

## Parish News • November 19, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings from Pastor Craig!

Thanksgiving Day is a week from yesterday and what a difference one year makes! Here in Minnesota a year ago, we were in the middle of a second, or was it the third, Covid-19 surge and were mostly shut in our homes. There were no in-person Sunday morning worship services. We'd begun broadcasting on Facebook Live November 8<sup>th</sup>, but the quality was all over the place because those of us working to figure it out were starting with no experience and trying to learn overnight, something that took us awhile.

Thanksgiving Eve 2020, I gave a short and subdued Facebook Live Thanksgiving meditation from the desk in my bedroom in the parsonage using the words from Habakkuk chapter 3:17-19 as the starting point.

Trust and Joy in the Midst of Trouble

<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree does not blossom,  
and no fruit is on the vines;  
though the produce of the olive fails,  
and the fields yield no food;  
though the flock is cut off from the fold,  
and there is no herd in the stalls,  
<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will exult in the God of my salvation.  
<sup>19</sup> GOD, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
and makes me tread upon the heights.<sup>[a]</sup>

What I was attempting to communicate was the prophet's message that a trusting heart and a grateful spirit doesn't depend on our circumstances. That we can be joyful even in the middle of a situation like we were going through back then. This is my long-standing and heartfelt belief; then and now.

Yet, someone mentioned to me a short while later how depressed I looked as I spoke; sad and gloomy. Thanksgiving a year ago sort of felt that way, didn't it?

So, here we are a year later. Minnesota is having yet another surge. I read several days ago that our positivity rate is the highest in the nation. Today, the newest data was released for Ely. There are 32 new cases reported for zip code 55731.

However, things feel a bit more "normal," with vaccinations and boosters available and the way things are opening up (mostly). A large group of us made pasties earlier this week and it felt wonderful, despite the hard work it always is. And Sunday mornings we've been back in worship for the better part of the year.

This certainly isn't like Thanksgiving 2019 when Dad and I flew together to my brothers in Louisville, then rode with my son Kirk and his family to their home in Beaver Falls, PA, before flying back to the Twin Cities. But it feels much "lighter" than 2020 and I'm grateful.

I'll be heading down to Sioux Falls the first thing on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> to see my family there and won't return until Wednesday evening, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Marshall Monthei will preach on November 28<sup>th</sup> in my absence and others from our congregation will assist him with leading the worship service.

I was with my son and his family when my grandson Isaac was born Thanksgiving night 2013, but haven't been with them for his birthday since then, until this year. I will be able to worship in the congregation where my son is the pastor. I will join Isaac for his 125<sup>th</sup> infusion, my first time with him on an infusion day since I was present for his 100<sup>th</sup> last December. So, it will feel very much like Thanksgiving Day the entire time I'm there.

I wish you a Blessed Thanksgiving wherever you are and whoever you are with. If you will be alone this Thanksgiving you may email me at [elyumc.elymn@gmail.com](mailto:elyumc.elymn@gmail.com) and I will make sure to pray for you and hold you in my thoughts on Thanksgiving Day.

**Item #1:** There was a wonderful showing of volunteers Monday to prepare vegetables and make dough balls. And again, on Tuesday when we assembled and baked 738 pasties! Thank you to all who helped to make this a success!!

**Item #2:** We've had a good response for signing up to purchase poinsettias in memory of loved ones. This Sunday is the final Sunday to purchase a poinsettia. The cost for poinsettias is \$14.00. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the rear of the sanctuary and an envelope for cash or check. Or you may mail the church at 305 E. Camp Street, Ely, MN 55731. Please mention who or whom you want the poinsettia to be in memory of.

We've also had an outstanding response for the Ely Community Resource Giving Tree, which provides Christmas gifts to youth and children in the Ely community. Gifts and tags need to be returned to church by December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Item #3:** There is a sign-up list for the United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon at the GEL, which will be on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Each person will order off the menu. Sign-up at the church or call Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8479.

We're also looking for people to operate the camera during our Facebook Live services. There are only a few technical details to keep track of – it's mostly "point and shoot" – and Jay will provide training. Live-streaming has expanded the reach of our worship services, so this is an important opportunity to spend an hour every so often.

**Item #4:** This week's Prayer Wall and the Administrative Council meeting minutes for November are attached.

There will be no editions of the Parish News the next two Fridays. The next edition will come out Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Here's a lovely Psalm for Thanksgiving. It is part of a collection of fifteen Psalms of Ascents (#120 - #134), which were spoken by pilgrims ascending the hills to the city of Jerusalem. Psalm 126

remembers past deliverance by God, a deliverance that evoked laughter and joy among God's people. It also appears that they are presently experiencing disappointing and trying times and so they must again pray for and place their hope in the God who has delivered them in the past. .... In other words – apt for us today.

## **Psalm 126**

A Harvest of Joy

*A Song of Ascents.*

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

With God's blessings and my very best wishes,

Pastor Craig

# The Ely United Methodist Church

## *Prayer Wall*

November 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 (NIV)



*“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...

- **Mike & Gail Haney** – Mike has been falling. Please keep the family in your prayers.
- **Pastor Paul Koehler** – Pastor Paul of First Lutheran church in Motley is hospitalized with COVID.
- **Gary Schimp family & friends** – Father of Linda Hane’s friend, Dawn, passed away from COVID.
- **Heidi Hanson’s daughter, Dorshann** – Just had knee replacement surgery. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Lucy Diesslin’s brother, Lorne** – Is having gall bladder surgery. Pray for comfort and quick recovery
- **Mildred Koschak’s daughters, Phyllis & Betty** – Both have had recent surgeries. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Nancy Markwardt’s brother, Red** – Has stage 4 cancer and is now in great pain with kidney stones.
- **Emma Smrekar Update** – Carolyn Fendt’s granddaughter & high school senior received her last chemo treatment for stomach cancer on June 11<sup>th</sup> & was believed to be cancer free. Her cancer has returned, pray for effective treatments and comfort.
- **Carrie Jackson Yost** – Daughter of Ann & Terry Jackson of Winton diagnosed with a rare form of aggressive breast cancer.
- **Julie Puzel family & friends** – Julie passed away at Carefree Living. She was 100, was kind & had a great sense of humor.
- **Jeanne Nelson** – Jeanne fell and broke her pelvis (hip). Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Jim Herberg family & friends** – **Update:** Janet Rasmussen’s brother Jim passed away. Pray for comfort for family & friends.
- **Dave Rue** – Keith’s brother was hit in the eye with a pressurized hose damaging his iris, eyelid & pupil. **Update:** Surgery to Dave’s eye to relieve pressure & remove the lens went well. Prognosis for full recovery after inserting a new lens looks good.
- **Bobbi Hodges** – Cathy Aldridge’s friend is beginning radiation treatments. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Dennis Minier family & friends**– **Update:** Nick Mattila’s friend who had lung cancer & was not doing well has passed away.
- **The Wernet family** – Still struggling from the passing from COVID of her husband and father of 4 children.
- **Susan Burland’s family & friends** – Sheila Shultz’s sister, Susan, has passed away. Pray for comfort to family & friends.
- **Danielle** – Suzette Tedrick’s cousin, Danielle, is hospitalized with COVID. Pray for a quick and full recovery.
- **Ollie** – Bonnie Berglund’s great nephew was born missing 2 arteries to his heart. **Update:** Ollie is now at home.
- **All the residents and staff at Ely Carefree Living where there are reported 5 cases of COVID**
- **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.*

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at Ely United Methodist Church

**Call To Order:** Chair Dan Johnson called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**Attendees (6):** Craig Haberman, Dan Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson.

**Opening:** Pastor Craig spoke briefly about Psalm 117, just 2 verses compared to Psalm 119 with 176 verses, but still so poignant: “Praise the Lord, all you nations! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!”. He then opened with prayer.

**Minutes:** The October 20, 2021 Ad Council minutes, as previously distributed via *Parish News*, were approved. Motion to approve by Jay Tomlinson; second by Mark Olson.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mark Olson presented the October 2021 Treasurer’s report. He pointed out the receipts vs disbursements (\$12,673 vs \$8,501.68), one of our largest positive differences. The current account balances are: General Fund \$37,889.06; Memorial Fund \$10,076.79; Building Fund \$5,169.37. Jay Tomlinson moved that we accept the Treasurer’s reports as submitted, second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Trustees:** Margie Olson reported they are looking into options for the basement floor replacement and will also be pushing for installation of the pipe lining in our sewer line which blocked up yet again during pasty making and had to be blown out.
- **Worship:** Pastor Craig reported that for the November 28 service when he is gone, Marshall Monthei will be preaching and providing special music, Patty Rusco will do the prayers and Bev Johnson will do the scripture reading. Church decorating will be this coming Sunday, November 21 right after church with a small luncheon afterwards. We are still a little short on volunteer signups for this but hope to get more on Sunday. The poinsettias sign-up sheet was placed out a couple Sundays ago as was the sign-up for the Giving Tree gifts. Plans are underway for our Christmas Eve service which will be at 5:30 PM. The December 26 worship service will be a regular service. Pastor Craig mentioned that changes were made to resolve the Communion “traffic flow” issues but the Ad Council felt it still needed more tweaking because of some confusion and aisle bottlenecks caused by exiting and returning participants. Some time was spent discussing – and demonstrating - possible changes.
- **Outreach:** Jay reported that he is planning to contact the 3 local apartment buildings (Pioneer, Zenith and Sibley) to see if they are interested in having us provide decorated Christmas trees again.
- **UMW:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that the UMW had voted that morning to change the pasty income distribution allocation from 60% for General Fund and 10% for Building Fund to an allocation of 70% for the Building Fund. UMW will retain the same 30% for UMW expenses.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. **Status of preparations for the Dec 15 Annual Church Conference:** Pastor Craig reported that Nominations are almost complete. We’ll have membership transfers during worship on December 12 and they’ll be included in the Membership section of the Conference reports.

2. **Rough draft of letter for *The Fish* people who don’t get *Parish News*:** Jeanne Tomlinson distributed a rough draft of the letter and also a list of the people who would be receiving it. She asked the committee to review the letter and make recommendations for changes. She also asked Margie Olson and Pastor Craig to go through the list of people and provide updates if possible. After some discussion, we decided that we’ll do a New Year’s Greeting letter to the full *FISH* mailing list and include a special note to those who don’t currently get *Parish News* to once again explain the options available for them to keep in touch. Pastor Craig will work on the New Year’s Greeting letter and Jeanne will work on the additional letter.

**3. Resuming post-Worship Fellowship Refreshments:** We discussed the usual problem of getting more than a few people to take on providing refreshments and handling the setup and subsequent cleanup. Jeanne suggested we form a small committee of volunteers that would take care of calling people to recruit them to handling refreshments. Margie Olson suggested we could just have store-bought cookies available so that no one would feel obligated to do any baking and to buy juice boxes for the kids so there wouldn't be a need to make Kool-Aid and have to wash drink cups. It was suggested that the UMW could handle purchasing the cookies and drink boxes since it already handles getting the coffee and other supplies used for refreshments. It was decided that we should each try to talk to people in the congregation to see how they feel about resuming having it and then discuss this again at our December meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. 2022 Budget:** The Finance Committee had met and prepared a Proposed 2022 Budget and submitted it for approval. It was pointed out that we still don't have information for two Expense items that we normally get from the District: the North Star District Ministries Fund and Worker's Compensation Insurance. Craig & Mark will research those. In the meantime, Margie Olson moved that we approve the Proposed 2022 Budget with the understanding that those two items will have a more accurate budget figure by the time we hold our Annual Church Conference on December 15. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed.
- 2. Request the Technology Committee to investigate sound system:** Pastor Craig reported that Dan Ely is probably back in town now so he'll be touching bases with Dan and Sheri Rue. He felt that the first goal will be to get the Technology Committee and Ad Council together to share thoughts on both computer and sound system needs. It was suggested the committee could also talk to Peter Kess since he has a lot of expertise in that area.
- 3. Live or artificial greens for the outside railings:** Margie reported that she & Mark have donated a 63-foot artificial garland for the railings. Pam Turnbull has offered a large artificial wreath to hang on the building by the front door. It was also reported that an outdoor Nativity was found in the garage during clean-up and will be put up this year along with the lit tree from Patty & Bryan Rusco.
- 4. VCC Football Coach & Team:** Pastor Craig updated the committee on recent news reports about the new VCC football coach who is encouraging his team to be active in the community. Other churches are working on projects to make connections with the team members, many of whom are from other states and find the Ely area to be quite a "culture shock". Pastor Craig felt like it was probably too late for us to fit in something this year. The PPR committee had brainstormed some ideas about our church doing something with the team and suggested possibly holding a "welcome to Ely dinner" – possibly serving pasties – sometime in the early fall. It was suggested that some team members might be interested in helping with the apartment tree decorating. Pastor Craig will contact the coach for ideas.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

## **Items of Information**

- 1. Pasty Report from November 16:** 738 pasties made. Gross Income: \$5,249 (including \$83 in tips & donations); Expenses: \$1,511.96; Net Income: 3,737.04.
- 2. Next Ad Council meeting:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 after 7 PM Church Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

**Ely United Methodist Church**  
**November 21, 2021**  
**Christ the King Sunday**

**Welcome**

Pastor Craig

**Prelude**

Susan Germek

**Choral Introit**

*Father, We Praise Thee*

**\*Hymn #694**

*Come Ye Thankful People Come*

vs. 1,2, & 4

#131

*We Gather Together*

vs. 1 & 3

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Children's Time**

**Choir Anthem**

*"God is Love"*

**Old Testament Reading**

II Samuel 23:1-7

**Gospel Reading**

John 18:33-37

Mark Olson, Liturgist

**Sermon**

Pastor Craig

**\*Hymn #102**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

**Prayer Wall**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Hymn #327**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction**

*Thy Holy Wings, O Savior*

**Postlude**

**Accompanist:**

Susan Germek

**Liturgist:**

Mark Olson

**John 18:33-37**

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate entered the headquarters<sup>[a]</sup> again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

**Coming Up**

Today            Decorating the Church after the service.

Pastor Craig on vacation from Tuesday, November 23 through Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Marshall Monthei will be leading worship Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.