

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

~ January 2020 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

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

January Worship Schedule

+Sunday, January 5th

Epiphany Sunday

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

+Sunday, January 12th

Baptism of Our Lord

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

+Sunday, January 19th

2 Epiphany

9:00 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m. Elstad

***Schedules switch for this Sunday only
to accommodate Elstad's annual meeting**

+Sunday, January 26

3 Epiphany

9:00 a.m., Elstad

10:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

***Highland Prairie's annual meeting**

+++

Pastor's Page, January 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

"Behold, I am making all things new."

These words, from the last book of sacred scripture, are of singular significance as we embark upon our life together at the beginning of a new year. They comprise a solid, never-changing promise to serve as the bedrock for meeting the challenges that lie ahead for our parish in this topsy-turvy, ever-changing world.

In recent months, your parish council(s) have begun to identify some of those challenges, among which are: the changing demography of the rural area, declining membership and church attendance, aging membership and concern about the scarcity of young people and young families, financial pressures, frenzied personal and family schedules, and aging populations. Most of you are aware of the story. And in the mix of all these concerns is an aggressive secularism that is indifferent, even hostile, to the Christian faith and the church.

I, with your elected parish leaders, are concerned about the future of the parish we all know and love. But let's be clear... We have a Lord who has given us a singular promise that creates faith and give us way to a firmness of conviction.

Yes...We are bound and determined to build upon the legacy of faith and stalwart commitment that has been bequeathed to us. We make it our aim to pass the same on to those who come after us. We are a gritty bunch disciples of Christ.

But we will do well to remember this:

*"Faith is not a thought, although thinking follows from it;
it is not a feeling, though the feeling of comfort emerges from it;
neither is faith a virtue or a moral act.
Faith is not glory; it gives no power in the world, it guarantees
no success or relief from suffering—indeed suffering
increases with faith. What faith does, however, is give
unshakeable certainty, the very kind that human works
fruitlessly seek, since they place trust in something other
than Christ's promise of the forgiveness of sins.
All else in life fails to bring peace or release from anxiety
and uncertainty because everything ("when all supports are washed away...")
besides Christ's promise is in the process of being destroyed by God."
(Steven D. Paulson, Lutheran Theology)*

So, here at the end, as it was in the beginning, is the key to the future of this parish. Begin anywhere, or with anything else, and we are doomed to endless anxiety and certain failure. So here it is. One little word. And there's our future!!!

"Behold, I am making all things new."

In the grip of Christ, we remain----Pr. Luther

Parish Men's Breakfast

The monthly men's breakfast will resume. All parish men, boys, and friends are invited to join us on Saturday, January 25th, 2020, at Highland Prairie

Epiphany of our Lord and Baptism of our Lord

Epiphany marks a new start after the Christmas break. The highlight is the season's observance brings together the 3 Magi and the Baptism of our Lord---two vivid signs that run the Church towards reflecting upon the consequences of Christ's coming among us. Epiphanytide provides the opportunity to unpack what this means, reflecting on his ministry, and ours, for the Church's mission in the world.

Church Council Candidates

Both Elstad and Highland Prairie seek the names of persons willing to be candidates for 2020 Church council positions. Candidates should be active, worshipping members of either congregation.

New Member Sunday

If you are, or know, someone who is interested in becoming a member of Elstad or Highland Prairie, see Pr. Mathsen. We'd like to schedule a new member Sunday in February.

Parish Youth Sno-tubing at Ironwood Springs

We continue to hope that we have enough interested youth to enjoy a Saturday, January 11, sno-tubing outing at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch, Stewartville. We are looking at the time frame, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you are interested and haven't signed up, see Pr. Luther. The cost will be \$12.00.

Parish Annual Meetings

Please note the dates and times of parish annual meetings. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

Elstad – Sunday, January 19th, 11:30 a.m.

Highland Prairie – Sunday, January 26th, 11:30 a.m.

Prayer Corner

Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Wendy Will, Michele Thompson, Judy Martin, Joann Vitse, Anna Will, Kay Howe, David Lee and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.

January Council Meetings

Sunday, January 12th, 2020 at Highland Prairie

Elstad council—5:30 p.m.

Parish council—6:30 p.m.

Highland Prairie council—7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 19th—Elstad Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26th—Highland Prairie Annual Meeting

Highland Prairie/South Fork Cemetery Association has an opening for one member to serve a three year term. Must own a gravesite to be a member and to vote. Annual meeting will be held January 19th after church services.

Candidates for church council are being sought for both Elstad and Highland Prairie for the 2020 year. Please consider your calling to serve the Lord and his church. Contact Larry Topness, Gordon Johnson, or Pr. Mathsen for information.

Highland Prairie Financials for November 2019

YTD Income	\$ 75,779
YTD Expenses	\$ 82,104
Expenses exceed Income	\$ 6,325
YTD Budget	\$ 86,442
YTD Income	\$ 75,779
YTD Under	\$ 10,663

Highland Prairie Council Meeting
December 8, 2019—5:30 p.m. at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

1. Call to Order—5:31 call to order by Gordon Johnson
2. Roll Call—Joyce, Scott, Tim, Mary Absent
3. Quorum—yes
4. Devotions—”Attitude of Gratitude”
5. Approval of Agenda—Lyle motioned, Chris 2nd. Motion passed.
6. Congregation members wishing to address Council—none
7. Treasurer’s Report—Treasurer’s report given. \$46201 General Fund balance. Nancy motioned, Chris 2nd, Motion passed, subject to audit.
8. President’s Report—none
9. Pastor’s Report—Time spent over the next few weeks will be in preparation for Christmas. We said good bye to Pernela Landsverk and Eleanor Peterson this last month. They are missed and we are Thankful for their witness. The Sunday school is having a Christmas program next Sunday. Formal confirmation instruction is complete for the calendar year. We’ve finished the catechism and last week we covered penance. In January they will move into the Life of Christ from the Gospel of Mark. The confirmation Christmas party will be at the Creamery. New Bishop has made it a goal to meet with every pastor of the southeast synod, Pastor Luther’s meeting was this last week. Pastoral care continues, should be completed by Dec. 20th. 30th annual Elstad Cantata was performed last Sunday. Pastor Luther enjoyed being involved. Christmas Caroling is next Sunday, meeting at Elstad at 3:30 p.m. Live Nativity will be December 18th at 7:00 p.m. at Highland Prairie. Library Windows in the parsonage will be finished this week. Storm door was put on at the parsonage will be finished this week. Storm door was put on at the parsonage by Gordon and the gutters were cleaned. We got a good report on the last water test. They will be back in 30 days to test again.
10. Correspondence—none
11. Committee Reports:
 - A. Church—Heat tape eave troughs has been purchased but not applied yet. Tim has reviewed the electrical circuits. Dean Berland will be painting/staining the trim in the spring.
 - B. Grounds—Old Furnace room has been filled in and leveled out. Probably will need more dirt in the spring.
 - C. Worship—nothing
 - D. Youth & Education—nothing
12. Old Business:
 - A, 2020 council meeting dates—Council meeting dates were discussed and put on the schedule. Sarah will get them to Lisa.
13. New Business:
 - A. Mowing contract—Going for bid for 3 year contract. Put in the Bluff County Reader and Fillmore County Journal, Bids due January 10th.
 - B. 2020 ballot—President, Secretary, Vice President positions up for renewal. 2 Trustee positions open Joyce and Lyle. Karen will run for Treasurer. Lyle indicated willingness to run.
 - C. Organist/Treasurer Salary—Recommendation that the salary should remain the same. Lyle motioned, Sarah 2nd, Motion passed.
 - D. Apples & Candy Bars for Christmas program distribution—Rushford Foods. Pastor will make arrangements.
14. Secretary’s Report given by Sarah Bearbower. Chris motioned, Nancy 2nd, Motion passed.
15. Adjournment (The Lord’s Prayer) - adjourned by 6:19 p.m.

Parking Lot: Shelter roof

Next regular meeting, Sunday, January 12, 2020, 7:30 p.m. at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church.

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*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

*Happy
Anniversary*

1~ Darrellyn Barrett
2~ John Smith
4~ Michelle Rein
6~ Sandy Kiel
~ Bricker Dahl
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

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~ Michael Oian
~ Dave Lawstuen
29~ Freda Kiel

7~ Dan & Erika Lind
15~ Jerry & Julie Dragvold
28~ David & Sue Larson

January 2020

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bulletin Deadline <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3	4
5 EL—9:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m.	6	7	8 HP WELCA Bible study Bulletin Deadline	9	10	11 Sno-Tubing 3:00-5:00 p.m.
12 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m. Council Meetings 5:30—Elstad 6:30—Parish 7:30—HP	13	14 Deadline for Annual Reports!	15 Bulletin Deadline Confirmation 6:30	16	17 Newsletter Deadline!	18
19 Time Swap HP—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. EL—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m. EL Annual meeting	20	21	22 Bulletin Deadline Confirmation 6:30	23	24	25 Men's Parish Breakfast @ HP
26 EL—9:00 a.m. SS—10:00 a.m. HP—10:30 a.m. SS—9:30 a.m. HP annual meeting	27	28	29 Bulletin Deadline Confirmation 6:30	30	31	

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

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Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020

ACOLYTES: KRISTINA STENSGARD,
KENNA GUDMUNDSON

READERS: KRISTINA STENSGARD, ARLENE JOHNSON

GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020

ACOLYTES: KENNA GUDMUNDSON,
DANA DEGEORGE

READERS: KENNA GUDMUNDSON, BECKY LIND

GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, LACI SIEVERS

READERS: DANA DEGEORGE, SHARON EHLER

GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

ACOLYTES: LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON

READERS: LACI SIEVERS, SCOTT BESTUL

GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

ELSTAD
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020

ACOLYTE: LIZ HAGEMAN

READERS: MICHAEL REIN, CAROLYN SMITH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020

ACOLYTE: PARKER STORHOFF

READERS: KYLE DANIELS, TOM DYBING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020

ACOLYTE: MAKEZIE KNUTSON

READERS: INDY QUALY, GENE TOPNESS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN

READERS: LIZ HAGEMAN, JOHN ABRAHAMSON

USHERS: DAVID LAWSTUEN,

ROBERT KNUTSON,

WAYNE FINNEGAN, RICH NEPSTAD