

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

December 16, 2022

A Note from Pastor Craig

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Christmas Eve: Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:30 on Christmas Eve.

It will be a simple service of Scripture readings, Christmas Carols, choir anthem, short message, and lighting of candles during the singing of Silent Night.

We welcome you to join us on this holy night.

Christmas Day: Christmas Day is on Sunday this year, so we'll have hold our typical Sunday service, complete with Scripture readings and hymns of the Christmas season.

Both services will be live-streamed if you're unable to attend one or both.

Our first major snowstorm of Winter 2022/2023 has come and gone, followed, as storms often are by clearing skies and a cold snap. So it will be a White Christmas at the end of the road in Ely, MN.

We've been making an imaginative and spiritual journey this Advent from Ely, first to the Judean desert to hear John the Baptist exhort us to "Change our life, because God's kingdom is here." Last Sunday we stopped by a fortress prison, east of the Dead Sea, where John is confined. We learned, as did John, that Jesus is indeed the Messiah. Yet, we must risk seeing him as he is rather than as we wish he were.

This week we see an angel of the Lord appear to Joseph in a dream, saying not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife for her child is conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will give birth to a son, who will save His people from their sins. He is Emmanuel, God with us.

It's quite a grand sequence of events, isn't it?! We have seen God enter into human history, our history. This is all by God's initiative and action, something we humans couldn't pull off in a million years, no matter how hard we tried.

As Karl Barth, a towering Swiss theologian from the previous century said: "[In Jesus Christ] two planes intersect, the known and the unknown; the unknown world cutting into the known world. This truth *from God* is new and unprecedented, joyful and good." (From *The Epistle to the Romans*, Karl Barth, copyright 1916. p.28-29. The emphasis is mine and I've done some rephrasing.)

"Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy" the angel proclaims to the shepherds the first Christmas Eve. In a few days, you and I will hear the same words addressed not to the shepherds, but to us!

May the shepherd's joy and astonishment fill your hearts and may peace settle over the whole earth.

Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

December 16, 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.

Mark 11: 24 (NIV)



“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Don Markwardt** – Don fell and is in the hospital, but he is expected to be going home soon. Don is 94 and dealing with boredom being in the hospital.
- **Bob** – Bob, son of Bob and Pat Olson, is having shoulder surgery. Pray for healing and comfort.
- **Niko’s family & friends** – **Update: Niko passed away. Please keep Niko’s family and friends in your prayers.** Niko, 3-day old grandson of Betty Klimek, was flown to Minneapolis with breathing issues.
- **Lisa Porthan’s family** – Lisa’s mother has been diagnosed with cancer and her sister has been diagnosed with Crohn’s disease. Her father continues to struggle with Parkinson’s disease and with the loss of his two sisters within the past 6 months. Pray for Lisa & her family for strength & comfort as they deal with all these issues.
- **Vicki Podominick** – **Update: Vicki’s surgery went well and she is back home doing PT.** Vicki had knee surgery last Friday. Please keep her in your prayers for the procedure and subsequent healing and rehab.
- **Stacy Rowan** – Stacy is a friend of Amy (Richter) McDonald. Stacy lost her two eldest children, Aubrey & Kaden Tuura, in an auto accident. Their little brother, Anthony, is friends with Atticus. Pray for comfort & peace.
- **Reese Scufsa** – Reese was transported to Children’s Hospital in Fargo, ND, for an illness caused by either a virus or genetic condition. He was put on the heart transplant list. They found a heart for him and the transplant surgery took place on Thursday, December 1st. Reese’s grandparents live in Winton and his mother, Denise, is friends with Angie Olson.
- **Toni Dauwalter** – Toni, who works at the hospital, broke her wrist. Pray for healing and patience.
- **Sydney** – Anna Urbas’s roommate, Sydney, tore her ACL in her first season basketball game & needs surgery.
- **Marja Viikinsalo family & friends** – Marja passed away. Pray for comfort and peace for family and friends.
- **Ropey** – Margie Olson’s brother, Ropey, is on hospice care and is in the hospital. Pray for comfort.
- **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.

Person	In Loving Memory of
Bonnie Berglund	Albert and Irene Schorfheider Sevan and Dorus Berglund
Jay and Jeanne Tomlinson	Our Parents and Kathleen Mulkins
Norm and Donna Rusco	Our Parents and Grandson
Butch and Lucy Diesslin	Our Parents and Sister
Bryan and Patty Rusco	Father, Mother, and Sister (John, Bonnie, and Debbie Barich)
Nick and Paula Mattila	Grandson Noah
Steve and Kathy Nelson	Our Parents
Vicki Wagner	Elmer and Inga Knudtson Richard and Laurette Reinhardt
Craig Haberman	My Parents – Dwight and Barbara Haberman
Bob and Pat Olson	David Olson and Cody Olson
Evelyn Wallendar	Husband Ernest and Son Joe
Judith Bonderson	Brother Pete Bernie, Sister Karen, and my Mom
Frank and Nicole Udovich	Father Dale McDougall Mother Mary Ann Udovich
Don Ingerson	Parents Don and Laurene Ingerson
Duane Bieber	Grace Bieber
James Viikinsalo	Mother – Marja Viikinsalo
Vicki Podominick	My Father, Mother, and Nephew
Sheri Rue	Our Parents

December 16, 2022

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Here's two extra notes to add to this week's edition.

First, the church received a Christmas card from Jeri and Wally Walburn this week with the following greeting:

To all of our church family,

We now own our own home and we love it. It's nice to be able to use a snow shovel instead of a three-stage snow blower. Ha Ha

New address: 110 West Highland St

Albion, IN. 46701

Phone: 1-260-239-3131

Second, there will be no *Parish News* Friday, December 23rd or Friday, December, 30th. The next edition will be Friday, January 6th

Meanwhile, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!