

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

March 4,

A Note from Pastor Craig

Caution While Parking in our Upper Parking Lot

The snow piles on the north end of our upper parking lot are pushed back further than the pavement underneath in some places. There may be soft spots that are exposed as the snow melts, so when parking your car, exercise caution by watching for where the pavement ends.

An Open Communion Table at Ely United Methodist Church

This Sunday is Communion Sunday. We practice "Open Communion," which means everyone is welcome to come to the the Lord's Table to receive the gifts of bread and the cup..

Children come at the discretion of their parents.

Earlier this week we had a day of bright sunshine and temperatures around 30 degrees. City streets exposed to the bright rays of the sun rapidly began to soften up and melt. A few had spots that were completely bare by mid afternoon. This is what can happen when the sun moves higher in the sky this time of year.

There may be a large snowstorm moving through our area and to the south Saturday afternoon into Sunday morning; something that also happens this time of year. We have numerous memories of blizzards during the state hockey and basketball tournaments. I also recall one year around 2005 when Bemidji received 41 inches of snow - in April.

Yet the length of daylight steadily increases, the sun climbs ever higher in the sky, and the snow will melt, sooner or later, all of it. Winter will not extend indefinitely.

We had an enormous amount of snow one year in the 1990s when my family lived in Orr. Some time in mid-March I thought "they'll be able to snowmobile until well into April this year." Yet only a week or two later I noticed a portion of a snowmobile trail had melted all the way down to gravel where it climbed an embankment to cross the highway in Buyck. The power of the sun was just too much.

Sometimes it's an early winter and a late spring; or a short summer and an extended autumn; La Niña or El Niño; and so on... But the seasons will come and go; at least here in northern Minnesota.

The same with seasons in the church year - Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. Not all congregations commemorate the church year, but Ely United Methodist Church does. Their variety and our movement through them brings a deeper understanding of who God is, what Jesus' mission was, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Journeying with you as we enter Lent, Pastor Craig

The Church Season of Lent

Two realities intersect during Lent: First, Jesus was crucified, something he chose willingly to do, something he said “was in accordance with the Scriptures.” Second, the promise of self-improvement and inevitable progress is built into our DNA here in the United States.

We see in Jesus’ crucifixion that the powers of evil, sin, and death cannot be overcome by willpower, intelligence, and effort alone. Something else is necessary and that something is the grace of God in the self-giving love of Jesus Christ. Or as the Apostle Paul said: “We proclaim Christ crucified.... God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.”

This is not to diminish the value of human strength, vision, or persistence. Our hearts swell with admiration when watching movies or hearing examples of people overcoming impossible odds to achieve their dreams in athletics, art, social change, or surviving all kinds of catastrophes. Anything worth doing is worth doing well.

But when it comes to our life with God often “the path up is down,” as someone has said. Surrender and acceptance draw us nearer to God and one another than do striving and pushing harder.

This is the journey of Lent in the Scripture readings we’ll hear each week, in our Holy Week service Thursday evening April 14th, and in our joyous Easter morning worship, Sunday April 17th when we proclaim: “Christ is Risen, the Lord is Risen Indeed.”

Scripture Readings and Worship Notes for Sunday

Here’s a brief review of how we’ve arrived at the church season of Lent: During Advent (the four Sundays before Christmas) we wait and watch for the coming of Christ, as did God’s faithful people in the centuries before Jesus’ birth. We rejoice when Christmas finally arrives and Jesus is born in a stable. Then comes the season of Epiphany, when we take a closer look at the person of Jesus himself. We’ve waited for Jesus so long - just who is the one we were waiting for and what will be the purpose of his life?

Our focus shifts when the church season of Lent arrives. Now we recognize that Jesus’ coming includes his bowing before the powers of sin and death. Jesus offers his life, trusting that he is secure in God’s love for him, and that his Heavenly Father will raise him up on the third day.

Further, during Lent we see in the Scripture readings that Jesus’ life is a continuation of God’s action in the history of Israel recorded in what we call the Old Testament. His life is another chapter to the same, ongoing account of God’s love reaching out to all of Creation, which includes you and me.

The Gospel reading this week is the account of Jesus being tempted by the devil. We’ll also celebrate Holy Communion and the choir will sing.

The reading from Deuteronomy 26:1-11 is found here.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+26%3A1-11&version=NRSV>

And Luke 4:1-13 is found here.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+4%3A1-13&version=MSG>

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

March 4, 2022

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 (NIV)



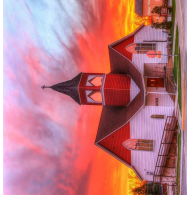
“In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice, in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.”

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Anne Swenson’s family & friends** – Nick Wognum’s mother and icon of Ely, Anne Swenson, passed away.
- **Marvel Prah** – Linda Hane’s friend, Marvel, is in the hospital and needs prayers of comfort, healing and strength.
- **Cyd Cooper** – Butch Diesslin’s sister, Cyd, fell and broke her wrist and requires surgery. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **The Russia / Ukraine conflict** – Pray for a world-wide lasting resolution, safety of the people, and peace.
- **Megan** – Cathy Aldrich’s friend, Megan, is losing her vision. Please pray for courage and strength.
- **Duane** – Bob Olson’s friend is having some health issues. Pray for healing and comfort.
- **Chase Lee Anderson** – Linda Hane’s nephew, Chase, is having surgery. Pray for success and full recovery.
- **Erin** – Devon Luthens’s good friend, Erin, is having double breast mastectomy on February 22. Prayers for a safe surgery, quick healing and success in being cancer free.
- **Sandy Barich Thompson** – Glenda Harbough’s good friend, Sandy, is having double breast mastectomy also on February 22. Prayers for a safe surgery, quick healing and success in being cancer free.
- **Phyllis Olson’s family & friends – Update:** Bob Olson’s sister-in-law, Phyllis, passed away.
- **Lydia** – Sheila Shultz’s granddaughter, Lydia, is recovering from elbow surgery. Pray for healing.
- **Marcia** – Pat Stock’s sister, Marcia, is in the Abbot Northwestern hospital and on a ventilator fighting COVID. Please pray for comfort, healing and full recovery.
- **Nicole Udovich’s cousin Maranda** – Maranda has been diagnosed with breast Cancer. Pray for successful treatments.
- **John Franklin’s family & friends – Update:** Paula Mattila’s brother-in-law, John, passed away.
- **Bob & Lavern Lindholm** – Bob & Lavern are moved to the Babbitt Carefree Living facility. Bob is in the memory care unit & Lavern is in assisted living. Visitors & phone calls are welcome. Their home phone # is transferred to Lavern’s mobile phone.
- **Gary Tedrick** – Gary had back surgery this week and is in a lot of pain. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Mike and Gail Haney family** – Mike is facing end of life struggles.
- **All essential health care workers exposed to the COVID-19 virus and the Delta & Omicron variants**

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.



March 2022



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1	2	3	4	5
				2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Ash Wed Service	No Choir Practice	World Day of Prayer	
6	9:15 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday school Holy Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
		6:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting	9:00 AM Pastor Craig at Ely Ministerial Association	2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study 6:30 PM Pastor Parish Relations Committee Mtg	5:00 PM Visioning Committee 6:00 PM Choir Practice		
13	10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday school Daylight Savings Time Begins	14	15	16	17	18	19
				10:00 AM United Methodist Women 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	5:00 PM Administrative Council 6:00 PM Choir Practice		
20	9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday school	21	22	23	24	25	26
				2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	6:00 PM Choir Practice		
27	10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday school	28	29	30	31		
				2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	6:00 PM Choir Practice		