Parish News • March 19, 2021

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings from Pastor Craig! Fairly consistent warm temperatures have arrived and are in the forecast for the next ten days, along with our typical spring mixture of sunshine, rain, and snow.

Our upcoming March weather is really recognizable for those of us who have spent some time in the Minnesota/Canadian border country, but once again we find ourselves on the Covid-19 roller-coaster where it's hard to know just what is coming next. Just as vaccination numbers are growing swiftly and hospitalizations for the virus falling, we see surges occurring in other places and variants emerging.

In my view it's a matter of "steady as she goes;" we've been through twelve months of the pandemic. We don't like it, but we've learned to roll with the punches, and I believe psychologically and spiritually we're through the worst of it, whatever may happen on the medical, social, or political front.

Item #1: We will be ordering Easter lilies again this year to bring additional beauty to our church sanctuary for our Easter Sunday worship service. As in the past you may purchase an Easter lily in memory of a loved one. The cost for the Easter lilies is \$15.00.

We will list in the church bulletin and *Parish News* those who purchase Easter lilies and who they are in memory of. Easter lilies may be taken home following the service.

Item #2: We have purchased 75 palm branches for our Palm Sunday worship service. We will keep back 35 for the worship service itself, making 40 available for individuals or families to pick up at church to have in your home.

You may pick up palm branches at the church on Friday, March 26th from 2:00 to 5:00.

Item #3: Our worship services are open for anyone who wishes to attend in person, whether you have Internet at home or not.

We need to practice social distance because of the age and underlying health conditions of many of our church members, so it's important that you call Jeanne Tomlinson on or before Saturday to let her know you would like to attend. This is especially the case for Easter Sunday, when there may be a larger number of people interested in attending. Her phone number is 218-235-8470.

If those attending worship in person are able to arrive by 9:50 this helps us out a lot because that's when we begin our broadcast for people viewing at home. Your early arrival helps us to get you seated on or before our broadcast begins.

We will have a Holy Week service on Good Friday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. The service will include Holy Communion. There will be more information on this service in next week's *Parish News*.

It appears the cause of the interruptions to our Facebook Live worship services was the position of our camera power supply and not our Internet service as we previously thought, so hopefully we won't have any interruptions in the future.

Item #4: Ely United Methodist Church is part of the Minnesota Annual Conference, which is made up of upwards of three hundred congregations. The Annual Conference budget of \$6,354,157 is apportioned out to churches and goes to support our ministry and mission in Minnesota and around the world.

Our "fair share" for 2020 was \$15,232.00. Please find <u>attached a letter and certificate</u> from the Annual Conference thanking us for our full payment in 2020.

Thank you for your support of our church budget, which also supports the work of the Minnesota Annual Conference.

Item #5: Please find this week's *Prayer Wall* either enclosed for those receiving *Parish News* through the mail or attached for those receiving *Parish News*

electronically.

Item #6: I will resume office hours on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00 – Noon, when I am in town. If you wish to stop by, bring your mask and we'll visit with social distance as well. I'm looking forward to face-to-face conversations for those of you who choose to stop by!

Hear now the words with which we close our service most Sundays: "May the peace of the Lord Christ be you. And may the peace of the Lord Christ go with you wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing once again within these doors."

With my warmest regards, Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church **Prayer Wall**

March 19, 2021

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...

- **Pam Brunfelt** Sheila Shultz asked for prayers for Pam who has been receiving cancer treatments. She took a serious fall after being treated this week and is being assessed for injuries.
- Tootsie & Rod Loe Tootsie is home from the Duluth hospital. Keep her, Rod & family in your prayers.
- **Heather** Judy Bonaerson's granddaughter undergoing 5 plastic surgeries to repair damage from being bitten by a dog.
- Abbey Linda Gass's 9 year old granddaughter, Abbey, is back in the Miami Children's Hospital.
- Keith Rue's extended family Keith's sister-in-law, Kaye, passed away. Pray for peace and comfort.
- Johnny Hedge Bill Hane's grandnephew broke his collarbone and received a concussion from a bad motorcycle accident. Fortunately, he wore his helmet or it could have been worse. Pray for healing.
- Wesley Wesinger Vicki Wagner's nephew is having serious health issues. Pray for healing & comfort.
- **Phyllis Olson** Phyllis fell down her stairs and broke her hip and needed surgery. Pray for healing.
- Mike Haney Mike is struggling with his loss of strength and treatments for brain cancer.
- Marj Markwardt Marj fell and broke her femur and is in a swing bed at the Aurora hospital.
- Emma Smrekar Carolyn Fendt's great granddaughter is receiving chemo and radiation treatments
- Schreffler family & Friends Update: Tricia's father-in-law & Jim's father, Ted, passed away.
- Madison Angie Olson's cousin's 16 year old daughter was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Prayer for healing treatments
- Linda Williams Fell and broke her hip & is recovering in the BWCC. Please keep her in your prayers.
- 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 Sunday, March 21, 2021

Welcome Prelude

Pastor Craig Susan Germek

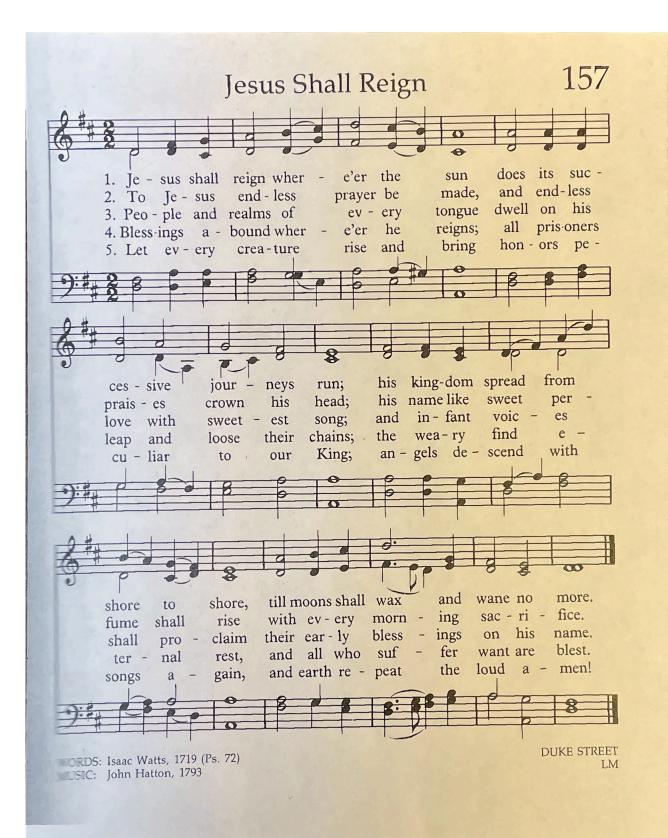
*Opening Hymn #157 Jesus Shall Reign

*Opening Prayer

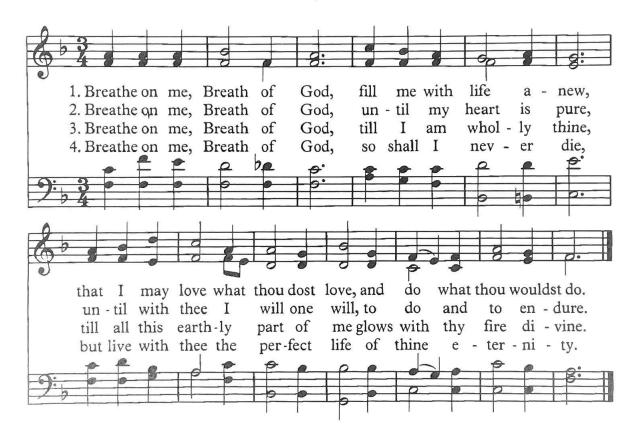
Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Children's Time

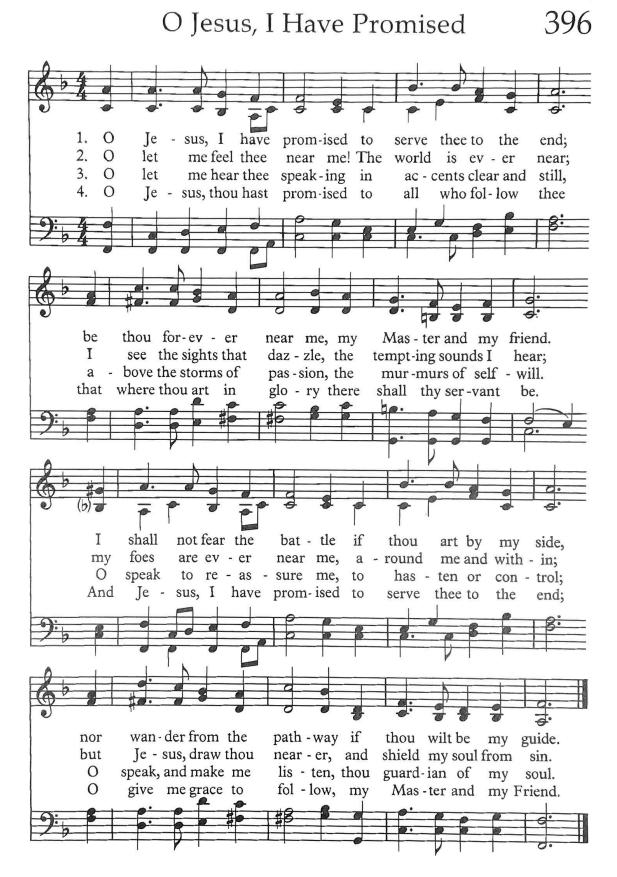
Old Testament ReadingJeremiah 31:31-34Gospel ReadingJohn 12:20-33			
*Hymn	#420	Breathe on Me Breath of God	
Sermon			Pastor Craig
*Hymn	#396	O Jesus, I Have Promised	(vs. 1,2, and 4)
Prayer Wall/Pastoral Prayer The Lord's Prayer			
Offertory *Doxology			
Closing Song Ringing of the Be Benediction Postlude		Where He Leads Me	(vs. 1,2, and 4)
Leading worship: Accompanist: Song Leader: Liturgist:	Susan Bev Jo	r Craig Haberman Germek ohnson a Rusco	



Breathe on Me, Breath of God 420



WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1878 (Jn. 20:22) MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888 TRENTHAM SM



PREVENIENT GRACE



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laurie.kantonen@minnesotaumc.org

March 3, 2021

Dear Ely United Methodist Church,

In unison with your sister congregations of the Minnesota Conference, thank you for paying 100% of your 2019 apportionment allocation! You generously support congregational ministries, local and global missions and this denominational giving is truly, "a portion meant" for United Methodist work and witness that no one individual; no one church could accomplish alone.

We now live and minister in unprecedented times. This past year has seen disruptions in our churches due to the global pandemic – but also incredible innovation as we have sought and found new ways of worshiping and caring for one another and our larger communities. We have been challenged to envision and embody church in new and nimble ways. I am awed by the creativity and commitment of our North Star district congregations.

This past year we have also witnessed racial unrest and political division at a level we haven't experienced for a very long time. As *United* Methodists, we faithfully strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world – disciples that are growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people and healing a broken world. Your apportionment contributions provide the leadership, systems, training and support for this vision to bear fruit in and through our local churches.

Yes, we're in this together and together we are making a difference! I know such dedication does not happen without setting clear priorities, cultivating strong stewardship and making challenging financial decisions. Thank you for your leadership! Thank you for the impactful ministry in which you are engaged! It is an inspiration to serve with you as a partner in offering Christ's light and love.

With joy and appreciation,

Rev. Laurie Kantonen

North Star District Superintendent

Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

presented to

Ely United Methodist Church

in recognition of 100% payment of apportionments in 2020

Apportionments are used to:

Develop Missional Leaders Equip Missional Congregations Extend Missional Impact Generate Missional Resources Align Our Work – Leadership of the Annual Conference Align Our Work – Support of the Annual Conference Provide the Uncollectible Contingency

Presented this 22nd day of February 2021 District Superintendent

