

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
~ March 2014 ~*

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Worship Schedule

March 2014

TIME CHANGE

Early Service @ 8:30

Late Service @ 10:30

*SS @ 9:30 for both
congregations*

Sunday, March 2

Elstad 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Highland Prairie 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 9

Elstad 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Highland Prairie 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 16

Elstad 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Highland Prairie 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 23

Elstad 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Highland Prairie 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 30

Elstad 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Highland Prairie 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

PARISH NEWS

**Parish Council meeting on March 9th, 7:00 p.m. @
Highland Prairie**

Individual council meetings will follow the Parish meeting

Good Earth Village

Don't forget to schedule your kids summer camp!

Early Bird Registration is March 17th!!

Living in the Heart of the Chosen Valley

Lakewood Senior Housing

420 Bench St. Chatfield

No Waiting List!

Senior Community for 62 or older, disabled or handicapped. One bedroom apartments. Rent amount based on household's gross income. The Board of directors of Lakewood consists of members from area churches.

- Heat paid
- Secure entry
- Convenient to downtown, library, medical center and churches
- On site laundry
- No shoveling
- No yard work
- Pets allowed with deposit

Ponderings from the Parsonage...

Lent is nearly here. On Ash Wednesday, we receive the ashes in the sign of the cross on our foreheads and hear the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you will return." We are here for such a short time when you look at life from the perspective of God. Why are we in such a hurry to get through our time here?

Garrison Keillor says for Lutherans, it's always Lent. And do you know what the word Lent means in French? It means slow. So it seems appropriate that we slow down for Lent. Bishop Margaret Payne of the New England synod of the ELCA talks about a "Slow Lent Movement."

It was inspired by the Slow Food movement which wants us to move away from the fast food addiction and re-learn the values of thoughtful shopping, local foods, time spent in preparation and even more time spent in sharing food slowly with family and friends.

The Slow Lent Movement has similar goal. Bishop Payne asks:

How does our culture's addiction to hurry stand in the way of spiritual growth?

Do we have too much 'fast worship'?

How could this Lenten season provide an antidote to the weariness of too much to do?

How could this Lenten season offer strategies for recovery?

Many of us have bought into the seduction of our culture's three A's: Accomplishment, Adrenalin, and Affirmation. We think our worth is based on how much we accomplish in our corner of the world. We enjoy the adrenalin rush that comes from having much to do and being needed by many people. And we like the affirmation that often comes from having our hands in so many activities.

We say that we trust in God's grace. But still as Christians we base our self-worth on our accomplishments. We race around trying to fulfill the "shoulds" we carry inside our heads. We seek affirmation from our community even as we fake humility. We have bought into the "fast food" culture without seeing a need for a different way of life. How have you bought into the Three A's: Accomplishment, Adrenalin and Affirmation?

Here are Bishop Payne's Five Slow Disciplines for Lent that complement traditional Lenten disciplines.

Traditional: repentance. Slow: speak less, listen more.

Traditional: forgiveness. Slow: let go of one "should."

Traditional: catechesis (teaching). Slow: re-learn one basic of the faith.

Traditional: fasting. Slow: choose one way to 'unplug'.

Traditional: almsgiving (giving to the poor). Slow: simplify.

During Lent we will combine "Slow Food" with "Slow Lent." The worship service and the soup suppers will be combined as one event. We will gather at 6:30 pm for an hour-long "Dinner Church," taking time to build relationships with one another as we consider the "I AM" statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

Pastor Dan

Parish Staff

~ 2014 ~

ELSTAD

President- Larry Topness

V-President- Jerry Evenson

Secretary- Michelle Rein

Treasurer- Jennifer Nepstad

Trustees- John Rein (17)
Carol Overland (15)
Vicky Topness (16)

Board of Education:

Michelle Rein (17)
Sandy Sjarpe (15)
Amber Arends (16)

Board of Life & Growth;

Darlys Storhoff (17) Dorthy Evenson (15)
Larry Topness (15) Deb Topness (15)
Carolyn Smith (16)

Auditors:

Tom Dybing (16) John Abrahamson (15)

World Hunger Representatives:

Philip & Ruth Abrahamson

Head Ushers:

Mike Chiglo, Mike Ask, John Overland, Stan Sveen, John Abrahamson, Robert Knutson

Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Larry Topness Deb Topness

Synod Assembly Alternates:

John Overland Carol Overland

Cemetery Board: Rich Nepstad (17)

David Lawstuen (16) Duane Bakke (15)

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

President- Gordon Johnson

V-President- Sarah Bearbower

Secretary- Deb Book

Treasurer- Karen Bakken

Trustees- Kaye Eiken (14)
Jerry Hallum (14)
David Larson (15)
Chuck Pederson (15)
Steve Howe (16)
Lyle Meldahl (16)

Synod Assembly voting Members:

Lyle & Ann Meldahl

Cemetery Board: (3 year term)

Ellen Eide-Secretary Elvin Paulson (15)
Robert Anfinson (15) Jerry Hallum (16)
Glenn Peterson (16)

Endowment Committee: (3 year term)

Paula Brand (14) Norma Halverson (14)
Val Gudmundson (15) Nancy Rustad (16)
Allan Skalet (16)

Good Shepherd Delegates:

Allan Skalet & Kaye Eiken

Auditors: (2 year term)

Sarah Bearbower (14)
Val Howe (15)

ELSTAD NEWS

Elstad Prayer Partners

There is an entire web site dedicated to the question of just when does March madness start? In the sporting arena this is an exciting topic. March madness speaks of basketball, a team of 5 vs. a team of 5. Each team is hoping to out- play and out- wit one another to become the champion of the season. In a different arena most of us may well have been experiencing March madness for quite some time as we await a March weather change in hopes of spring in the air. As prayer partners March madness can speak to us as a season of prayer. A team of 2. 1.) The one doing the praying and 2.) the one being prayed for. The prayers we offer for one another need no tools or equipment, only words and amazingly the prayers move from court to court faster than the players. Together this team of 2 will always be both winners and champions. Pray for your partner this month for continued patience and strength to endure the remaining of the season. We all know that spring will come, it always has and it always will.

Continue to save the Date, Sunday March 9th at 10:30 a.m.

Back by popular request we are having another all church birthday party. Some things are the same, pot luck meal, festive atmosphere, Cup cakes to die for, another game of “tell me something I don’t know” and a special feature by Deb Olson. Deb Olson is a certified laughter therapist and will share her gifts with us. The WELCA officers and serving committee will be hosting this event so all anyone has to do is show up with a “covered dish” and enjoy the rest of the noon time together. Cup cakes and beverages will be supplied. When is the last time you experienced a laughing festival? Never? Now is a good time to try one on for size. No one is either too young nor too old for this happy time. Remember the time change for worship at 10:30 a.m. followed directly will be the meal celebration together.

Elstad Budget for January	\$7772.50
Received January	\$7229.00
Under for January	\$ 543.50

ELSTAD WELCA MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2014

Ruth Abrahamson called the meeting to order in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We read our statement of purpose together.

Larry Topness informed the WELCA members that Elstad and Highland Prairie are having a combined celebration of the 160th Anniversary. He requested that the members start thinking about the event which will be in the Highland Prairie park and that couple be chosen to work with the Highland Prairie committee.

Jennifer Nepstad installed the WELCA officers for 2014.

Minutes were read and accepted from our October meeting. The treasurer's report was given and approved.

Correspondence was read from Pastor Dan and Gayle and from the Sarah Solum family.

The Sunshine committee reported sending cards to John Smith, Shelly Nelson and Irma Wangen.

Old Business:

Ruth thanked the decorating committee for taking down the Christmas decorations.

There will not be the \$25.00 cleaning fee collected this year.

New Business:

March 9th will be the all church birthday party. It will be pot luck with cupcakes and beverages provided. Our church time will be changed with Highland Prairie and will be at 10:30. The servers will be the officers and the serving committee. There will be a speaker after lunch. Ruth is working to obtain a laughter therapist from Rochester to speak. There will not be an auction.

May we will hold our Recognition Sunday.

Our new budget was reviewed. Additions to the membership list is to add Sarah Wangen to the Leah circle and Sarah and Nick Wangen to serving group 1.

Lori Bakke then made a motion to accept the program and the budget for 2014 with Shelly Nelson making the second. Motion carried.

Cathy Bakke has requested yarn for the baptismal shawls. She requests Pounds of Love, Lion Brand yarn, the white big packages or donations would also be accepted. The yarn may be purchased at either Michaels or JoAnn Fabrics.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Announcements:

Quilting will be Tuesday, February 4th at 10:30. Bring a sack lunch.

The Esther circle will meet Friday, February 7th at 9:30. Doris Dybing will be the hostess.

Servers for today's meeting are Darlys Storhoff and Marilyn Soland.

We closed with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Marilyn Soland, Secretary

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

NEWS

The “crock pot” pot luck on February 16th was enjoyed by 35 people and \$167 was collected for Camp Winnebago. That was wonderful!!

Our next potluck is scheduled for March 16th and we are featuring soup, sandwiches and dessert. Monies collected that day will go to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. The WELCA quilters have made quilts in the past for the Ronald McDonald House and there is a “wish list” in their Fall 2013 publication. What can we do to help? Maybe we should just declare March 16th “Ronald McDonald Day at Highland Prairie”. Here are the items on their “wish list” -

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Liquid laundry detergent | Toilet bowl cleaner |
| All purpose spray cleaner | Toilet paper |
| Snack size fruit cups | Paper towels |
| Individually wrapped snack items | Nonperishable food items |
| Liquid dishwasher detergent | Liquid hand soap |
| Antibacterial disinfectant wipes | |

There is a pet therapy program called “Paw Pals” at the facility that would be a wonderful place for our children’s offering or maybe even a noisy offering during Church.

Lenten soup supper at Highland Prairie March 19th, serving soup, sandwiches and dessert.

Circle Meetings ~ Highland Prairie Mary Circle will meet Sunday, March 9th 4:00pm at The Creamery

Looking ahead.....

April 6th is the Meatball Dinner and we’ve talked seriously about real potatoes! We need 2 people to be in charge of bake sale

August 13th has been declared “ladies get away day.” Where? We’re not sure yet, but it will be fun. More on that, later.

Highland Prairie Financials For Jan.

YTD Income	\$5,802
YTD Expenses	\$6,435
Expenses Exc. Income	\$633
YTD Budget	\$8,148
YTD Income	\$5,802
YTD Under	\$2,346

**HIGHLAND PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
February 9, 2014**

2014 Council Officers

President	Gordon Johnson
Vice President	Sarah Bearbower
Treasurer	Karen Bakken
Secretary	Deb Book

2014 Council Trustees

Kaye Eiken, Jerry Hallum, David Larson,
Chuck Pederson, Steve Howe, Lyle Meldahl

The meeting was **called to order** by President Gordon Johnson at 11:35 am.

Chuck Pederson, Steve Howe and Lyle Meldahl were absent.

Others in attendance: Pastor Dan Watland, Parish Secretary Lisa Chiglo, and Worship Committee members Sharon Ehler, Sharon Boyum, Arlene Johnson and Gayle Watland.

The agenda was approved, although it was later discovered that the Parish Secretary had not received the agenda items from the council president and as a result not all members had the same agenda..

The Secretary's Report prepared by Sarah from the January 12th meeting was read by Deb. One correction was made regarding the council meeting times. Motion by Sarah, second by Jerry to approve the report. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Karen with a review of previous month income and expenses, and account balances. Motion by David, second by Sarah to accept the report. Motion passed. Report available for review and subject to audit.

No President's report.

Pastor's report.

Recommendations for improvements from the previous month report and annual meeting report will continue to be addressed with a focus on handicapped assistance and attendance.

No Correspondence.

Committee Reports:

Council President Gordon Johnson will be involved in all committees to better prepare for meetings.

Church:

Handicapped accessibility continues to be a concern. An evaluation of our facility will be done on February 27 by an Arrow Elevator representative that has placed accessibility units in other local churches.

Worship:

A membership review will be done.

Ushers should be scheduled and included as worship leaders.

Friendship Sunday will be March 16th to invite friends and acquaintances to join us for worship, and WELCA has planned a pot luck fellowship dinner following the worship service.

Old Business:

A safe has been purchased. The combination will be given to the Pastor, Secretary and our genealogy contact person. Items to be stored in new safe will be determined.

A notice will be placed in the newsletter reminding members that parking assistance for worship services is available, and also that members should contact the church for rides to church or for other assistance.

New Business:

- 1) Discussion: 2014 marks the 160th anniversary of the founding of our church. The Worship Committee will oversee a special event to commemorate this occasion and the history wall will be completed as part of the celebration.
 - ◆ Motion by Deb, second by Sarah to celebrate our 160th anniversary with a “Celebrating our Heritage” theme at the August 17th bowl service. Motion passed.

- 2) Discussion: The parsonage will have an energy audit on February 27th and decisions on repairs of the furnace, radiators, chimneys and other items will be made after that with recommendations by the parish parsonage committee to the parish council. The fee is reimbursed if recommended improvements are completed.
 - ◆ Motion by Jerry, second by David to pay the \$150 fee for the energy audit. Motion passed.

- 3) Discussion: Holders for the Welcome/Communications cards can be attached to the pews to eliminate including the cards in the bulletins each week.
 - ◆ Motion by Sarah, second by Kaye to purchase the card holders. Motion passed.

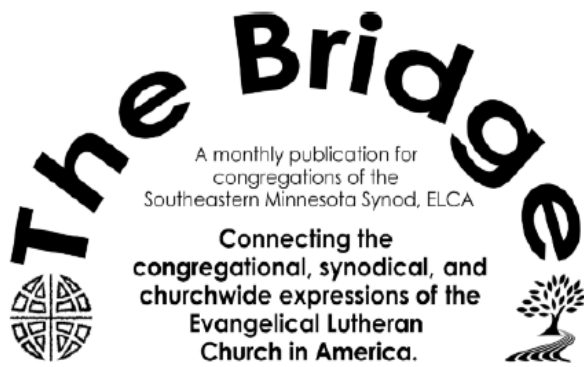
- 4) Discussion: Good Earth Village early camp registrations are due in March. Highland Prairie has provided camperships for our youth that attend.
 - ◆ Motion by Sarah, second by Karen to fund 75% of the Good Earth Village early bird registration fees for our campers

No further business.

- ◆ Motion to adjourn by Sarah, second by David. Motion passed. Meeting **adjourned** at 12:38 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Parish Council Meeting - Sunday, March 9th 7:00 pm at Highland Prairie

Submitted by Deb Book, Highland Prairie Council Secretary



African leaders gather for theological study

Minnesota is known for Ole and Lena. We're a frozen land of tough, fair-skinned, Scandinavian Lutherans. But if you step into one of the congregations in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, you'll see beyond the stereotype. And not just because there are some Germans.

Several of our congregations now have communities of African immigrants, primarily from what is now South Sudan, worshipping in their midst. Because these communities worship in their own language - three different tribal languages in our synod - they have their own worship services and their own lay leaders. But these lay leaders have no theological training. This is where AGORA comes in.

Agora is a Greek word that means "marketplace." It's the place where people gather. The AGORA program serves as a place for the growing populations of new Americans to come to learn about leading their faith communities.

AGORA began as an independent program in 2003. In 2012, it became part of Luther Seminary's Global Mission Institute. During the 2012-2013 academic year, approximately 30 students from ethnic-specific and immigrant Lutheran congregations in the Twin Cities took part in the program. Leaders from four African-national communities in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod take part in programming offered right here in our area.

The participants in our synod's component of the program are lay evangelists, leaders identified by their communities, and others who preach. Once a month, the group gathers for an hour-and-a-half-long conversation about preaching on a selected Biblical text. These conversations have been led by Professor Richard Nysse, Luther Seminary, and Professor Emeritus Bradley Holt, Augsburg College, and others may contribute in the future. Through discussing preaching during these conversations, participants also learn about theology, Biblical studies, and even pastoral care.

Yang Tut is the lay evangelist for the Nuer community at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Owatonna. He has been participating in the AGORA program for almost a year. "It helps when you do worship," he says of this intentional time studying the texts. "It helps me understand what the Bible is talking about and tell the congregation about what it says."

In addition to the monthly conversations, participants meeting with mentors about twice a month.

"I love being an AGORA mentor because of the relationships that are being created with our Sudanese lay evangelists as we work on pastoral skills and leadership," says Rev. Katie Fick, Hayward and Trondhjem Lutheran Churches, Hayward. "We learn together about what it means to be leaders and preachers in our different contexts, as well as how we all are united in the body of Christ."

The structure of the AGORA program remains in flux, ready to adapt to the needs of the church and the participants.

More about the program at www.luthersem.org/gmi/àgora



Simon Bol Choat, lay evangelist, leads worship at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Austin.

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

**All Birthdays & Anniversaries are listed according to the information I have. If you see an error please contact me @ highlandprairie_elstad@gmail.com Thank You!*

- Happy Birthday!!**
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2~ Sharon Knutson
~ Mark Johnson | 13~ Mary McHan
~ Brain Pauslon
~ Tyler Dahl
~ Hilary Eide | 23~ Sharon Ehler
~ Julie Ekstrom |
| 3~ Kristoffer Gudmundson
~ Rebecca Wangen
~ Gavin Wangen | 14~ Ellen Shofner
16~ Duane Bakke
17~ Mavis Dahl
~ Daryl Bergen
~ Caryn Butler
~ Taylor Gravos | 25~ Matthew Brookins
26~ Tristan Dahl
27~ Sandra Overland
~ Ben Markegard
28~ Pernella Landsverk
~ Tom Smith
~ Wendy Overland
~ Naomi Howe |
| 4~ Tonya Wolfs
~ Jeremy Berge | 18~ Helen Jacobson
19~ Kay Howe
~ Kris Youngquist | 29~ Randy Dahl
~ Brianna Koop |
| 6~ Treyton Wangen
8~ Aaron Dybing
~ Timothy Knutson
~ Isaac Freese
~ Norah Eide | 20~ Robert Anfinson
~ Elizabeth McHan
~ Jonah Sievers | 31~ Guthrie Johnson |
| 9~ Philip Abrahamson
~ Mariah Mierau
~ Britney Fretland
~ Mathew Gudmundson | 21~ James Semmen
~ Cammy Johnson | Happy Anniversary!! |
| 12~ Jerry Evenson
~ Mitchell Lee | 22~ Sandy Sjarpe
~ Sarah Bearbower
~ Benjamin Brand
~ Kjersta Lind | 2~ Merwood & Darlys S
Storhoff
6~ Robert & Elinor Olson
14~ Brad & Kari Johnson
20~ Robert & Caroline
Anfinson
24~ Robert & Shelly
Nelson |

MARCH 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 EL 8:30 a.m. S.S. 9:30 a.m. HP 10:30 a.m.	3 HP host GSLH Birthday Party 1:00 p.m.	4	5 Bulletin Deadline Ash Wednesday Elstad 5 p.m. HP 7 p.m.	6	7	8
9 Time Change HP @ 8:30 a.m. S.S. @ 9:30 a.m. EL @ 10:30 a.m. Parish Council mtg. 7 p.m.	10	11	12 Bulletin Deadline HP Quilting @ 9:30 w/ potluck Worship @ El- stad 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15
16 EL 8:30 a.m. S.S. @ 9:30 a.m. HP @ 10:30 a.m. Soup/Sandwich potluck after church @ HP	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 Bulletin Deadline Lenten Soup supper @ HP Worship @ 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22
23 EL @ 8:30 a.m. S.S. @ 9:30 a.m. HP @ 10:30 a.m.	24	25	26 Bulletin Deadline Lenten Service @ Elstad 7:00 p.m.	27	28	29
30 EL @ 8:30 a.m. S.S. @ 9:30 a.m. HP @ 10:30 a.m.	31					

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

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Permit No. #6

March Newsletter

HP Acolytes/Readers/Greeters

Sunday, March 2, 2014

Acolytes: Paula Howe, Avalon Jacobson
Readers: Paula Howe, Norma Halverson
Greeters: Charles & Lynnette Pederson

Sunday, March 9, 2014

Acolytes: Avalon Jacobson, Collen Dahle
Readers: Avalon Jacobson, Glen Kopperud
Greeters: Roger & Sarah Bearbower

Sunday, March 16, 2014

Acolytes: Collen Dahle, Peyton Hoiness
Readers: Collen Dahle, Sharon Ehler
Greeters: Gordon & Arlene Johnson

Sunday, March 23, 2014

Acolytes: Peyton Hoiness, Chealsy Eide
Readers: Peyton Hoiness, Arlene Johnson
Greeters: Gary & Nancy Rustad

Sunday, March 30, 2014

Acolytes: Chealsy Eide, Riley Koop
Readers: Chealsy Eide, Leah Jacobson
Greeters: Lyle & Ann Meldahl

Elstad Acolyte/Reader/Ushers

Sunday, March 2, 2014

Acolyte: Caleb Gravos
Reader: John Overland

Sunday, Maarch 9, 2014

Reader: Gene Topness

Sunday, March 16 2014

Acolyte: Chris Freese
Reader: Tom Dybing

Sunday, March 23, 2014

Reader: Carolyn Smith

Sunday, March 30, 2014

Acolyte: Kody Bearbower
Reader: Vicky Topness

Ushers: Mike Ask, Stanley Sveen, Duane Bakke,
Tom Dybing, Kyle Bearbower, Larry Topness