

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

*Pastor, Rev. Luther Mathsen*

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*Lisa Chiglo, Parish Secretary/Administrator*

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*Worship Schedule*  
*November 2017*

*Sunday, November 5th*

*8:30 a.m. Worship @ HP*  
*9:30 a.m. Sunday school*  
*10:30 a.m. Worship @ EL*

*Sunday, November 12th*

*8:30 a.m. Worship @ EL*  
*9:30 a.m. Sunday school*  
*10:30 a.m. Worship @ HP*

*Sunday, November 19th*

*8:30 a.m. Worship @ HP*  
*9:30 a.m. Sunday school*  
*10:30 a.m. Worship @ EL*

*Sunday, November 26th*

*8:30 a.m. Worship @ HP*  
*9:30 a.m. Sunday school*  
*10:30 a.m. Worship @ EL*

***Prayer Corner***

*Scriptures tell us to pray without ceasing. Let's be known as a praying congregation. Please keep Elaine Holm, Darlys Storhoff, Vickie Goetzke, Juanita Ladewig, Loretta Semmen, Gary Zahn, Joy (Gullickson) Hundley, Janell (Johnson) Shefers, Pat Dahl, John Overland and all who are ill or in need of your prayers.*

**Worship time switch for Sunday, November 12th**

**Elstad 8:30 a.m. ~ Highland Prairie 10:30 a.m.**

**Elstad WELCA**

Sunday, November 5th, WELCA meeting before worship, 9:30 a.m.  
Servers: Fern Brewster & Carolyn Smith

**Highland Prairie WELCA**

November 1, 2017, Project doing day beginning at 9:00 a.m.  
November 8, 2017, Bible study, 1:30 p.m.

Please note Up-Coming Events for Elstad—Highland Prairie

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Highland Prairie WELCA Bi-Annual Bazaar

Sunday, November 26, 2017—Elstad Cantata

## Pastor's Page, November 2017

"And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn..." (Preface in Liturgy of Holy Communion, ELW)

Perhaps those words ring a bell for you. They are the words of the preface of the Great Thanksgiving that introduce our singing the following hymn of praise:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Yes, in this hymn of praise is disclosed a startling, and I dare say, and thrilling truth. For "when we come before God to offer our *praise and adoration, we do so in the company of angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven.....In the Liturgy earth joins heaven to glorify God*" (Robert Louis Wilken, *With Angels and Archangels*).

On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will join the church in celebrating all saints. We will remember those who saints who continue their course on earth (we are numbered so) and those who dwell in the glory of our Christ. In one stupendous community we will add our voices in the seraphic hymn (above). And while we are singing, we may think of our departed loved ones whose voices we join with our own. The church father, Theodore of Mopsuestia, wrote that in the Liturgy "*we serve God along with the invisible hosts and we ought to think of them and offer a thanksgiving that is equal to theirs.*"

Who will you be remembering? Who will you meet in the Liturgy as we sing to the God who in Jesus Christ has conquered death and is risen from the dead? As we sing "*with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven*", who is with you in the choir? And where is that place of meeting?

The Lutheran preacher, Berthold Von Schenk, gives us the answer. As you prepare for worship on November 5<sup>th</sup> (or, for that matter, each and every Sunday), I invite you to think on his words.

*When we are bereft of dear ones, it is a tremendous shock. For a time we are stunned. Not everyone can feel at once their continuing companionship. We should not for that reason despair. An adjustment must take place in our lives, reaching deep into our habits, emotions, and thoughts. Some souls may make this adjustment quickly. For most of us it comes slowly and hard; many an hour is filled with loneliness and agonizing doubt. By ourselves we can never make this adjustment. We must come to a sense of the continuing presences of our Living Lord. As we seek and find our Risen Lord we shall find our dear departed. They are with Him, and we find the reality of their continued life through Him. The saints are a part of the Church. We worship with them. They worship the Risen Christ face to face, while we worship the same Risen Christ under the veil of bread and wine at the Altar. At the Communion we are linked with Heaven, with the Communion of Saints, with our loved ones. Here at the Altar focused to a point, we find our communion with the dead; for the Altar is the closest meeting place with our dead who are in His keeping. The Altar is the trysting place where we meet our beloved Lord. It must, therefore, also be the trysting place where we meet our loved ones, for they are with the Lord.*

Do you find the thought of this truth exhilarating, humbling, and comforting? I look forward to gathering with you in the great company of the church on earth and host of heaven.

Pr. Mathsen+

## **November Bible Study**

The Bible study on the Gospel of Mark, taking place at Elstad, will conclude on Tuesday, November 7, at 7 p.m.

## **Worship Schedule**

*The November worship schedule is as follows:*

**+Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

**All Saints' Sunday**

8:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

**+Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. Elstad

10:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

**+Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m. Elstad

**Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Thanksgiving Eve**

7:00 p.m., Elstad

**+Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Christ the King**

8:30 a.m., Highland Prairie

10:30 a.m., Elstad

## **All Saints' Sunday, November 5th**

On Sunday, November 5th, we will commemorate not only the martyrs but all the people of God, living and dead, who form the body of Christ. In preparation for that day you are invited to add the name or names of faithful departed loved ones who will be remembered in the preface of the Holy Communion (submit your names to Pr. Luther) by November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Before or during worship you will be invited to light a candle in memory of your loved one(s).

## **Thanksgiving Eve Worship**

Parish Thanksgiving Eve worship will take place Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at Elstad. You are encouraged to bring a food item or items for the food shelves in Lanesboro and Rushford (the proceeds will be divided).

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us. Parish coffee fellowship will follow our worship.

## **Christ the King Sunday**

Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, is Christ the King Sunday. It also is the last Sunday of the Church Year. This festival was instituted in 1925 as a response to the rise of secularism, atheism, fascism, and communism. This festival reminds us that whatever earth may do or ask of us, Christ is the true king that should reign in our hearts.

## **Youth involvement in worship**

Pr. Mathsen continues to extend the invitation to junior high and high school students to consider participating as assisting ministers in worship. Some of you have been assigned a reading responsibility. We are grateful. If you would like to consider some other means of serving during worship, please see him. There are other ways you may serve, as well.

## **Special music for worship**

Do you have musical gifts (vocal or instrumental) that would help us in our proclamation of the gospel? We invite you to consider sharing them. See Pr. Mathsen.

## Elstad World Hunger

November is another time for our congregation to remember a gift to World Hunger.

Anyone wishing to participate in this task of helping feed the needy is encouraged to join by donating in a monetary gift any Sunday in November.

Any donations of food for the local food shelf can be given until Sunday, November 19th.

Thank you for your consideration in this collection for the hungry.

## Highland Prairie WELCA's Bi-Annual Bazaar

**Sunday, November 12, 2017**

Worship will be at 10:30 a.m. this day with a soup and sandwich lunch at 11:30 a.m. The auction will begin at 12:30 with our own Murt Boyum as auctioneer. There will be a Christmas table and bake sale (Norwegian baked goods) along with many unusual and one of a kind items. There is a vintage log cabin quilt, vintage aprons, a Norwegian sweater (from Dale of Norway), Sami bracelets, quilts of all kinds including a John Deere and Farmall along with many other unique items. Please come and enjoy the day and even do some Christmas shopping. We encourage everyone to support our WELCA with this wonderful fundraiser. There will not be another one for two years!

Pictures of items received thus far for the bazaar can be found on our website:

<http://www.highlandprairielutheranchurch.org/welca>

The Elstad Community Choir presents...

The 23rd Annual Advent Cantata

“Joyful and Triumphant”

Sunday, November 26, 2017, 5:00 p.m.

Elstad Lutheran Church

(organ prelude begins at 4:30 p.m.)

### Highland Prairie Financials for September 2017

YTD Income	\$ 59,542.00
YTD Expenses	\$ 66,809.00
Expenses exc. Income	\$ 7,267.00
YTD Budget	\$ 70,425.00
YTD Income	\$ 59,542.00
YTD Under	\$ 10,883.00

### Elstad's Financials for September 2017

Budget for August	\$ 7,425.67
Recently	\$ 4,080.00
Under for August	\$ 3,345.67
YTD Budget	\$ 66,831.03
YTD Received	\$ 50,728.00
YTD Under	\$ 31,610.03

**Highland Prairie Council Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 15, 2017**

- 1) Call to Order at 5:31 p.m.
- 2) Roll Call: Present: Kyle Chiglo, Allan Skalet, Sarah Bearbower, Karen Bakken, Fordon Johnson, Becky Halverson-Lind, Chris Hoiland, Pastor Mathsen, Kay Dahl and Joyce Dahl  
Absent: Tim Stensgard
- 3) A quorum was called
- 4) Devotions read by Kyle Chiglo
- 5) Approval of the agenda: Motion made by Gordy to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the Thrivent Gift Funding for the parsonage windows. Seconded by Sarah, motion carried.
- 6) Congregation member wishing to address the council: None.
- 7) Treasurer's Report: Karen had submitted the report earlier via email to be reviewed by council prior to the meeting. Sarah made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Alan seconded, motion carried, subject to review and audit.
- 8) President's Report: Kyle shared the tractor ride was a fun experience with around 50 people attending.
- 9) Pastor's Report: Pastor thanked everyone again for the opportunity to spend time with family. He reported that he officiated over 2 weddings and worship at Good Shepherd. He noted that All Saints Sunday in November 5th with Reformation Sunday being October 29th and he will ask members for names of loved ones who have passed. There will be candles available to be lit in remembrance. Thanksgiving service will be held at Elstad this year.  
Confirmation has started with 5 confirmands, 4 from Highland Prairie and 2 from Elstad. Pastor has discussed the possibility of making a youth mission trip in the summer of 2018 with the confirmands and a few chaperones. More details to come. He is looking forward to having more youth and family events.  
Pastoral care and visitation continues. Pastor had made 19 shut in visits and 2 visits with members at large.  
Pastor has also been attending regional clergy meeting and a member of the Cantata Choir. Also, he will be continuing with Bible study on the gospel of Mark.  
Pastor and the council welcomed Darrell and Ellen Highum with a motion made by Gordy Johnson and seconded by Sarah Bearbower, motion carried unanimously with open hearts and arms.
- 10) Correspondence: Kyle had a mailing packet from the ELCA as to where our monies are going and what programs they benefit.  
He also had a "Thank You" from the Board store for considering their services.

11) Committees:

- A) Church: the furnace filters have been changed
- B) Grounds: See new business
- C) Worship: See Pastor's report
- D) Youth & Education: Attendance at Sunday school has been somewhat poor.

12) Old Business:

- A) Constitution vote: The first vote on the revised version will be held at the annual meeting of the congregational meeting. Sarah brought it up so as to be prepared and aid in preparing the congregation for the vote. For example, highlighting the parts that Sarah, Kyle and possibly Mary Gudmundson will read through the constitution for clarification once again.

13) New Business:

- A) Parsonage gutter: Kyle will clean them.
- B) Winterizing water lines in the park: Kyle reported that Tim will take care of this item.
- C) ELCA health benefit options selection: Karen will submit the ELCA health benefit option plan.
- D) Parsonage window funding/Thrivent Funding: Funding for the parsonage windows passed through by both congregations. We will look into various ideas of raising funds for the at the next Parish Council Meeting. Gordy made a motion to approve The Board Store as our contractor of choice based on the "Not to Exceed Price" contingent on Elstad's approval of the same, seconded by Joyce Dahl, motion carried.

14) Secretary's Report: Becky read the Secretary's report for October 15, 2017 and respectfully submitted for approval. Gordy made a motion to approve, Sarah seconded, motion carried.

15) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. with a motion made by Gordy and seconded by Sarah, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

November Council Meetings at Elstad

5:30 p.m.—Elstad meeting

6:30 p.m.—Parish meeting

Highland Prairie meeting after Parish



# THE BRIDGE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR CONGREGATIONS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA  
SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Church Communications: What is it?

By Rev. Emily Carson  
carson@semnsynod.org

Communication is defined as the “expressing and transmitting of thoughts, feelings, and information.” We all communicate all day every day – individually and as congregations. From the emails we send to the text messages we compose to the signage we have on the front of our churches, it’s all communication. It all deserves our attention and intention.

Within the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, we have a network of people who support one another in the shared work of communicating. Learn more about the monthly newsletter (“Communicator Corner”), Facebook group and annual gathering at <http://semnsynod.org/communicators>.

Church communicators are those who do any amount of communicating in their positions – this includes office administrators, secretaries, directors of communication, faith formation professionals, and rostered ministers. Both paid and volunteer staff can be communicators.

A meaningful approach to congregational communications extends far beyond the font we select for the weekly worship bulletin or the frequency of newsletter publication. Communications is a realm which also includes the way we frame our announcements, the style with which we engage our visitors, and the means by which we invite honest feedback from members and visitors.

There is no family of faith that communicates perfectly. It’s something we’re all working on and will continue to work on forever.

Regardless of the size of your congregation, there are always opportunities to be intentional about improving how we communicate. Sometimes when a church is large enough to support a paid communications professional, we mistakenly assume that it’s “someone else’s job” and we no longer need to worry about it. In actuality, we are all part of the communications team of our congregations! We are all involved in expressing thoughts, feelings, and information about our families of faith, and that means we are all communicators!

Ready to take the next step in approaching your congregation’s communications with intentionality?

Consider trying out one of the following suggestions:

Subscribe to “Communicator Corner”

Join the synod’s Communicator Facebook group

Participate in the annual Spring Communications Workshop

Take stock of all the ways your congregation is currently communicating; make a list.

Evaluate: explore ways your congregation could begin the process of honestly and openly evaluating what’s working and not working among your communications platforms.

Brainstorm: Email Rev. Emily Carson, the synod’s Director of Communications, to brainstorm together about ways to strengthen your congregation’s communications ([carson@semnsynod.org](mailto:carson@semnsynod.org)).

Communicating is part of daily life – in our homes, workplaces, and churches. It is worthwhile to take time to approach this realm of life with intentionality. Please consider partnering with the synod in making your church’s communications the healthiest and most effective that they can be.

# NOVEMBER 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](mailto:highlandprairie_elstad@ymail.com)

Happy  
Birthday

13~ Phil Dybing  
~ Crystal Soppa  
~ Ashlee Pontillo  
~ Cody Ryan  
~ Mason Wolfs  
17~ Jerry Dahl  
~ Dana DeGeorge  
19~ Trina Overland  
~ Adam Daniels  
~ James McHan  
~ Sarah Wangen  
~ Katie Hackbarth  
~ Daryn Eisner  
~ Grant DeGeorge  
20~ Melanie Przybylski  
~ Kyle Lawstuen  
21~ Eric Howe  
22~ Kenneth Sjarpe  
~ Peyton Hoiness  
~ Caden Johnson  
23~ Lorraine Fann  
~ Adam Overland  
~ Danielle Kingsley  
24~ Taylor Ask  
26~ Doris Westby  
~ Rebecca Lawstuen  
~ Katrina James  
27~ Jennifer DeGeorge  
~ Emarie Jacobson  
28~ Kasey Nelson  
~ Sandy Thomas



1~ Jennifer Dahl  
~ Tiffany Humble  
2~ Kenny Bakkum  
~ Amelia Dohlman  
~ Miley Knutson  
~ Kelsie Woxland  
3~ Darlys Storhoff  
~ Ethan Rislov  
4~ Sylvia Markegard  
~ Doug Lind  
~ Rick Sjarpe  
~ Shelly Stensgard  
5~ Scott Bestul  
~ Derek Grimsrud  
~ William Maschka  
6~ Kaye Eiken  
~ Ann Dolalie  
~ Andrew Larson  
9~ Tim Dahl  
~ Seth Humble  
10~ Rebecca Lind  
11~ Randy Drinkall  
12~ Thora Lombard

6~ David & Cindy Howe  
6~ Cory & Nicloe Woxland  
23~ John & Christine  
Knutson  
24~ Jeff Boland & Gretchen  
Engstrom  
26~ Michael & Jill  
Halverson  
27~ Gary & Nancy Rustad



# November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Confirmation- 6:30	2	3	4
5 8:30 HP 9:30 S.S. 10:30 EL  Woxland Baptism at Elstad	6	7	8  Confirmation- 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11
12 8:30 EL 9:30 S.S. 10:30 HP  HP-Bazar  Council meet- ings at Elstad EL-5:30 Parish 6:30 HP after Parish	13	14	15  Confirmation- 6:30   Bulletin Deadline	16	17       <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	18
19 8:30 HP 9:30 S.S. 10:30 EL	20	21	22  Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7 p.m. @ Elstad  Bulletin Deadline	23  Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26 8:30 HP 9:30 S.S. 10:30 EL  Elstad Cantata 5:00 p.m.	27	28	29  Bulletin Deadline	30		

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

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Peterson, MN 55962

Permit No. #6



HIGHLAND PRAIRIE  
ACOLYTES/READERS/GREETERS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017

ACOLYTES: ANDREW HOINESS, LINDSAY HOINESS  
READERS: TREY OLSON, BECKY LIND  
GREETERS: ROGER & SARAH BEARBOWER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

ACOLYTES: LARISSA RYAN, KENNA GUDMUNDSON  
READERS: HALE STENSGARD, SHARON EHLER  
GREETERS: GORDON & ARLENE JOHNSON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017

ACOLYTES: LACI SIEVERS, CADEN JOHNSON  
READERS: JENS LIND, SCOTT BESTUL  
GREETERS: ALLAN SKALET & KAY EIKEN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2017

ACOLYTES: DANA DEGEORGE, NIKKI DAHLE  
READERS: TRENTEN CHIGLO, MICHELE THOMPSON  
GREETERS: LYLE & ANN MELDAHL

ELSTAD  
ACOLYTES/READERS/USHERS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017

ACOLYTE: KYLE DANIELS  
READERS: ALISON FREESE, CAROLYN SMITH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

ACOLYTE: MACKENSIE KNUTSON  
READERS: WILSON STORHOFF, TOM DYBING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017

ACOLYTE: KELSIE WOXLAND  
READERS: PARKER STORHOFF, VICKY TOPNESS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2017

ACOLYTE: MICHAEL REIN  
READERS: MACKENSIE KNUTSON, LORI BAKKE

USHERS: DAVE LAWSTUEN, ROBERT KNUTSON,  
MIKE CHIGLO, JOHN REIN, ROBERT NELSON,  
DAVID WATSON