

# ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"The Little Church With the Big Heart"*

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**Parish News**

**January 6, 2023**

## Two Miscellaneous Announcements

Tiffany Zemke and Devon Luthens are the new Parish Nurses for our church, replacing Donna Rusco.

Their role is smaller than the shoes Donna and Margie Olson filled in previous years because community organizations have picked up much of what Parish Nurses used to do.

We're not sure what new directions the program may take, but one effort for 2023 is to include a brief health tip each month.

Here is January's tip: Make a healthy New Year's resolution and stick to it (healthier eating, increase exercise.....)

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The Upper Room is a devotional booklet published every two months by the United Methodist Church. It provides a short devotion, Scripture Reading, and prayer suggestion for each day.

We invite you to pick up a copy of the January/February edition at the rear of the church.

## A Note from Pastor Craig

Greetings and a very Happy New Year! Christmas is a joyful time; in church, in our homes, and in the Ely community. For some people, our anticipation begins building in mid-November (or before!), but most of us don't catch the Christmas fever until Thanksgiving has come and gone.

As our anticipation peaks there is Christmas music and lights everywhere. Our homes are filled with scurrying about making final preparations. Then all of a sudden Christmas Eve has come and gone. We regroup the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Then it's time to tuck everything away, straighten up the house, and get back to our routines, because it's those routines that will carry us through the rest of the year, isn't it?

But there's no pause in church, no long winter's nap in worship, education, fellowship, or prayer. There is only a shift in focus, for now we are in the church season of Epiphany, which is an awe-inspiring time. This is when who Jesus, born in a manger, is revealed to be. We see his ministry begin. The Good News, which so far only the shepherds and wise men have been let-in-on is now shared with all the world, beginning with the Jewish people.

The English word "epiphany" is translated from the Greek word *epitaphaneia*, which means manifestation or appearance. In other words, what about God is revealed through his son Jesus, and how is he revealed?

Epiphany begins this Sunday (January 8th) with our commemoration of The Baptism of the Lord and ends with Transfiguration Sunday on February 19th. The Scripture readings during these seven weeks give us a brief, but dazzling tour of just who Jesus is and who he reveals his Heavenly Father to be.

The Scripture readings for this week are from Isaiah 42:1-9 and Matthew 3:13-17. I've listed hyperlinks below to the readings for those receiving this newsletter via email, so you can locate each reading online.

Isaiah 42:1-9 in The Message Translation:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+42%3A1-9&version=MSG>

Mark 3:13-17 in The Revised Standard Version:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+3%3A13-17&version=RSV>

God's peace is with you.

Pastor Craig

## Christmas Cards and Thank You's Received by our Church

We received the following Christmas Cards and Greetings in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

- . Wally and Jeri Wallburn
- . Gary and Dayle Felder
- . Phil Hegfors and Son Construction
- . Linda Gass (Linda included a letter. I've attached it to the online edition and included it with the print edition.)

We also received Thank You notes from the two organizations in town.

- . Young Life: From Emmett Penke, the Young Life staff, and committee, for our financial gift and support.
- . Northwoods Partners: From Lisa Porthan thanking us for the many generous ways we support the work of Northwoods Partners.

## Announcement

### New Grief Support Group is Starting

Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday November 29 at 6:30pm – 8:00pm

**Subsequent meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month 6:30pm – 8:00pm**

*Below the bowling alley*  
This will be a monthly open meeting that is sharing and discussion based. There will be two co-facilitators Linda O'Neill DeRemee, Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital Social Worker and Cheryl Boyes from Sunsets End of Life Doula Services.

Meetings will start with an opening reading and end with a closing. The remainder of the meeting will be sharing or a topic based discussion if there is time after people have shared. Each person will have uninterrupted time to share, with or without feedback per their wish. No one is required to share. There is no fee to be part of this group.

Those who are interested and for further information and location details contact:

**Cheryl at 218-235-8357**

## Thank you from Pastor Craig

Christmas 2022 was my fifth Christmas as your pastor, following the thirty-one Christmases you spent with Pastor Dana. Each year becomes additionally special, as I become a little more familiar with the Ely community, the church, and all of you. My hope and prayer is that together we grow in our love for God, for one another, and for the town of Ely as each new year rolls around. And that we grow in our appreciation and acceptance of ourselves, as Jesus also asks us to.

Thank you for the many ways you support me and the ministry of the church - when I arrived in town, as we unexpectedly entered the pandemic, and now as we emerge into whatever it is that comes next. It truly takes each and every one of us letting our light shine in order for our church to become the "Little Church with the Big Heart."

And a hearty thank you, to the congregation for your Christmas gift of a Zups' and Amazon gift card, and for your other Christmas greetings, cards, and goodies. They brought me Christmas cheer!

## The Ely United Methodist Church

# Prayer Wall

January 6, 2023

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 7: 7-8 (NIV)



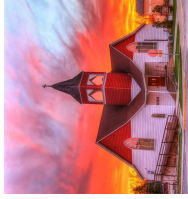
*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be open to you. For everyone who asks receives; all who seek finds; and to all who knock, the door will be opened."*

### We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Mary Taylor – Update: Mary is back home and feeling better.** Mary is recovering in the hospital for a health issue.
- **Don & Marge Markwardt – Update: Don has had a pacemaker inserted and Marge is having back issues.** Don had a cardiac valve procedure done on Tuesday.
- **Sandra's family & friends –** Linda Hane's friend, Caroline Hammond, lost her daughter, Sandra, from a heart attack leaving work. Please pray for comfort and peace for Sandra's family and friends.
- **Laureen –** Kathy & Steve Nelson's son-in-law's (Rob) aunt, Laureen, had cancerous brain tumor surgery.
- **Kevin Laine –** Carol Laine's son, Kevin, is having hip replacement surgery. Pray for healing and comfort.
- **Jeff & Kelly Close –** Sheri Rue's brother, Jeff, struggling with his health. Pray for strength and peace.
- **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.
- **Ropey – Update: Ropey's health is weakening.** Ropey is now in Aurora and in fragile health. 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.*



# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School <i>Holy Communion</i> <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	<b>5</b> 6:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Ely Ministerial Association	<b>11</b> 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	<b>12</b> 9 – 12:00 Range Clergy mtg – Grand Rapids 5:00 PM – Visioning Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	<b>16</b> 7:00 AM Pasties Veggie Prep 1:00 PM Dough Ball Prep	<b>17</b> 7:00 AM Pasties Production & Sales	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM UMW Meeting NO Zoom Bible Study	<b>19</b> 5:00 PM Ad Council Mtg 6:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	<b>26</b> 6:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	<b>30</b> 2:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	<b>31</b>				

Christmas, 2022

Greeting from warmer than normal Florida. Temps should drop a little so when Christmas arrives, we may feel a slight chill in the air. Last year my mom died 5 days before Christmas. I was in Missouri the first part of December visiting her, my brother and his wife, visiting our two older kids, and dear friends. I went on a Christmas Caribbean Cruise with Dane and Jill, Jill's mom, and dear friends so I wasn't home much in December and no Christmas letter got sent out.

Spring was busy as I went to Missouri along with my siblings to bury our mother's ashes next to our father's, in a national cemetery. It was a blustery day, but it was good to be with my siblings and other family. In May our only grandson, Ethan, graduated from high school. His Aunt Debbie and Uncle Donny drove from Missouri to be a part of this celebration. Aunt Jill and Uncle Dane were here also, and it was wonderful to share this accomplishment as a family. Ethan is attending Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton and majoring in mechanical engineering. In August I attended the National Button Show in Madison, Wisconsin. It was good to see friends after several years of cancellations due to covid. In January I will attend the Florida State Button Show in Daytona. In February I plan to celebrate with my great granddaughter, Aspen, as she turns three.

Christmas was always the highlight of the year for Ray, and I miss him so much at this time of year. At the same time, I feel blessed to have been his soulmate for 51 plus years. As I look forward to Christmas, I am reminded of a quote from Carlos A. Rodriguez. "It's an unwed woman who carries God. It's the pagans from the East who recognize God. It's the workers in the field who hear from God." Bishop Ken Carter who has served the Florida Conference for the past 11 years was at our church this month. He thanked our church for being an inclusive church and welcoming all. He then went on to say that at the foot of the cross the ground is level. He meant no one stands higher or above anyone else. All are welcome and equal in God's eyes. May you feel accepted and loved this Christmas. You are important to me, and I wish you a blessed Christmas and New Year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Gass". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page, centered horizontally.

## **ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE – MINUTES December 14, 2022 at the Ely United Methodist Church**

**Call To Order:** Pastor Craig Haberman called the meeting to order at 7 PM and opened with a prayer. He briefly explained to the attending confirmands what the meeting was all about along with a reference to 1 Corinthians 12:1-16 with Paul's analogy to a body to explain all the many parts involved in making a church function successfully.

**Attendees (14):** Duane Bieber, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Don Iverson, Jim & Joan Nicholas (via Zoom), Margie & Mark Olson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson and confirmands Blake Hegfors, Drew Johnson, Wyatt Tedrick and Jayden Zemke

**State of the Church:** Pastor Craig referred us to the 2022 Church Conference handout containing a brief statement about the state of the church from his observations about the past couple of years.

**Budget for 2023:** The Ad Council had reviewed and approved the Finance Committee proposed 2023 Budget of \$109,724 at their November 17, 2022 meeting. Subsequent to that approval, however, we learned that our Minnesota Conference had opted to use some reserve funds to cover some of the Pension costs normally paid by the church, thus reducing our total Ministerial Support costs and making the subsequent proposed 2023 Budget less than the 2022 Budget by more than \$1600. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we approve the 2023 Budget of \$107,851; second by Margie Olson. Motion carried.

**Leadership Nominations for 2023:** The following persons were nominated for the 2023 Administrative Council:

Chairperson: Jay Tomlinson  
Vice Chairperson: Keith Rue  
Recording Secretary: Jeanne Tomlinson  
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Jay Tomlinson

Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference: TBD Lay Leader: Patty Rusco  
Chairperson – Finance and Stewardship: TBD Chairperson – Pastor Parish Relations: Sheri Rue  
Church Treasurer: Mark Olson

Program Chairpersons Worship: Linda Hane

Nurture and Membership Care: Bonnie Berglund  
Education: Chris Urbas  
President UMW: Margie Olson  
Parish Nurse/Care Persons: Tiffany Zemke & Devon Luthens Visioning: Rich Floyd

Outreach: Jay Tomlinson Memorial: Carol Linneman

Pastor Craig pointed out the new people in the Trustees and Pastor Parish Relations committees. There were no additional nominations. Linda Hane moved that we approve all the submitted nominations; second by Margie Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Membership Report:** Pastor Craig reviewed the Membership Report with us. We had 2 baptisms, no new members, and 4 recorded deaths. Our current Full Membership total is 198.

There was no other business required.

Motion to adjourn by Jay Tomlinson. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at Ely United Methodist Church**

**Call To Order:** Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:23 PM.

**Attendees (14):** Duane Bieber, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Don Iverson, Jim & Joan Nicholas (via Zoom), Margie & Mark Olson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson and confirmands Blake Hegfors, Drew Johnson, Wyatt Tedrick and Jayden Zemke

**Opening:** Pastor Craig commented that we have four Gospels which tell us about Jesus from 4 different perspectives. He then opened the meeting with prayer.

**Minutes:** The November 17, 2022 Ad Council minutes were approved as distributed in the *Parish News*. Motion Linda Hane; second by Mark Olson.

**Treasurer's Report:** The November 2022 report will be presented with the December 2022 report at our January 19 meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Worship:** Linda Hane reported that we make some changes every year to our Christmas decorations and music but it's always nice. She also stated that we're resuming having families lighting the Advent Candles and she pointed out that we have Liturgists signed up through January already.
2. **Visioning:** Jay Tomlinson reported on the current initiative of reaching out to people as they are added to our Prayer Wall with short written notes. Judy Bonderson, Heidi Hansen, and Evelyn Wallander will be working with Jay and Jeanne to make that happen.
3. **Parish Care:** Jay has received 12 months of 'health tip' from Tiffany Zemke for inclusion in the coming year's *Parish News*.
4. **UMW:** The UMW had 21 attendees at their December 7 Christmas Luncheon at the GEL. Those attending enjoyed the fellowship and the short program.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Church Directory Project:** Jay Tomlinson spoke with Nick Wognum and he has agreed to print

our directory at a discount. Nick will also contact some local photographers to see if they would be interested in taking family portraits that can be used in the directory. Jay will also be able to take pictures and he will take care of laying out the directory with the *In Design* software that the Ely Echo uses.

2. **Request for Church use for open men's group:** This was tabled until next month.

**NEW BUSINESS** - none

### **Items of Information**

1. **Next Ad Council meeting:** Thursday, January 19, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

The **UMW** at Ely United Methodist Church Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10-11:30 AM

President Margie Olson opened the meeting at 10 AM with a unison reading of the UMW. We had 11 UMW members attending: Lucy Diesslin, Marge Forsberg, Linda Hane, Gail Haney, Sharon Luthens, Paula Mattila, , Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Patty Rusco, Pam Turnbull and Jeanne Tomlinson.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October 19 meeting were read. Motion to approve by Lucy Diesslin; second by Linda Hane. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sharon Luthens reported that she had paid the \$100 to Northwoods Partners, \$320 for October cleaning, And \$141.66 reimbursement to Jay Tomlinson for pasty "doggie bags". She'll be making the annual \$600+ payment to the North Star District for our UMW membership. Checking balance is currently \$4,549.65 and savings has \$11,622.91. Marge Forsberg and Gail Haney moved we accept the Treasurer's report; second by Pam Turnbull. Motion passed.

### **Old Business**

- **Supplies Organization:** Jeanne reported that she won't be convening a Supplies Committee meeting until sometime in January and will be taking care of checking supplies and replenishing needed items until then.



- **Pasties:** Jeanne reported we made 809 pasties and brought in over \$6600 for our November 15 sales. We had good crews for prep and production but could still use more people for the cleanup. We'll try to make a point of mentioning it for our next pasty-making. Marge mentioned that we should probably get new mops since the current ones never rinse out clean. She'll look into it. Our next pasties will January 16 & 17.

### **New Business**

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry Funds:** Jeanne reported that she's been handling donations and expense

reimbursements for the Prayer Shawl ministry with a cash account that had been started about 15 years previously. She recommended that UMW take on this ministry so that it is no longer cash transactions. Pam Turnbull moved that we do this; second by Donna Rusco. Motion passed. Jeanne will deposit the remaining funds into the UMW account and turn over the records to Sharon Luthens. Donna Rusco talked briefly about recent and planned distributions of the current shawls. Gail Haney has been tracking who receives them. Donna mentioned that there aren't very many knitters anymore. Paula Mattila suggested that perhaps it could evolve into a "lap quilt" ministry.

- **Christmas Luncheon:** We talked about when we should have our Christmas Luncheon and decided to try for Wednesday, December 7. Jeanne will check with the GEL to see if that's possible. As we did last year, we'll do an "order off the menu" arrangement and ask for round tables to be set up.
- **Northwoods Partners Appreciation Reception:** Our UMW chapter received an invitation to the reception being held at the GEL on November 30 from 6:30-8 PM. Anyone who is interested in attending needs to RSVP to Northwoods Partners (218-365-8019). Lucy reported that Northwoods Partners is short on decorated wreaths for the *Festival of Trees*. If anyone is willing to do one, they should call Northwoods Partners directly.

- **Adding lighting to the west side of the building:** Paula Mattila asked if it was possible to add night-time lighting to the west side of the church since that area is very dark now for those who park on 3rd street for evening church activities, such as choir. Margie said it's not a simple fix since they'll need to bring in an electrician to handle it. She'll bring it up with the Trustees when they meet in April.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Luncheon, hopefully on December 7, 2022.

We adjourned the business meeting at 10:45 AM. Jeanne & Lucy departed to attend a funeral.

The group continued with devotional time, reading Chapter 2 of *Rich in the Things That Count the Most*. This chapter was about being "Rich in the Soul" and the signs of a healthy spirit and church in good Connectedness, Communication and Caring.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Tomlinson Secretary