

Parish News • Friday, September 11, 2020

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings!

My, oh my, today is simply a gorgeous day and yesterday was as well. Fall colors are coming fast and September can be some of our very best weather of the year. We are all trying to savor these glorious days.

I realized as I typed in the date that today is 9/11. Now, nineteen years after four hijacked airplanes were used by terrorists as weapons against our nation, our world is in a pandemic, which has altered every corner of our lives. From the beginning of time God's presence has pushed back against the chaos and disorder in our world, bringing order, life, hope, and salvation. We continue to live by faith as our ancestors did, giving thanks for God's mighty and wonderful works and doing our part to advance the Kingdom of God.

Item #1: This Sunday is Confirmation Sunday when we will confirm Matthew Johnson, Lauren Olson, and Lily Tedrick at our 10:00 outdoor service. The latest weather forecast indicates the temperature will be fifty-three degrees and skies will be mostly clear. There will be a light breeze so bring a jacket. We hope to see you there.

Item #2: Our Visioning Committee met last night via Zoom to finalize plans to make phone calls to Ely United Methodist Church members and friends between now and the end of October.

Our purpose is twofold: First, we will be updating our information in advance of producing a new church directory, which will occur whenever the pandemic eases. Second, our Visioning Committee callers will check in with members and friends to see how we are all doing since Covid-19 began. It's been so long since we've been together and have seen each other that we're out of touch; so among other things we're interested to know if there are ways our church can reach out to you and our community during the rest of 2020 and 2021.

Item #3: Please find attached a copy of the Fall Edition of the North Star District Newsletter. There is a note from our District Superintendent Laurie Kantonen, a list of our District Prayer Chain, and an announcement of an upcoming program.

Item #4: Please find attached this week's edition of Home Touch, the devotional resource forwarded by Judy Lightower, the North Star District Parish Nurse.

Item #5: Please find attached the Prayer Wall for this Sunday.

There will be no Parish News next week. I will be out of town from Thursday morning September 17th through Monday evening September 21st camping in northwestern Minnesota. Pastor Dana Thompson will lead worship on Sunday, September 20. The next Parish News will be Friday, September 25.

Hear now these the closing words from the Letter of Jude in the New Testament:

“Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.” Jude 1:24

Pastor Craig