

# ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"The Little Church With the Big Heart"*

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## Parish News

January 20, 2023

### Getting to Know Our New Bishop

Reverend Lanette Plambech, our new bishop, arrived in Minnesota January 1st. She will live in the Episcopal Residence in Eden Prairie, MN, but will also serve as the bishop for the Dakota's Annual Conference.

When I was visiting with one of our District Superintendents the other day for another reason, he mentioned he has high hopes for what she will bring to our Annual Conference.

You can find a brief written biography of Bishop Plambech here. <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/meet-the-bishop>

She introduces herself in a ten minute, nineteen second video, immediately below the written biography on the same page.

We will have the opportunity to meet her in person at the Copper-top Church in Duluth. I believe the date/time is Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 2:00.

Jay has added her bio and video to our website ([elyumc.org](http://elyumc.org)) under the "links" tab.

## A Note from Pastor Craig

Many Christian denominations do not have bishops at all. Other denominations, like the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches, have bishops who wear elaborate vestments and exercise considerable authority and power.

The Greek work *episcopas* appears in the New Testament and in some versions of the Bible is translated in English as "bishop." In this context it refers to individuals who exercise leadership over one or more congregations. But the episcopal office (i.e. bishops) doesn't emerge as we recognize it today until the 2nd or 3rd century as the church grew in numbers and spread geographically.

Fast-forward some 1500 years: Although one branch of what is now the United Methodist Church here in the United States, the Evangelical Association, did not theologically believe in bishops, they have been part of the Methodist Church from the very beginning. Ordained by John Wesley, Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke were our first two bishops. Their last two names put together form the word "Cokesbury," which is the name of our Publishing House.

Bishops are clergy, nominated as candidates by the Annual Conference they belong to. They are then elected by delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference; a regional gathering of a dozen or so Annual Conferences and serve for life. Jurisdictional Conference delegates have previously been elected by these Annual Conferences and are composed of half laypersons and half clergy.

But just what do United Methodist bishops do? While it's a generalization, I suppose we could say bishops are a blend of the "spiritual leader" of an Annual Conference and its "chief executive," minus some of the power.

In some ways the United Methodist Church is remarkably similar to the United States government. We have three branches - the General Conference (which meets every four years) is our legislative branch, the Judicial Council is our supreme court, and the Bishops are our executive branch (minus some of the power).

Bishops exercise spiritual leadership in an Annual Conference. They ordain pastors that the Board of Ordained Ministry previously approved and brought to the rest of the clergy for a vote, they provide oversight when there are allegations of misconduct (clergy and otherwise), they lead the Annual Conference sessions, and they appoint clergy, with the assistance of the District Superintendents.

In other words, they are very, very busy people. Bishops are an essential part of our Annual Conference. Would you join me in welcoming Bishop Plambech and in praying for her?

Pastor Craig

## **“Bitter and Sweet” Women’s Study Begins**

Join the women of our church for “A Journey into Easter” Bible Study, by Tsh Oxenreider. The study will kick-off with a light lunch following worship on Sunday, February 19th. You will receive your book at that time, in advance of Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) when the daily readings begin.

The first class meeting for discussion is on Tuesday, February 28th from 6:15 - 8:00. Meetings will follow on Tuesdays, March 7th and 14th; Wednesday, March 22nd; Tuesday, March 28th; Tuesdays, April 4th and 11th. Easter Sunday is April 9th.

You may also attend via Zoom if you can’t be there in person.

Sign up at church between January 15th and January 29th. We will order books for anyone who doesn’t have one. The books are provided thanks to an educational memorial given in Tootsie Loe’s name.

Call Patty Rusco, Margie Olson, Sheri Rue, or Pam Turnbull if you can’t attend the kick-off on Sunday, February 29th and will make sure you get a book.

We hope to see all the women at our church for this inspirational study.

## **Pasty Update**

Our January pasty-making was a huge success and hard work too. The challenge was we were short-handed both Monday and Tuesday. A number of people were out of town and others weren’t feeling well.

Our team-spirit and camaraderie were high as usual. A few people were creative, moving from station to station as necessary. Both days featured warm conversations and lots of laughter along with the weariness and sore muscles. We did have some “new” workers as well.

We have three more pasty-making sessions on the calendar for 2023 - February 20/21, March 20/21, and April 17/18. All sessions are Monday and Tuesday. We do veggie prep Monday morning at 7:00 and making dough balls at 1:00. Pasty-making begins Tuesday morning at 7:00 and we typically put the last batch in the oven sometime on or around 2:00.

Put these dates on your calendars, even if you’re only able to come for parts of one or both days. We can use a few more workers for final clean-up around 2:00 on Tuesday. Everyone has something to offer. Invite friends to come as well; a number of non-Methodists make pasties and have a great time.

## The Ely United Methodist Church

# Prayer Wall

January 20, 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.

### John 5: 17 (NIV)



*(Jesus said), "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."*

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

- **Logan Monk – Update: Sadly, Logan passed away from his injuries. Pray for peace and comfort for his family & friends.** Anna Urbas's friend, Jordan Huntbatch, asked for prayers for her cousin, Logan, who is 17 and was in a head on car accident with a school bus. He has very bad head trauma with multiple broken bones and doctors aren't sure he will make it. Pray for a miracle.
- **Jim & Kellie Viikansalo –** Jim just lost his sister-in-law unexpectedly. Kellie has COVID and Jim is also down with a cold.
- **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 is back home and recovering. Marge has back fracture(s) and has great pain. Pray for their quick healing and recovery.** Don has had a pacemaker inserted and Marge is having back issues.
- **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.
- **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.*