

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish  
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
~ November 2013 ~*

*Pastor Dan Watland, Pastor Phone: (507) 864-2731 Cell: (507) 459-1141  
Email: [dwatland@gmail.com](mailto:dwatland@gmail.com)*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator Home: (507) 864-2086  
Cell: (507) 459-5450 Email: [highlandprairie\\_elstad@ymail.com](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com)*

*Worship Schedule  
November 2013*

*Sunday, November 3*

Highland Prairie  
9:00 a.m.

Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.

Elstad

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

*Sunday, November 10*

Highland Prairie  
10:30 a.m.

Sunday School  
9:30 a.m.

Elstad

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.

*Sunday, November 17*

Highland Prairie  
9:00 a.m.

Sunday School  
10:00

Elstad

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School  
9:30 a.m.

*Sunday, November 24*

Highland Prairie 9  
:00 a.m.

Sunday School  
10:00

Elstad

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School  
9:30 a.m.

*Ponderings from the Parsonage...*

The fall is a very busy time in the life of the church, and we are no different. We have "rallied" our Sunday Schools, begun using the Narrative Lectionary, resumed confirmation, baptized babies, blessed the animals and welcomed neighbor kids through "Trunk or Treat". We witnessed the Affirmation of Baptism of Josie, Nicole, Caleb and Cody. We are prepping for a celebration of missions, for the annual cantata and initiating a fall bizarre. And Christmas is right around the corner.....

Harvest is in full swing, we are getting ready for winter and life's numerous other activities and demands have marched on.

As a pastor, I'll admit I get a little excited by all of the activities that take place in the congregation. I feel like this is the greatest opportunity I will have to influence the lives of the members of this congregation, particularly the younger members; and I may be right. This could be the best time for me to leave an impression or make a difference; but it isn't the best time for all people to make a difference.

Actually, according to brain specialists, the most effective time to teach a lasting lesson is the five minutes before sleep. Bedtime is the most "tacky" time for any of us. What we do with it can have an enormous benefit to each of us.

Those tacky moments are when we can be establishing wonderful patterns with our families. That's why the Faith 5 are setup as they are. You will find the Faith 5 on the devotional insert in every worship bulletin. Try to gather together when the earliest bedtime rolls around. Share the days "highs" and "lows," read some scripture, try to find a connection between the Bible and the day behind or ahead, then pray together and bless one another. Sharing our joys and sadness, bringing the Bible to life, and praying and blessing one another: it is a simple pattern but it can have profound results. If you haven't been doing the "FAITH 5" in your home, please do. If you want more info, are having difficulties, or want to practice with somebody, please let me know... and it doesn't require kids! Every household can enjoy the blessing of this "tacky time".

*Pastor Dan*



**Elstad News Corner....**

\*November is the time for remembering. Elstad has the tradition of observing world hunger and a local pantry collection of food for the local food shelf. Monetary donations may be made any time either in the offering plates or given directly to the treasurer. Food items may be left in the lower level until the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thank you to all who partici-

\*Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Thank offering in gathering of Lutheran World Relief projects. Note the time change as Elstad will be having worship service at 9 a.m. for this one Sunday. The women of the WELCA will be helping with the service and all are invited to share in the offerings to this worthy cause. There will be opportunity for gifting school kits, health kits, sewing kits, bath size bars of soap and quilts. Check the 2013 program guide for any questions. Also this year the Lanesboro American Legion Auxiliary is asking for donations to the people serving in the military and a basket will be designated for this purpose. Check the October newsletter for a listing of requested items.

\*Now is the time to request any changes that you might wish to see in the 2014 WELCA program. The officers will be meeting to prepare the program before the end of the calendar year. If you have questions or concerns regarding circle membership, serving times, budget items, program suggestions or anything else let any of the officers know.

\*Save the date, Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5 p.m. The annual presentation by the parish choir will begin promptly at 5 p.m. Come early for a good seat as there will be festive holiday music beginning at 4:30 p.m. Advent Song tells the old, old story in a new and refreshing way. Some songs are new and others are very familiar. This is a very special way to prepare your hearts for Advent and Christmas. Refreshments will follow the concert and all are invited and very welcome.

**Elstad Prayer Partners**

Nancy Reagan is quoted to having said, "A woman is like a tea bag. You never know her strength until you drop her in hot water." As women we have been created for community. All year we have been "networking" and have been supporting one another in this business of being prayer partners. Some of us have been in hotter water than others this year and have renewed our resolve, as we often say in our statement of purpose, committing ourselves to one another. November is our final full month of remembering each other as secret prayer partners. November is often the first month where we find ourselves stepping into the "hot water" of what can be a very long holiday season ahead. Pray that her strength will endure and that the savor and flavor of her life will be greatly enhanced as the season progresses. December will find us in a literal tea bag and hot water setting at the annual Christmas Tea.

At this time we will be asking you to share your story of faith with one another as the prayer partners are revealed. How far has your faith been stretched during the year of 2013? Every story has a beginning. Every story is different. Every story evolves into the makings of what we are today. This is not an exclusive bunch!! You need not be a prayer partner to attend. Come one and come all to this festive occasion.

Elstad Budget September	8074.17
received	5951.00
Under	2123.17
YTD Budget	72667.53
Received YTD	49646.00
Under YTD	2 3,021.53

ELSTAD WELCA  
OCTOBER 12, 2013 MEETING

President Ruth Abrahamson called the meeting to order in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We joined in reading our Statement of Purpose.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

Thank you notes were read from Good Earth Village and Kyle and Jodi Daniels.

The Sunshine committee reported sending a card to Marge Abrahamson.

Prayer shawls have been presented to Marge Abrahamson, Ruth Abrahamson, Norene Ask and Kay Wold. Ruth thanked the committee for doing this ministry.

Old Business:

Two board meetings have been held – one at the Chat "N Chew and one at the church. Ruth asked if the members like the change this year. She stated that if someone wants a personal change to let the officers know.

A discussion was held on the \$25.00 cleaning fee. The officers will work on a change for another year.

Officers for 2014 will be:

President – Ruth Abrahamson

Co-president – Carol Overland

Secretary – Marilyn Soland

Treasurer – Darlys Storhoff

Mission & Growth – Carolyn Smith and Dorothy Evenson

A motion was made by Darlys Storhoff and seconded by Carolyn Smith to accept the slate of officers.

Kay Wold made the announcement regarding an all-day conference November 7<sup>th</sup> in La Crosse regarding Human Trafficking. If interested in attending, contact Kay Wold.

New Business:

Our Thank offering Sunday will be November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We will also be collecting items to be donated to our troops.

# NEWS

## & Notes

### Highland Prairie News Corner...

**Save the date.....**Sunday, November 10th is Stewardship Sunday/Harvest Celebration and Bazaar  
**Sunday School is at 9:30** and **worship** (with something special) is at **10:30**

This is the Sunday set aside to bring your quilts, kits and offering to help the poor. All items are shipped all over the world by Lutheran World Relief.

In conjunction with this very special day, the WELCA is sponsoring a soup/sandwich/dessert lunch after the worship. It doesn't end with that.....a bake sale and auction is in the planning so get your creative juices flowing and let's all see what we can come up with to make this a huge fundraiser for Highland Prairie. Some suggestions to consider may be quilts and wall hangings, all types of craft and wood items, jewelry, canned foods, home cooked meals, and theme baskets of all types. Don't forget items for the children. Kid's toys and clothing would be something fun and different. We have talked about having a day to make Norwegian bakery items to add to the list of foods offered for the bake sale. We could include things such as lefse, flat bread, hard tack, krumkake, etc., etc.

Perhaps many of our members are unaware of the many recent and some of the on-going expenses at Highland Prairie.....two of the five furnaces in the church have been replaced with the possibility of more in the near future. The roof, installation of air conditioning and insulation of the basement at the parsonage are all expensive concerns for us. These are only a few to consider. Please set aside November 10th for a day of worship, food, fellowship and fun. All for the glory of God!!

### Quilting & Craft Frolic @ Highland Prairie

November 1st & 2nd

9:00 a.m. ~ ??

Pot Luck Meals

Men & Women Welcome please bring your own projects and sewing machines. Free will offering to pay the church for the use of the Fellowship Hall.

### Takkefest

"Thanksgiving"

Come join us for dinner!

Rushford Lutheran Church

THURSDAY, November 28th

Doors open at 11:00a.m. Serving at 12:00 noon.

In order to plan for enough food please call and let us know if you plan to join us but, walk ins are welcome!

Please call (507) 864-7593 or (507) 864-2891  
leave a message

Highland Prairie Council Meeting

10/16/2013  
6:00 PM

Present – Glen, Gordon, Karen, David, Jerry, Allen, Lyle, Sarah, Deb and Pastor Dan  
Quorum: Yes

Devotion by: Deb

Treasurer Karen reported the following information:

General Fund Balance– 523,275 Income for Sept.- Received \$1500 from Cemetery for Mowing, \$960 in undesignated memorials, \$221 our share of Capital Credits from Ace Communications, \$200 for Custodial Fees from Wedding, and offering has been good this past month. Largest Expenses in Sept. were Church Utilities for \$750, Mowing-\$1100, Parking Lot Repairs-\$1,875, Furnace Repairs to Woxlands-\$320, Paint for Bleachers & Backstop-\$196, Bowl Deck Stain-\$164, Church Door Locks & Keys-\$122, Apache Junction Band for Music in Bowl-\$150, First Call Congregational Fee & Rostered Leader Fee-\$125. The Sunday School Fund has \$304 at this time. The Parsonage Remodeling Fund is minus \$1,443.

YTD Budget----\$64,931

Ym Income----\$63,366

YTD Under-----\$1,565

YTD Income----\$63,366

YTD Expenses ---\$77,244

Exp. Exceed Inc.--\$13,878

Treasurers report was read and approved, subject to audit. Motioned by Deb. Seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Sarah and 2nd by David to put CDs that are due for renewal in the Money Market funds. Motion passed.

There were no members to address the council.

The Secretary's Report was sent out prior to the meeting for review. Lyle motioned to approved. Seconded by Jerry. Motion passed.

Pastor's report:

Accomplishments: Beautiful Bowl Wedding on September 14<sup>th</sup> for Jarrod Hansen and Samantha Mendell. New member Sunday at both Highland Prairie and Elstad was September 15. Participating in the cantata practice at Elstad every Wednesday. Attended monthly meeting of Rushford Ministerium September 19th. Planning a live nativity for December 21 in downtown Rushford. Attended monthly First Call group on September 19th in Rochester.

Attended First Call Event Oct 1 on Leadership and Management at the synod office. Led Bible study Oct 2 and 16 at Good Shepherd Nursing Home.

Installation of Sunday School teachers was on October 6 at both churches. First annual blessing of the animals service held at the Highland Prairie picnic shelter on October 6th followed by the movie Hachi: a Dog's Tale at the parsonage. Both events required the participation of the confirmation students.

Attended the Root River Pastor's conference at Good Earth Village on October 8. Attended Narrative Lectionary course on the Gospel of John October 9 and 10 at Luther Seminary. Spent Friday afternoon Oct 11 with Pastor Magelssen from Norway. Baptism was Oct 13 at Highland Prairie for Slade Pepin. All four students being confirmed in October have completed service projects.

Plans: Will attend installation service in Winona for new campus Pastor Corrine Denis on Sunday October 20th. Graveside service with internment of ashes for Dylan and Shelby Westby scheduled for Oct 26th at 10 am. Trunk or Treat Event October 26 from 2-4 pm. Confirmation students providing games.

Baptism at Elstad October 27. Confirmation Oct 27 for Josie Bearbower, Nicole Blagsvedt, Caleb Gravos and Cody Ryan. Confirmation potluck dinner on Wednesday Oct 23@ 6 pm. Baptism November 3 at Highland Prairie. Fall Bazaar fundraiser Nov 10 at Highland Prairie. Service time changed with Elstad.

Correspondence: Members have expressed concerns about our communication structure. Council notes are put in the monthly newsletter and are on the website. We encourage members to use the Temple Talk at the beginning of church for announcements. The council is not sure what other communication we should use. Suggestions are welcome.

Committee reports

Endowment: \$200-300 will be given to the Sunday school. Some additional funding will be given for the Parsonage remodeling.

Church: Furnace maintenance has been complete, doors re-keyed, water outside has been winterized

Grounds: Tree trimming needs to be completed by the end of the month.

Worship: They will be working on membership.

Old business

David Lombard painted the stripes in the parking lot. Thanks David.

New business

A Welcome should be sent to our new Bishop. Sarah and Glen will work at getting this out.

Review of winter weather cancellation policy. Pastor contacts council presidents. Presidents call Lisa and Church calling tree leader. Lisa will post notifications on website and make contact with the TV and Radio stations.

Farm lease bid: The land lease needs to be reviewed and we should solicit bids. Notifications will be put in the Bulletins and Newsletter once details have been determined. Look for further information in the December newsletter.

# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S AND ANNIVERSARIES!

## Happy Birthday!!

1- Allen Howe  
~ Jennifer Dahl  
~ Tiffany Humble  
2~ Kenny Bakkum  
~ Amelia Dohleman  
~ Kelsie Woxland  
~ Miley Knutson  
3~ Darlys Storhoff  
~ Ethan Rislov  
4~ Sylvia Markegard  
~ Doug Lind  
~ Rick Sjarpe  
~ Shelly Stensgard  
5~ Scott Bestul  
~ Glen Kopperud  
~ Derek Grimsrud  
~ William Maschka  
6- Kay Eiken  
~ Ann Dolalie  
~ Andrew Larson  
7~ Stephanie Erickson  
9~ Tim Dahl  
~ Seth Humble  
10~ Becky Lind  
~ Dani Esten

11~ Randy Drinkall  
12~ Thora Lombard  
13~ Phil Dybing  
~ Crystal Soppa  
~ Ashlee Pontillo  
~ Cody Ryan  
~ Mason Wolfs  
17~ Jerry Dahl  
~ Dana DeGeorge  
19~ Trina Overland  
~ Adam Daniels  
~ James McHan  
~ Katie Hackbarth  
~ Daryn Eisner  
~ Grant DeGeorge  
20~ Melanie Przybylski  
~ Kyle Lawstuen  
21~ Eric Howe  
22~ Kenneth Sjarpe  
~ Peyton Hoiness  
~ Caden Johnson  
23~ Lorriane Fann  
~ Adam Overland  
~ Danielle Kingsley  
24~ Taylor Ask

25~ Dan Book  
~ Courtney Johnson  
26~ Doris Westby  
~ Rebecca Lawstuen  
~ Katrina James  
27~ Jennifer DeGeorge  
~ Emarie Jacobson  
28~ Sandy Thomas  
~ Kasey Nelson  
~ Elvin Paulson  
~ Aric Stensgard  
~ Kainen Klug  
29~ Curtis Gidmundson  
~ Bonnie Wangen  
30~ Benjamin Ryan

## Happy Anniversary!!

6~ David & Cindy Howe  
~ Cory & Nicole Woxland  
23~ John & Chris Knutson  
24~ Jeff Boland & Gretchen  
Engstrom  
26~ Michael & Jill  
Halverson



# The Bridge

A monthly publication for congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

Connecting the congregational, synodical, and churchwide expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## Youth Grow as Leaders Across the Ocean

Eight youth from Minnesota stood in a line on one side of the driveway. Fifteen youth from Tanzania stood in a line on the other side of the driveway. Someone said "Karibu," the Swahili word for "Welcome." "At the sound of that one word, the young people leapt toward one another. They began to share names, get to know one another, and build relationships. The enthusiasm continued for nearly two weeks as eight youth and four adults from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod worked with a group of 15 youth from the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

The July 1-16, 2013, trip came about as a way to share the "day camp" experience with our companion synod. The synod and Good Earth Village, an outdoor ministry site in Spring Valley, Minn., sought to have young people from Tanzania travel to Minnesota to be summer camp counselors at Good Earth Village. After several years of travel visa denials, the idea was born to bring the experience to Tanzania. The plan was to train young people from southeastern Minnesota using the model of the Youth Servant Leader Institute, a program based out of Good Earth Village designed to empower and encourage high school youth leadership in today's church. The youth from Minnesota would then train the team from Tanzania.

The youth participants learned how to lead games, Bible study, songs, and other activities. Rev. Nick Fisher-Broin, one of the adult leaders from Minnesota, said of the Tanzanian youth, "They just ate it up." Both Fisher-Broin and Rev. Beth Krolak, another adult leader, reflected that the style of faith formation was so natural to the Tanzanians because the American "camp experience" is so similar to their experience of church. From the first missionaries in Tanzania, worship happened outside, often with tree branches as the only rooftop. Song was frequent and often spontaneous. Community life and service together was the focus.

Fisher-Broin reflected that teaching the faith concepts was more foreign to the Tanzanians. Their



*Teaching songs in English with the Swahili translation.*

educational system is a very formal process focused on recitation and memorization. This experience was experiential, for example, learning faith concepts through a group game. Once the Tanzanian youth got used to it, he said, "They were so eager for that collaborative learning." They called it "holy play," he explained.

Although Krolak first got involved meaning to just bring information back to her congregation, she's glad she decided to make the trip to Tanzania. Not only was she able to experience the church in a new context, she says she has brought back a sense of courage. She explains, "The hospitality there gave me courage in my ministry to be more bold in my welcome of others."

The lessons learned continue to flourish. The leaders raised up in Tanzania continue to build faith in the children of their country as "day camps" take place throughout the Central Diocese. The Minnesotan youth not only grew in leadership skills, but they also continue to learn from their ministry partners in Tanzania via Facebook and email.

## About Our Synod

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 124,000 baptized people in 176 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

*The Bridge* is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA**  
1001 14th St. NW, Suite 300  
Rochester, MN 55901-2551  
507-280-9457  
semnsynod.org

# November 2013

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**Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat**

					1 Quilting & Craft Frolic at H.P. Church 9:00a.m.	2 Quilting & Craft Frolic at H.P. Church 9:00a.m.
3 HP @ 9:00 a.m. Johnson Baptism SS @ 10:00 a.m. Elstad @ 10:30 SS @ 9:30 a.m.	4 Elstad Esther Circle mtg. 9:30 a.m.	5	6 Bulletin Deadline	7	8	9
10 HP @ 10:30 a.m. SS @ 9:30 a.m. Elstad @9:00 a.m SS @ 10:00 a.m..	11 Elstad Elizabeth Circle meeting 6:30 p.m. @ Park Lane	12	13 Bulletin Deadline	14	15	16
17 HP @ 9:00 a.m. SS @ 10:00 a.m. Elstad @ 10:30 SS @ 9:30 a.m.	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Bulletin Deadline	21	22	23
24 HP @ 9:00 a.m. SS @ 10:00 a.m. Elstad @ 10:30 SS @ 9:30 a.m.	25	26	27 Bulletin Deadline	28	29	30



*Highland Prairie ~ Elstad Lutheran Parish*  
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Peterson, MN 55962

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# *November Newsletter*

## **HP Acolytes/ Readers/ Greeters**

Sunday, November 3, 2013

Acolytes: Paula Howe, Avalon Jacobson

Readers: Avalon Jacobson, Leah Jacobson

Greeters: Doug Lind Family

Sunday, November 10, 2013

Acolytes: Avalon Jacobson, Riley Koop

Readers: Riley Koop, Sharon Rustad

Greeters: Allen & Kay Howe

Sunday, November 17, 2013

Acolytes: Riley Koop, Nicole Blagsvedt

Readers: Nicole Blagsvedt, David Larson

Greeters: Charles & Lynnette Pederson

Sunday, November 24, 2013

Acolytes: Nicole Blagsvedt, Ora Yonts

Readers: Ora Yonts, Norma Halverson

Greeters: Roger & Sarah Bearbower

## **Elstad Acolyte/Reader/Ushers**

Sunday, November 3, 2013

Acolyte: Caleb Gravos

Reader: Vicky Topness

Sunday, November 10, 2013

Reader: Peter Holm

Sunday, November 17, 2013

Acolyte: Chris Freese

Reader: Marv Eggert

Sunday, November 24, 2013

Reader: John Overland

Ushers: Mike Ask, John Overland, Larry Topness,  
Fred Kiel, Robert Nelson