

Parish News • November 12, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings from Pastor Craig! I can hear rain falling outside as I write these words in the Thursday morning pre-dawn darkness. The weather forecast has changed from hour to hour as we've been watching it develop this week, wondering if we're going to rain, snow, or a mixture of both.

Presently it looks as though it's going to be rain, turning to snow, turning back to rain, and finally to a chance of snow again. If I were a meteorologist, I might choose to employ the oft-used phrase "wintry-mix." Oh well, we'll get whatever we'll get, so I'm not stressing about it, but it is fun to watch and wonder.

I'm not sure if I've mentioned before that I attended seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Most of my classmates were from Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, but there were a number of exceptions, like myself, from other parts of the country. It seemed to be universally the case that people love the region of the United States where they grew up.

This is certainly true with me. Minnesota is in my blood; the topography, differences between regions of the state, seasons of the year, culture, sports teams and their respective traditions, and just plain what it means to be a Minnesotan. Even now, several weeks in advance of my trip down to see my family in Sioux Falls over Thanksgiving, I'm carefully considering what roads to travel that will both maximize the amount of scenery that I will see and the memories that will be called to mind.

There are also a number of Minnesota authors who have wormed their way into my heart, namely Will Weaver, William Kent Krueger, Garrison Keillor, Leif Enger, and the poets Robert Bly and Bill Holm. But the writer who I find most endearing is Jon Hassler, whose dozen novels and other various works render a realistic, heart-warming, and wry description of life in small-town Minnesota, predominately the northern part of the state.

Hassler's slow, but steady stream of books ended several years before his death in 2008, leaving his fans saddened to know we would never again hold a new volume of his in our hands. Until this week, that is.....

A previously unpublished memoir, with the evocative title "Days Like Smoke: A Minnesota Boyhood," appeared with little fanfare. Even as I first held the slim volume in my hands, I knew I would purchase it, making sure to read it slowly and only in bits and pieces, trying to savor it and make it last.

The title of the book comes from one of three epigraphs listed on its first page, which reads: "Hear my prayer, O Lord, harken to me speedily, For my days vanish like smoke. Psalm 101."

Wow – what a description of life! When we're young it seems as though Christmas will never get here and the years stretch out endlessly ahead before we get our driver's license. But then time begins to speed up in our perception. By the time we reach middle age it seems to fly by like a race car at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

I recall Dad mentioning repeatedly during the last decade of his life: “How did I get to be this age? It just doesn’t seem possible that I’m in my eighties.” Even though I’m healthy and active, I’m equally astonished to find myself as a Medicare-eligible 65-year-old.

Our days are indeed like smoke, like grass, yet they matter to us so very, very much. And we matter to others more than we can ever know.

Our lives, even though they be like smoke, are rich beyond words because we can live them utterly attentive to each moment, to God who has made us, and to our neighbors.

An additional note: Because it was unfinished, this manuscript required some light editing. Will Weaver, Hassler’s friend and fellow Minnesota writer ably filled this role, but I’ve noticed several errors already, notably that the “Days like smoke” quote is from Psalm 102, not Psalm 101. I’ve reprinted portions of the Psalm at the end of this edition of *Parish News*.

Item #1: We’ll resume making pasties on Monday and Tuesday, November 15th and 16th for the first time since we shut down for the pandemic.

Please talk to Jay or Jeanne Tomlinson if you’re able to help. There are a wide variety of tasks – peeling eyes off machine-peeled potatoes, rutabaga peeling, weighing dough balls, rolling out pasty dough, mixing ingredients together, crimping pasties, and cleaning up, especially on Tuesday. We prefer workers be vaccinated due to the length of time we’ll be together, the age of many of us workers, and our proximity to each other.

Item #2: Advent and Christmas are still a way off, but even now it’s necessary to make plans.

As in previous years you can purchase poinsettias in memory of loved ones. These will be part of our Christmas Eve service and probably Sunday, December 19th as well. You may take them with you following the Christmas Eve service if you wish. The cost for poinsettias is \$14.00 and the deadline to sign up is November 23rd. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the rear of the sanctuary and an envelope for cash or check. Or you may mail the church at 305 E. Camp Street, Ely, MN 55731. Please mention who or whom you want the poinsettia to be in memory of.

We are participating in the Ely Community Resource Giving Tree this year, which provides Christmas gifts to youth and children in the Ely community. There are fifteen tags on the small Christmas tree in the rear of the sanctuary, each one signifying the gift and age of the recipient.

We will decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, November 21st immediately following worship. There was a strong sign-up for both poinsettias and the Giving Tree last week, but people didn’t sign up for decorating the sanctuary, so please consider this.

There are sign-up sheets in the rear of the church for people to indicate your availability to help and which area of the church you would like to assist decorating. We’re making preparations to have a light lunch available for those decorating. You can indicate your interest in bringing something for this on the sign-up sheet as well.

Item #3: Here’s mention of two additional sign-up lists, the first a repeat of last week.

There is a sign-up list for the United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon at the GEL, which will be on Monday, December 13th at Noon. Each person will order off the menu. Sign-up at the church or call Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8479.

We're also looking for people to operate the camera during our Facebook Live services. There are only a few technical details to keep track of – it's mostly "point and shoot" – and Jay will provide training. Live-streaming has expanded the reach of our worship services, so this is an important opportunity to spend an hour every so often.

Item #4: This week's Prayer Wall is attached or included.

I am inspired in a number of ways by the rich texture of the Book of Psalms in the Bible. I'll mention just one facet here in advance of listing excerpted verses of Psalm 102. Multiple Psalms start by calling to mind an aspect of our life. Then we are "taken to another place" as we read through the Psalm. We are offered the possibility of being transformed in mind, heart, and spirit.

For example, Psalm 102 starts by mentioning the brevity of life and how the life events can just plain wear us down, but then pivots near the end to state God's utter reliability, which gives us an eternal foothold where we can reside.

Psalm 102 - Prayer to the Eternal King for Help

A prayer of one afflicted, when faint and pleading before the LORD.

¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to you.

² Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call.

³ For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.

⁴ My heart is stricken and withered like grass; I am too wasted to eat my bread.

⁵ Because of my loud groaning my bones cling to my skin.

⁶ I am like an owl of the wilderness, like a little owl of the waste places.

⁷ I lie awake; I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.

¹¹ My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

²⁵ Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶ They will perish, but you endure; they will all wear out like a garment. You change them like clothing, and they pass away;

²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end.

²⁸ The children of your servants shall live secure; their offspring shall be established in your presence.

With God's blessings and my very best wishes,

Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

November 12, 2021

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 21: 22 (NIV)



(Jesus said), "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Emma Smrekar Update** – Carolyn Fendt’s granddaughter & high school senior received her last chemo treatment for stomach cancer on June 11th & was believed to be cancer free. Her cancer has returned, pray for effective treatments and comfort.
- **Carrie Jackson Yost** – Daughter of Ann & Terry Jackson of Winton diagnosed with a rare form of aggressive breast cancer.
- **Julie Puzel family & friends** – Julie passed away at Carefree Living. She was 100, was kind & had a great sense of humor.
- **Jeanne Nelson** – Jeanne fell and broke her pelvis (hip). Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Jim Herberg family & friends** – **Update:** Janet Rasmussen’s brother Jim passed away. Pray for comfort for family & friends.
- **Dick & Mary Taylor** – **Update:** Dick’s back surgery to reduce pain & increase mobility went well & he is standing tall again!
- **Dave Rue** – Keith’s brother was hit in the eye with a pressurized hose damaging his iris, eyelid & pupil. **Update:** Surgery to Dave’s eye to relieve pressure & remove the lens went well. Prognosis for full recovery after inserting a new lens looks good.
- **Bobbi Hodges** – Cathy Aldridge’s friend is beginning radiation treatments. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Nan Starzecki** – Butch Diesslin’s sister had a pulmonary embolism. **Update:** Nan is doing much better now.
- **Dennis Minier family & friends**– **Update:** Nick Mattila’s friend who had lung cancer & was not doing well has passed away.
- **The Wernet family** – Still struggling from the passing from COVID of her husband and father of 4 children.
- **Susan Burland’s family & friends** – Sheila Shultz’s sister, Susan, has passed away. Pray for comfort to family & friends.
- **Danielle** – Suzette Tedrick’s cousin, Danielle, is hospitalized with COVID. Pray for a quick and full recovery.
- **Kurt Klein** – Kurt is the son of Linda Hane’s good friend, Linda Tikkala, and is undergoing cancer chemo treatments.
- **Ollie** – Bonnie Berglund’s great nephew was born missing 2 arteries to his heart. **Update:** No ventilator & out of cardiac ICU
- **Diane** – Carol Linneman’s friend undergoing strenuous cancer treatments for a type of cancer that can not be cured, but can be limited. Pray for successful treatments in limiting the cancer.
- **All the Fire Fighters and their families fighting forest fires in Ely and elsewhere**
- **All essential health care workers exposed to the COVID-19 virus and the Delta variant**

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.

Ely United Methodist Church

November 14, 2021
Craig Haberman, Pastor

25th Sunday after Pentecost
Sharon Luthens, Pianist

Welcome

Pastor Craig

Prelude

Sharon Luthens

***Hymns #**

***Opening Prayer**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Greetings

Announcements • Sharing of Birthdays and Anniversaries

Children's Time

Scripture Reading Ruth 3:1-5; 13-17. Scott Meland, Liturgist

***Hymn #**

Sermon

***Hymn #**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Hymn #**

***Ringing of the Bell**

***Benediction**

Postlude

3 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? ² Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do." ⁵ And she replied, "All that you say I will do."

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Coming Up

Today	11:15	Nominating Committee
Monday/Tuesday		Pasties. • 7:00 am start on both days
Wednesday, Nov.	10:00	United Methodist Women meet
	2:00	NO Zoom Bible Study
	7:00	Administrative Council meeting
Thursday	6:00	Choir practice • 7:05 Visioning Committee

Sunday, Nov. 21

Put up Christmas decorations