

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

elyumc.elymn@gmail.com

218-365-3355

www.elyumc.org

Parish News

October 20, 2023

All Saints Sunday on November 5th with two other noteworthy events

The first Sunday in November each year, designated All Saints Sunday, commemorates and gives thanks for men and women across the centuries who have dedicated their lives to the cause of Christ, often at great sacrifice to themselves.

Those attending the worship service will be invited to write the names of loved ones who have died in the last year on small sheets of paper. Their names will be read during The Great Thanksgiving, which is part of our Communion liturgy.

We will also dedicate memorials given to our church in the past year and recognize 60/50/40 year members of our congregation.

District Superintendent Laurie Kantonen will be present for our worship service and deliver the sermon.

Coffee and cake will be served following the service.

A Note from Pastor Craig

Both men and women emerge, jumping off the pages of the Old and New Testament as leaders of God's people. Their names are familiar to us: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Miriam, Aaron, Samuel, King David, the major and minor prophets, Mary and Joseph, the twelve disciples, sisters Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene, the Apostle Paul. The list goes on and on.

Of course, the necessity for this type of leadership has continued down through the centuries even to this day - lay and clergy functioning together as leaders inside the church and beyond our doors.

Spiritual leadership includes leadership both in the generic and spiritual respect. We're familiar with the former kind of leadership in our communities, our schools, health care systems, business community, political systems, and on the world stage. Can you imagine our world right now without strong, wise, and courageous leaders willing to work with others of differing understandings of the conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East? But working together on behalf of the nation of Israel and the Palestinian and Ukrainian people?

But the need for leadership continues during "normal times," for it is during relative calm that society, communities, and political units are fashioned; when the building blocks are laid down to create communities and nations that flourish.

As I approach retirement and reflect on nearly 42 years of ministry, I recognize the spiritual side of being a pastor comes far more easily to me than does the leadership side; this is where my gifts and inclinations lie. I'm also aware I step back too often from being more active with the leadership dimension that goes with being a pastor.

What has made being a pastor so memorable and even beautiful is how members of the churches I've served have joined with me in such a manner that our gifts, inclinations, and energy interlock and work together for the benefit of our congregation and the Kingdom of God.

With fondness and much gratitude, Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

October 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.

Psalm 17: 6 (NIV)



"I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Wes Weisinger** – Vicki Wagner asked to have her nephew, Wes, back on the Prayer Wall as he has been placed on hospice. He has been struggling with liver cancer and surgery.
- **Sheila Shultz's family and friends** – Sheila has died unexpectedly. Please pray for her family, friends and our church family in this sudden loss.
- **Bill & Linda Hane's family and friends** – **Update: Bill has now lost yet another sister – Patty. This is the third sibling Bill has lost in the past three weeks and the fourth recently.** Bill lost two siblings within 24 hours. His older sister, Wanda, and his younger brother, Dicky. Both passed away under different circumstances. Pray for Bill's family.
- **Bonnie Berglund** – Bonnie has fallen and broke a vertebra in her back. She has been transported to Duluth. Please keep her in your prayers for healing and full recovery.
- **Deanie Kuehl** – **Update: Deanie had her surgery and is now home and has to be extremely careful. Pray for her full recovery.** Deanie is having cornea and cataract surgery done in Duluth this week.
- **Bill Hane** – Bill is having cataract surgery. Pray for healing and recovery.
- **Violet Udovich** – Violet is having surgery on her leg. Pray for healing and full recovery.
- **Vicki Podomonick** – **Update: Vicki is back home and waiting for the results of her medical tests.** Please pray for Vicki who is in the hospital in Duluth having tests done for unspecified health issues.
- **Sheryl Spencer** – **Update: Sheryl is on the road to recovery and should regain most of her eyesight following surgery. She & her husband, Dave, thank our church for their prayers.** Pastor Craig asked for prayers for Sheryl Spencer whose eyesight has greatly diminished. She had eyesight surgery recently.
- **Laurie Vaurent** – Kellie Viikansalo asked for prayers for her friend, Laurie Vaurent, who is dealing with kidney issues and may need a transplant.
- **Loren Barnes** – **Latest Update: Loren has been moved to a care center for rehab and treatment evaluation.** Loren has been diagnosed with cancer. His femur broke at the ball joint. Lucy Diesslin asked for prayers for her brother, Loren Barnes, who is being treated for blood flow issues to his leg.
- **The Russia / Ukraine conflict • Political Unrest in Africa • The People of Israel & Those Involved in the Current Conflict** – Pray for a world-wide lasting resolution, safety of the people, and peace.

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.