

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

~ January 2017 ~

Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen

Church Phone: (507) 864-2731

Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator

Home: (507) 864-2086 Cell: (507) 459-5450 Email: highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com

Worship Schedule

January 2017

Sunday, January 1st

8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie
NO Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Elstad

Sunday, January 8th

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

Sunday, January 15th

8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Elstad
EL- Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22nd

8:30 a.m. Elstad
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie
HP- Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29th

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

Prayer Corner

Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Eric Johnson, Ashley Bergen, Jim Wangen, Eastyn Skala, Jacob Mangelsen, Irma Wangen, David Ask, Elaine Holm, Dick Haight, Becky Lind, Cathy Bakke, Lucile Ask, Naomi Wangen, Steve Engrav, Frank Sievers and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.

~Worship Time Change~

Sunday, January 22nd

Elstad will worship at 8:30 and Highland Prairie at 10:30 due to annual meeting.

January Council Meetings

January 8th—Highland Prairie Council, 5:30-Parish Council, 7:00p.m. with Elstad Council after Parish meeting. All meeting held at Elstad.

January 15th-Elstad Annual Meeting after worship

January 22nd- Highland Prairie Annual Meeting after worship

Highland Prairie Church Council

has openings for two trustee positions (3 year term), and an Auditor for 2017. Please contact Pastor Luther or a current council member if you are interested in serving.

Highland Prairie Financials for November 2016

YTD	\$75,079*	YTD Budget	\$81950*
YTD Expense	\$66,726	YTD Income	\$75079
Income Exc. Exp.	\$ 8,353	YTD Under	\$ 6,871

January Newsletter Article

This year the gospel texts we will be hearing most Sundays will be out from the gospel of Matthew. Matthew's gospel begins and ends with scenes of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In chapters 1 and 2, Mary and Joseph are his parents; in chapter 27, there is Joseph of Arimathea and Mary has "doubled" into Mary Magdalene and the "other Mary."

The first story is a story of life, the second, a story of death. The first tells about the miracle of the virgin conception, while the second tells of a burial. The first focuses on the child in the womb, the second one the crucified man in the tomb.

Yet, there are similarities amid the contrasts: The first scene tells of the coming of the Son of God. The second scene tells about his coming again...his rising from the tomb. The first presents him as the firstborn of Mary and Joseph. The second tells of him of him as the firstborn of the dead. The first is Jesus' birth story. The second is the story of his rebirth, and the new creation.

Yes, we are on our way in the great story of our redemption. Presently, we are reveling in the wonder of the incarnation of Christ (God taking on our flesh). The drama will climax in the astounding surprise of his resurrection at Easter (Christ's defeat of the last enemy, death). And if that isn't enough gospel freight, added to it is the promised coming of the Holy Spirit to disciples and the birth of the church and her life (i.e. Pentecost). And yes, it is a drama in which we find ourselves caught up in strange, mysterious, and powerful ways right here in the parish of Highland Prairie and Elstad.

So, now WE proceed in the unfolding of the drama of the Good News in our Christ. What will it mean for us? Where will it take us, and into the lives of whom? How will it come to flesh in us and in our lives?

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This great prayer of the church offers the primary promise for us as forward we go....together....in this new year. What could be greater and more emboldening? Onward, then! And what a blessing it is to be in the company of you, dear brothers and sisters!

Middle-School and High School Youth!

It's time to meet and plan some youth events for 2017. You are encouraged to participate in a planning event for 2017 on Sunday, January 8th, 3 p.m., at Highland Prairie Church. We'll do some planning of events for the coming months and talk about possibilities for a summer mission trip. We'll play some games. And, of course, there will be treats.

Adult Study Opportunities are Coming!

Are you interested in Bible study? Would you like to participate in a book study? Pr. Mathsen would like to be begin both beginning mid-January. If you would be so kind to indicate to him your interest, and what day of the week and time of the day would be best for you, he'd appreciate it.



THE BRIDGE

A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod



Introducing the 2017 “What is?” Series

By Rev. Emily Carson
carson@semnsynod.org

This year the Southeastern Minnesota Synod is focusing on the priority of equipping congregations. Equipped congregations are faith communities who feel ready to follow Jesus into a changing world. The staff of the Office of the Bishop is committed to doing all we can to equip congregations. Bishop Steven Delzer highlighted this when he said last spring, “I pledge to you that I and the Office of the Bishop staff will do everything we can to equip congregations and leaders to follow Jesus into a changing world.”

Last year’s focus was on developing leaders. This year, specific attention will be placed on equipping congregations. This focus will be evident throughout the events and publications of our synod in the year ahead.

One of the ways we will equip congregations is by empowering people to understand the purposes and functions of the synod. Throughout 2017, each issue of The Bridge will focus on a different core area of the synod’s work. It is called the “What is?” Series and will highlight the following themes in the year ahead:

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| *February: Candidacy | *July: Call Process |
| *March: Faith Formation Network | *August: Synod Council |
| *April: Synod Assembly & The Pre-Assembly Report | *September: First Call Theological Education |
| *May: Leading Together: The Annual Fund | *October: Interim Ministry |
| *June: Global Mission | *November: Church Communications |
| *December: Continuing Education & Sabbatical | |

The goal for this year’s series of The Bridge is that it serves as a concise, useful resource that can be easily plugged into the life of the congregation. Some faith communities include each issue in their printed monthly newsletter. Other faith communities print out a stack each month and hand them out with the worship bulletins. A full list of ways that your congregation could utilize The Bridge includes:

Inserting the monthly PDF of The Bridge into your church’s digital or print newsletter

Copying and pasting the text of each issue into your monthly church newsletter with your own unique formatting

Copying and pasting the synod’s The Bridge link each month into your congregation’s Facebook newsfeed

Printing out a stack of copies and leaving them in a public space in the church

Utilizing the resource during your council meetings to help expand understanding of what the synod is and does

Incorporating the resource into new member classes

The Bridge is created for you, the people of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod! We hope that each issue of this resource in the year ahead is something you find purposeful and interesting.

Rev. Emily Carson serves as the Director of Communications for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

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

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~ Irving Abrahamson
~ David Bakke
~ Owen Dammen

Happy Birthday!

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
~ August Mention
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 2016

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year! 8:30-HP 9:30-SS 10:30-EL</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>Confirmation 6:30 @ Elstad</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>HP-8:30 a.m. SS-9:30 a.m. EL-10:30 a.m. HP Council 5:30 @ EL Parish Council-7:00 p.m. EL Council after Parish</p>	<p>9</p> <p>EL— reports for annual meeting deadline</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>Confirmation 6:30 @ Elstad</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>HP— 8:30 a.m. SS— 9:30 a.m. EL— 10:30 a.m. EL-Annual Meeting after worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>HP— reports for annual meeting deadline</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>Confirmation 6:30 @ Elstad</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>EL-8:30 a.m. SS-9:30a.m. HP-10:30 a.m. HP-Annual Meeting after worship</p>	23	24	<p>25</p> <p>Confirmation 6:30 @ Elstad</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>HP— 8:30 a.m. SS— 9:30 a.m. EL- 10:30 a.m.</p>	30	31				

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

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HIGHLAND PRAIRIE
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

ACOLYTES: HANS LIND, TREY OLSON
READERS: HANS LIND, BECKY LIND
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017

ACOLYTES: TREY OLSON, NIKKI DAHLE
READERS: TREY OLSON, SYLVIA MARKEGARD
GREETERS: SHARON & PAUL EHLER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017

ACOLYTES: NIKKI DAHLE, HALE STENSGARD
READERS: NIKKI DAHLE, SHARON EHLER
GREETERS: DOUG LIND FAMILY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017

ACOLYTES: HALE STENSGARD, JONAH SIEVERS
READERS: HALE STENSGARD, SCOTT BESTUL
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

ACOLYTES: JONAH SIEVERS, TRENTEN CHIGLO
READERS: JONAH SIEVERS, MICHELE THOMPSON
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLEN JOHNSON

ELSTAD
ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

READER: PETER HOLM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017

READER: VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017

ACOLYTE: ALSION FREESE
READERS: ALSION FREESE, LORI BAKKE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017

READER: JOHN ABRAHAMSON

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

READER: GENE TOPNESS

USHERS: