

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

February 24, 2023

A Note from Pastor Craig

Pastor Craig on Personal Retreat at St. John's Abbey in Colleeville, MN

Lent is a time of reflection; for followers of Jesus to examine our lives in light of Jesus' call to follow him in the way that leads to everlasting life, in this world and in the world to come.

This is why there was a moment of "Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline" during our Ash Wednesday Service.

Traditionally pastors go on a short retreat at the beginning of Lent; during which we spend time in silence, Scripture, and prayer.

I will leave following worship Sunday, February 26 and return early afternoon Wednesday, March 1.

I will stay in the Abbey guesthouse, join prayers with the monks each morning and evening, read Scripture, and sit in silence.

Living in Minnesota teaches us to pay close attention to the weather. In parts of California, the sun shines most of the year, the temperatures are warm, and don't vary much from day to day. In England, you'll want to bring your umbrella because it often is overcast with precipitation.

Here in Ely I never know from day to day what footwear or jacket to wear, or whether I need to put on "long undies" or not. And of course, one doesn't dare drive anywhere in The Gopher State between October and May without first checking the weather forecast and road report. I'm glad I wasn't traveling to the central or southern part of the state this week, because they got creamed by the blizzard.

I pay nearly the same amount of attention to the seasons of the church year as to the seasons of winter, spring, summer, and fall. Part of this is because I'm a pastor and am always planning worship services and crafting sermons, but I expect to do so as long as I live as well.

This Sunday is the first Sunday in Lent. Lent and Advent, are the two most recognizable seasons in the church year. I'm sure part of the reason is we associate both with other events that loom large in our imagination: Advent with all the pageantry and family/community events surrounding Christmas and Lent with Easter and the coming of spring.

But they also capture two primary aspects of our faith - the coming of God into the world in human form in the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Advent and Lent are the two pillars upon which Christianity rests.

Advent is my favorite church season, far and away, *when we're in it*. The nobility of Mary and Joseph's quiet obedience, the loveliness of Jesus' birth in a manger, the joy of shepherds and wise men traveling to see Jesus.

But then, you guessed it, Lent, too, is my favorite church season, far and away, *when we're in it*. The heartache of Jesus' suffering and death, the pathos of the disciples' abandoning Jesus, the decisive finality of God's victory over sin, evil, and death, and the jubilant joy of his resurrection.

We "need" both seasons, but we're now entering Lent, so I invite you to embrace it with all your heart and awareness.

Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

February 24, 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 23: 1 (NIV)



"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Ruthie Ryberg** – Sheila Shultz's childhood friend, Ruthie, has been transported to Duluth with COVID. Pray for a complete and quick recovery.
- **Forest** – Linda Hane's brother, Forest, is having double hernia surgery. Pray for a quick recovery.
- **Bob and Vicki Beech family and friends** – Bob passed away this past February 10th.
- **Don Ingerson** – Don has been diagnosed with bladder cancer. Pray for a successful surgery on March 9th.
- **Cole Martin** – Paula and Nick Mattila's grandson, Cole ho is a college student, is having migraines. He was diagnosed with arterial stenoses (narrowing of the arteries) and is receiving high blood pressure treatments.
- **Zeke Urbas** – **Update: Zeke's scans were clear.** Zeke is having cancer scans and will see a urologist.
- **Steve Piragis** – Steve had a stroke while in Costa Rica. He is expected to make a full recovery.
- **Red Nied's family & Friends** – Nancy Markwardt's brother, Red, succumbed this past week after a long battle with prostate cancer.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Thursday, February 16, 2023 at Ely United Methodist Church

Call To Order: Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

Attendees (6): Craig Haberman, Don Ingerson, Margie & Mark Olson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

Opening: Pastor Craig talked about how there are numerous varieties of pasties but they are all pasties; and similarly there are many varieties of Christianity, often reflecting cultural differences. He then opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes: The January 19, 2023 Ad Council minutes were approved as distributed in the *Parish News*. Motion by Margie Olson, second by Mark Olson.

Treasurer's Report: The January 2023 Treasurer's report was presented by Mark Olson. It was pointed out that the November pasty sales money had been transferred to the Building Fund as discussed at our January meeting but that the same thing has happened with the January pasty sales. That money has also been transferred to the Building Fund and that will be documented in the February report next month. Jeanne has discussed this with the Financial Secretaries and hopefully this has been resolved. Current balances are \$49,845.79 in the General Fund, \$10,011.17 in the Building Fund and \$11,436.32 in the Memorial Fund. The report was accepted. Motion by Jeanne Tomlinson; second by Margie Olson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that

- The parsonage hot water heater has now been replaced.
- Brian Rusco & Pastor Craig are working on the Fellowship Hall ceiling tile replacement

project.

- We need a shoveler for March. Mark & Margie will be gone for a couple weeks in

March. We suggested perhaps a specific plea in the *Parish News* might help.

2. **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Pastor Craig reported that they have will next meet after Easter. They are working on an updated Church Profile for the new bishop.

3. **Worship:** Pastor Craig reported the committee met on January 30 and

- Set the following dates & times: Ash Wednesday Service Feb 22 at 7 PM; Holy Week Service April 6 at 7 PM; Confirmation May 7 during worship; Advent decorating on November 26. Advent begins on Dec 3 this year so on Sunday, December 24, we will have our regular worship at 10 AM and the Christmas Eve service at 5:30 PM.

- 60 palm branches have been ordered for Palm Sunday.
- Special Palm Sunday and Easter bulletins have been ordered.
- New tapers for our altar oil candles have been ordered because of problems with our

current ones.

- We'll soon be receiving enough *Faith We Sing* books from Crane Lake Chapel so that

when there is a hymn from that book scheduled to be sung during worship we'll pass

those books out instead of having to include a photocopy of the hymn in the bulletin. ○ The Feb 10 *Parish News* included a note encouraging people to sign up for Coffee Fellowship

and Pastor Craig noted some new sign-ups on Sunday.

4. **Outreach:** Jay Tomlinson reported that our church had provided meals for the local college travelling basketball team on February 11 and that Jeanne had helped prepare a brunch for those students on February 4 at St Mary's Episcopal Church.
5. **Visioning:** Rich Floyd had sent a report as follows:

○ The initiative of sending cards to people on the Prayer List is up and running. As of last

Thursday, 14 cards had been sent. We've spent about \$93 of the \$300 allocated for this purpose, and our current supplies should get us through at least most of the summer months. The number of cards sent is just above the monthly calculated average from last year.

○ We had insufficient response for organizing small group dinner gatherings of 4 to 6 people, but the response time was severely limited, as was the advertising. We will try again in a few weeks, leaving more time to respond and promoting it more widely.

○ Planning for the small group study using the *Journey with the Messiah* images continued. There are a number of tools that might be available, most notably an on-line *Guide Book*. We may also incorporate the background of the author, Michael Belk, and of others who extraordinarily demonstrate Christian values. We are tentatively planning on having the study in the September-October time frame.

○ Finally, we discussed resuming regularly-scheduled potlucks at the church. We decided to try two annually-scheduled events: one on Palm Sunday (April 2) and one on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving (November 9).

6. **Memorial Fund Task Force:** Margie Olson reported that the *Bitter & Sweet* books for the coming *Journey to Easter* Bible Study were paid for with designated memorial funds.
7. **UMW:** Margie Olson reported that the UMW voted to donate \$1,000 to the Boundary Waters Care Center, our local non-profit nursing home which is having financial difficulties and has asked the public for help keep it open. She also reported that the Celebration of Life for Linda Williams on February 4 went well. We had a number of people joining the service on-line and the luncheon afterwards went smoothly.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Church Directory Project:** Nick Wognum contacted Eric Sherman, a local photographer, and

Eric has agreed to take pictures for our directory. The Ely Echo will print it. Jeanne has a committee ready to start making phone calls to get the directory information updated but is waiting for a schedule to be set up for pictures so the information collected can be as up to date as possible.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. **Meals for Veterans on the Lake for Saturday, March 25:** Pastor Craig had been contacted by Jeanette Marie Cox to see if any church members would be willing to coordinate serving meals to veterans participating in a mural project called “Story Portage” at the resort. Anne Humphrey, an artist, is being brought in to coordinate the creation of the mural with the veterans. It was felt we needed more information on the logistics before we can commit to anything.
2. **Order church envelopes:** Pastor Craig mentioned that he’s down to just a couple weeks’ worth of church envelopes. We agreed that we should order 3 more boxes from the Echo. Mark will take care of it.

3. **Church computer accounts & log-ins:** Pastor Craig had compiled a list of the various computer accounts that have been created for the church that he is currently using along with the names of who knows the password for each. We each received a copy of the list.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We received a thank you note from Young Life for our donation.
2. We also received a notice from Boundary Waters Bank which will become a Highland Bank.

The note assures us that the transition should not have any notable affect on our current accounts.

Items of Information

1. **Opportunity to meet our new bishop:** Bishop Lanette Plambeck will be at the Copper Top UMC in Duluth on Saturday, February 25th at 2:00 PM. Pastor Craig, Jay and Jeanne are planning to attend. We could arrange a car pool if others are interested in attending.
2. **Next Ad Council meeting:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 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, February 15, 2023 10-11:30 AM

President Margie Olson opened the meeting at 10:15 AM with a unison reading of the UMW pledge. Seven UMW members were present: Lucy Diesslin, Linda Hane, Sharon Luthens, Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Patty Rusco and Jeanne Tomlinson.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 18, 2023 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Linda Hane; second by Lucy Diesslin.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Luthens reported that she had paid \$320 for January church cleaning, and an expense of from Linda Williams' funeral luncheon. Checking balance is \$5,226.55; savings balance is still \$11,628.88. Additional funeral and pasty expenses are pending receipt of the bills from Zups. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted. Motion by Patty Rusco; second by Lucy Diesslin.

Old Business

- **Bible Study:** Margie iterated information about the coming Bible Study called "Journey into Easter" based on a book titled *Bitter & Sweet*. Kick off is this coming Sunday, February 19 with a light lunch. The subsequent weekly study will be on Tuesdays at 6:15-8 PM starting with February 28, with one exception on Wednesday March 22.
- **Pasties:** Coming pasties will be on the February 20 & 21 and March 20 & 21.
- **Church Directory Calls:** Jeanne reported Eric Sherman will be doing our directory photos. Jay Tomlinson will work out details and a schedule with Eric and Nick Wognum. We'll start making calls once that schedule is determined.
- **Church Camp Scholarships:** Margie clarified that the \$1300 in donations mentioned in the January UMW meeting were actually donations to be used for Education. When Pastor Craig had discussed possible uses for the funds with Chris Urbas, she had suggested possibly using some of the money to help kids go to summer church camp. We're still awaiting more information about camp costs and possible attendees before discussing this further.

New Business

- **Northwoods Partners Thankyou:** Margie read a thank you note from Northwoods Partners for our donation to the 2022 Festival of Trees.
- **Reimbursements for Bible Study Kick-off Luncheon:** There had been a suggestion to reimburse costs for the coming February 19 luncheon. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we reimburse the luncheon expenses; second by Patty Rusco. Motion passed.

- **Celebration of Life for Linda Williams:** Margie reported that we had about 60 people attend the luncheon after the funeral on February 4. Three committee members made sandwiches, five people served and Mark Olson & Jer Niskala were in the kitchen to run the dishwasher. As usual, additional church members stayed to help with the cleanup. All agreed the event ran smoothly.
- **Boundary Waters Care Center Donation:** In view of the financial issues currently being faced by our local nursing home, many churches are giving donations. Lucy Diesslin moved that the UMW donate \$1,000; second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed.
- **Supplies:** Jeanne reported that she had completed a rework of the Supplies Inventory List to accommodate all the changes made after the installation of the new flooring. She'd like to have

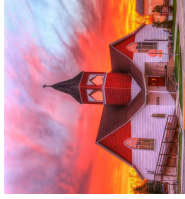
the Supplies Committee (Jeanne Tomlinson, Linda Hane, Vicki Podominick, Crystal Nickerson and Patty Rusco) meet to work out a process for regular inventory checking. We tentatively set a meeting date for Friday, March 17; exact time to be arranged later.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 10 AM. We adjourned the business meeting at 10:42 AM.

For our devotional time, Patty Rusco read Chapter 4 of *Rich in the Things That Count the Most*. This chapter was about being "Rich in the Power of Life-Changing Words" and how our words need to always be acceptable to God because they can change people physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Thank you, Margie and Linda, for providing goodies and preparing coffee.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Tomlinson Secretary



March 2023

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

			1 Pastor Craig returns from retreat 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	2 6:00 PM Choir Practice	3	4
5 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School Holy Communion	6	7 Pastor Craig at Range Clergy Cluster 6:15 – 8:00 PM Women's Bible Study A Journey Into Easter	8 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	9 5:00 PM – Visioning Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Choir Practice	10	11
12 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	13 March 13	14 9:00 AM Ely Ministerial Association 6:15 – 8:00 PM Women's Bible Study A Journey Into Easter	15 10:00 AM UMW Meeting	16 5:00 PM Ad Council Mtg 6:00 PM Choir Practice	17	18
19 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	20 7:00 AM Pasties Veggie Prep 1:00 PM Dough Ball Prep	21 7:00 AM Pasties Production & Sales	22 6:15 – 8:00 PM Women's Bible Study A Journey Into Easter	23 Pastor Craig at Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds: Clergy & Bishop Day 6:00 PM Choir Practice	24	25
26 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	27	28 6:15 – 8:00 PM Women's Bible Study A Journey Into Easter	29	30 6:00 PM Choir Practice	31	

March 13 – March 18 • Pastor Craig will be on vacation with family in Sioux Falls, SD