

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

November 17, 2023

Setting Up Christmas Decorations and Giving Tree

The lovely Christmas decorations in our sanctuary reflect the warmth and beauty, which come into the world in such a focused way with the birth of the Christ child. As one Christmas Carol reminds us: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

We will join together in putting up these decorations on Sunday, November 26th following the worship service.

We invite you to be part of this festive time. A light lunch will be served in our church basement immediately following. Chili and cornbread will be provided. You may fill in by bringing desserts and other sides.

We're participating in the Ely Community Resource giving tree once again this year. You may select one of the tags on the tree that identify what type of gift you are to give. Wrapped gifts should be at the church by Friday, December 10th.

A Note from Pastor Craig

Nature goes to sleep this time of year in the North Country, but our hearts and minds are quickened in faith as one church year draws to a close and new year begins. This is a wonderful contrast that causes my spirit to leap with anticipation and joy each year in November.

It is indeed a reality that most birds have migrated south, bears and other mammals have dened up for the winter, lakes and streams are beginning to ice over, and the hours of daylight will continue to shrink until December 21st. But even as the final sands pass through the 2023 hourglass, our church year ends with a trumpet sound of sorts on Christ the King Sunday (November 26 this year) and then pivots to anticipation and longing as Advent begins on December 3rd.

The church year focuses on the timeline of Israel's life as a people across the centuries leading up to the birth of Jesus, traces the events of his life, death and resurrection, and then considers what is yet to come as the Kingdom of God grows in our world in advance of Christ's coming again at the end of history as we know it.

This is anything but the recitation of "dead history," as something that exists only on the pages of a book. Rather it's the living and breathing witness of God's bold and decisive entrance into the existence of a small tribe of nomads, without a land of their own, that we see on the pages of the Old Testament. God's unshakeable commitment reveals itself in a series of covenants - with Abraham, Moses, and David.

We followers of Jesus joyfully embrace the fullest expression of these covenants in the Incarnation - God becoming human in the Christ Child, born of Mary and Joseph in a manger in Bethlehem. And the extension of this new covenant written on our hearts to all people everywhere.

The movement this time of year, then for us children of the resurrection is from "Crown Him with Many Crowns," to "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," to "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come."

What a wonderful time of year. Grab your winter jacket and boots, and clothe yourself with joy and anticipation! Pastor Craig

Double Check the Locks When Leaving the Church

Our front door and lock have become a bit creaky as they have aged. Occasionally the front door is still open when it appears to have locked. This is because a slight misalignment of the two doors keeps the deadbolt from sliding completely across the gap between doors when a person pushes the “lock button.”

The solution: Push the lock button, then physically test to make sure the door is securely locked by pulling on the door. If not, push the doors firmly shut, lock the door again, and check once more. Also check to make sure both upstairs and downstairs doors are locked by pulling on them. Thank you!

Here is a portion of a Thank You letter from Lisa Porthan, the Executive Director of Northwoods Partners:

Dear Ely UMC Family,

Some people make choices that change lives. Thank you for being some of these people. Your recent generous contribution of \$300 will make a positive impact in the lives of many in our community. Know that you are supporting our area seniors and helping them to lead happy, healthy, active, and engaged lives in our community. Thank you for your kind contribution.

Special Offering for Wes Weisinger

Wes Weisinger has been lifelong resident of Winton. He's been a member of our church since May of 1994 and is Vicki Wagner's nephew.

Wes has been on our Prayer Wall for some time and is now in hospice care, struggling with liver cancer and surgery.

We will take a special offering for Wes on Sunday, November 26th to assist him with his medical expenses. You may make checks out to “Ely United Methodist Church” with “Wes Weisinger Benefit” in the memo line or drop a cash offering in the basket at the rear of the church. Thank you!

A New Opportunity for Prayer

We have always been a praying church. Several years ago the Visioning Committee introduced the Prayer Wall to our Sunday Service, which provides structure for the manner in which we pray for our church's members and those dear to us.

Each week we also invite prayers for churches and pastors in our Annual Conference with these words: *“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.”*

We are going to begin intentionally praying for our congregation in the same way by inviting us to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide specific aspects of our life together.

We're asking individuals and committees to forward what they would like us to pray for to elyumc.elymn@gmail.com For example: “We pray for the Annual Conference as it selects a replacement for Pastor Craig.” We'll put these prayer requests in Parish News.



NORTHWOODS PARTNERS

- caring connections -

Festival of Trees

NOVEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 3
GRAND ELY LODGE

Lighting Ceremony Sunday, Nov. 19, 7:30 pm

Silent Auction Holiday Boutique
Memorial Ornaments

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

November 17, 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.

1 John 5: 14-15 (NIV)



"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know he hears us – we know that we have what we asked of him."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Nick's family & friends** – Marge Forsberg's brother's father-in-law and her sister-in-law's father, Nick, passed away. Marge requested prayers for Nick's family and friends and her brother, John and his wife.
- **Lynn** – Pam Turnbull asked for prayers for her husband Mike's uncle, Lynn, who had open heart surgery and also has cancer issues.
- **Rod Loe** – Pam Turnbull asked for prayers for her father, Rod Loe, who is residing at Ely Carefree Living.
- **Keith** – Kathy Nelson asked for prayers for her brother-in-law, Keith, who has just started chemo therapy.
- **Zach & Jake Rue's friend** – Sheri Rue asked for prayers for Zach and Jake Rue's friend who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- **Delbert Smith's family & friends** – Delbert, a former church associate member, passed on October 24th.
- **Sarah Grafton** – Cathy Aldrich asked for prayers for Sarah Grafton, a work colleague, who had an accident at home. She is in the ICU with brain bleeding. She's currently in stable condition.
- **Loren Barnes** – Please continue prayers for Lucy Diesslin's brother, Loren, who has now contracted COVID and has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.
- **Bernie Barich** – Patty Rusco asked for prayers for her uncle, Bernie Barich, who is in his eighties and has spinal stenosis and is having surgery on his back. Pray for healing of body, mind and spirit.
- **Nancy Olson** – Linda Hane asked for prayers for her neighbor, Nancy Olson, who broke her leg and is currently in rehab in Duluth. Pray for healing and regaining her strength and mobility.
- **Lauren Olson** – Margie Olson asked for prayers for her granddaughter, Lauren Olson, who is having her tonsils removed. Please pray for successful surgery and quick healing.
- **Jon Morrow's family & friends** – Linda Hane's cousin, Jon Morrow, passed away on his 52nd birthday from congestive heart failure. Pray for peace and comfort for his family and friends.
- **Terry Bosch's family & friends** – Paula & Nick Mattila's neighbor, Terry Bosch, who was on hospice has passed away. Please pray for peace and comfort for his wife, Joni, and her family and friends.
- **Linda Prosen and her mom** – **Update: Both Linda and her mom have now returned to the United States and her mom is seeing doctors here.** Nancy Markwardt's friend, Linda Prosen, was travelling with her 92 year-old mother to Sweden for a last visit with relatives when her mother had a stroke 2 days after arriving. Doctors have said no travelling for a month. Please pray for Linda and her mother's recovery.
- **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.
- **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.

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