

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

elyumc.elymn@gmail.com

218-365-3355

www.elyumc.org

Parish News

May 20, 2022

Annual Conference Meeting - 2022

The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is being held in-person in St. Cloud on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 24 and 25.

Jay Tomlinson will be attending as our lay delegate. Prominent legislative items will deal with our Annual Conference's commitment to inclusiveness in all aspects of church life. Also with figuring out an amicable pathway for UM churches in Minnesota who have fundamental disagreements with directions United Methodism is moving to leave the denomination and our Annual Conference.

I (Pastor Craig) traveled to Grand Rapids on Thursday to participate in the 2022 Clergy Session via Zoom with other United Methodist pastors from the Range.

Jay attended the pre-conference session via Zoom as well.

Watch for a follow-up summary of the Annual Conference gathering on Sunday morning sometime in June as well as in Parish News.

A Note from Pastor Craig

Greetings from Pastor Craig! The signs of spring continue to multiply right before our eyes. Marsh marigolds are beginning to blossom in the ditches on either side of the depression on Third Avenue as I approach the parsonage when walking home from church. Dawn arrives around 5:00 a.m. and it's still light at 9:00 p.m. There must be a lot of pollen in the air because I'm sneezing often. A few of our summer residents are returning and canoes are showing up on top of vehicles around town.

Isn't it all so wonderful?! Yes, I know black flies, mosquitos, and wood ticks will arrive along with all that we so enjoy in the summer. And right now precariously high water levels are causing damage to lakeshore property and hardship to some area businesses. So we pray for them, even as we make plans for summer 2022.

I will be traveling out of town for a dozen days beginning Tuesday, May 22nd. My niece is getting married in Louisville, Kentucky over Memorial Day weekend and I will be spending time with my Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania family on either side of the wedding. I haven't been there since August of 2021 and Thanksgiving of 2019 before that, so it will be great to see them on their own turf.

Former Pastor Dana Thompson will lead worship and preach in my absence on May 29th. The choir will also sing.

Pastor Eric Thiele of Grace Lutheran will cover for me from May 24 to May 29 in case of an emergency and Pastor Corey Larson of First Presbyterian from May 30 to June 4th. Please call Jay Tomlinson (218-235-1879) or Sheri Rue (507-456-2499) and they will respond as necessary.

There will be no Parish news for the next two weeks while I'm out of town; the next Parish News will be Thursday, June 9th. We will have communion on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th.

God's blessings to each of you. And my best wishes as you dust off the grill and lawn chairs; also as you plant your gardens and flower boxes.

Pastor Craig

Scripture Readings for Sunday

In the New Testament book of Acts we observe the slow, but steady expansion of the Church from Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the known earth. There are significant obstacles to overcome and difficult moments along the way. The apostles are often in the dark as to what is coming next and puzzled by what occurs.

However, it's not as if the expansion is willy nilly, as if it's all a matter of chance. The Holy Spirit is the major, if somewhat unseen, author of all that happens. As Will Willimon says about Peter and Cornelius in 10th chapter of Acts: "In the story Cornelius (like Peter) is an almost passive actor in a drama being directed at every turn in the plot by someone greater than Cornelius or Peter." (Willimon. Acts. p. 95.)

We see this again in the reading from Acts on Sunday.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+16%03A9-15&version=NRSVUE>

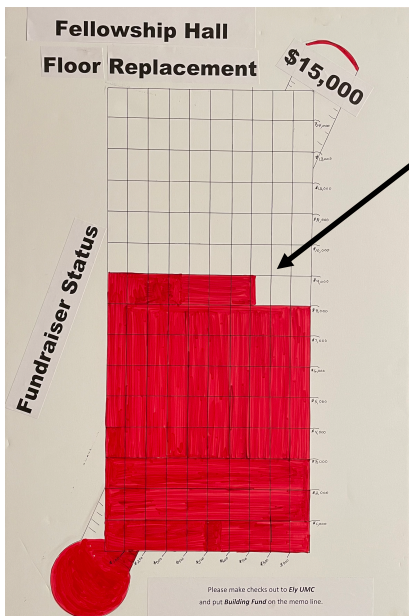
This same Holy Spirit of God doesn't just randomly show up unannounced. This gift that arrived at Pentecost is what Jesus promised his followers shortly before his death. It's recorded in the gospel reading for Sunday from John. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%03A23-29&version=NRSVUE>

Three Miscellaneous Items

Thank you note from Northwoods Partners: Both the church and the UMW recently received thank you notes from Northwoods Partners. The one to the church read: "*On behalf of Northwoods Partners, I would like to thank you for your donation to our organization. Northwoods Partners relies on the generosity of donors such as you and is grateful for your support. Many of your friends and neighbors have benefited from the services we are able to provide, because you donated.*" Sincerely, Shiela Gruba, Board Member

Items on tables in basement: The UMW recently went through closets and shelves in the basement culling out items we no longer use. They are on two tables in the basement for you to look through. Feel free to take anything that strikes your fancy. You may leave a donation if you wish, but it isn't necessary. This will be your last chance before we dispose of them.

Books available: Bob and Lavern Lindholm's family are sorting through items in their home. There are a number of Christian fiction books they would love to pass along to anyone in the church. Many of the books are by Brock and Bodie Thoene. There are also some from the Left Behind series by LeHaye and Jenkins. Stop by the Lindholms before Saturday if you're interested at 119 S. 16th Ave. E. Otherwise they'll try to sell them at a garage sale on Saturday. They might have to haul away what doesn't sell, so the books may not be available after Saturday.



Here are four pictures.

One is the latest update from our Basement Floor Fundraiser. The other three are related to Lauren Olson's upcoming graduation from Memorial High School in Ely. One is an invitation to members of the congregation to attend her open house. There are also a picture of the blanket we gave her as a graduation gift and the the cake from Senior Recognition Sunday.



The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

May 20, 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.

Matthew 21: 22 (NIV)



(Jesus said), "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Peggy Koschak** – Peggy was injured in a fall. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Red** – Nancy Markwardt's brother, Red, has resumed pancreatic cancer chemo treatments. Pray for effective treatments.
- **Ropey** – Marg Olson's brother, Ropey, is not doing well. Pray for healing, comfort and peace.
- **Don & Marj Markwardt** – Both have contracted COVID. Pray for healing, comfort and full recovery.
- **Sylvia Slaughter's & her son, Billy's, family & friends** – Sylvia (82), a former Ely UMC attendee, and her son Billy (59) have passed away recently. Pray for peace and comfort for their family members and friends.
- **Ella Rue** – Prayers for Ella who has a bad case of bronchitis.
- **Patti Niskala** – Patti is having some medical procedures done in Duluth. Pray for good results.
- **Bob & LaVerne Lindholm** – LaVerne is moving to the Ely Carefree Living from Babbitt. Pray that Bob handles her move well and that he can join her in Ely very soon.
- **Tammy's family & friends** – Tammy had another stroke and passed away. Angela Olson's cousin, Tammy, had a massive stroke and is now in rehab. Pray for healing and comfort.
- **Teri** – Carol Laine's daughter, Teri, remains in a nursing home in Grand Rapids for wound care and has an appointment in Minneapolis for a consult on May 4th.
- **Dave & Kris** – Dave's Parkinson's Disease symptoms, Lisa Porthan's father, are getting far worse and Lisa's mother, Kris, is exhausted trying to care for him. She has her own health issues as well. Please keep Dave & Kris in your prayers.
- **The Russia / Ukraine conflict** – Pray for a world-wide lasting resolution, safety of the people, and peace.
- **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.