

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish*  
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
*~ January 2015 ~*

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***Worship Schedule***

***\*TIME CHANGE\****

***January 2015***

***Sunday, January 4***

Highland Prairie 8:30 a.m.  
No Sunday school  
Elstad 10:30 a.m.

***Sunday, January 11***

Highland Prairie 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday school 9:30 a.m.  
Highland Prairie 10:30 a.m.

***Sunday, January 18***

Highland Prairie 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday school 9:30 a.m.  
Elstad 10:30 a.m.

***Sunday, January 25***

Highland Prairie 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday school 9:30 a.m.  
Elstad 10:30 a.m.

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

December 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 12:25pm by Council President Gordon Johnson.

Present: Gordon Johnson, Karen Bakken, Deb Book, Kaye Eiken, Jerry Hallum, David Larson, Lyle Meldahl

Absent: Sarah Bearbower, Chuck Pedersen, Steve Howe

Others Present: Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary and Kyle Chiglo

There was no agenda, and the purpose of meeting was to discuss several end of year items in preparation for the January meeting when we will review and approve a 2015 budget, and to determine council vacancies so we can place a notice in the bulletins/newsletter and have nominations for the annual meeting ballot to fill those positions for 2015.

*Motion by Karen, second by Deb to donate \$100 to the RP Schools Backpack Program. Motion passed.*

Two council officers indicated they will not be on the ballot to retain their current positions, and two trustee terms are completed. Lisa will place a notice in the bulletin and newsletter indicating the open positions after contacting Sarah, who is currently serving as Council Vice President, about her intentions.

Jerry noted he will be trying some energy efficient light bulbs in the light fixtures.

Some concerns were expressed about the Synod office not responding to calls and emails.

No further business.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Next Meeting: Highland Prairie Council - January 11th following the worship service  
Parish Council - January 11th 7:00pm at Highland Prairie

# Elstad News

## Elstad Prayer Partners

Life doesn't always make sense does it? Having just enveloped ourselves in the holiday sing alongs, indulging in decadence, endless shopping sprees, yummy one bite cakes, and serious memory making times we find ourselves wanting to have a bit of hunker down time. Maybe a lot of hunker down time. Only selected species have the time for hibernation. We humans have to spend the rest of winter taking better care of ourselves. We may have been so busy making merry that our guard was not always as sharp as normal! December found the Elstad WELCA ladies making merry at our annual Christmas Tea with the revealing of prayer partners for the year of 2014. Were you surprised? Some were really surprised. Just as the invitations for the various winter festivals and outdoor activities are being issued, so are the invitations for new prayer partners for 2015 being issued, perhaps you have yours in hand right now. There is someone new in your life to spend the year praying for with the faith that her life will be better because of your prayers. What an awesome privilege to be useful in our oftentimes confusing world.

## Elstad WELCA

There were 24 members plus the servers in attendance for our Christmas Tea. What a delightful morning this turned out to be. Beginning with an abbreviated business meeting we had a theme program by the Elizabeth circle (tea pot and tea cups) before sharing in the unveiling of prayer partners.

A huge box of food items was collected and delivered to the food shelf in Rushford. A report of the LWR items was given, 15 quilts, 25 school kits, 15 health kits, 2 sewing kits, 8 layettes, 133 bars of new soap and \$50 for trucking expense. Thank you to all who participated in the annual LWR collection.

Another thank you to all who participated in any way, shape or form to make the WELCA a worthy place for service. This has been a privilege for your president to be a part of this mission for the past couple of years. The new president of our WELCA is Carol Overland and she has been busy making preparations for the upcoming year. The officers have met and the new program should be in print very soon if not already. It is only right to believe that the Elstad WELCA will continue to serve the church and the community as it always has in the past.

## **Attention Highland Prairie Members**

The Highland Prairie council is looking for volunteers who are willing to serve on our council. Officers serve for a one year term and trustee's serve for a three year term. Please contact a current council member or Lisa Chiglo if you are interested.

## *New Ministries Table*

By Emily Carson, Director of Communications

carson@semnsynod.org

In conjunction with the Synod Council, there are currently four tables working together to guide the ministry of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. These tables include Congregational Renewal, Mission Support, Global Mission/Companion Synods, and New Ministries. In the year ahead, each monthly issue of *The Bridge* will provide background information on various aspects of our synod's structure and ministries. Our hope is that these written and reproducible resources will be helpful tools to broaden awareness throughout the synod of the many ways we work together to do God's work with our hands.

Pastor Peter Reuss serves as one of our synod's Assistants to the Bishop. His official role is as Director of Evangelical Mission. Pastor Reuss is the synod staff member most directly connected to the work of the New Ministries Table. The table originated in 2009 with the expressed mission of supporting new ministry ventures being initiated in our synod. Pastor John Petersen, a member of the table, said that it is the component of our synod structure responsible for asking the question, "What is God doing in the midst of the newness of an ever-changing world and how can we help?"

At its outset in 2009, new ministries taking place within the South Sudanese community were the primary focus of the table. Pastor Petersen shared that nurturing these relationships has been a rewarding aspect of the table's work. He said that it has been meaningful, "to observe the relationships between the members of the Sudanese congregations and the congregations that host them." In addition to supporting our South Sudanese congregations, the work of the New Ministries Table is now expanding to support a variety of potential original ministries including a new house church model arising out of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Rochester and a possible Rochester-area feeding ministry.

Ideas for new ministries come from lay leaders and pastors. Once a contact has been made with the New Ministries Table of our synod, a new ministry will have access to synodical and churchwide grants as well as leadership training and support. To learn more about the basic process of starting a new ministry, consider utilizing a great collection of resources put together by our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, at <http://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-New-Congregations>.

In expressing his gratitude about the members of the table, Pastor Reuss shared, "Instead of passively waiting for something to happen, they seek to find people who can be brought together to make exciting ministry happen." This table is currently in an exciting time of visioning about its future and purpose. Pastor Peterson said that he is hopeful that in the chapter ahead the table can, "discover anew where the Spirit is active in our Synod and commit ourselves and our resources in that direction." This table has big goals for 2015 including raising \$25,000 to support new ministries in our synod. Would you be interested in learning more about this goal or making a direct gift to the New Ministries Table? Contact Pastor Reuss at reuss@semnsynod.org.

The New Ministries Table plays a key role in supporting and sustaining fresh ways the Holy Spirit is at work in our region! The members of this table request your prayerful support and encouragement as they continue following the Spirit's lead in the year ahead.

### *Synod Online Connections:*

Website: <http://www.semnsynod.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/semnsynod>

E-news sign-up: <http://bitly.com/semnnews>

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

All Birthdays & Anniversaries are listed according to the information I have. If you see an error please contact me  
Email: [highlandprairie\\_elstad@gmail.com](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@gmail.com) ~ Thank You!

## Happy Birthday!!

1~ Darrellyn Barrett  
2~ John Smith  
4~ Michelle Rein  
5~ Melissa Engelby  
6~ Sandy Kiel  
7~ Angel Bakke  
8~ Mark Dahl  
9~ Nathan Bakke  
10~ Philip Dragvold  
~ Nancy Rustad  
~ Sawyer James  
11~ Rebecca Lombard  
12~ Kaye Dahl  
13~ Steve Chiglo  
~ Joshua Dahl  
~ Daniel Sjarpe  
~ Tyler Berg  
~ Darren Stockton  
14~ Michelle Ryan  
~ Colton Horning  
15~ Carolyn Smith  
~ Kasten Klug  
16~ Irving Abrahamson  
~ 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  
21~ Courtney Nelson  
23~ Merwood Storhoff  
~ Darcy Peterson  
~ Katherine Chiglo  
~ Brianna Dybing  
~ James Bearbower  
~ August Mention  
24~ Martha Stensgard  
~ Deborah Mensink  
25~ Ellen Feine  
~ Sarah Freese

~ Paula Howe  
27~ Eleanor Peterson  
~ Michael Oian  
~ David Lawstuen  
29~ Freda Kiel  
30~ Jason Dahl  
31~ Richard Lombard



## Happy Anniversary!

15~ Jerry & Julie  
Dragvold  
28~ David & Sue Larson

# January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3
4 HP - 8:30 a.m. S.S. - 9:30 a.m. EL - 10:30 a.m.	5	6	7  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	8 Ester circle, 9:30 @ Doris Dybing's home	9	10
11 HP - 8:30 a.m. S.S. - 9:30 a.m. EL - 10:30 a.m. HP council meeting after worship Parish council mtg. @ HP 7 p.m.	12	13	14  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	15	16	17
18 HP - 8:30 a.m. S.S. - 9:30 a.m. EL - 10:30 a.m. Mary circle during coffee hour <b>Annual Meeting @ Elstad</b>	19  Newsletter Deadline	20	21  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	22	23	24
25 HP - 8:30 a.m. S.S. - 9:30 a.m. EL - 10:30 a.m. <b>Annual Meeting @ Highland Prairie</b>	26	27	28  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	29	30	31

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

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# *January Newsletter*

## Highland Prairie Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

### Sunday, January 4, 2015

Acolyte: Trenten Chiglo  
Readers: Trenten Chiglo, Sharon Ehler  
Greeters: Allen & Kay Howe

### Sunday, January 11, 2015

Acolyte: Brady Stensgard  
Readers: Brady Stensgard, David Larson  
Greeters: Lyle & Ann Meldahl

### Sunday, January 18, 2015

Acolyte: Paula Howe  
Readers: Paula Howe, Norma Halverson  
Greeters: Sharon & Paul Ehler

### Sunday, January 25, 2015

Acolyte: Trenten Chiglo  
Readers: Trenten Chiglo, Scott Bestul  
Greeters: Doug Lind Family

## Elstad Acolyte/Reader/Ushers

### Sunday, January 4, 2015

Acolyte:  
Reader: Lori Bakke

### Sunday, January 11, 2015

Reader: Marv Eggert

### Sunday, January 18, 2015

Acolyte:  
Reader: Vicky Topness

### Sunday, January 25, 2015

Reader: Peter Holm

**Ushers:**