

A Note from Pastor Craig

Greetings! By the time you read this note I will have arrived in Ely, but I'm writing it before going to bed on Monday, July 23rd - my final night in Alexandria. Today has been a blur of packing, cleaning, last minute conversations, and a myriad of details to sort through, but soon I'll be off to bed and looking forward to knowing the next time I lay down my head to sleep will be in Ely!

Your transition from Pastor Dana to me is about to take another step in what has already been an emotional process for you. And how could it not be? The relationship between pastor and congregation is unique, special, and even sacred. Together pastors and church members of all ages

- Share moments of sublime joy and heart-wrenching sorrow.*
- Come to know each other in deep and personal ways seldom found elsewhere.*
- Gather to consider ultimate questions of God, meaning, purpose, eternity, and death.*
- Mark the significant passages of life – birth, baptism, children leaving home, marriage, and death.*

As I reflect on the conversations I've shared with beloved parishioners in the wake of my move from one congregation to another across the years, I'm aware of the deep grief both pastors and church members feel during pastoral transitions. This is especially the case when a long, long-time pastor such as Pastor Dana

moves away. I know of the deep affection you have for him, he for you, and his love for the Ely area. So I honor both your grief and his grief as well.

The upcoming weeks are going to be an adventure in the fullest sense of the word. There will be work to do, expected details to figure out, unexpected surprises to embrace, and serendipity to enjoy.

I am looking forward to meeting each one of you and to working with you as one part of Christ's Church in Ely.

Pastor Craig

Contact Information and Office Hours for August 2018

Church Office: (218) 365-3355
Parsonage: (218) 365-3716
Email: elymethodist@elyumc.org

Pastor Craig is planning on the same church office hours that we have had in the past: **8:00-10:00 AM Monday through Friday.**

However, he will be on vacation and out of town from August 6-10 and again on August 15-21. For the following dates that he will NOT be in town, we will continue staffing the church office with volunteers from **10:00 AM to 12 Noon:** Aug 6-10, Aug 15-17, and Aug 20-21.

Thanks to the Parsonage Prep Crew

Once again, the Ely United Methodist Church shows what a hard-working dedicated congregation we have. Since the latter part of last year, members of the Board of Trustees and other congregation members have been working hard getting the parsonage ready for our new pastor. Special recognition goes to **Margie Olson**, who, as President of the Board of Trustees last year, initiated arrangements for a lot of the repair and refurbishing work, like garage door replacements, house painting & re-varnishing, re-carpeting, window-washing, etc. Even when no longer a Trustee, and with a bad knee that she hopes to soon have replaced, she continued working on cleanup crews and serving as an advisor on any additional repairs/improvements that were identified in the process.

A lot of people put in lots of hours & effort, and even though there are still a few things left to finish, the parsonage was in great shape when Pastor Craig arrived on July 24 and moved in on July 25. We wish we could detail what each of the following people did, since some did put in a lot more hours than others, but that would have required some detailed record-keeping - and we all had enough to do! Suffice it to say, each person contributed what they could. THANK YOU to all who helped get the parsonage ready: Bonnie Berglund, Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Bobbi Gruwell, Sandra Lee, Carol Linneman, Tootsie Loe, Jer & Patty Niskala, Margie & Mark Olson, Brett Porthan, Scott Roen, BJ Rusco, Bryan Rusco, Norm Rusco, Liddy Sheppard, Sue Sprott, Dana Thompson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson, Pam Turnbull,

Chris Urbas and Nick Wognum. *(Our apologies to anyone if we missed noting your participation.)*

New Landscape Committee

Dan Johnson and Margie Olson approached the Board of Trustee's regarding the current status of our ailing trees and constant need for reseeding the same lawn areas each spring because of salt use during the winter months. After some discussion, the Trustees authorized the formation of a landscape committee to seek possible solutions and designs and report back in a timely manner. The Committee members are Dan Johnson (Chair), Sandra Lee, Margie Olson and Liddy Sheppard.

They were instructed to develop a landscape design that uses the current church sign in its' present location, if possible. Space appropriate tree and shrub species, along with salt tolerant grass mixtures have been selected. Drawings, materials, cost estimates and a time line will be presented to the Board of Trustees during August and, following Administrative Council approval, will be shared with the congregation. The project will most likely start late summer and will be completed in the spring.

**Multi-Church BBQ/Picnic
Sunday, August 12
12 Noon to 2 PM**

First Presbyterian, Grace Lutheran, Ely United Methodist and St. Mary's Episcopal churches once again invite members and friends to gather for food, fun, and fellowship at Semer's Park on Sunday, August 12 from 12 Noon to 2 PM. As before, burgers, brats, hotdogs, buns, condiments, lemonade & water will be provided. The rest will be POTLUCK items we get to bring. So plan to bring your favorite picnic item – which can be a home-prepared or store-bought side dish, snack item or dessert. There is no need to sign-up to attend the event – just come and join in a good time.

However, we ARE in need of some help with set-up on Saturday night at Semer's park, and with cleanup after the event at 2 PM. There WILL be a sign-up sheet at the church for anyone willing to help with either of these tasks.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES
July 18, 2018
Ely United Methodist Church**

Call To Order: Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendees (13): Bonnie Berglund, Rich Floyd, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Carol Linneman, Mark & Margie Olson, Bryan & Patty Rusco, Donna & Norm Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

Opening: Jay Tomlinson provided the “Opening Thought” from the January 18, 2018 devotion from the *Upper Room*, followed by prayer.

Minutes: The May 16, 2018 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the June 2018 *FISH* with one correction on the month of the Multi-Church Picnic. Motion to approve by Linda Hane, second by Bonnie Berglund. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Olson presented the May and June 2018 treasurer's reports. Receipts & disbursements for May were \$7,133 & \$8,670.54, respectively. Receipts & disbursements for June were \$5,755.10 & \$7,994.05 respectively. End of month balances (June): Building Fund \$14,005.65; Memorial Fund \$10,575.19; Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project 2018 \$167.25, available General Fund \$6,180.09. Motion to approve the May report by Marge Olson, second by Bonnie Berglund. Motion approved. Motion to approve the June report by Rich Floyd, second by Norm Rusco. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Board of Trustees:** Bryan Rusco reported that the drier has been repaired but there are still some remaining items to be addressed in making the parsonage ready for our new pastor. Brett Porthan will do some final painting on the basement windows. Marge Olson asked about painting the large bathroom since it was her understanding it was to be done but hadn't been. Bryan indicated he would need to check on Brett's bid to see it that had been included. It has been determined that the bathroom tiles in both upstairs

bathrooms need to be “resurfaced” which will involve some additional costs. Bryan also reported that central air-conditioning for the parsonage isn’t feasible and the committee is recommending we purchase two “split” units to be installed in the master bedroom and the living room. The costs and approval for these additional expenses were discussed under New Business.

- **Memorial Fund Task Force:** Carol Linneman report that the committee has not met since the last Ad Council meeting. The next meeting will be on August 7.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee had a nice dinner meeting with Pastor Craig at the GEL just prior to the Ad Council meeting. The next meeting date/time was set for Wednesday, August 8 at 5:30 pm.
- **Worship:** Linda Hane reported that the church has done well covering all the worship services this summer. We still need coverage for August 19 since Pastor Craig will be gone for that date so she would welcome any ideas on that.
- **Parish Health Ministry:** Donna Rusco reported that they have discontinued doing the monthly blood pressures anymore since participation had dropped significantly. For Pastor Craig’s benefit she mentioned the Prayer Shawl ministry that was started a number of years ago and is still active. And that we are participating in the “Lydia Project”, making knitted/crocheted purple scarves for the 2020 conference.
- **Visioning:** Rich Floyd gave a brief history of the Visioning Committee for Pastor Craig. It was formed in 2009 to “cultivate excellence”. One of the first actions was a survey of church members to identify areas that might need

more focus. A second survey done in 2014 showed that we had improved in the identified areas but work still needed to continue. The committee has initiated a number of new programs and activities, including a quarterly church potluck, a number of special studies, inspirational movies, nametags, and “Comfort Boxes” for those who have recently experienced loss or a difficult life situation. The newest service project will be purchasing Christmas gifts for each of the residents in our nursing home and assisted living facilities. The next scheduled activities are (1) the July 29 Ice Cream Social which Linda Hane is coordinating; (2) “Bring a Kid” month in September which will include giving out a Jesus Story Book Bible to children who don’t have one and a different book for those who already do; and (3) a children’s movie, “Charlotte’s Web”, to be shown on Sunday, September 23. Rich Floyd will do an article for the *FISH* about the September activities.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Parsonage Phone/Internet Service:** Mark Olson confirmed that the we’re all set to switch over on July 23 to internet rather than television for the cable. He confirmed with Pastor Craig that this was what was desired. The parsonage phone line plan has been modified to include call forwarding.
2. **Budget for Dana’s Appreciation Celebration:** Mark Olson reported for information purposes that the total costs for the May 20 celebration came to \$608. We had originally approved a budget of \$200 and then did a special phone vote last month to bump it to \$500 when we learned the originally approved budget was not realistic.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **August 5 church potluck date change:** Jeanne Tomlinson brought up the idea of possibly moving the quarterly August 5 church potluck to merge with the July 29 ice cream social. With the multi-church picnic happening on August 12, having the August 5 potluck would be asking church members for three Sundays in a row to bring food items for church celebrations following the service. This might have a negative impact on participation in one or more of these. After some discussion, Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we NOT have a quarterly church potluck in August if there is a multi-church picnic that same month. Second by Marge Olson. Motion approved.
2. **Old TVs in coat closet:** We have two old TVs stored in the coat closet at the back of the church that are not needed and are just taking up space. Rich Floyed moved that we get rid of them. Second by Marge Olson. Norm Rusco offered to take them to the electronic recycling trailer at the dump. He will use the church punch card to pay for them.
3. **Starkman Asphalt crack sealing proposal:** The church had received a proposal from Starkman for filling & sealing the cracks in our parking lot for \$595. They have done this in the past. Bryan Rusco brought up the need to add a 3rd handicapped parking slot and that we should also add painted parking lines to help reduce some of the problems we've encountered with the residence next to the church. Bryan moved that we allocate up to \$900 for Starkman to take care of the cracks and the line painting. Second by Rich Floyd. Motion approved. Bryan will talk to Starkman about this.

4. **Funds for Kids Movie Rental/license:** Rich Floyd moved that we allocate \$115 to cover the cost for the September 23 "Charlotte's Web" movie. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed.
5. **UMW expenses covered by the General Fund:** Mark Olson had brought up during the finance reports that in Sharon Luthen's absence for the past month, he had paid the Zup's bill which included expenses that the UMW normally covers. However, the UMW had paid for both piano tunings that were done earlier in the year. Normally the sanctuary piano tuning should have been covered by the church General Fund. Since the costs are about equal, he thought we might not want to have UMW reimburse the General Fund. Rich Floyd moved that we not seek reimbursement from the UMW for the Zup's expenses. Second by Mark Olson. Motion approved.
6. **Additional Parsonage Work Expenses:** In the Trustees report, Bryan Rusco had brought up that the additional work required (A/C installations and bathroom fixes) would come to at least \$7500 and he'll need approval of that to proceed. Bryan Rusco moved that we allocate \$8000 from the Building Fund to cover the purchase & installation of two "split" A/C units, the resurfacing of the bathtub and shower stall in the two upstairs bathrooms and the addition of a light in the small upstairs bathroom shower. Second by Marge Olson. Motion approved.

Correspondence

1. **2018 All-Nite Grad Party Appreciation Certificate:** This will be posted on the church bulletin board.
2. **Trails Life USA fliers:** These arrived in the mail at the church describing an "outdoor life" organization for

boys and girls. Since it was unsolicited, and no member has mentioned having any involvement in the organization, we will take no further action.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary