

PARISH NEWS • Friday, September 25, 2020

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings! The fall colors just seem to get a little better all the time, don't they? I'm looking out the window at the parsonage and don't think it's possible for it to be any more beautiful than it is right now!

The scenery was gorgeous during my camping trip to Northwestern Minnesota last weekend. I was pleasantly surprised to discover the Minnesota State Parks in that part of the state include a variety of terrain besides prairie.

Yesterday I hiked around Bass Lake and was stunned by just how beautiful the color is this fall.

Item #1: We continue to make preparations for when our congregation will return to our church building for in-person worship as summer draws to a close. Our church leadership is committed to providing both in-person and virtual (online) options to be part of our worship services.

We are still working with Midco and Custom Theaters of Ely to get the technology in place to stream our worship services on Facebook Live. We're also setting things up to provide for a level of safety beyond what is required by the CDC.

Our target date for being back inside is either October

4 or 11. Stay tuned for additional information in Parish News.

Item #2: As reported earlier, our Visioning Committee will be calling all members and friends of our congregation to update our church information in advance of producing a new church directory when the pandemic is over. We'll also be inquiring as to how you're doing during the pandemic and your thoughts about our plans to re-open in-person worship.

We plan to complete our calls by the end of October.

Item #3: The church received a letter from Northwoods Partners mentioning they have come to the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Festival of Trees. A handwritten note thanks us for our support of this project in the past and announces the festival will be back in 2021 running from November 25th through December 5th.

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. The Prayer Wall mentions specific persons and families affected by Covid-19 along with essential workers. Let's also keep in mind everyone in our various educational systems (teachers, administrators, staff, parents, students, and

communities) who are affected so directly in a variety of ways.

Item #6: Please find attached the minutes of our September 2, 2020 Zoom Administrative Council Meeting.

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