

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

elyumc.elymn@gmail.com

218-365-3355

www.elyumc.org

Parish News

February 3, 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.

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. The date/time is Saturday, February 25, 2023 from 2:00 to 4:00.

Register to either attend in-person or to live-stream at the following link. <https://mnumc-reg.brtaapp.com/BishopsGatherings>

Questions? Talk to Jay Tomlinson or Pastor Craig.

A Note from Pastor Craig

Hello, again, on a Friday morning; the first Friday of February. Yes, the days are longer, and yes the sun is higher in the sky, but it also seems as though the last week in January and first week in February are the most bitter-cold of the winter for us in Ely. This year is no exception! But, time is on our side in this matter, as someone mentioned to me this week!

This week, once again I saw a blog announcing the demise of the church, this time for a pretty solid source. Here's the link.

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/thirdwaychristians/2023/01/7-predictions-for-the-north-american-church/>

I was put off initially as I began to read the short blog post, because it begins with the following two pronouncements: First, *The ongoing decline of Christendom will not reverse*, and Second; *The various wings of the church will divide further apart*. Those are two upbeat headlines to start the day off, while drinking your coffee, aren't they?

But when I continued reading down to the final three items on their list of seven, my heartbeat quickened and my heart was warmed!

Why? Because I see all three signs of thriving churches they list being visibly present in our church.

They are: First, *The Church will become much more comfortable with mystery*. Second, *The thriving churches will be the ones where love prevails*. Third, *The thriving churches will be the ones actively seeking true communion with God*.

Now, this isn't the last, best, and only answer to what's happening with churches today, whether our church or any other. (More about this next week.) But, what it does mention, even with qualifications, points to several essential markers of the Church today, and across the centuries.

I invite you to read the article with your morning coffee if you have a few moments or after your children are in bed. It's worth pondering.

And I invite you to bring with you to our church, your hunger for God, your desire to be part of a loving church family, and your curiosity to allow yourself to be embraced by the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh in our midst.

Pastor Craig

Coffee Fellowship Invitation

Coffee fellowship following our Sunday morning worship services has gone through a number of starts, stops, and changes across the years. The Covid-19 wave during 2020 and 2021 brought with it the most recent halt, but even before this, there were ebbs and flows to its rhythm.

There seem to be two constants, however: First, about two-thirds of Sunday morning worshippers truly enjoy staying for Coffee Fellowship. It's an opportunity to get to know one another and to visit. Second, what generally happens is a limited number of individuals sign up to serve, which over time wears them out and Coffee Fellowship falters and ends.

The Worship Committee offers each of you the following twofold encouragement.

First, we encourage all interested worship attendees to stay following worship for Coffee Fellowship. Not everyone is interested, of course, and for a number of reasons.

Second, we encourage those who are interested in staying for Coffee Fellowship to take a turn serving, by signing up on the sign-up sheet, which is posted on the bulletin board at the rear of the church.

Serving Coffee Fellowship can be as simple as making coffee. In addition, you may choose to serve cookies, bars, or donuts purchased from a store. Or bring in some baked goods from home, if you're feeling ambitious, have a little extra time, and have talents in the kitchen. It's as simple as that. The church has the coffee pot, cups, serving utensils, and the coffee.

If you have questions about how to serve coffee, where to find what's necessary to make coffee, or if you would like assistance, please talk to Linda Hane.

Small Get-Togethers Inquiry from the Visioning Committee

Over the past 3 years, we suffered a decline in our social activities due to the COVID pandemic. Now, as we look hopefully to an easing of the menace, we also look forward to restoring the fellowship we have been missing. Getting together in small groups will help accomplish that.

The approach would be to have a person or family host a lunch or dinner for another person or family, especially one not well known. After a few iterations, familiarity between congregants will grow, relationships will be reinvigorated, and our congregation will become closer.

Before devoting effort to this venture, the Visioning Committee wants to know if there is sufficient interest. We are not looking for a hard commitment, just an indication of whether or not to pursue the idea. Would you be interested in hosting a lunch or dinner? If not hosting, would you be interested in participating as a guest? Please send responses to Rich Floyd at eglnstg@frontier.com or 218-235-4196.

A response before our next meeting, on Thursday, February 9, would be appreciated.

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

February 3, 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.

Psalm 19: 14 (NIV)



"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Kris Wittenbe4rg** – Lisa Porthan's mother, Kris, had successful breast cancer surgery this week. Pray for her healing and for Lisa's dad who still needs your prayers as he struggles with Parkinson's.
- **Jason King** – Jason, Lucy Diesslin's cousin who had suffered a brain aneurysm, has finally been released from the hospital after 150 days. He'll be continuing his rehab from home. Pray for his continued recovery.
- **Linda Williams family & friends** – **Update: Linda passed away on Monday, January 30th.** Linda has been at the Boundary Waters Care Center for the last few years & she has weakened significantly in the last few weeks.
- **Delores Hujanen** – Delores fell attending her husband's funeral breaking her ankle requiring surgery to implant a steel plate and pins to help with her healing.
- **Pastor Jim Johnson** – Pastor Jim Johnson of the Motley United Methodist Church is suffering from vertigo.
- **Cindy Hagen (Coombes) family & Friends** – Cindy passed away unexpectedly. She was Mark Olson's classmate.
- **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.
- **Don & Marge Markwardt** – **Update: Don is back home and is 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.
- **Laureen Shypulsky's family and friends**– **Update: Laureen has passed away.** Kathy & Steve Nelson's son-in-law's (Rob) aunt, Laureen, had cancerous brain tumor surgery.
- **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.