

Parish News • Christmas Eve • December 24, 2020

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings and Merry Christmas! Today is Christmas Eve 2020. Even though this year has brought with it an upheaval we could never have imagined, Christ is indeed this day born into the world and also into our hearts.

In 1868 Philip Brooks penned these words in his lovely hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem: "Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in." May it be so for each of us, once again, this Christmas when so much of what we hold dear sits just out of reach.

Item #1: Our Christmas Eve service will be streamed on Facebook Live tonight at 5:30. If you have candles at home please have them ready for when we light candles in the sanctuary and sing "Silent Night."

We will begin our live-stream about 5:20 to allow you to greet one another via the comment section on our Facebook page and will continue the broadcast after the service ends for you to continue conversations with each other.

Our high quality camera for recording services has arrived. Tuesday we had a dry run and sound check that went well. You will notice an improvement in audio and video quality. In order to assist people with diminished hearing, we've turned the volume up to maximum on the amplifier output to the camera. Some of you with better hearing may need to turn down the volume on the device you are watching on.

Item #2: Ely United Methodist Church will not have a live-stream service on Sunday, December 27th. The Minnesota Annual Conference has recorded a worship service and is encouraging all churches to tune in. There are multiple ways to access the service. You can find it at the link below by scrolling down to the first item entitled "Hope Made Real: Pre-made worship service." I'll also share it to the Ely United Methodist Church Facebook Page following our Christmas Eve service tonight.

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/advent-and-christmas-resources>

Item #3: The January and February edition of the Upper Room devotional booklet is available at the church. Stop by and pick up a copy or call the church to request delivery, leaving a message if necessary.

Item #4: We need a volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks in January. Mark Olson has been shoveling in November and December. Please call the church if you are able, again, leaving a message if necessary.

Item #5: I want to extend a heart-felt personal "Thank You" to each of you for all your expressions of Christmas cheer – your personal greetings, cards, and gifts. Your support is always encouraging and is especially so this year, so please know of my deep gratitude.

I've set them all under my Christmas tree as they arrived and will open them later today. Most likely I'll be traveling down to Sioux Falls Christmas Day to be with my family. Both of our households have been in a pretty secure "Covid-bubble." I'll probably return on Tuesday, December 29th.

Item #6: The Christmas Eve bulletin and Prayer Wall are attached. You can also find tonight's bulletin out on our Facebook page.

Hear now the words of the angel to the shepherds that first Christmas Eve from Luke 2:10-14.

And the angel said to them, ¹⁰ *"Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; ¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."* ¹³ *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

¹⁴ *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"*

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

December 24, 2020

This is a guide for prayer this week. The *Prayer Wall* is a reminder of those needing prayers during devotional times. Thank you for dedicating some of your personal prayer time to lift up these requests.

Psalm 17: 6



“I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer.”

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Norbert Cronin** – Norbert, Linda Hane’s friend, had a stroke Dec 7 and is in rehab and his wife, who has health issues herself, visits regularly to discuss treatments. His brother passed away last week
- **Lynn Lockhart** – Lynn, a friend of Sheila Shultz, had an accident & is having numerous health issues
- **Barbara Lassila’s family and friends** – In the passing of Pat Olson’s sister, Barbara
- **Devon Richter’s family & friends** – In the sudden death of Devon, daughter of Art & Patty Richter and sister of Susie Mauser and Brand Richter
- **Marla Tezak** – Linda Hane’s sister-in-law is having a laser surgical procedure
- **Linda Fryer** – Linda fell and fractured her cervical spine requiring same day surgery in Duluth Dec 13
- **Steve Norvitch family & friends** – Sheila Shultz’s nephew, Steve, passed away from COVID-19
- **Brett Janeksela** – Donating a kidney to his cousin Jerilyn Montgomery on Dec 11, 8 weeks to recover
- **Augie Richter** – Working in the Twin Cities as a medical transcriptionist in the hospital and has seen so much death due to COVID-19. It’s been hard on him and the support staff. Please pray for his Spirit.
- **Mike and Gail Haney** – Mike is having consultations in Duluth for brain and lung cancer treatments
- **Bruce & Carol Finley family** – Deanie Kuehl’s brother Bruce passed away from COVID-19. His wife, Carol, who was still in the ICU with COVID-19 and on a ventilator passed away a few days later.
- **Jerilyn Montgomery** – Jerilyn is having a kidney transplant surgery on December 11
- **Bonnie Zupancich family, friends & especially her husband Jimmy** – Bonnie died from COVID-19
- **Nigel Cooper**, Butch & Lucy Diesslin’s brother-in-law – His surgery went well & is recovering at home
- **Emma Smrekar** – Carolyn Fendt’s great granddaughter is getting chemo treatment for stomach cancer
- **Robin** – Heather and Marshall’s niece, a nursing home nurse where there is a dramatic uptick in COVID-19 cases in both residents and staff, is working multiple shifts with very little sleep.
- **Abbey** – Linda Gass’s 8 yr old granddaughter’s brain surgery went well and she is recovering at home
- **Linda Williams** – Is having health issues & is recovering in the BWCC. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Steve White** – Charlie Berglund’s nephew is battling colon & liver cancer and after his bout with COVID-19 is now having surgery to remove half his liver. Pray for successful surgery and healing.
- **Those who have contracted the COVID-19 Virus and Family Members**
- **All essential health care workers exposed to the COVID-19 virus**

We include all the United Methodist Churches and Pastors, both active and retired, in our MN UMC Annual Conference as we work in extraordinary ways to keep our congregations and communities free from infection by the COVID-19 virus.

Prayer requests are compiled from our church prayer chain, from our Sunday morning church congregation using the prayer request forms located in the pew welcome pads, and the North Star District Prayer List. Prayer requests will remain on the Prayer Wall through four weeks unless removed earlier because the prayer is known to be no longer necessary. People may ask that prayers be renewed on the list for subsequent 4-week periods. The Prayer Wall is finalized each Thursday for the Sunday morning service.

**Ely United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2020
5:30 p.m.**

Words of Introduction Pastor Craig
Prelude Sue Germek

Opening Hymn #234 O Come All Ye Faithful (verses 1,3,6)
Opening Prayer

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Lighting the Christ Candle Dan/Bev Johnson
Children's Time

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 Dan Johnson
Second Reading Psalm 96 Dan Johnson

Hymn #230 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20
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Sermon

Christmas Prayer Lord, we Pray. **Be born in us today.**

Christmas Offertory

Candlelighting #239 Silent Night

Hymn to Carry Us Home #246 Joy to the World

Parting Words Pastor Craig

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns!
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow,
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 far as the curse is found, far
 and won - ders of his love, and
 and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his

Let earth re - ceive her King; let
 Let all their songs em - ploy; while
 nor thorns in - fest the ground; he
 and makes the na - tions prove the

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ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 comes to make his bless - ings flow
 glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

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 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 98:4-9)
MUSIC: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848

ANTIOCH
CM with Repeat

sing,
joy,
found,
love,

Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;
st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)
MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

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MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
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Alt. tune: FOREST GREEN

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ANTIOCH
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sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, *schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.*
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