring canned goods for the local food shelves. Online prayer services will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Lent. A 5 week book study will begin this Thursday (2/18/21) on "A Large Catechism" by Robert Jensen. Confirmation instruction restarted in January with 14 great kids in class. There will not be classroom instruction during Lent, as the students are expected to attend Lenten Services weekly, and work on their memorization work from the small catechism. Pastor Luther attended the Synod meeting this afternoon, where routine business occurred, including electing persons to positions, in the meeting it was discussed that the Synod is having the same issues as congregations today in regards to restrictions, and providing digital access. Pastor Luther indicated that Pastoral Care continues, and communion is available for shut-ins, but strict safety protocols will be observed. Due to continued access restrictions, hospital visits are still not possible. Pastor Luther also noted that the Synod has a "40 days 40 dollars" campaign that will benefit the global mission. He will post the information on Facebook, and add it to the bulletin announcements for individuals whom would like to participate.

Correspondence received: None

Committee Reports: The education committee will be reviewing the online curriculum that Elstad is using, and if they would like to move forward we will be buying the appropriate licenses for Highland-Prairie.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Parsonage Committee needs to meet in the spring to determine what parsonage projects need to be.

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to approve was made by Tim Stensgard, seconded by Lyle Meldahl. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:11 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Hoiland

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@yahoo.com



Happy Anniversary!

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

2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday—7:00 @ HP	2 Good Friday— 7:00 p.m. @ Elstad	3
4 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 7:00 a.m.—EL 9:00 a.m.—HP	5	6	7 Confirmation— 6:30 p.m. @ EL Bulletin Deadline	8	9	10
11 HP—9:00 a.m. EL— 10:30 a.m. HP Council— 5:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Confirmation— 6:30 p.m. @ EL Bulletin Deadline	15	16	17
18 HP—9:00 a.m. EL— 10:30 a.m.	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21 Confirmation— 6:30 p.m. @ EL Bulletin Deadline	22	23	24
25 HP—9:00 a.m. EL— 10:30 a.m.	26	27	28 Confirmation— 6:30 p.m. @ EL Bulletin Deadline	29	30	

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

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Permit No. #6

Address Services Requested



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN
READERS: CADEN JOHNSON, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALLET & KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, CHEYANNE DAHLE
READERS: LARISSA RYAN, ARLENE JOHNSON
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

ACOLYTES: CHEYANNE DAHLE, MICHAEL EVENSON JR.
READERS: CHEYANNE DAHLE, BECKY LIND
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021

ACOLYTES: MICHAEL EVENSON JR., LINDSEY HOINESS
READERS: MICHAEL EVENSON JR., SHARON EHLER
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

ACOLYTES: LINDSEY HOINESS, KENNA GUDMUNDSON
READERS: LINDSEY HOINESS, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021

ACOLYTE: JENSYN STORHOFF
READERS: KYLE DANIELS, GENE TOPNESS

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

ACOLYTE: MILEY KNUTSON
READERS: INDY QUALY, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

ACOLYTE: AUBREY DANIELS
READERS: LIZ HAGEMAN, LORI BAKKE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2021

ACOLYTE: SAWYER WOLFS
READERS: SARI REIN, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

ACOLYTE: THEA ARENDS
READERS: JENSYN STORHOFF, CAROL OVERLAND

USHERS: CAROL OVERLAND, JOHN OVERLAND,
TOM SMITH, DAVE LAWSTUEN,
KYLE DANIELS, ROBERT KNUTSON