

## **Parish News • Friday, October 2, 2020**

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings during a week when so many things are happening! The fall color peak has passed, but our scenery outside is still beautiful, almost beyond words. The temperatures have plunged from two weeks ago, but will moderate for a time next week. The Minnesota Twins made another early exit from the playoffs. And this morning the news from Washington is President Trump and First Lady Melania have tested positive for the Coronavirus, with the 2020 election just weeks away.

We hold them in our prayers, along with the White House staff, and others who have been in contact with them during the past week. And we pray for an election free from foreign interference.

**Item #1:** After more than four months of worshipping outdoors, this Sunday, October 4th, will be our final outdoor service. We are planning on returning to indoors, in-person worship next Sunday, October 11th. Please

read the attachment entitled "Returning to In-Person Worship" carefully.

You may call the church office (365-3355) or parsonage (365-3716) with any questions, leaving a message if necessary, or email the church address at [elyumc.elymn@gmail.com](mailto:elyumc.elymn@gmail.com). We will send out any necessary last minute announcements or updates from this email address.

It's going to be wonderful to gather together in person again, but will take several weeks to work out all the kinks, just as with our outdoor service.

Although we will do everything possible to provide a safe worship environment, we also recognize a number of you will choose not to attend out of concern for your health and safety.

**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 have already reached a substantial number of members, with callers reporting they have had warm conversations with you. If you have not yet received a phone call, a Visioning Committee member will contact you by the end of October.

**Item #3:** Please find attached this week's edition of Home Touch, the devotional resource forwarded by Judy Lightower, the North Star District Parish Nurse.

**Item #4:** 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) that are affected so directly in a variety of ways.

I will be at my parent's cabin on Sand Point Lake with my three brothers this coming week, from Monday through Friday, sorting through a half-century of memories and moving things down the lake in advance of our final time at the cabin next June. Following a short family

reunion then, the cabin will either be dismantled or moved.

I will be leading worship Sunday, October 11th, our first Sunday back in our sanctuary, but there will be no Parish News next week. The next Parish News will be October 16.

Hear now this traditional benediction from the Book of Numbers.

“The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and grant you peace, from this time forth and forevermore.”

Pastor Craig