

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

*~ April 2019~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

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*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*

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*Prayer Corner*

*Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Marion Dahl, Wendy Will, Michele Thompson, Lucile Ask, Steve Lee, the family of Bob Olson, Glenn Peterson, Judy Martin, Nancy Benson and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.*

**Elstad World Hunger**

April is a month to remember giving to the world hunger ministry.

You are invited to participate in this special offering.

Any donation you would like to give can be put in the offering plate with a special notation for this cause.

Thank you for your caring concerns during the month of April.

**Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Meatball Dinner**

**Sunday, April 7th, 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.**

Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, glazed carrots, salad, homemade buns, lefse, dessert, beverage

Adults—\$10

Children 6-12—\$5

Children 5 and under—Free

**Baked Items Also for Sale!**

Highland Prairie Council meeting

Sunday, April 14th, 5:30 p.m. at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

**April Worship Schedule**

**+Sunday, April 7th**

**Lent 5**

**9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**10:30 a.m., Elstad**

Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

Holden Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. Elstad

\*6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

**+Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Passion/Palm Sunday**

**9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**10:30 a.m., Elstad**

**\*Procession w/Palms from cemetery  
(Weather permitting)**

Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m., Highland Prairie

\*Youth receive 1<sup>st</sup> Communion @ HP

**Good Friday, April 19th**

**Stations of the Cross**

**10:00 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**Evening Tenebrae**

**7:00 p.m., Elstad**

+Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Easter Sunday

*7:00 a.m., Elstad*

*9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie*

**+Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**2 Easter**

**9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie**

**10:30 a.m., Elstad**

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### **Confirmation Class and Mentor Notes**

Confirmation students: If you have not yet scheduled your one-on-one meeting with Pr. Mathsen, do so before Easter. Review of youth who will be confirmed this year will take place on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at Elstad. Confirmands are strongly encouraged to be working on their memory work in the Small Catechism. The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Andrew Hoiness is preparing to be confirmed at Highland Prairie. Parker Storhoff and Mackenzie Knutson are preparing to be confirmed at Elstad. You are encouraged to pray for these youth as they prepare to affirm the faith into which they have been baptized.

### **Parish Men's Breakfast**

The next parish men's breakfast will take place at Highland Prairie on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. Last month we took a look at Psalm 139. This month we will be taking a look at two biblical stories that have to do with Abraham and we will pray together.

### **Mid-school/High-school Milwaukee Mission Trip**

Preparations for the June 9-14, 2019 parish youth Milwaukee mission trip are underway. Six youth are committed to participate. We continue to look for a female adult who may be interested in accompanying the group. She will serve as an adult leader with Pr. Mathsen. See him for details. We thank the women of both congregations for helping these youth defray the cost of their participation. We are still in the process of meeting our expenses. If you would like to make a personal donation to the balance that we still owe, please see Pr. Mathsen.

### **Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund**

By now we are aware of the devastating effects of the flood waters in the Midwest and the tornadoes that occurred in the south. We have the opportunity to support these sisters and brothers by contributing to the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund which assists those who are on the ground bringing much needed help. You are encouraged to consider a gift to the fund. Make the check out to your congregation and write "Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund" on the MEMO line.

### **Vacation Bible School 2019**

I continue to seek adults who will help in the planning for summer Vacation Bible school for our parish. See Pr. Mathsen, if you are interested.

### **Spring Clean-up of the HP Park and Bowl**

We are fast arriving the time of year when we gather a small army to clean up the park and the bowl at Highland Prairie. Be on the lookout for information on the date and time of the event. Sign up and join us in the work and fellowship. We'll make sure there is hot coffee and a goodie to go along with it.

Spring is Coming

I am writing this piece to you just minutes before official spring begins. The day is March 20<sup>th</sup>. The time spring officially begins is 4:58 p.m. Given the kind of winter weather we've had of late, it seems too good to be true. The fact that we are in the midst of the high school basketball tournaments makes me cautious. If past tournament years are any indication of what we coming upon us, we are not likely to put away our snow shovels.

But I am reminded of the crocuses I are often planted on the south side of many homes. They are sure to have broken through the ground even though I am equally sure that albeit slowly vanishing snow drifts are still visible close by. The crocus is the little miracle that is a sign of what was coming on. Yes, we are on the cusp of springtime and summer; seasons of hope and new life.

In his essay, *God in the Dock*, C.S. Lewis makes reference to the coming of the crocus...this beautiful and dainty harbinger of the coming of springtime. He relates it to the meaning of the miracle of Christ's death and resurrection and the hope of the Eternal Springtime for us contained therein.

*The miracles that have already happened are, of course, as Scripture so often says, the first fruits of that cosmic summer which is presently coming on. Christ has risen, and so we shall rise. St. Peter for a few seconds walked on the water, and the day will come when there will be a re-made universe, infinitely obedient to the will of glorified and obedient men, when we can do all things, when we shall be those gods that we are described as being in Scripture. To be sure, it feels wintry enough still: but often in the very early spring it feels like that. Two thousand years are only a day or two by this scale. A man really ought to say, "The Resurrection happened two thousand years ago" in the same spirit in which he says, "I saw a crocus yesterday." Because we know what is coming behind the crocus. The spring comes slowly down this way; but the great thing is that the corner has been turned. There is, of course, this difference, that in the natural spring the crocus cannot choose respond or not. We can. We have the power either of withstanding the spring, or sinking back into the cosmic winter, or of going on into those "high mid-summer pomps" in which our Leader, the Son of man, already dwells, and to which He is calling us. It remains with us to follow or not, to die in this winter, or to go on into that spring and that summer.*

Brothers and sisters! In a few short weeks we will celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead, Easter. "All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying," is the proclamation of the Easter hymn (ELW, #363). Just so, what are we in the midst of? The coming on of that Eternal Springtime. "Christ is risen, and so we shall rise." And isn't that grand!

Pr. Mathsen+

## Elstad - Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Parish Council Meeting

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

1. Call to Order 6:40pm by Larry Topness
2. Roll Call – Mary, Scott, Tim, Jodi, Rita, Michelle were absent
3. Quorum - Yes
4. Approval of Agenda – Sarah motioned to approve, Kay second, Motion passed.
5. Devotions - Given by Larry Topness
6. Congregation members wishing to address Council - none
7. President's Report - Nothing
8. Pastor's Report –
  - Lenten worship starts this Wednesday at Elstad. 6pm soup supper 7pm worship.
  - On Maundy Thursday pastor will be looking for volunteers for foot washing.
  - Good Friday worship at 10am (HP) and 7pm (Elstad).
  - Easter Sunday worship is at 7am(Elstad), 9am (HP).
  - Summer Wednesday evening services will continue with more opportunities to participate at the parish fire ring.
  - Confirmation has missed 3 Wednesdays due to weather. During the season of Lent, Pastor will meet one on one with the student to catch up as well as mentors meetings.
  - Six kids are planning to go on the mission trip. We are looking for a female leader to go along on the trip.
  - Pastor is looking for volunteers to plan a Vacation Bible School for the parish youth this summer.
9. Youth – Given during Pastor's report.
10. Correspondence: none
12. Old Business:
  - A. Parsonage work update: Deck is completed, but the roof needs to be finished as well as the porch screening. The fire pit will also receive some work once the ground is ready. Storm windows are also needed for the library.
13. New Business:
  - A. Summer parsonage Lawn mowing: This summer it will have to be mowed when the rest of the property is done.
  - B. Mission: Parish commitment to Haiti should be our emphasis for the year. The council president's will be in touch with Pastor Marie to continue the communication. Keep Mission as an item on the parish agenda.
14. Secretary's Report – Chris motioned to approved, Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion passed. Submitted by Sarah Bearbower.
15. Adjournment (The Lord's Prayer) – Sarah motioned to adjourn, Lyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed. 7:10pm.

## Elstad Lutheran church council meeting on March 10, 2019

Larry Topness called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm on March 10.

A quorum was called.

Kay Wold made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Krissy Overland 2<sup>nd</sup> it. All voted yes.

Pastor's report: The Root River Conference assembly was rescheduled to March 24<sup>th</sup>. Shut in visits are continuing.

The treasurers' report was presented and place on file to be audited at a later date.

Old Business: Repairs and painting will continue to be addressed.

New Business: Church Goals for 2019 and beyond will continue to be discussed at our May council meeting.

We will look at ideas to update our sound system more closely at our May meeting.

There was discussion on tree removal and the need for some trimming on those close to the power line. Motion by Jennifer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Krissy to request Mienergy trim those close to the power line and not remove any others at this time. All voted yes.

Kay Wold made a motion by approve the secretary's report as read, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Krissy, motion passed.

Motion by Jennifer to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Kay. Motion passed.

### Elstad budget for February 2019

February	\$ 7241.75
Received February	\$ 2477.00
Under	\$ 4764.75
Budget YTD	\$ 14483.50
Received YTD	\$ 11777.00
Under YTD	\$ 2706.50

## Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

1. Call to Order 5:39pm by President Gordy Johnson.
2. Roll Call – Mary, Scott, and Tim were absent
3. Quorum - Yes
4. Devotions – Will be given at joint council.
5. Approval of Agenda – Chris motioned to approve, Nancy second, Motion passed.
6. Congregation members wishing to address Council - none
7. Treasurer's Report – Joyce motioned to approve, Nancy second, motion passed. Subject to audit.
8. President's Report - Nothing
9. Pastor's Report –
  - Weather cancellations are made as early as possible by Pastor and council president's. Parish Admin gets it to the new stations ASAP.
  - Lenten services start this week.
  - On Maundy Thursday Pastor will be looking for volunteers for foot washings.
  - We have a few kids in first communion instruction.
  - Good Friday there will be a service in the AM and at 7pm.
  - Easter Sunday will have 2 services; 7am and 9am.
  - Three Wednesday evening confirmation classes have been cancelled due to weather. Pastor is planning to meet one on one with the students over lent to catch up.
  - Bible study on the book of Job continues on Wednesday mornings at 10am.
  - Root River Conference assembly is rescheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2pm – Cross of Christ in Houston.
  - We have 6 six deposited for the mission trip. The trip costs is \$324/each + van and gas \$. Youth have deposited \$50. They will also be planning a fundraiser.
  - Pastor would like to start planning for parish VBS for the summer. Monthly visits with shut-ins and hospital calls continue.
  - 10. Correspondence: Thank you email from Pastor Mioche for donation to Haiti.
11. Committee Reports:
  - A. Church – Water dripping in the entry way upstairs due to an ice jam on the roof. Gordy and Pastor Luther removed what he could from the roof yesterday. While up there Gordy noticed the roof conditions, some of the shingles are showing their age. We should take an assessment of the full roof once the snow clears. Next year we should add more heat tape to the eaves area for the winter.
  - B. Grounds – There will be quite a bit of tree clean up when spring arrives.
  - C. Worship – None
  - D. Youth & Education – None in addition to Pastor's report items. Thank you to the Board of Education committee for their work.

12. Old Business:

- A. Shelter roof – We will need to evaluate this after the spring thaw. We should look at cost for steel when the time comes to refinish.
- B. Custodian Position – Nancy will contact Tim about Spic & Span to arrange for them to look and give us an estimate on cleaning costs.
- C. Scholarships – Joyce made a motion that the council will not at this time have a scholarship process. Lyle second. Motion passed.
- D. Church Doors – Ladies of the church would like to create a door fund. The fund will likely need a minimum balance of \$10,000 prior to door replacement.

13. New Business:

- A. Property tree issues – Pastor mentioned that there is an ash tree in the cemetery that needs to be removed.

14. Secretary's Report – Lyle motioned to approved, Chris 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion passed. Submitted by Sarah Bearbower.

15. Adjournment (The Lord's Prayer) – Chris motioned to adjourn, Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed. 6:36pm.

Parking Lot: Shelter roof, heat tape on eaves for winter.

Next regular meeting, Sunday, April 14, 2019, 5:30 p.m. at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

**Highland Prairie Financials**

**February 2019**

YTD Income	\$ 7,887
YTD Expenses	\$12,924
Income exc. Expenses	\$ 5,037
YTD Budget	\$15,716
YTD Income	\$ 7,887
YTD Under	\$ 7,829



# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



## **Getting to Know Rev. Dr. Eric Barreto: The 2019 Synod Assembly Bible Study Leader**

Rev. Dr. Eric Barreto will be this year's Bible study leader at the 2019 Synod Assembly. He also led the Bible study for the 2017 assembly. Barreto currently serves as the Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament Princeton Theological Seminary.

### ***What energizes you about studying God's word in community with others?***

Jesus promised that when we gather together the Spirit shows up. I have experienced this to be the case especially when I'm reading Scripture with folks who see the world very differently than I do. My neighbors can often notice things I do not, and in their witness to what God is teaching them through the Bible, I catch a glimpse of the depth of God's grace.

### ***What's the value of incorporating group Bible study into a Synod Assembly?***

My hope is that Bible study keeps us grounded in God's word as we deliberate and discern God's will. The Bible does not give easy answers to our complex questions, but the Bible does help expand our imaginations, remind us of God's promises, and delight us with the surprising ways God acts in our midst.

### ***What are some of the spiritual practices that you use in your own daily life?***

My work takes me to Scripture daily as I teach and write. That is a gift of my work. What becomes important to me as a spiritual practice then is remembering to be grateful. Through prayer and contemplation, God reminds that my work is supported by generations of faithful believers, by a family that loves me, by faculty and students who stretch my thinking, by churches that teach me what God is up to in the world today.

### ***If someone hasn't picked up a Bible for awhile and is interested in re-engaging God's word but doesn't know where to begin, what do you advise? What's a good place to start? Are there any good online or print resources that one can use?***

My advice would be to start anywhere! But don't try to do this alone. The Bible is both accessible to us through the Spirit but also complicated. We all need the help of others to read Scripture. So, I would suggest finding or starting a Bible study group at church. I would point to resources like [thebible.org](http://thebible.org) and [bibleodyssey.org](http://bibleodyssey.org). I would turn to folks you know who love the Bible and ask them for help.

### ***How should people best prepare to participate in the 2019 Bible Study at assembly?***

Pay attention to the ways God is moving in your corner of the world. In what ways do you see God's Spirit moving in delightfully unexpected ways. What new people and perspectives is God bringing to your attention?

*The 2019 Synod Assembly will be held on May 31-June 1 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. The theme is "Following Jesus into a Changing World." For more about the gathering, please visit <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2019>.*

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

All Birthdays & Anniversaries are listed according to the information on file. If you see an error please contact...  
Lisa Chiglo ~ Email: [highlandprairie\\_elstad@ymail.com](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com)

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

1~ Sharon Rustad  
~ Cora Olson  
2~ Matthew Soppa  
~ JT Rein  
3~ Krisit Jacobson  
4~ Janet Todd  
5~ Taylor Thompson  
~ Kylie Woxland  
~ Tyler Britson  
6~ Erick Berland  
~ Waylon Colwell  
~ Chloe Peterson  
~ Amber Eide  
7~ Rodney Humble  
8~ Lillian Gravois  
9~ Vicky Topness  
~ Sarah Bacon  
~ Melissa Hallum  
~ Chase Bakke  
~ Colin Bakke  
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  
28~ Paul Halverson  
~ Nicole Woxland  
~ Jessica Woxland

29~ Jerry Dragvold  
~ Suzanne Mueller  
~ Michael Lee  
30~ Steven Howe  
~ Elizabeth Larson



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

# APRIL 2019

***Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish***

Visit our websites at...

[elstadlutheranchurch.org](http://elstadlutheranchurch.org)

[highlandprairielutheranchurch.org](http://highlandprairielutheranchurch.org)

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

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

*Address Services Requested*

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6



**HIGHLAND PRAIRIE**  
**ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019**

LENTEN SERVICE 7:00 P.M.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019**

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS  
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, BECKY LIND  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019**

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN  
READERS: NIKKI DAHLE, SHARON EHLER  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019**

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

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019**

ACOLYTES: ANDREW HOINESS, KRISTINA STENSGARD  
READERS: ANDREW HOINESS, MICHELE THOMPSON  
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019**

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS  
READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, SYLVIA PASSOW  
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET, KAY EIKEN

**ELSTAD**  
**ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019**

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN  
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019**

LENTEN SERVICE 7:00 P.M.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019**

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF  
READERS: J.T. REIN, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019**

ACOLYTE: MACKENZIE KNUTSON  
READERS: ALISON FREESE, LORI BAKKE

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019**

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, VICKY TOPNESS

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019**

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS  
READERS: MACKENZIE KNUTSON, GLEE CLAUSSEN

**USHERS:** DAVE LAWSTUEN, JOHN OVERLAND,  
TOM SMITH, DICK HAIGHT, BRAD KELLY,  
DAVID WATSON