

## Parish News • August 27, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings! I awakened this morning (Friday) refreshed by temperatures in the high 50's and an air quality index of 15. Air quality numbers since the Greenwood fire started have been sitting in the 140 – 180 range, with a high of 280 earlier in the week. I saw a fire report from the Greenwood Incident Commander earlier in the week where he mentioned that the "dryness index" in Ely was the highest it's ever been.

I took my rain jacket with me to church this morning, something I haven't done but a handful of times since the snow melted. It looks like a good chance of rain this weekend and a moderate chance at the end of next week. Thankfully, as far as the fire goes, the temperatures will be dropping into the high 40's/lower 50's next week with highs in the lower 70's.

This week the beginning of the Minnesota State Fair after a one-year hiatus is the other "buzz" in the Gopher State. I listened to some first-day state fair coverage yesterday on KFAN sports-talk radio on WELY-AM, which brought back good memories for me of my visits to the fair across the years, which included two visits, a year apart with Mom near the end of her life.

Governor Walz said, in an interview in today's Star Tribune: "We've moved from pandemic to end-demic. What we've learned over the past 18 months is we're going to have to figure out smart ways to live with this into the future. I don't like to acknowledge it, but we're going to have to live with this for years."<https://www.startribune.com/walz-minnesotans-must-learn-to-live-safely-amid-ongoing-covid-threat/600091259/>

Now Governor Walz doesn't have a crystal ball; none of us do. The reason I mention this is Walz mentions in the interview that he's going to steer away from executive orders because they might be counter-productive. So, this leaves decision-making for closures or other measures, such as masking, in the hands of communities, organizations, businesses, and institutions, unless the State Legislature were to step in, something he sees as unlikely.

I mention this because unless something changes dramatically, I see our church maintaining our present way of doing things into this fall and winter. I think our church leadership has hit the bullseye up to this point. It felt wonderful last night as our choir began rehearsing Christmas music for two Sundays in December and for Christmas Eve!

**Item #1:** We'll have a meeting at church on Monday, August 30th, at 7:00 for parents of children/youth and others interested in our children/youth programs here at Ely UMC. We'll start with a general discussion of what our hopes and dreams are for ways our church can start our children out on the pathway to knowing, loving, and following Jesus for the rest of their lives. Then we'll move

toward more specific discussions of Sunday School and Confirmation.

**Item #2:** A few people have expressed interest in officially joining our church as members. Please contact me if you're interested. I'll need to request a transfer if you're presently a member of another church, so you'll have to provide me with that information. Note: All people who choose to attend worship or other programs here are an important part of our church already. Membership is an additional step in making this commitment official in an organizational way.

**Item #3:** We recently received the following thank you note from the Ely Kiwanis Club: "The Ely Kiwanis Club thanks you for your year after year loan of your baking trays for our blueberry pie making. Without the use of your trays, we would be unable to make and bake the 600 pies we order from the Boundary Water Care Center hospital kitchen." Our Sincere Appreciation. B.J. Kobierski, Secretary.

**Item #4:** Arrowhead Head Start is a federally funded program which provides preschool and associated services to pregnant mothers and children age birth to four years old. Detailed information is available at the church or by calling 1-800-662-5711, ext. 7351 or Linda Kraines at 218-780-3186.

**Item #5:** This week's Prayer is attached or included. You'll notice that Marj Markwardt broke her other femur last week and is in the hospital in Aurora following surgery in Virginia.

Al Soderfelt has been writing poems for years, publishing several volumes along the way. While I was visiting with him recently, he passed along this poem written in 2015. He wrote the poem following a family reunion while reflecting the passages his family had gone through across the years. I was really touched by the poem and include it here with his permission.

## **A Gathering**

*So then...*

*Peace came ambling by*

*No fanfare*

*Nor smug dare*

*We gathered ourselves*

*On an old park bench*

*Letting the ages*

*Pass us by*

*Mostly in silence*

*Except for a now and again*

*Satisfying sigh*

*And then...*

*Hope came running by*

*Stopped*

*Came back and flopped  
On that old bench  
Joining us  
Wanting peace  
But all the while fidgeting  
Concerned about tomorrow  
More so about today  
And kind of feeling okay*

*It was then that...  
Joy came skipping by  
And then around  
That old park bench  
More than once  
Then joining us  
Adding energy  
To the moment  
All the while accepting it  
With sparkling eyes  
Inviting*

*And so then...  
Love came quietly by  
And with little hesitation  
Settled in  
With an acceptance  
To the moment  
For what it was  
That is what it is with love...  
Then joining hands  
With peace, joy and hope  
And also with each of us*

Alcyd N Soderfelt  
December 2015

With my gratitude and appreciation,  
Pastor Craig

# The Ely United Methodist Church

## *Prayer Wall*

August 27, 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.

### Philippians 4: 6



*“Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in everything, by prayer and  
petition, with thanksgiving, present  
your requests to God.”*

### We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Bruce Wishcop** – Bruce, friend of Bob & Pat Olson, had a heart attack and had to have bypass surgery
- **Marj Markwardt** – Marj broke her other leg (femur bone) this past week
- **Steve Matthews family & friends** – Steve passed away suddenly from a heart attack. Long time summer attendee, please be in prayer for his wife Sheila and his family & friends.
- **Matthew Wernet family & friends** – **Update:** Matthew passed away this past week from Covid. Connie Peterson had requested prayers for Matthew who was in a drug induced coma due to Covid-19. He had a wife and 4 children who depended on him.
- **Jerelyn Montgomery and Brett Janeksela** – Jerelyn is having kidney transplant surgery and her cousin Brett is the donor. Pray for successful surgery and healing for both Jerelyn and Brett
- **Tyler Olson** – Bruce Olson’s son is hospitalized for treatment for a blood clot in his lung
- **John Podominick** – Vicki’s brother John is having serious issues with kidney stones
- **Bonnie Berglund** – Moved from the Virginia Rehab Center to her son, Kevin’s, home until recovered
- **Linda Gass** – Linda had foot surgery and will require a lengthy recovery, pray for healing
- **Allysa** – Jade’s friend & her mom, Kristin, were in a car accident and her mom had a back injury
- **Adean Anne Turner’s family & friends** – Lucy Diesslin’s aunt, Adean Anne, passed away recently
- **Loren Barnes** – Lucy Diesslin’s brother & Ella’s husband needs to relocate to a safer residence
- **Ella Barnes family and friends** – **Update:** Lucy Diesslin’s sister-in-law passed away shortly after being moved to Chatfield Care Center and being placed on hospice.
- **Don Markwardt** – Don had hernia surgery this past week. Pray for healing
- **Dan Waters** – **Update:** Moved from Miller-Dwan to his home and doing well with his recovery
- **All the Fire Fighters and their families fighting forest fires in Ely and elsewhere**
- **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.*