

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

*~ February 2019~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

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*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator ~ Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

*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, Kenny Peterson and all who are ill or in need or your prayers.*

**Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Members**

**~ 2019 ~**

**Elstad Council:**

**President:** Larry Topness

**Vice President:** Kay Wold

**Treasurer:** Jennifer Nepstad

**Secretary:** Michelle Rein

**Trustee's:**

Rita Kelly (20)

Jodie Daniels (21)

Krissy Overland (22)

**Highland Prairie Council:**

**President:** Gordon Johnson

**Vice President:** Mary Gudmundson

**Treasurer:** Karen Bakken

**Secretary:** Sarah Bearbower

**Trustee's:**

Lyle Meldahl (20)

Scott Bestul (21)

Chris Hoilnad (22)

Joyce Dahl (20)

Nancy Rustad (21)

Tim Stensgard (22)

By the time you receive this edition of the parish newsletter, annual meetings of both congregations will have occurred. We'll have set forth on yet another year of ministry that has been ongoing in this parish since 1854.

We are a cadre of Christians, named and claimed by Christ to be his sisters and brothers. There isn't a better starting point than that with which to go forth. We forget this truth at our peril.

But forgetfulness of this starting point is a real threat. How often we do think of ourselves as "small" and "weak" in comparison to our larger neighboring congregations. So many Christians today often think that the church needs to be powerful, numerically significant, well-ordered, and program-loaded to attract notice.

And yet, the Biblical narrative offers some noteworthy examples of people who, with little or nothing, serve as strong examples of shocking and scandalous commitment and stunning love and faithfulness. Consider Ruth the Moabitess. She attaches herself to Naomi when Naomi has nothing (Ruth 1.15-18). Naomi went out of Israel full---with husband, two sons, everything she needed. While in Moab, she loses everything.

The Lord has made her life bitter. But precisely at that moment, when Naomi has nothing and can produce nothing, when she's reminding Ruth that she cannot possibly produce another husband---just at that moment of utter emptiness, Ruth commits herself to Naomi, and to Israel.

"God has dealt harshly with me, Naomi says. "He has emptied me of everything." And Ruth says, "I want your God to be my God." Somehow, mysteriously---- Ruth finds something in a woman who has nothing. Somehow she knows that the God of impoverished Naomi is the God of salvation.

By attaching herself to Naomi, Ruth finds and takes a place in the saving history of the God of Israel who can bring something out of nothing. Clinging to the widow with nothing, she becomes a witness to this God and an agent for His restoration of all things.

So what about our respective commitment and faithfulness to the Lord and the parish of which we are members? Does its "smallness" and "weakness" offend? Or, is there something about it, and the company of its members, that mysteriously and miraculously compel you to commit yourself to its Lord and its life?

In 1 Corinthians 1, St. Paul writes about the strange ways of our Lord God. And it is a strong word to any *small cadre of Christian sisters and brothers*:

For consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even the things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

That is the story of the church. And that is the story of this parish, and Highland Prairie and Elstad congregations, respectively. We may not be able to boast about our "power and numbers and program-laden life", but we can sure boast of our God...and his "bigness" in our lives through our proclamation in word and service. Pr. Luther+

## **February Worship Schedule**

+Sunday, February 3rd

4 Epiphany

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

**+Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

**5 Epiphany**

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

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

+Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

6 Epiphany

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

**+Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

+++

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

*There will be no class on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The next mentor and confirmand meeting will be Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 6:30 p.m., at Elstad.*

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

The next parish men's breakfast will occur on **Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30 a.m., at Highland Prairie.** Please sign-up at the sanctuary entrance of either church. Sign up in the back of the church.

### **First Communion Instruction is coming!**

Pr. Mathsen will be providing first communion instruction on the following Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Elstad: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup>. This instruction is open to all youth 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and older. Also, younger children are welcome, provided their parents have spoken with Pr. Luther, and believe their child is ready to receive the sacrament. Sign your child up in the back of the church. See Pr. Luther if you have questions.

### **Parish Youth Bowling Outing**

Parish youth! Join us for bowling fun at the Nordic Bowling Lanes in Rushford on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 3 p.m. We'll bowl a couple of games. Cost: approximately \$5.00 per person. Parent accompaniment is requested. Sign up in the back of the church.

### **Adult Bible Study**

Pr. Mathsen will be offering a 4 week Bible study on the book of Job on consecutive Mondays, beginning Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m., at the parsonage. Sign up in the back of the church.

### **2019 Lenten Focus is Set**

Our Lenten Wednesday evenings will include meditations on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from Matthew, chapter 5. Mark your calendars. Ash Wednesday worship is March 6<sup>th</sup> (Elstad, 5:00 p.m. & Highland Prairie, 7:00 p.m.) The Wednesdays of Lent are March 13<sup>th</sup> (Elstad), 20<sup>th</sup> (HP), 27<sup>th</sup> (Elstad), April 3<sup>rd</sup> (HP), and April 10<sup>th</sup> (Elstad). As always, the evenings will begin with a light soup supper at 6:00 p.m., followed Holden Evening Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Elstad-Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, January 13, 2019

- 1) The Meeting was held at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church with HP President Kyle Chiglo calling the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.
- 2) Roll call was taken with Becky Lind absent. A Quorum was called.
- 3) Others present: Pastor Luther and Lisa Chiglo.
- 4) Agenda was reviewed and motion to approve by Sarah and second by Jennifer. Motion carried.
- 5) Devotions were given by Sarah.
- 6) There were no congregation members present to address the council.
- 7) President's report was given. There is no additional President's report from Elstad or Highland Prairie.

The majority of the Pastor's report was given at individual council meetings.

- Pastor plans to again use the Holden Evening Prayer for Lenten worship. The service will follow the same format as previously.
- Pastor anticipates a parish bible study in February, focusing on Job.
  - Next Men's breakfast in January 26. A study on Psalm 139 will be included.
  - A meeting discussing opportunities for co-operative ministry will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Preston on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30.
  - Youth and Family ministry includes a planned mission trip in June. There is a request to subsidize the cost of the trip, it is \$324 per person plus the cost of van rental and travel. Fund raisers are being planned. A conversation regarding using the Maagelsen Youth Fund is requested. Pastor will contact Luther and Patsy Maagelsen regarding intended use of funds.
  - Pastor and Bobbi will be on vacation February 9-15.

Youth:

- Sunday school resumed today for both congregations.
- As above, a mission trip is being planned for youth this summer.

There was no correspondence.

Old Business/Committee Reports:

- 1) Parsonage Committee was able to meet. Report was given to the council including suggestions for maintenance and improvements. Council will revisit this list at March meeting to finalize projects for 2019, including an estimate to replace porch door. Also anticipate moving forward on Patio and fire pit project.

New Business:

- 1) 2019 Worship Schedule is reviewed. Motion made by Sarah to approve proposed worship schedule. Second by Jodie. Motion carried.
- 2) 2019 Council Meeting schedule is reviewed and adjusted. A motion was made by Sarah to approve council meeting schedule, second by Chris. Motion carried.
- 3) Election of SE MN Synod Bishop update. Names of candidates to consider for bishop need to be received by January 30. An update will be shared in February.
- 4) Let's Talk Ministry Event, is Sunday January 20 at Christ Lutheran Church in Preston. . Several parish members plan to attend.
- 5) Root River conference assembly is Sunday February 10, 2019 at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Houston
- 6) Dick and Kyle completed pastoral review with Pastor Luther. This was a good discussion and we are happy with how things have progressed within the parish. This will be completed yearly in August/September.

Secretary's report was given. Motion to approve by Gordy and second by Nancy.

Motion to adjourn made by Tim, Second by Chris. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted by Michelle Rein, Elstad Council Secretary.

## Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday January 13, 2019

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Haight at 5:30 p.m.

Roll call: Present members were Dick Haight, , Rachel Bearbower, Rita Kelly, Jodie Daniels, Jennifer Nepstad, . Kay Wold, Michelle Rein and Pastor Luther Mathsen. A Quorum was called.

The agenda was reviewed and “other” added under new business, and a motion to approve was made by Rachel second by Jodie. Motion passed.

No congregational members were present to address the council.

The Pastor’s report was given.

- Worship attendance was low Christmas day.
- Pastor anticipates using Holden Evening Prayer Service for Lenten services this year. Lent begins later this year.
- Upcoming, Pastor would like to perform a service of the Word for Healing. This service addresses the ailing we experience physically, as well as ailing in our heart and minds. This is a time for prayer, anointing, and prayer in private matters.
- Confirmation continues and the class is studying the Old Testament. Students continue to be inquisitive and engaged. They had a wonderful time at their Christmas party! They greatly enjoy the time with mentors.
- Pastor will begin a new bible study in February. He is looking for a study that addresses the book of Job.
- The men’s breakfasts have continued. The last breakfast included wonderful conversation. The next breakfast is Saturday January 26. They will talk about Psalm 139.
- Pastor attended the Root River Conference Clergy meeting. January 30 is the last day congregations can submit names they wish to submit to be considered for Bishop.
- Much of the support for campus ministry has been cut off due to budget restraints. The Lutheran Campus Ministry from Winona State expresses their appreciation of our continued support.
- There is continued conversation occurring regarding co-operative ministry and ways to meet needs given the financial restraints surrounding rural ministry.
- Mid-school and high-school mission trip is scheduled for June 9-14. The cost is \$324 per person, plus cost of van rental. Fund raisers are being planned, but Pastor would also like to talk about subsidizing this trip. The Maagelsen Youth Fund has been set up, and may be a source of some assistance. It is important to foster mission opportunities for our youth. WELCA also has offered support to our youth offering \$200 per youth..
- Pastor and Bobbi are going to take a week February 9-14 to travel to New Mexico to visit with family.

The treasurer's report was given and has been audited. Due to increased expenses and decreased giving, budget was not met. Motion to approve treasure's report was made by Kay, and seconded by Rita. Motion passed.

#### President's Report:

Expressed gratitude for the time he has spent serving as President. We have good leadership planed.

#### Mission:

Pastor Marie is planning a trip to Haiti in March. Pastor will touch base with Pastor Marie to see how we can continue to support this ministry.

#### Correspondence received:

\* Pastor Luther and Bobbi expressed their gratitude for the many Christmas wishes received.

\*Informative packet regarding the global ministries we support was received. This outlines opportunities for giving to support several global missions.

#### Old Business:

- Council nominees are reviewed and ballot is updated.
- Church repairs continue

#### New Business:

- Annual Meeting Ballots are reviewed, updated and approved.
- Annual meeting agenda is reviewed and approved.
- 2019 Proposed budget is reviewed and approved. Motion to approve budget made by Rachel, seconded by Michelle. Motion passed.

#### Other:

- The church bell needs repairs. Tom is looking into what may need to be done.
- Stringwood will hold a concert at Elstad on June 21.
- There has been interest expressed in purchasing the old tables and chairs. A donation to WELCA will be requested.
- The old refrigerator has been donated.
- Thank you Dick and Rachel for their service and leadership.

Secretary's report was given. Motion was given by Rachel second by Rita. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Jodie to adjourn, second by Rachel.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Secretary's report submitted by Michelle Rein.

## Highland Prairie Council Meeting

January 13th 2019

- 1) Call to order at 8:07 by Kyle Chiglo.
- 2) Roll Call - Becky Lind was absent
- 3) Quorum - Yes
- 4) Devotions provided at Parish meeting
- 5) Approval of Agenda - Added under old Business, Constitutional Vote and Baseball Insurance. Sarah motioned approval, Tim 2nd, motion passed.
- 6) Congregation members wishing to address the council. Allen gave the council an update regarding the baseball team. HP Hayseeds will play at our events as well as the Peterson events. The Fillmore Fun-guys will be a separate team and will play other events around the surrounding area.
- 7) Treasurer's Report - YTD budget is under by \$8789. Gordon motioned to accept, Chris 2nd, Motion passed.
- 8) President's report - None
- 9) Pastor's report - In addition to what was shared at the Parish meeting, Pastor Luther indicated that confirmation continues with our 8 parish students. The next men's breakfast will be January 26th, Snowtubing event planning will occur once we have some snow.
- 10) Correspondence - Thank You note from the Synod for our support and continued ministry. Thank You note from Pastor Luther and Bobbi for the Christmas gift and our continued support.
- 11) Committee Reports
  - a. Church: There's a drip on one of the kitchen faucets and a kitchen cabinet door that needs attention. It was recommended that we move forward with painting the entry doors and post signage to indicate which door should be used.
  - b. Grounds: Gravel will be needed this spring between the parking lot and the garage.
  - c. Worship: Nothing new
  - d. Youth and Education: Sunday School resumed last week. It will return to being held before or after church depending on the rotation. Currently Sunday school is to be held at 10am.
  - e. Old Business
  - f. 2019 Council member nominees
- i. All executive committee positions are open for elections. We currently need nominations for the position of Secretary.
- ii. We have at least one nominee for Open Trustee positions.
- iii. Constitutional Vote: Discussion
- iv. Baseball Insurance: We will have liability waivers signed by players. No additional insurance will be provided.

Highland Prairie minutes continued...

- i. New Business
  - a. Annual meeting agenda
- i. Reviewed & Discussed: Use last year's agenda as template. Move Constitution to Old Business, Scratch Parsonage Windows.
- ii. Annual meeting ballot
- iii. Reviewed and Discussed
- iv. 2019 Proposed budgets
- v. Reviewed and Discussed
- vi. Custodian Position
- vii. Discussion - Executive Committee will work through interim and long term plan.
- viii. Good Earth Campership Fund approval - Sarah made a motion to provide 75% coverage of the early bird registration for student wishing to attend. Kyle 2nd, Motion passed
- ix. Narthex Bulletin Board Proposal
- x. Discussion: The council would like to have interested parties present the specific plan prior to moving forward.
- xi. Secretary's report: Gordon made a motion to accept as presented, Joyce 2nd, motion passed.

Adjournment: Tim motioned, Chris 2nd, motion passed.

Highland Prairie Financials for December 2018

YTD Income	\$ 84,311
YTD Expenses	\$ 92,475
Expenses exc. Income	\$ 8,164
YTD Budget	\$ 93,100
YTD Income	\$ 84,311
YTD Under	\$ 8,789



# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



**An Interview with Rev. Heather Hammond of Crossroads Campus Ministry, Mankato**

***What does “leadership development” look like in campus ministry in Mankato?***

I’ve long believed everyone is leading, all the time. That is because even our smallest words and actions influence those around us. We may lead well or poorly, intentionally or accidentally, but we are leading none the less. For all of us leadership development includes discerning our ever-developing callings. We spend a good deal of time talking about vocation and serving God in the world. Members of the Student Board are discovering their power to shape the direction and spirit of the community. For example, they recently decided that the small apartments in our building should once again be rented to students who are active leaders in the Christ-centered ministry of Crossroads. They will be helping to select the tenants who will be core members of the Crossroads Leadership team beginning in the Fall of 2019. On the Board of Directors we are focusing on becoming a hands-on redevelopment team.

***What do your students teach you about God/church/relationship?***

How I wish each of our congregations could see the genuineness and warmth with which student leaders welcome newcomers to Wednesday evening worship. Their easy-going acceptance of others—no questions asked—is a beautiful example of Jesus’ gracious acceptance. And within the Crossroads community, these people care about each other and keep in touch. They help me see why evangelism naturally grows out of simple hospitality.

***As a synod, we’re committed to following Jesus into a changing world. What might the changing landscape of campus ministry teach the rest of the church about what it means to follow Jesus into a changing world?***

One of the things I am most aware of is how the public understanding of Christianity is often not a positive or life-giving one. Members of the University community often come to enjoy our \$1 Lunches. Several have been puzzled about the difference between what they experience at Crossroads and what they have heard or experienced of evangelical Christianity. A group of Environmental Learning students were surprised to discover that we don’t see science and faith as opposites, but rather two different ways of knowing. Then there was the Saudi student who asked me, point blank, about why we would host a free community Thanksgiving feast. “Isn’t that just for families?” He asked. What a great opportunity to talk about the family of God, where all have a place!

***What would surprise the people of the synod about campus ministry in Mankato?***

One thing is surely is our food ministry. My predecessor and her colleagues began the Campus Cupboard, a food shelf for students. We’ve learned that around 40% of Minnesota State University – Mankato students suffer food-insecurity. More than one student has come back to tell us that the bag of groceries they get to choose each week is what got them through some very lean months. Another thing that might surprise readers is to know that Crossroads is the last remaining progressive, inclusive, campus ministry serving MSU. The others tend to teach the literal inerrancy of scripture; others turn away students who are not from a particular faith tradition, and still others place shame-based conditions on who truly belongs. At Crossroads we know we are called to welcome every person of good will, no exceptions.

***When people pray for campus ministry in Mankato and Winona, what are specific kinds of things they can be praying for?***

The students, of course, their lives, their loves, their learning, and their witness. Pray for the resources—spiritual and financial—to mount a mission equal to the huge opportunities before us. Pray for Pastor Corrine in Winona and me in Mankato, pray that God sustains in us the faith and energy to serve the amazing young people we meet every day at this pivotal time in their lives.

# FEBRUARY 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)



10~ Patty Olson  
13~ David Markegard  
14~ Val Gudmundson  
~ Kristen Peterson  
~ Soren Eisner  
15~ Michael Halverson  
~ Emily Johnson  
~ Michael Rein  
17~ Rylee Nelson  
20~ Gerald Hallum  
21~ Truman Dahl  
~ Wayne Finnegan  
~ Sandra Kenney  
~ Erick James  
~ Ryan Maschka  
22~ Brandon Sjarpe  
~ Kenna Gudmundson  
23~ Ann Meldahl  
~ Linda Hundorf  
25~ Richard Gullickson  
~ Michelle James  
27~ Dorothy Evenson  
28~ Sharyl Bergan  
~ Kayla Hovland



1~ Ellen Highum  
~ Glenn Thomas  
~ Noah Carlson  
~ Brady Stensgard  
2~ Jeff Mueller  
~ Avery Rodger  
~ Briella Rodger  
3~ Carol Sjarpe  
~ Paul Ryan  
~ Trent Eide  
4~ Megan Fox  
~ Kaylee Peterson  
6~ John Stadtmueller  
7~ Murton Boyum  
~ Andy Ask  
~ Delane Horning  
9~ Allan Skalet  
~ Robert Knutson  
~ Andrew Howe  
~ Courtney Dahl  
~ Cooper Hovland

9~ Lyle & Ann Meldahl  
16~ Randy & Kari Drinkall  
18~ Daryl & Michele  
Thompson

# FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 HP-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m. Youth Bowling- Rushford 3p.m.	4	5	6 Confirmation 6:30 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	7	8	9
10 HP-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m.	11	12	13 No Confirmation  Bulletin Deadline	14	15	16
17 HP-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m.	18 10:00 a.m. Bible study	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Confirmation 6:30 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	21	22	23 Parish Men's Breakfast 7:30— HP
24 HP-9:00 a.m. SS- 10:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. SS- 9:30 a.m.	25 10:00 a.m. Bible study	26	27 Confirmation 6:30 p.m.  Bulletin Deadline	28		

***Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish***  
 Visit our websites at...  
[elstادلutheranchurch.org](http://elstادلutheranchurch.org)  
[highlandprairielutheranchurch.org](http://highlandprairielutheranchurch.org)

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2019**

ACOLYTES: ANDREW HOINESS, KRISTINA STENSGARD  
READERS: HALE STENSGARD, SCOTT BESTUL  
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019**

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS  
READERS: ANDREW HOINESS, MICHELE THOMPSON  
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET, KAY EIKEN

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019**

ACOLYTES: CADEN JOHNSON, LARISSA RYAN  
READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, SYLVIA PASSOW  
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019**

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, LINDSEY HOINESS  
READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, ARLENE JOHNSON  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

**ELSTAD**  
**ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2019**

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF  
READERS: LIZ HAGEMAN, TOM DYBING

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019**

ACOLYTE: MACKENZIE KNUTSON  
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019**

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS: J.T. REIN, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019**

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS  
READERS: ALISON FREESE, LORI BAKKE

**USHERS:** JOHN OVERLAND, LARRY TOPNESS,  
PHILIP ABRAHAMSON, JOHN ABRAHAMSON