

***Parish News* • May 14, 2021**

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings from Pastor Craig! The Minnesota Fishing Opener has arrived, so now another glorious Northern-Minnesota-Summer has begun!

This milestone is always a glad occasion, even more so this year with the CDC's announcement yesterday that fully vaccinated individuals may move about outdoors and indoors without masks.

How different things feel, for me anyhow, from last year when at this time there was a near total shutdown.

Item #1: Here's an update for how things are on the ground with our church as of today.

- People worshipping in-person continue to wear masks whenever inside our building. Worship leaders, all fully vaccinated, do not wear masks when speaking, but keep distance from the congregation and each other.
- There were 50 people in worship last Sunday. We continue to seat people every other row and in family groupings, however we suggest you let ushers know if there are non-family members in attendance who you are comfortable sitting with. This allows us to increase the number of people attending worship services upstairs.
- Prior to Governor Walz' announcement small groups of vaccinated individuals have been meeting unmasked with the consensus of all group members.
- Our Administrative Council will meet next Wednesday (May 19) to review our existing policies, making adjustments as necessary.

As always, we will provide updates in *Parish News* as they happen.

Meanwhile, please continue to call Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8470 if you wish to attend worship in-person. When you call, please let us know if there are non-family members that you would be willing to sit

with because you spend time with them outside church. This helps us increase the number of people who can sit in the sanctuary and keep social distance.

Item #2: Yesterday we successfully created a new Ely United Methodist Church Facebook Account. The name is "Eumc MN." Notice the upper case/lower case letters and the space between the "c" and the "MN."

We successfully paired our camera with this new site and did two test recordings. This is our present plan for making the transition from our old page to our new page.

1. We will probably live-stream via the laptop one more week from our existing (old) Facebook page – "Ely United Methodist Church." The reason is people who access our worship services but do not have a personal Facebook account will not be able to link to our broadcast until enough people friend, follow, or like our new page.

2. So, would you please search for our new page (Eumc MN) and send us a friend request?

3. We will post updates as they happen on our old/existing page, detailing where we are in this transition. We will also post updates here in *Parish News*.

4. We will keep our existing page for the time being so people can access past worship service.

Please call me at the church (218-365-3355) during office hours or reply to this email with any questions and I'll give you a call to help you sort this all out. My office hours are 9:00 – Noon on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate this unpleasant interruption in live-streaming our worship services with our high-quality camera. We're grateful for your interest in participating in our services online. We will continue to live-stream them even when the pandemic is over.

Item #3: You are invited to a celebration of LaVerne's 90th birthday

(May 25) plus Bob & LaVerne's 70th anniversary (May 26)! Join us in the Lindholms' yard, 119 S 16th Avenue E, for celebratory treats from 2-4 on Sunday, May 23 (stop by when you can).

In lieu of cards/gifts, would you please consider writing an encouraging note and possibly include the promise of rides, companionship for Bob along with lunch or errands with LaVerne, or help with small projects around the house?

If light rain, we'll gather in the garage. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the gathering will be cancelled.

Item #4: Here is a note from the Visioning Committee with an announcement about our church's new way of recognizing birthdays.

We Need You! The Little Church with a Big Heart is starting a birthday club. The purpose of the club is to strengthen the bond that our church community already has, by recognizing individuals in writing on their birthdays. In order to do that, we need to know your birth dates (month and day only—year if you wish. The information will be stored in our Directory Roster spreadsheet. Rest assured that steps have been taken to protect the information from computer hackers. Please e-mail your birth date, and with their consent, those of your family members, to elyumc.elymn@gmail.com. If you do not use e-mail, you can mail the information to the church at 305 East Camp Street, or you may drop it in the collection plate. Once our Birthday Club is running smoothly, we may expand it to recognize anniversaries, so if you are married, please include the date of your wedding, too—again, month and day, year if you wish.

Item #5: Young Life here in Ely is hosting a farewell for Mike Keller and family. They are moving to Bismarck, North Dakota soon where Mike will become the youth pastor of an Evangelical Free Church there.

The community goodbye will be in Whiteside Park on May 23rd from 1-3 pm. Please attend if you are able to thank the Kellers for all they have done for Ely, so say "goodbye," and to wish them well in their new endeavor.

Item #6: We received a thank you note from the Ely Food Shelf, thanking us for our \$250 donation in March. Our church contributed \$150 and a couple donated \$100 anonymously.

We timed our donation for March when all gifts are matched by the State of Minnesota.

Item #7: 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.

Note: I'm not attaching the order of worship for the Facebook Live worship service to this email as I typically do. I want to get this email out the door and won't have the PDF file ready until later today. It will be available on our church Facebook page (Ely United Methodist Church).

Hear now these words from **Psalm 1**.

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; ² but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

With God's blessings and my very best wishes,

Pastor Craig Haberman

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

May 14, 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 5: 3



"In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice, in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Zeke Urbas** – Zeke is going in for another cancer scan, prayers for a clean scan
- **Pam Turnbull** – Pam is undergoing carpal tunnel surgery this week, prayers for healing
- **Darryl Johnson** – Dan Johnson's brother received 2 additional heart artery stents & is doing well
- **Ruth Ryberg family & friends** – Her brother, Bobby, passed away. Pray for comfort and peace.
- **Linda Frisell's family & friends** – Her brother, Todd, passed away. Pray for comfort and peace.
- **Deanie Kuehl's sister, Terri** – Had surgery last week. Surgery was successful and she is doing well.
- **Kay Ojala** – Her kidney transplant surgery went well and she and the donor are both recovering at home
- **Debbie Granberry & family** – Jeanne's and Jay's college friend, who lost both her husband to Alzheimer's & her mother within 6 days last week. Pray for comfort and peace.
- **Mary Leonas** – Kathy Brandau's mother, Mary Leonas, is not doing well. Pray for healing.
- **Rod & Tootsie Loe** – Rod and Tootsie are living together at Carefree Living. Rod is back from hospital
- **Mike Haney** – Mike is struggling with his loss of strength and treatments for brain cancer.
- **Emma Smrekar** – Carolyn Fendt's great granddaughter is receiving chemo and radiation treatments
- **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.