

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

February 16, 2024

The church season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which just so happened to be on Valentine's Day this year. Lent, 40 days in length not counting Sundays, ends on Easter Sunday. The road we travel during Lent runs from Jesus being tempted in the wilderness by Satan and ends with Jesus being laid in a tomb after being put to death on a Roman cross.

But we've already traveled a long way from December 24th until today. Jesus, born in a manger in Bethlehem, arrives in this world just as we do; born of Mary, a human mother. I'm sure Jesus as a baby appeared no differently to his parents than you and I do to ours – eating, sleeping, crying, requiring attention to change his soiled underclothes, and so on.

Yet there was, of course, an entirely other side to Jesus' identity. His being fully divine even while remaining a living, breathing, flesh and blood human being. This wonderful mystery we call "the Incarnation."

Jesus lived as you and I do, experiencing temptation, physical hunger, anxiety, joy, frustration, and suffering. All just as we do, and yet without sin. Finally, he experienced death.

The Apostles' Creed reminds us, following Jesus' death, "On the third day he [Jesus] rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven...." This journey Jesus travels from the manger, to the cross, beyond death, to the right hand of the Father, is a journey from human life to death and to an eternal life at the right hand of the Father.

This may all sound pretty highfalutin, theological mumble-jumble, which belongs in an academic classroom rather than our kitchens and living rooms. But it matters every bit as much as does engineering a calculus matters for those who board a modern jet airliner. Flight isn't possible without the engineering, material science, and factory production which undergirds it.

We human beings will never solve the twin realities of sin and death; we'll never outrun our mortality or perfect ourselves as moral individuals or society. Only God, in Christ, forgive sins and deliver us beyond our physical death to life beyond, which we call eternal life.

Eternal life refers to its duration, its length, but goes beyond the aspect of time as well. It is a transformed existence that transcends our natural [human] bodies, where we become a "new creature," a "new creation" in God's presence. Eternal life is beyond sin, sorrow, death, and suffering. Eternal life is worship and praise.

Eternal life is God's gift, which we receive by faith as we journey with together with Christ.

Fellowship Area Remodeling Project

Fellowship and our care/support for one another are a couple of our church's existing values. We plan on deepening and expanding both of them in 2024 and beyond. The remodeling project of our fellowship area in the back of the church is one tangible expression.

Pam Turnbull, a member of our Board of Trustees, made the following announcement during worship a couple weeks ago describing what you can expect in the next several months.

" Last month, I brought forward a potential project to the Trustees that had been suggested to help with our coffee fellowship time after church. The Trustees approved the project and I was nominated to be the project manager. We took the idea to the Administrative Council and received their approval.

The project is for a kitchenette/coffee room with a serving counter between the overflow room and the small storage room in the southeast corner of our church. That will free up space and help with circulating during our fellowship and outreach time after church services.

You may have notice a few minor changes in your surroundings in anticipation of the start of this endeavor. One of the first things to note is where the sign up lists have been temporarily located above the trash bin in the overflow room by the door to the vestibule/narthex. Take a look at where you can help to be part of Ely UMC; be it teaching Sunday School, being a liturgist, serving coffee/goodies, ushering, or running the camera. There are many ways to contribute. Another change the choir has embraced is the relocation of their music to the ramp entry/family room.

If any of you have ever taken on a renovation project, you know it takes longer than expected (this is not a half hour long HGTV show), more money than budgeted (we are starting with Memorial funds given in my Dad's name) and one thing leads to another (Margie Olson can attest to that from our floor project in the basement). There are always those unknowns when you start digging in. Please bear with us; we have a plan.

I hope we can join together during this time of renovation and renewal and be part of our moving forward.

Any questions of it you are wanting to help physically, skillfully, or financially, let me or our Trustee chair, Bryan Rusco know.

Thank you for your patience!" Pam Turnbull, member of the Ely UMC Board of Trustees

Thank you to everyone who filled out and returned completed Transportation Surveys! I personally delivered them to the hospital about ten days ago. The Social Worker there was grateful. Thank you again!

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

February 16, 2024

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.

Matthew 6: 10 (NIV)



"...Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done..."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Mike Loisel** – Paula Mattila asked for prayers for Mike Loisel who has had a very bad car accident breaking numerous bones. He has had 2 surgeries already with more to follow, but is in good spirits in spite.
- **Karen – Update:** Cathy Aldrich's friend, Karen, is having a PET scan to determine treatment for lymphoma.
- **Nancy Hinzmann** – Peggy Koschak asked for prayers for her sister-in-law, Nancy Hinzmann, who had a biopsy on her jaw and is waiting results. Please pray for favorable results.
- **Ray Vessel & his wife** – Linda Hane asked for prayers for Ray and his wife both of whom have COVID. Pray for healing and a quick recovery.
- **Lily Tedrick** – Deanie Kuehl reported that Lily fell and is currently on crutches. Pray for her quick recovery.
- **Lisa Porthan's father & mother** – Lisa's mom & dad are struggling with the progression of his Parkinson's.
- **Shakopee community and families of the car accidents** – Two horrendous car accidents left a daughter dead and the second accident left a son, Evan, in critical condition. Pray for the families, community and for Evan to heal and recover.
- **LaVerne Lindholm – Update: LaVerne is doing well after hip surgery and will rehab in Duluth.** LaVerne fell and broke her hip. She's in Duluth pending decisions on surgery and rehab. Please pray for successful surgery and her hip to heal quickly.
- **Jeep LaTourell's family and friends – Update: Jeep passed away. Please pray for peace and comfort for his family and friends.** Pray for Jeep LaTourell who is hospitalized with health issues.
- **Keith Rue** – Keith is having problems with his Achilles tendon.
- **Julie and Cory** – Kathy Nelson's cousins are trying to buy a home in Florida within driving distance of her parents, Lee and Doris. Please pray that they find a suitable home soon.
- **Judy Long's family and friends – Update: Cheryl Nelson's mother, Judy Long, passed away.** Cheryl Nelson's mother, Judy Long, had a serious diabetic incident and is hospitalized. Cheryl is Judy's caregiver.
- **Hayes Urbas** – Chris Urbas asked for prayers for Hayes who had his tonsils & adenoids removed this week.
- **Teri – Update: Teri is back home recovering from a stroke caused by COVID complications. She is having a difficult time with anxiety. Please keep Teri in your prayers.** Carol Laine's daughter, Teri, is hospitalized with COVID and has had a stroke.
- **The Russia / Ukraine conflict • Political Unrest in Africa • The Military, Humanitarian & Political Crisis in the Middle East** – 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.

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.