

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish*  
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
*~ January 2018~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

*Church Phone: (507) 864-2731 ~ Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*

*Email: highlandprairie\_elstad@ymail.com*

*Worship Schedule*

*January 2018*

*Sunday, January 7th*

*9:00 a.m. Elstad*

*10:00 a.m. Sunday School*

*10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*9:30 a.m. Sunday School*

*Sunday, January 14th*

*9:00 a.m. Elstad*

*10:00 a.m. Sunday School*

*10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*9:30 a.m. Sunday School*

*Sunday, January 21st*

*9:00 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*10:00 a.m. Sunday School*

*10:30 a.m. Elstad*

*9:30 a.m. S.S. @ Elstad*

*EL- Annual Meeting*

*Sunday, January 28th*

*9:00 a.m. Elstad*

*10:00 a.m. Sunday School*

*10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie*

*9:30 a.m. Sunday School*

*HP- Annual Meeting*

*Prayer Corner*

*Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Prayerfully remember Elaine Holm and all others who are in need. Relieve and comfort them all, O God.*

**~Worship Time Change~**

**Sunday, January 21st**

**Elstad will worship at 10:30 and Highland Prairie at 9:00 due to Elstad's Annual Meeting.**

**January Council Meetings**

**January 14<sup>th</sup>**—Elstad Council, 5:30-Parish Council, 7:00p.m. with Highland Prairie Council after Parish meeting. All meetings will held at Highland Prairie.

**January 21<sup>st</sup>**-Elstad Annual Meeting after worship

**January 28<sup>th</sup>** -Highland Prairie Annual Meeting after worship

The 2018 annual meetings of Highland Prairie and Elstad will be held following their respective worship services on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> (Elstad) and Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> (Highland Prairie). Both congregations will be electing leaders to fill vacated church council positions. Council president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary positions need to be filled at both congregations. Two trustee positions at Highland Prairie and one trustee position at Elstad need to be filled. Highland Prairie also will be voting on revisions to its constitution. Please consider the aforementioned opportunities to serve the Lord's church. Speak to Kyle Chiglo, Dick Haight, Pr. Mathsen, or any council member about your willingness to serve. And please plan on attending the annual meeting of your congregation.

## Pastor's Page, January 2018

When we last met in a formal setting, the confirmation class was taking a look at the story of Moses (and Aaron), the men who God sent to lead his beloved out of slavery into the freedom of the Promise Land. Perhaps you know the story. No sooner had they departed from Egypt, than they began to complain to Moses and Aaron during their journey. "And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (Exodus 16.2-3).

Yes...God sent Moses and Aaron to be his servant leaders in Israel's deliverance from their ancient captivity. Israel, however became belligerent and hostile to them when faced with the challenges of their journey. The story continues with Joshua, the next servant leader God sent to lead them into the land of promise. No sooner had they conquered the land than they began to worship "other gods." The story continues. God raised David, but soon ten tribes rebelled against him. God sent the prophets. Israel responded by beating, stoning, and killing them.

Then God came in human flesh, in "his only begotten Son." Sinful humanity put Him on a cross. It was thought that this would be the end of him. Yet...even then...even there...God revealed his undefeatable love. He raised Jesus from the dead, refusing to let the sins of humanity have the final word.

This is the gospel that has come to us in these days of joyful celebration. Our plea in the dead of the winter of our sin, "O come, Emmanuel", has been addressed in "God in flesh made manifest"... in the Christ-child, Jesus. This is the good news with which we may enter the New Year! Undaunted by the challenges that face us and the future with all of its "unknowns, we may go forth proclaiming and living this gospel, "an unconditional promise, a message of undefeatable hope; and as such...a permission of freedom from any and every bondage to the past and a static status quo" (Lutheranism: The Theological Movement and Its Confessional Writings, Gritsch and Jenson).

Yes! We may go forth addressing this gospel to the new hopes and struggles of our life together. We may venture forth in new ways of participating in the human story that have been opened wide by this "Wondrous Love come down", this Love that has freed us from the bondage of the past and the anxieties and fears of the future.

So...Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
our human story; God in him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,  
with grace unbounded.

See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,  
now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,  
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story  
of Jesus glory.

Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation  
God's new creation.

Onward...then...!!! Onward!!!

## **January Worship Schedule**

### **+Sunday, January 7th**

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

### **+Sunday, January 14th**

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

### **+Sunday, January 21st**

10:30 a.m., Elstad

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

### **+Sunday, January 28th**

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

## **Parsonage Window Replacement Drive**

The parish appeal for funds to defray the cost of window replacement continues. Please consider a gift (above and beyond gifts for the day to day operating expenses of the congregation). We acknowledge the particular day to day financial responsibilities of each household. We simply invite you to consider if your circumstances allow for such a gift. Simply put your gift in an envelope, so designated, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

## **2018 Annual Meetings Announcement**

The annual meetings of Elstad Lutheran Church (January 21<sup>st</sup>) and Highland Prairie Lutheran Church (January 28<sup>th</sup>) will be held following worship at 10:30 a.m. respectively. Please note that end of year committee reports (due by January 12<sup>th</sup>), elections of congregational leadership, and votes on constitutional revisions (HP) will be acted upon. If you are a voting member, please make every effort to attend.

## **Baptism of Our Lord**

On Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. On this day, the gospel reveals the truth of the Incarnation and Jesus manifestation as the Savior sent to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven reveals that Jesus is truly God's Son. The descent of the Spirit (dove) on Jesus was the same Spirit that "moved over the waters" at creation. In Jesus, then, comes a new creation. On this day, we will renew our baptismal vows during worship. In addition, you are invited to bring your baptismal garment and your baptismal certificate to display in the church basement.

## **January Book Study**

Once again, I would like to offer a study on Bo Giertz' book, The Hammer of God. It would be held on the following Monday evenings of January: 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at the parsonage. If there are at least four interested persons, we'll proceed. See Pr. Mathsen if you would like to participate.

## **2018 Mission Trip for Mid/Hi Parish Youth**

All "going-to-be" 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders of the parish are invited to participate in the June 24<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 mission trip to Milwaukee. A \$50 registration fee, due January 5<sup>th</sup>, will secure your spot. We have room for 10 youth. See Pr. Mathsen, if you have questions.

## **Thank you**

Having completed one year in your midst, Bobbi and I would like you to know how grateful to God we are for calling us to live and serve in your midst. Words cannot convey how thankful we are to you all for your kindness and support. We wish you all a blessed New Year. In the grip of Christ, we go forward...together. Thanks be to God!

# JANUARY 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!

Happy Anniversary

1~ Darrellyn Barrett

2~ John Smith

4~ Michelle Rein

6~ Sandy Kiel

7~ Angel Bakke

8~ Mark Dahl

9~ Nathan Bakke

10~ Philip Dragvold

~ Nancy Rustad

~ Sawyer James

12~ Kay Dahl

13~ Steve Chiglo

~ Joshua Dahl

~ Daniel Sjarpe

~ Tyler Berg

~ Darren Stockton

14~ Michelle Ryan

~ Colton Horning

15~ Carolyn Smith

~ Kasten Klug

16~ David Bakke

~ Owen Dammen

17~ Jennifer Nepstad

~ Stacy Mensink

~ Shane Jacobson

~ Lucas Redalen

18~ Barb Lee

~ Brenda Chiglo

~ Peter Stensgard

~ Ann Hoiland

19~ Robert Lawstuen

~ Easton Grabau

23~ Katherine Chiglo

~ James Bearbower

24~ Martha Stensgard

~ Deborah Mensink

25~ Ellen Feine

~ Sarah Freese

~ Paula Howe

27~ Eleanor Peterson

~ Michael Oian

~ Dave Lawstuen

29~ Freda Kiel

7~ Dan & Erika Lind

15~ Jerry & Julie Dragvold

28~ David & Sue Larson

# January 2018

*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 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	4	5	6
7 EL- 9:00 a.m. S.S.- 10:00 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m. S.S.- 9:30 a.m.	8  Book Study 7:00 p.m.	9	10 Confirmation 6:30 @ Elstad  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	11	12  <b>EL &amp; HP- reports for annual meeting deadline</b>	13
14 EL- 9:00 a.m. S.S.- 10:00 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m. S.S.- 9:30 a.m. Council Meetings @ HP (see 1st pg.)	15  Book Study 7:00 p.m.	16	17 Confirmation 6:30 @ Elstad  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	18	19	20
21 HP-9:00 a.m. S.S.- 10:00 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m. S.S.- 9:30 a.m.  EL-Annual Meeting after worship	22 Book Study 7:00 p.m.  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	23	24 Confirmation 6:30 @ Elstad  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	25	26	27
28 EL- 9:00 a.m. S.S.- 10:00 a.m. HP- 10:30 a.m. S.S.- 9:30 a.m.  HP- Annual Meeting after worship	29  Book Study 7:00 p.m.	30	31			

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

*Address Services Requested*

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Permit No. #6

**Happy  
New Year!** *January 2018  
Newsletter*

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018**

ACOLYTES: ANDREW HOINESS, LINDSAY HOINESS  
READERS: TREY OLSON, SHARON EHLE  
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLE

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018**

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, KENNA GUDMUNDSON  
READERS: HALE STENSGARD, SCOTT BESTUL  
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018**

ACOLYTES: LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON  
READERS: JONAH SIEVERS, MICHELE THOMPSON  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018**

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE,  
KRISTINA STENSGARD  
READERS: JENS LIND, ARLENE JOHNSON  
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018**

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS  
READERS: ALISON FREESE, LORI BAKKE

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018**

ACOLYTE: MACKENZIE KNUTSON  
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, GENE TOPNESS

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018**

ACOLYTE: KELSIE WOXLAND  
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, CAROL OVERLAND

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018**

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS: J.T, REIN, CAROLYN SMITH

**USHERS:** DAVID LAWSTUEN, ROBERT KNUTSON,  
WAYNE FINNEGAN, RICH NEPSTAD