

## Parish News • September 17, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings from Pastor Craig! I am enjoying the gorgeous autumn weather the past week, which has included a mixture of bright sunshine, blue skies, a few wispy clouds, and pleasant temperatures. Yes, there have been some thunderstorms, during which I've unplugged my television and some other equipment, but it's sure been nice to hear the falling rain.

Each year my spirits are elevated in September by the weather and back to school activities that kick off a series of events between now and Christmas. This week my participation in two board meetings of community boards I'm part of further lifted my spirits. Both organizations are probably familiar to both of you.

- [Northwoods Partners](#) - promotes independence and healthy aging for seniors
- [Ely Community Resource](#) – helps make Ely a great place to grow up

These two organizations oversee a wide variety of life changing programs that serve people on both ends of life – youth and seniors. It's eye opening to read through the long list of programs available to people who live in Ely. As I listened to Ely Community staff members describe the host of interesting and educational activities ECR provides for children and youth in Ely I found myself thinking: "*I wish I were a kid living and going to school in Ely.*"

So then, how can our church inspire our members and the Ely community in similar ways to grow in love for God and one another as we have for over one hundred years? How can Ely United Methodist Church be an additional piece to the mosaic that makes Ely a great place to live?

Part of the frustration here and other places in September 2020 is we are entering the 18th month since the Covid-19 pandemic began and the start of a second school year. Just when we seemed to be getting a little bit of traction, things are back up in the air again.

In all this mess, however, I'm feeling hopeful. Everywhere I look in Ely I see signs of life – capable people, energetic organizations, businesses finding ways to overcome challenges, lots of ideas, enthusiasm, and so much more. All of this continues to put a shine on making Ely a place people want to visit, then return to visit again, and maybe even pull up stakes and eventually move here.

Our church is fortunate to be part of the Ely community. Every community I've lived in has had great people, but not all communities are thriving; in fact, many are slowly declining. I'm grateful our church, along with a host of other people,

businesses, and organizations, has an opportunity heading into our second century to be a blessing to Ely and beyond.

**Item #1:** We began Sunday School last week and will continue during the worship service throughout the school year so we invite our families with children to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00. Our confirmation class will begin in late September for youth between sixth and ninth grade.

**Item #2:** This is a brief note to pass along that we have decided to resume our pasty making this year on a more limited basis than in the past as we evaluate how many workers we have and how to do this safely.

Our plan is to make a slightly reduced number of pasties during November, February, and April. Watch for more details here in Parish news next week.

**Item #3:** Earlier this summer we announced new program of sending birthday cards to church members and their families. A number of you responded with you/your family's birthdays and we are now sending them out monthly. Here is the announcement we ran then with the invitation for those of you who are interested, but have not yet joined to contact us now.

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](mailto: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 #4:** This week's Prayer is attached or included.

Hear now these inspiring words from Paul's letter to the **Ephesians 3:14-21**.

*<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup> I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and*

*depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (NRSV)*

God's peace is with you!

*Pastor Craig*

# The Ely United Methodist Church

## *Prayer Wall*

September 17, 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...

- **Zeke Urbas** – Zeke is going in for another cancer ‘recheck’ scan, prayers for a clean scan
- **John & Karen Trimble** – John had a heart valve replacement a few years ago, his heart stopped and is headed to Mayo. **Update:** John is doing well and he and his wife appreciate your prayers.
- **Bruce Wishcop** – Bruce, friend of Bob & Pat Olson, had a heart attack and had to have bypass surgery. **Update:** Surgery went well and he and his wife, June, appreciate your prayers.
- **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 who was in a drug induced coma from COVID passed away.
- **John Podominick** – **Update:** Vicki’s brother John is doing well and appreciates your prayers
  
- **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 and the Delta variant**

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.*