

# ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"The Little Church With the Big Heart"*

elyumc.elymn@gmail.com

218-365-3355

www.elyumc.org

**Parish News**

**March 1, 2024**

## Coming Up in March

You will notice two items tucked away on the Ely UMC Church Calendar. Both merit additional mention.

**Palm Sunday Potluck:** Our church is having a potluck immediately following worship on Palm Sunday, March 31st, to which everyone is invited!

Watch for more details in the weeks to follow, including ways you can pitch in to help out with making it run smoothly.

**Holy Week Service:** Our Holy Week Service will be at 7:00 on Thursday, March 28th.

The service will include Holy Communion and a narration from the Gospel of Mark of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

## A Note from Pastor Craig

I've never forgotten one of my mentors saying years ago: "There are no right answers to wrong questions." This immediately made sense to me from my experience, although I also recognized the statement is harsh; the absolutist words "right" and "wrong" can polarize discussions.

Perhaps it was the directness of his words, however, that caught my attention, because they distill down an essential truth into a single thought; which is the questions we ask determine the range of answers available to us. Or, conversely, a "wrong" question reduces the field of vision for whatever we are seeking an answer for.

For instance, when I was in college, the first question the professor posed to prospective teachers in our first education class was "Is Teaching a Profession?" The question didn't mean a thing to any of us would-be-teachers at the time. We had no basis of knowledge to answer it from and other questions mattered far more. It simply wasn't a pertinent question for our class on that day.

I mention this because any news format you access today is chock-full with stories about both Social Media and Artificial Intelligence (AI); so much so it's hard to keep up with. Just this week a case concerning Social Media came before the Supreme Court.

These two topics are generating numerous, complex questions with a wide variety of implications for science/technology, medicine, public policy, business, education, and ethics. Social Media and AI will transform every corner of society and our lives. They are already making a positive difference in many areas, especially in medicine and environmental science. But hopefully our inner being is not defined by them.

I submit the primary question in our lives of faith for Social Media and Artificial Intelligence is: "What kind of people do we want to be?" Do we want to exist primarily in reality (physical and spiritual) or in a disembodied/virtual world that is unconnected with anything real? How do we want to spend our precious time, especially our leisure? Do we want to expand our intellect or allow computers to do this work for us?

These questions, I submit, are the "right questions" for us in the church. Other institutions will consider the rest. AI and Social Media will play an important role in our world - there's no getting around it. We will still be influenced by them. We do have far more of a choice to what degree than we give ourselves credit for. This matters because I'm convinced there's more at stake than we think. Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

**Prayer Wall**

March 1, 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.

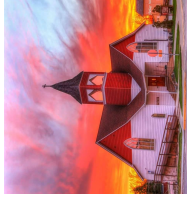
**John 5: 17 (NIV)**



***(Jesus said), "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."***

**We lift up the following in prayer...**

- **Gary Starzekic's family and friend's** – Butch Diesslin's sister, Nan Starzekic, lost her husband, Gary. Please pray for comfort for Nan and her son J.T. and the extended family.
- **A.J. Bolden** – Linda Hane reported that A.J. Bolden, son of Linda's friend Kelly Bolden, was hit by a car shattering his leg. Pray for healing and comfort.
- **Kim Lloyd** – Kim just lost her sister, Sherry, who lived in Montana with her husband Bob and her daughter Donna. Please pray for peace and comfort for Kim who lives here in Ely and for her extended family.
- **People of Gaza** – Duane Bieber asked for prayers for the people in Gaza remembering the 28,500 women and children who have been killed.
- **Al Kovall** – Judy Bonderson asked for prayers for Al Kovall who had a stroke last month & is not doing well.
- **Nina Emmons** – Sue Peterson asked for prayers for her mom, Nina Emmons, who fell & broke her upper arm.
- **Georgine Ahlstrand** – Bruce Olson asked for prayers for Georgine Ahlstrand who is having problems with blood clots.
- **Janet Greig** – Linda Hane asked for prayers for Janet Greig who had a major stroke and is experiencing lots of challenges.
- **Mike Loisel** – **Update: Mike is still in hospital but will start rehab once he is over his cold.** 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: Karen has had treatments for her lymphoma. Scans indicate that she is in remission.** 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.
- **Jeremy:** Rosie Johnson's son, Jeremy, is experiencing kidney failure. His brother, Brian, may be a kidney donor. Please pray that this all goes well.
- **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.
- **Lisa Porthan's father & mother** – Lisa's mom & dad are struggling with the progression of his Parkinson's.
- **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.



# March 2024

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>9:30 AM <b>31</b> Choir Practice <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Worship Service and Sunday School</p>							1	2
<p>9:30 AM <b>3</b> Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School <b>Holy Communion</b></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 6:00 PM Spiritual Inspiration <i>Journey with The Messiah</i></p>	<p>6 March 4th through March 9th • Pastor</p>	<p>7 3:00 PM Benevolence AD HOC Committee Mtg 5:00 PM – Connections Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Choir Practice Craig will be</p>	<p>8 in Sioux Falls</p>		8	9
<p>10 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 6:00 PM Spiritual Inspiration <i>Journey with The Messiah</i></p>	<p>13 11:00 AM Ely Ministerial Association March 13 - 14 Pastor Annual Conference at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church</p>	<p>14 6:00 PM Choir Practice Craig will attend</p>	<p>15</p>		15	16
<p>17 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 10:00 AM United Methodist Women 6:00 PM Ad Council Meeting</p>	<p>21 6:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>22</p>		22	23
<p>9:30 Choir Practice <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School PotLuck Luncheon Following the Service</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 6:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Holy Week Worship Service</p>	<p>29</p>		29	30