

*Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
~ August 2017~*

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen
Email: lmmathsen@gmail.com
Church Phone: (507) 864-2731*

*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator
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Worship Schedule

August 2017

Wednesday, August 2nd

6:30 p.m. @ Highland Prairie

Sunday, August 6th

10:00 a.m. @ Highland Prairie

Wednesday, August 9th

6:30 p.m. @ Elstad

Sunday, August 13th

10:00 a.m. Elstad

Wednesday, August 16th

6:30 p.m. @ Highland Prairie

Sunday, August 20th

"Outdoor Service"

10:00 a.m. @ Highland Prairie

Wednesday, August 23rd

6:30 p.m. @ Elstad

Sunday, August 27th "Music Festival"

10:00 a.m. @ Elstad

Wednesday, August 30th

6:30 p.m. @
Highland Prairie

Prayer Corner

Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Elaine Holm, Barb Lee, Kenny Peterson, Eric Johnson, the family of Frank Sievers, Pernella Landsverk, Vickie Goetzke and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.

Elstad's Annual Music Festival
Sunday, August 27th, 10:00 a.m.



Our musical talent will be Elstad's own Rebecca Lawstuen and "friends" (maybe her sisters?) Rebecca was recently performing on stage in Nashville! She's a talented vocalist and pianist and you won't want to miss this!!

Festival will be followed by a pot lunch luncheon provided by Elstad members for everyone and a great silent auction, filled with items you can't live without!

Everyone is Welcome!

Make a *Joyful* noise unto *Lord* the
Psalm 98:4

Pastor's Page August 2017

Some years ago, a book entitled, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, became all the rage. It seems that Rabbi Kushner identified a pinched nerve experienced by a multitude throbbing in the taunt of unbelief. "Why has this bad thing happened to me?" "Why is God absent from me just when I need him the most?" "Doesn't God care?" "Is he powerless to help me?" Sound familiar?

Sacred scripture gives testimony to many stories of persons seemingly forsaken by God. In John, chapter 9, after Jesus heals the man born blind, he leaves him to face the brow-beating of the Pharisees all by himself. They interrogated him time and again. They asked him how he had received his sight. After replying in truth, "He (Jesus) put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see," they berate him. "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." It leaves one to wonder about the man "left high and dry" seemingly to fight for himself. Furthermore, it isn't until he gets excommunicated from the synagogue that Jesus shows up again. "What's with that, dear Lord", we may well ask? Why dost thou tarry?"

The Jews stone Stephen, and Jesus fails to come to his aid (Acts 7). Countless martyrs, from time immemorial (and to this day!), are tortured and/or have their heads lopped off, and God doesn't intervene. Christians are slandered left and right, but God doesn't come to their rescue and silence their accusers.

The taunt of unbelief. The ridicule of the faithful. The derision of the criminal, who hung to Jesus' left on Calvary, hurling epithets at the crucified Savior, comes to mind. "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us" (Luke 23.39)!

One of the last seven words of Christ from the cross is "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27.46). Our Lord Jesus Christ, himself, is heard giving voice to the agony of the taunt of unbelief in his own suffering. The writer of Hebrews provides insight for those who experience God forsakenness: "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (4.14-15). And, this perhaps, is an answer to the aforementioned questions that arise out of our own experience of suffering. Could it be that in his cry of dereliction, Jesus Christ identifies himself as the suffering servant of God. "For our sake (God) made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5.21). Just so, in his cry of God forsakenness, he is revealed as one who identifies with us in our sin-suffering, yet without sin, and at the same time is revealed as one with whom we, in our own suffering, are united. And with him, in his suffering and death(!), we may go, walking by faith not by sight (Romans 8.18-30), hoping against hope for a vindication that is yet to come, and firmly grasped in his saving grip of the One from whom nothing, "neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all of creation will be able to separate us..." (8.38-39).

Lord God, you 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 **tyour** hand is leading us
and your love supporting us; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. AMEN.

(A prayer of the church's daily office of Morning Prayer, ELW pg. 304)

August Bible Study

The Bible study on selected Psalms continues to take place at Highland Prairie on the following evenings at 7:00 P.M.: July 31, and August 7th. All are welcome even if you missed the first session

Summer Worship Schedule

The August worship schedule is as follows:

+Wednesday, August 2nd, 6:30 P.M., Highland Prairie

+Sunday, August 6th, 10 A.M., Highland Prairie

+Wednesday, August 9th, 6:30 P.M., Elstad

+Sunday, August 13th, 10:00 A.M., Elstad

+Wednesday, August 16th, 6:30 P.M., Highland Prairie

+Sunday, August 20th, Highland Prairie

(Outdoor worship will take place at the band stand.)

+Wednesday, August 23rd, 6:30 P.M., Elstad

+Sunday, August 27th, 10 A.M., Elstad

(Elstad Annual Music Festival)

+Wednesday, August 30th, 10:00 A.M. Highland Prairie.

Inner-Tubing on the Root River: Youth and Adults

On Saturday, August 12th, join Pr. Mathsen and others for a leisurely afternoon of inner-tubing on the Root River. We will depart for the Highland Prairie parking lot at 12:30 p.m. with a stop at Elstad on our way to Lanesboro to get our tubes. The cost is \$14 for a regular tube, \$17 for a tube with a backrest. We'll plan on "putting in" at 1 p.m. It is roughly a 3 hour meander. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pr. Luther by August 10th. Young children should be accompanied by a parent or adult. Also, if you would like to participate but find it cost prohibitive, please speak with him. Adult drivers and chaperones will be needed. **NOTE: THIS REPRESENTS A CHANGE OF DATE.

Parsonage Open House

Pr. Luther and Bobbi extend a word of thanks to all who came to the parsonage open house. We are thankful to live in such a beautiful home.

Brad Boice Concert in the Bowl

Mark your calendars! Brad Boice will be presenting a concert of gospel music at the Highland Prairie Bowl on Sunday, August 6th, at 3 P.M. We gratefully acknowledge, Mr. Tom Severson, who has financially underwritten the concert. A free-will offering will be taken which has been tentatively designated for the replacement of parsonage windows. An ice-cream social will follow. Please invite your friends and neighbors!

Coming: Highland Prairie/Elstad Rally Day Sunday School and Worship

Highland Prairie/Elstad Parish Rally Day will begin with joint Sunday school learning and activities, on Sunday, September 10th, 9:00 A.M., at Highland Prairie. Plans are in the making for learning and fun in the park. More details for the fun will be forthcoming. Sunday school will be followed by a joint outdoor worship service at 10 A.M. A parish potluck will follow at 11:00 A.M. Please invite friends and neighbors to join us!

“Uffda Sunday”

Sunday, August 20th ~ Outdoor Worship

We will worship in front of the park/band shell. Please bring your own lawn chairs for your comfort. “The Footnotes” from Decorah will be playing before and after worship. The band plans on doing two forty-minute music sets after worship. Please join us for worship and celebrate the day with some wonderful music and dancing?!?

Everyone is Welcome!

Highland Prairie WELCA

Wednesday, August 2, 1:30 p.m. Meeting/Bible study

Wednesday, August 9, 9:30 a.m. Quilting

Elstad June Budget

Elstad June budget	\$ 7425.67
Received	\$ 4101.00
Under for June	\$ 3324.67
Elstad budget YTD	\$ 44334.02
Received YTD	\$ 37692.00
Under YTD	\$ 6862.02

**Highland Prairie Financials for
June 2017**

YTD Income	\$ 43,278
YTD Expenses	\$ 40,832
Income exc. Expenses	\$ 2,246
YTD Budget	\$ 46,950
YTD Income	\$ 43,278
YTD Under	\$ 3,672

**ELSTAD LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 9, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Haight. Rita Kelly and Michelle Rein were absent.

Jodi Daniels made a motion to approve the agenda with one addition, Rachel Bearbower seconded that motion. All voted yes, motion passed.

The treasurer’s report was given and placed on file to be audited at a later date.

There was no old business.

New business dealt with repairs to the church. There was a motion by Pastor Kay Wold, second by Rachel Bearbower to contact Tyler Johnson to come and look at the 3 areas in need of repair at this time and get his advise on what the problems might be and how to proceed with repair. All voted yes and the motion passed. Dick Haight will contact him.

Motion by Rachel Bearbower and second by Jodi Daniels to have Jerry Gingerich apply tar on the roof area above the sacristy and the back entry to solve the leaking in that area. All voted yes and the motion passed. Dick Haight will contact him.

Secretary’s report was read. Motion by Rachel Bearbower and seconded by Pastor Kay Wold to approve the report as presented. All members voted yes, motion passed.

Motion by Rachel Bearbower second by Jodi Daniels to adjourn the meeting. All members voted yes.

Motion passed.

Elstad ~ Highland Parish Council Meeting

7-9-17

1. Call to Order: 6:38 PM
2. Roll Call: Becky Halverson-Lind, Kay Dahl, Karen Bakken, Gordy Johnson, Jodie Daniels, Dick Haight, Kyle Chiglo, Alan Skalet, Tim Stensgard, Joyce Dahl, Rachel Bearbower, Pastor Kay Wold and Jennifer Nepstad. Members absent Sarah Bearbower, Chris Hoiland, Michelle Rein and Rita Kelly.
3. A quorum was called.
4. Gordy made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment in New Business adding item F: WELCA Contacting KTTC to do a story on our parish.
5. Devotions given by Pastor Kay Wold. Spoke as to why reconciliation is so important. A poignant and important message for us all.
6. Congregation members wishing to address the council: None.
7. President's Report: Kyle shared Pastor Luther's notes to the council regarding his visits to congregation members. Dick also shared that Pastor's vacations were scheduled prior to his accepting our call.
8. Pastor's Report: See Kyle's notes in the President's Report.
9. Correspondence: None
10. Old Business: None
11. New Business:
 - A) Elstad-Highland Prairie Parsonage Committee Report: Kyle shared the items the committee would like to address; first, the stucco that is cracked and about to peel, second, the windows. Other items needing repair were the tuck pointing of the blocks around to house, the porches, the rubber roof over the front porch, portions of the sill plate and trim board of sill plates, removal of the window in the closet downstairs and the stucco over it, and second story fire escape ladders. Tyler Johnson's estimate on the tuck pointing would be \$700, he would be able to get to it in two weeks. Tyler was also asked about repairing the stucco. He thinks he would not be able to give an estimate until he knows what is under the stucco causing it to bubble. Tim made a motion to move forward with the stucco repair and tuck pointing, Alan seconded, motion carried. Windows will be addressed after the stucco and tuck pointing are complete to evaluate the costs. Kay Dahl and Tom Dybing are getting estimates for the replacement of the windows. A sponsorship of a window by families is a possibility. This will be further discussed once the estimates are received. Gordy will work on repairing the rubber roof. Pastor Luther and Bobbi have asked to donate and plant trees around the parsonage.
 - B) Copier: Gordy brought up that MiEnergy has purchased new copiers and their old copiers will be for sale, estimated at possibly \$300. Alan made a motion to allow Gordy to pursue purchasing a copier for the parish, seconded by Tim, motion carried.
 - C) Laptop: Gordy made the motion to allow Pastor Luther to purchase a laptop and any programs he deems necessary, seconded by Joyce, motion carried.
 - D) Wed. worship through July: Pastor Luther would like to continue.
 - E) Haiti: Pastor will be in contact with Pastor Marie as to what we can do to help.
 - F) KTTC: WELCA would like to ask KTTC to come down to promote our parish as a spotlight.
 - G) Will be including Youth Updates as an agenda item at upcoming meetings on an ongoing basis.
12. Secretary's Report: Kay Dahl made a motion to approve , seconded by Pastor Kay Wold, motion carried.
13. Adjournment (The Lord's Prayer) Motion to adjourn by Kyle seconded by Jodie, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted by Becky Halverson-Lind church council secretary. Next Parish council meeting, Sunday, September 10, 2017, 7 PM at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church.

Highland Prairie Church Council Meeting

7-9-17

1. Call to Order: 5:37 PM
2. Roll Call: Members Present: Gordy Johnson, Karen Bakken, Kay Dahl, Becky Halverson-Lind, Joyce Dahl, Tim Stensgard, Alan Skalet and Kyle Chiglo. Members Absent: Sarah Bearbower and Chris Hoiland.
3. A Quorum was called.
4. Devotions: to be done at the Parish Meeting.
5. Approval of the Agenda: Tim motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of item B the ceiling in the parsonage.
6. Members present to address the council: Treyten Chiglo was present to request a scholarship in which Luther College will match the home congregation funds up to \$1000. Alan Skalet made a motion to grant Trey \$1000, Gordy seconded. Motion carried. Treyten will provide Karen with the necessary forms to be filled out and sent to Luther College. These monies will come from the Magelson Fund.
7. Treasure's Report: Karen e-mailed the report out for review by the council prior to the meeting. Motion made by Gordy to approve the Treasure's Report, seconded by Tim, Motion carried subject to review and audit.
8. President's Report: Kyle shared on Pastor Luther's behalf that he (Pastor Luther) has been continuing home visits and visiting with our elderly and shut ins. Pastor Luther will be in contact with Pastor Marie in regards to the Haiti Mission to find out more information.
9. Pastor's Report: See above.
10. Correspondence:
11. Committee Reports:
 - A) Church: Jerry Hallum has volunteered to be our contact person to care for the "mechanical" aspects of the church building. Joyce asked on behalf of WELCA, Joyce asked for a key to polish the silver. Lisa will keep a key in her office for them to use.
 - B) Grounds: Joyce shared WELCA's concerns surrounding the grass in the cracks of the parking lot. Kyle will take care of this.
 - C) Worship: working of getting a plan together for having/getting misc. items done throughout the church.
 - D) Youth and Education: August 12 is a tubing outing for LYO
12. Old Business:
 - A) Custodian: Motion made by Gordy to hire Josie Bearbower to be the full-time custodian. The job description will be amended subject to Jerry Hallum taking over the mechanical aspects (ie furnace filters etc.), seconded by Alan. Motion carried. Tim will pick up cleaning supplies if Cathy Bakkum does not.
13. New Business:
 - A) Lower Car Port Concrete: concrete is heaving and the glue has not been removed as of yet. Kyle has acid to try and clean it off. Would like to work on cleaning the lower car port up. Possibly put another rug down for now until we address the parking lot and steps again. Kay made a motion to repair the cracks in the parking lot and purchase a new rug in the lower car port area, Joyce seconded. Motion carried. Tim will get the materials.
 - B) Ceiling in the kitchen: Kyle will meet with Jerri Bellock regarding the painting of the ceiling.
14. Secretary's Report: Kay made a motion approve the secretary's report as given, Gordy seconded. Motion carried.
15. Adjournment: (The Lord's Prayer) Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM

Respectfully submitted by Becky Halverson-Lind. Next Highland Prairie council meeting will be Sunday, August 13, 2017 at 5:30 PM.



THE BRIDGE

A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod



Global Mission: What is it?

By Rev. Emily Carson
carson@semnsynod.org

The three core priorities of our synod are developing leaders, equipping congregations, and accompanying global partners. Walking alongside our global partners is at the center of what we do as the Southeastern Minnesota Synod! The people of the synod are in direct partner relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO), the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania-Central Diocese (ELCT-CD), and the developing Lutheran church in South Sudan. These relationships are rooted fully in a spirit of accompaniment.

Kathy Chatelaine, the synod's Director for Global Mission/Companion Synods shares, "Global mission is an incredible gift of accompanying – walking together in service in God's mission – sisters and brothers from Colombia, Tanzania, South Sudan, and southeastern Minnesota along the ministry journeys to which God calls each of us." Walking together is what it's all about.

Colombia: The synod's relationship with IELCO was established in 1994 with a focus on education and special ministries. A great way to stay informed about the current happenings of the Lutheran church in Colombia is through the blog of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) missionaries serving there, Curtis and Katie Kline. Their blog address is <http://800feetandcounting.blogspot.com/>.

Tanzania: The synod's relationship with the ELCT-CD goes back to the beginning of the ELCA. The partnership was first established in 1989. Currently, there are over 6.5 million Lutherans in the ELCT! The Lutheran church is growing rapidly in that part of the world. The synod's partnership in that country focuses on education, health care, and other ministries.

South Sudan: The development of the Lutheran church in South Sudan is in its early stages. The country was formed in 2011. Together with the ELCA, our synod has played an important role in the building of the Lutheran Center in the capital city, Juba. A portion of the funds raised through Leading Together (<http://semnsynod.org/leadingtogether>) have supported that work. The building will contain a worship space, community center, and health clinic. Rev. Wal Reat currently serves as one of the ELCA missionaries in South Sudan. He went through candidacy in our synod and served at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Faribault. In addition to accompanying our global partners who live abroad, the people of the synod also walk alongside the Sudanese worshipping communities that exist right here in southeastern Minnesota.

Getting Involved: Are you interested in becoming more connected to our synod's global partners? Please begin by praying! The annual weekly prayer calendar is available online. It includes all of the congregations in our synod as well as all of the congregations and special ministries of our global partners. It can be viewed and downloaded online at <http://semnsynod.org/prayer-calendar>. In addition, each issue of the synod's quarterly magazine, River Crossings, includes specific prayer requests related to each partner ministry.

More ways to get involved in global ministry:

Contact Kathy Chatelaine at the Office of the Bishop (chatelaine@semnsynod.org/507-280-9457) for specific accompaniment opportunities.

Take time to learn about each country – its people, geography, history, and current politics.

Invite a member of the Global Mission/Companion Synods Table to give a presentation to your congregation.

Participate in the upcoming Tanzania Summit on October 8 at Zumbro Lutheran Church.

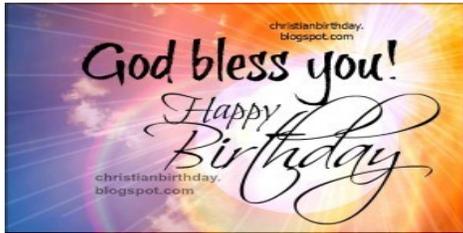
Participate in the 2018 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly focused on the theme of accompanying global partners.

Celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by giving a \$500 gift to the synod through Leading Together.

We give thanks for the Spirit's movement through these global relationships in Colombia, Tanzania, and South Sudan!

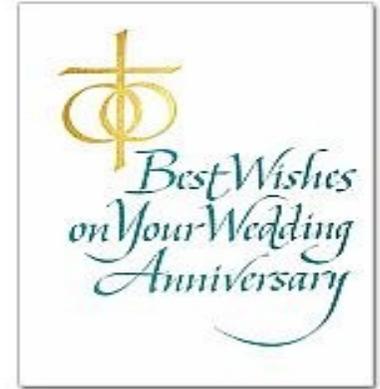
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

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



1~ Lori Keller
2~ Trinity Johnson
3~ Tyler Schafner
~ Abigail Bacon
4~ Jodie Daniels
5~ Larry Dahl
~ Michael Gudmundson
6~ Steven Good
~ Kayla Nelson
~ Oliver Kendhammer
7~ Ione Hallum
~ Anna Kiel
~ Jens Lind
8~ Brittany Olson
9~ Norm Overland
10~ Gerrad Eide
~ Brady Boyum
11~ Barb Soppa
~ Shelly Berg
~ Bennett Vitse
12~ Jordan Johnson
~ Lindsay Hoiness
13~ Karen Schumacher
~ Keith Halverson

14~ David Larson
~ Rhonda Good
~ Matthew Ehler
~ Amy Kelly
16~ Kenny Peterson
~ Cheryl Halverson
~ Tanya Self
~ Denise Evans
~ Chellsey Olson
~ Lace Sievers
17~ Erik Topness
18~ Pat Dahl
~ Daniel Lind
~ Ella Dammen
19~ Debbie Lawstuen
~ Monica Lee
~ Brianna Horning
20~ Norine Ask
~ Thea Arends
24~ Sanna Pederson
~ Aimee Nelson
~ Adeline Johnson
25~ Sander Michel
26~ Gene Topness
~ Dagny Anderson
31~ Steve Storhoff
~ Nicole Blagsvedt



4~ Jeffrey & Sylvia Passow
6~ Roger & Sarah Bearbower
9~ Ryan & Leah Jacobson
14~ Terry & Susan Blagsvedt
15~ Erik & Kallee Nelson
20~ Tim & Jennie Stensgard
20~ Rex & Rachel Bearbower
21~ David & Brenda Markegard
29~ Jerry & Joyce Dahl
31~ Kyle & Lisa Chiglo

August 2017

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

Visit our websites at...

elstadlutheranchurch.org

highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2-HP-WELCA mtg./Bible study 1:30 pm 6:30 worship @ HP Bulletin Deadline	3	4	5
6 Worship @ HP 10:00 a.m.	7 <i>Bible Study 7pm @ HP</i>	8	9-HP-WELCA <i>Quilting 9:30 am</i> 6:30 worship @ EL Bulletin Deadline	10	11	12 <i>Youth/Adult tubing outing 12:30 p.m.</i>
13 Worship @ EL 10:00 a.m. HP Council meeting 5:30	14	15	16 <i>6:30 worship @ HP</i> Bulletin Deadline	17 Newsletter Deadline!	18	19
20 Worship @ HP 10:00 a.m. "Outdoor Service"	21	22 Bulletin Deadline 1:00 p.m.	23 6:30 worship @ EL	24	25	26
27 Worship @ EL 10:00 a.m. Elstad Music Festival	28	29	30 6:30 worship @ HP Bulletin Deadline	31		

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

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Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6

August Newsletter

2017

HIGHLAND PRAIRIE ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2017

6:30 P.M. WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017

ACOLYTES: JONAH SIEVERS, TRENTEN CHIGLO
READERS: JONAH SIEVERS, SYLVIA PASSOW
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

WORSHIP @ ELSTAD

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16TH

6:30 P.M. WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017

READERS: TRENTEN CHIGLO, SHARON EHLE
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

WORSHIP @ ELSTAD

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30TH

6:30 P.M. WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

ELSTAD ACOLYTE/READER/USHERS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016

WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017

6:30 P.M. WORSHIP @ ELSTAD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

READER: JOHN ABRAHAMSON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017

WORSHIP @ HIGHLAND PRAIRIE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23RD

6:30 P.M. WORSHIP @ ELSTAD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016

ACOLYTE: WILSON STORHOFF
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, LORI BAKKE

USHERS: GENE TOPNESS, DAVE LAWSTUEN,
DUANE BAKKE, CHASE BAKKE,
CHRISTOPHER NELSON, MIKE ASK