

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

*~ August 2013 ~*

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**August Worship  
Schedule**

**Sunday, August 4, 2013**

Elstad

9:00 Worship

Highland Prairie

10:30 Worship

**Sunday, August 11, 2013**

**Bowl Service @**

**10:30**

**Sunday, August 18, 2013**

Elstad

9:00 Worship

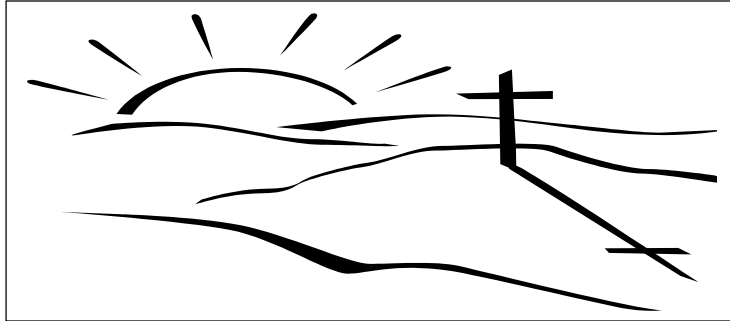
Highland Prairie

10:30 Worship

**Sunday, August 25, 2013**

**Music Festival Worship**

**@ Elstad 9a.m.**



**Music festival on August 25th at Elstad**

At the discussion of the council it was decided to hold a Music Festival on Sunday, August 25th at 9 a.m. This will be a fund raising event directed to the building improvements which have been made over the course of the last few months. There are numerous musical presentations being prepared for this special day including guest musician Tom Overlie from KTTC television. The musicians are all local people who have a love of music and are more than willing to share in this special event. Participations will be vocal, instrumental, guitar led congregational singing, and a surprise men's quartette which is forming just for this day in the life of the parish. The regular offering will be taken and a donation plate will be available on the serving window. Directly following the worship service in music there will be a delicious brunch served in the newly painted fellowship hall.

The committee is looking for volunteers to help with a "homespun silent auction" which will be held during the brunch hour. Donations for the auction might include: a bouquet of late summer garden flowers, garden produce of veggies like tomatoes,

Beets, cucumbers, potatoes, or the always bountiful zucchini. Artistic textiles might include a set of stitched pot holders or items knitted or crocheted. Scrappers might design a few note cards. Creative gift baskets of all kinds. Foods that tempt such as lefsa, breads, jelly, apple pies. Woodworking skills such as wood carvings or other small projects. Jewelry that you made or find worthy of recycling. Gift certificates for a haircut, facial, or massage. The committee is looking for around a dozen items for this silent auction which is meant to be a fun addition to the activities of the day. If you have an item to donate please let any member of the council know so that preparations can be made a day or two prior to August 25th.

## *Ponderings from the Parsonage:*

### The Spiritual Discipline of Tithing

Stewardship reaches into every part of faith. As Lutherans we believe God blesses us with gifts of mercy and forgiveness, and we live out our faith in a loving response to those gifts. It's the same with Stewardship—God showers us with gifts and talents and everything we need, and we give them away lovingly and joyfully.

Stewardship shows us the power money has over us in our everyday lives. We make choices about money every day. We worry about it. We feel trapped by it. We enjoy it.

The church has something to say about money. As your pastor, I have something to say about money. If the church ignores talk about money, we're missing a vital part of people's lives. There is a relationship between our faith and our finances and we need to discuss it.

We may think of money as sinful. But money is neutral. It's a tool. Money reflects what is in our hearts. We can give money power over us, or it make a difference and bring us joy.

I want to address the stewardship of tithing. Here's how I use tithing in my own life.

Tithing hasn't always been easy for us. As I began my first call in a rural parish, I had and still have a lot of student debt. This debt challenges our ability to tithe. Our giving isn't always joyful because it is such a challenge to tithe. But the more we give, the more we want to give. So why stop at just 10%?

I know what a struggle it is to tithe. Tithing is NOT meant to guilt and shame us. It's originally an Old Testament concept of sacrifice. Tithing hasn't always been the way the church has raised funds. It's actually a more modern concept of fundraising from the past 100 years or so.

Tithing is a guideline. It's a great goal. But it's not meant to shame you. It's not an obligation. But, God isn't Lord over just 10% of our belongings. God is Lord over all, including the other 90%.

I like tithing as a spiritual discipline. It's not always easy. Tithing is meant to be uplifting, not shaming, to be exciting and not a burden. Tithing is meant to inspire joy and not guilt.

Give what you can, and God will use your gifts. Malachi says, "God will open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." God invites us to tithe. But God will bless whatever we give.

Of course, I think the Elstad-Highland Prairie Parish is a worthy cause. I believe in what we do here, or I wouldn't be giving my career to the mission of this parish. I've seen lives changed by what we do.

We are responsible to keep our budget balanced. But our mission is to make a difference in people's lives: to ease suffering, to heal people, to build relationships, and to spread the gospel. Don't give to the budget. Our budget is a tool for God's mission. Give to God's mission. Give to help us connect, teach and build this community of believers.

Give so people can come to have their children baptized, watch them get married, and bury their loved ones.

Give so kids have a place where people care about them as children of God. Give so we can grow youth and education ministries.

Give so we can grow and bless our worship with wonderful music and inspiring services.

Give so our outreach ministries can continue. As a parish, we desire to tithe 10% of the money we take in each year. As a parish, we know that God's blessings aren't something we need to keep all for ourselves.

I believe in what Elstad and Highland Prairie does. I also believe in your generosity. If you want to increase the mission of this church, please consider increasing your gifts—even by a little bit.

And don't only give to the church. Give to whatever makes your heart burn and ignites your passions. Stewardship is a way of life! Stewardship is about living generous lives that know freedom and joy.

May we all grow into the joy found in living generously? May we hear God's invitation to give what you can, and ask God to inspire you in your future giving.

*Pastor Dan*



*Highland Prairie  
News*

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF – SCHOOL KITS**

August is the month for back-to-school sales and the best time to buy supplies for our LWR school kits!

The following items are included in each school kit that Highland Prairie Mary Circle will assemble and send to LWR in November:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper (no loose leaf paper)
- Five ballpoint pens, black or blue ink only (no gel ink)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- One pencil sharpener
- One eraser, approximately 2- 1/2” long
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 30-centimeter ruler (or with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

Why school supplies? To the children who receive LWR School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford... and when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority, yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.

We can help these children get an education by providing school supplies for them. If you wish to contribute to this WELCA project by purchasing items for the school kits, take advantage of the back-to-school sales promotions this month.

There is a basket in the narthex for donations of LWR School Kit supplies.

**THANK YOU!**

**HP MARY CIRCLE**  
Wednesday, August 21st at 6:00 pm  
Meet at church. A “road trip” is planned. Watch for details!

**Highland Prairie Financials Jan.-June**  
YTD Income-- ----S 39,031  
YTD Expenses ----\$ 51,355  
Expenses exc. Income-----\$ 12,324  
YTD Budget-- ----\$ 43,287  
YTD Income-- ----\$ 39,031  
YTD Under--- ----\$ 4,256

## Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council

### Meeting Report 7/10/2013

Meeting was called order at 7:05pm by Council President Glen Kopperud.

Roll Call - Allen Howe and Gordon Johnson were absent.

Quorum Call - Yes

Devotions - Glen

Congregation Members - None

Secretary read the meeting notes from June 22nd, 2013. Motion was made to approve meeting notes with these corrections by Lyle, 2nd by Jerry, Motion carried. It was noted that

Pastor's June Report wasn't included in the meeting minutes. Sarah will include this month.

Treasurer report was given. Our expenses are over our revenues, this is due to a shortfall in revenues and additional expenses that have been needed for the year. Motion was made by Sarah, 2nd by David to approve as read, Motion carried. Report will be filled and subject to audit.

President Report - We should send a letter of congratulations to the new Bishop. It would be nice to have a group of church members that could help when the pastor is not available to preach to plan/run a service. Maybe this could be something organized within the worship task force. It would be nice to have a temple talk at the beginning of each worship service to make members aware of Happenings in the church, community and the ELCA.

Pastor's Report - Handed out to council. Included below. Additional updates: Marion Dahl is at the nursing home in Winona. Pastor Kay is home recovering from her surgery.

Correspondence - Letter from LSS for asking for our support. All committee members should review. ELCA donation request for missions as well.

### Task Force Reports

A. Church Task Force: Jerry K. fixed the switches for the lights in the front of the parsonage. The censor for the motion detected light is "burnt" out. Norm's electric has quoted \$150 to replace the censor. However the light doesn't use much electricity. The Church Task Force will determine a course of action.

B. Worship Task Force: completed the list of responsibilities for the subgroups under the Worship committee. They have recruited some coordinators. They have fine-tuned some checklists for Ushers and will be finalizing lists soon. There has been some painting done and some storage areas cleaned up. Board of Ed has the wish to have a bowl service for the Rally Sunday service Sept 8th. Do we have a new member packet that talks about traditions and events? Should we order more apparel branded for Highland Prairie? Worship Task Force will determine the course of action.

C. Grounds Task Force: Trees that need attention at the bowl and parsonage. Glen will bring a bucket truck on Saturday for cleanup. Friday Lyle and Ann hope to paint the shelter areas. Work day on Saturday morning. Branches on the cottage house. Pump the rain water system by the parsonage. Would like to clean the basement in the church, Chapel cleaning, etc. The entry arbor to the park needs attention. They are working on a banner rack in the church. Also need to walk through the bowl.

D. Parsonage task force: The porch needs painting. We still have water coming into the basement in two corners. Parsonage Task for will determine course of action.

There being no further business a motion was made by Sarah to Adjourn, 2nd by David. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. Sarah Bearbower, Highland Prairie Lutheran church council secretary.

# Elstad News



## Elstad Prayer Partners

It might have been the December 2012 newsletter greetings from WELCA which centered on the winds of change. Much has changed since that time hasn't it? Seasons have changed, wardrobes have changed, flooded landscapes, WELCA leadership has changed, most certainly the interior of the church has changed, and our prayer partners have changed. The month of August finds us on the 2nd half of the calendar year with just a few months left in this prayer partnership. The church is and always has been a gathering place for people to experience grace. The year of 2013 has found us gathering not only for worship but also for work. The building we go to for this gathering is now solid and ready for the next round of gathering events. There will be choirs, classes, work crews, eating, playing and continued praying. The winds of change are still blowing, not only around the church building but also the people who gather there for the various happenings. Continue praying for your prayer partner as she experiences the winds of change in her life. Prayer matters and prayer works.

### Thank-Offering Kits

For those who are faithful in making LWR kits keep in mind that the school kit items are on sale right now at all of the bigger stores. Also, the Dollar stores are great finds for these kits and the price never exceeds that dollar. Items for the other kits may also be on sale so it is good to go "back to school" shopping in case you have not done that for a few years!! The spiral notebooks are an especially good buy right now.

### Elstad Budget for July

Budget for July	\$8074.17
Received	\$5914.00
Under for July	\$2160.17
Budget YTD	\$ 56519.19
Received YTD	\$39808.00
Under YTD	\$16711.19

### August WELCA meeting

The August WELCA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14th at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is inclusive for the entire congregation as it is a pot luck picnic in Sylvan Park. There is no agenda and no program other than fellowship and it is not a fundraiser, however the regular WELCA offering plate will be placed in a significant place for our members. The servers will provide beverage, paper products and tablecloths for this pot luck. Being the seating is rather sparse in the park a folding chair might be a good idea too. The park provides a playground for kids, walking paths for adults, peace for those seeking peace. Come one and come all. Pray it does not rain as then we would have to make a quick plan B.

# BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1- Alice Topness  
Lori Smith  
Dalton Volkman
- 2- Trinity Johnson  
Chelsea Kopperud
- 3- Tyler Schafner  
Shannon Ingvalson  
Abigail Bacon
- 4- Jodie Daniels
- 5- Dale Overland  
Larry Dahl  
Michael Gudmundson
- 6- Steven Good  
Kayla Nelson  
Oliver Kendhammer
- 7- Ione Hallum  
Roberto Cogley Jr.  
Anna Kiel  
Jens Lind
- 8- Brittany Olson
- 9- Denise Corrigan
- 10- Gerrad Eide  
Brady Boyum
- 11- Barb Soppa  
Shelly Berg  
Bennett Vitse
- 12- Jordan Johnson  
Lindsay Hoiness
- 13- Karen Schumacher  
Nancy Carmen  
Keith Halverson
- 14- David Larson  
Rhonda Good  
Matthew Ehler



- 16- Kenny Peterson  
Cheryl Halverson  
Tanya Self  
Denise Jacobson  
Chellsey Lind  
Lace Sievers
- 17- Erik Topness
- 18- Shari Bestul  
Pat Dahl  
Daniel Lind  
Ella Dammen
- 19- Debbie Lawstuen  
Monica Lee  
Brianna Horning
- 20- Norine Ask  
Thea Arends
- 21- Kira Nelson
- 24- Sanna Pederson  
Aimee Nelson
- 25- Sander Michel
- 26- Gene Topness
- 27- Dagny Anderson
- 31- Steve Storhoff  
Nicole Blagsvedt

## HAPPY ANNIVERSRY!

- 1- Steve & Val Howe
- 2- Allan Skalet & Kay  
Eiken
- 4- Jeff & Sylvia Passow
- 9- Allen & Kay Howe  
Ryan & Leah Jacobson
- 12- Denny & Margaret Zach
- 14- Steven & Rhonda Good  
-Terry & Susan Blagsvedt
- 17- Perry & Sarah Omodt
- 19- Paul & Janet Ryan
- 20- Rex & Rachel Bearbower  
-Randy & Kathy Dahl  
-Gary & Brenda Oian-Vaust  
-Tim & Jenny Stensgard
- 21- Glen & Letitia Kopperud  
-Dave & Brenda Markegard
- 24- Keith & Ellen Shofner
- 27- Brett & Jade Grabau
- 29- Jerry & Joyce Dahl
- 31- Kyle & Lisa Chiglo



# August 2013

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Bulletin Deadline @ 12 noon	2	3 Larson Reunion @ Park
4 EL Worship 9:00 a.m. HP Worship 10:30 a.m.	5	6	7	8 Bulletin Deadline @ 12 noon	9	10
11 <b>BOWL SERVICE @ 10:30 A.M.</b>	12	13	14 HP Council Mtg. 7 p.m. EL WELCA Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	15 Bulletin Deadline @ 12 noon	16	17
18 EL Worship @ 9 a.m. HP Worship @ 10:30 EL-Storhoff Reunion HP-Johnson Reunion	19	20 Newsletter Deadline @ 12 noon!	21 HP Mary Circle "Road Trip" 6 p.m.	22 Bulletin Deadline @ 12 noon	23	24
25 <b>Music Festival Worship @ Elstad 9 a.m.</b>	26	27	28	29 Bulletin Deadline @ 12 noon	30	31

Highland Prairie ~ Elstad Lutheran Parish  
 23267 Bowl Drive  
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 (507) 864-2731



## An Introduction to Bishop Steven Delzer

The first of September, 2013, marks the beginning of the term for the new bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. Rev. Steven (Steve) Delzer was elected by the Synod Assembly on June 8 on the fifth ballot (more on the process at [semnsynod.org/how-do-we-elect-a-bishop](http://semnsynod.org/how-do-we-elect-a-bishop)).

"I am deeply humbled at being elected. My prayer is that the Spirit will guide us, so that together our eyes and ears may always be open to the ways in which we may be the body of Christ in the world," said Delzer.

At the time of election, he served as lead pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Faribault, Minn., a call that began in 2002.

His ministry in this synod has included facilitating the monthly meeting of interim pastors and conducting initial interviews of those desiring to enter candidacy for rostered ministry in the ELCA.

Our Savior's, Faribault, was the first site of a Sudanese ministry in this synod. Delzer helped their ministry develop and served as mentor to their leader, Wal Reat, as he journeyed through the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) program. Reat was ordained in March 2013.

Rev. Delzer previously served as an interim pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, West Union, Iowa and First Lutheran Church, Albert Lea, Minn. Prior to 2000, he served congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Maryland, Missouri, and Minnesota.

He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Concordia College (now University) in St. Paul, Minn., in 1969; a Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia Senior College (now Concordia Theological Seminary) in Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1971; and a Master of Divinity degree from Christ Seminary-Seminex in 1975.

Steve and his wife Donita live in Faribault. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.

If you have not had occasion to meet Steve as a pastor, you may have seen him running past you or out on the golf course. He believes in living a healthy life and modeling it for others. He stays active in tennis, biking, golf, and running (including seven marathons, six half-marathons,



Rev. Steve and Donita Delzer following Steve's election.

and three relay marathons over the last twelve years). Steve also nurtures his well-being through devotion time, reading, and several collegial and support groups.

Rev. Delzer has spent the summer finishing his call in Faribault and preparing for his new call as bishop. As he looks ahead to his call to bishop, he says, "I am looking forward to becoming better acquainted with the pastors and congregations of the synod, getting to know other bishops, and learning more about the wider church."

At the same time, he acknowledges the challenges of the role. He hopes to be able to do the job well and continue living a balanced life and modeling it for the rest of the synod.

How can you help as the synod prepares for this transition? He asks that members of the synod be willing to share their gifts and abilities for the good of ministry in southeastern Minnesota. Most of all, though, Delzer requests, "Pray for me." He adds, "I never would have been willing to accept this call without knowing the spirit is leading and people are praying."

## 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**  
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This issue is designed to be used any time after September 1, 2013



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# AUGUST NEWSLETTER

## HP Acolytes/ Readers/ Greeters

### Sunday, August 4, 2013

Acolytes: Cody Ryan, Emma Eide

Readers: Sharon Ehler, Emma Eide

Greeters: Doug Lind Family

### Sunday, August 11, 2013

BOWL SERVICE @ 10:30

### Sunday, August 18, 2013

Acolytes: Brianna Koop, Brooke Bestul

Readers: Arelene Johnson, Brooke Bestul

Greeters: Gary & Nancy Rustad

### Sunday, August 25, 2013

MUSIC FESTIVAL WORSHIP @ ELSTAD

9:00 A.M.

## Elstad Acolyte/ Reader/ Ushers

### Sunday, August 4, 2013

Acolyte: Christopher Freese

Readers: Gene Topness

### Sunday, August 11, 2013

BOWL SERVICE @ 10:30

### Sunday, August 18, 2013

Acolyte: Kody Bearbower

Reader: Tom Dybing

### Sunday, August 23, 2013

MUSIC FESTIVAL WORSHIP @ ELSTAD

9:00 A.M.

Ushers: Mike Chiglo, John Overland, David Bakke, Chase Bakke, Christopher Nelson, John Knutson