

## A Note from Pastor Craig

*Come thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

These words are the first verse to a wonderful Charles Wesley hymn, which we will sing at the beginning of the service on December 2, the first Sunday in Advent. December is a delightful time of year – outside, in our community, at church, amongst our families, and in our hearts.

For me December brings with it the following heart-warming and inspiring dimensions:

- The freezing of lakes and arrival of snow or as one hymn writer has penned – *“All beautiful the march of days as seasons come and go, the hand that shaped the rose hath wrought the crystal of the snow, hath sent the hoary frost of heaven, the flowing waters sealed, and laid a silent loveliness on hill, and vale, and field.”*
- Christmas celebrations at school, in our community, at church, and in our homes. As Bing Crosby crooned – *“I’ll be home for Christmas, you can plan on me. Please have snow and mistletoe and presents on the tree.”*
- The bright lights and Christmas decorations you see around town and on homesteads in the country. Or as the song reminds us – *“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas everywhere you go. Take a look in the five and ten glistening once again with candy canes and silver lanes aglow.”*

For me the themes and messages of our church services during December are firmly intertwined with the community and family aspects. My heart is warmed by the “secular” aspects of Christmas, even as I am encouraged, inspired, and fortified by its spiritual ones. I take heart in what is promised with the birth of Jesus Christ as described in the Wesley hymn printed at the top of this page.

- Christ was born to set his people free.
- He came to deliver us from our fears and our sins.
- We find our rest in Him.
- Christ is the hope of all the earth.
- He is the dear desire of every nation.
- And he is the joy of every longing heart.

My prayer for us all is we would find freedom, deliverance, rest, hope, and joy this year as we welcome the Christ child in our hearts, our home, and our lives.

I hope you have an Advent season of expectation and a joyous Christmas.

- Pastor Craig

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### Contact Information and Office Hours for December 2018

Church Office: (218) 365-3355

Parsonage: (218) 365-3716

Email: [elymethodist@elyumc.org](mailto:elymethodist@elyumc.org)

Pastor Craig is planning to be in the church office from 9 AM to 11 AM on Tuesdays through Saturdays. He will be taking a few days off during the week of Dec 31 during which time the office will be closed.

**Hanging of the Greens**  
**Saturday December 1, 2018 at 4:00 PM**

It's that time again to get our sanctuary trimmed out for our upcoming celebration of Christmas and the Christ Child's birthday celebration! All those who enjoy "Trimming the Tree" and enjoy fellowshiping with each other should plan to come and participate in this joyful activity. Even if you don't like the actual "trimming" part – we can always use a "peanut gallery" to help critique and point out needed changes – and add to the fellowship - so please come!

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**Christmas Potluck Dinner**  
**Saturday December 1, 2018 at 5:30 PM**

It's also that time again to have our "All Church Christmas Dinner Potluck" after the trimming is done. Families – here's an easy way to feed the crew and share in yet another special Christmas celebration. Please bring something edible (homemade or purchased) if you are able. Either way – please join us for great food and wonderful fellowship.

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**ADVENT STUDY**  
(Continued from Nov 25)

**Sunday Dec 2 at 12:30 PM**  
*"Hope for an Unwed Teenager"*  
Luke 1:26-38

**Sunday Dec 9 at 1 PM**  
*"Two Separate Hopes Become Intertwined Together"*  
Luke 1:39-56

**Sunday Dec 16 at 1 PM**  
*"When Hope's Destination Isn't Visible"*  
Luke 1:57– 2:1

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***Reach-Renew-Rejoice***

"Reach, Renew Rejoice" is the Special 5 Year Campaign Drive set up by our Annual Conference to nurture the growth of the United Methodist Church here in the Minnesota Annual Conference. At the beginning of the campaign, we pledged to raise \$2,020 in 2015, which we accomplished. In 2016, we set a goal of raising \$1,000 toward the campaign, and we reached that goal by early October, raising \$1,015. We decided to set that same goal (\$1,000) for 2017, and once again by early October, we reached our goal, raising \$1,016.

For 2018 we once again set a goal of raising \$1,000. However, this year we have only raised \$167 so far. We are thinking that we have not drawn enough attention to this campaign because of all the other special fund-raising activities. With the year rapidly drawing to a close, we would like to see if we can at least get a lot closer to our goal. This month, please consider dropping off a donation in the basket at the back of the sanctuary, or writing & sending a check written to the church with a memo entry of Reach-Renew-Rejoice or "R3".

## ***Gift of Giving – Project Status***

*The gifts have been purchased,  
And Christmas gift bags are ready to fill.  
The cards have been printed,  
And our kids are decorating them still.  
Now come all volunteer elves,  
To sort, pack, label and give all residents a thrill!*

On Wednesday, December 5 between 3:00 and 5:00 PM in the church fellowship hall, we will be packaging and labeling Christmas gift bags for the residents of the Ely Carefree Living facility. Corine Saumer, Life Enrichment Coordinator from Ely Carefree Living, will be with us to help sort gifts for specific residents. All wishing to help pack and label these Christmas gift bags are more than welcome to come and assist.

One week later on Wednesday, December 12, same time and place, we will be packaging Christmas gift bags for the Boundary Waters Care Center residents. Bonnie Foresman, Activities Director and Social Services Director from Boundary Waters Care Center, will come to help us sort gifts for specific residents. Again, all who are able to come and help with packaging these Christmas gift bags are welcome.

The Christmas gifts bags will be delivered to the Boundary Waters Care Center for them to attach the Christmas Cards on December 13 and all our kids who are able to attend will distribute the gifts to each resident on Sunday afternoon, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at the Boundary Waters Care Center. The gifts for the Care Free Living Center residents will be delivered by all our kids who are able between

Christmas and New Years at their Christmas party, specific date to be announced later.

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## **Parsonage Open House Sunday, December 9, 2018 - 4-6 PM**

Pastor Craig and the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee officially invite you to come visit the parsonage (1006 S. 2nd St. E., Ely) during an open house Christmas Party on Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Come when you can and leave when you must. There will refreshments as well as activities for the children.

For those who helped with the parsonage prep – here's your chance to see how it all looks now that Pastor Craig has moved in. For those who have never been to the parsonage, here's your chance to see the house that our church owns and provides for our minister.

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## **UMW Christmas Luncheon Wednesday, December 12 at 12 Noon at the Grand Ely Lodge**

Calling all Methodist Women! Take a little break from the busy holiday preparations and join us for a relaxing Christmas lunch at the Grand Ely Lodge on Wednesday, December 12 starting at 12 noon. It's your chance to just sit down and be served a nice meal, enjoy some pleasant conversation and not have to do any clean-up afterwards!

We will each be ordering our own meal from the menu so there is no advance payment needed. But we will need to let the GEL know ahead of time for how many places to set up, so please sign up at church, (or call (218) 235-8470 and leave a message), by Sunday, December 16 if you will be able to come.

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**ALL Church Conference  
Wednesday, December 19 at 7 PM**

Our annual Church Conference will be held on Wednesday, December 19 starting at 7 PM in the sanctuary. All church members are invited to attend this conference to finalize and approve the 2019 Budget and the 2019 "Personnel Nominations". (In this case, "Personnel" are church member volunteers.) If you are already a nominee – or if you would like to learn more about possible volunteer opportunities within the church - please come and lend your voice – and vote.

The Administrative Council will meet immediately following the Church Conference in the room at the back of the sanctuary.

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**Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service  
December 24, 2018 - 5:30?? / 7:00?? PM**

We **WILL** be holding our annual Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service on December 24 but we might be

making a time change this year. There have been numerous requests to move the time to earlier in the evening and discussions are underway. Unfortunately, the decision is not going to be made in time to get it into this edition of *THE FISH*.

Once the decision is made, we will be announcing the time during Sunday worship on the next 4 Sundays. If you won't be able to come to any of the December Sunday worship services but would like to attend on Christmas Eve, please call the church at (218) 365-3355 during office hours (9-11 AM Tues thru Sat) to find out the time.

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**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) -  
Minutes  
Wednesday September 26, 2018 1-3 pm**

President Bonnie Berglund called the meeting to order just after 1:00 PM with Sharon Luthens, Lucy Diesslin, Linda Hane, Janice Tessier, Donna Rusco, Bev Johnson, Tootsie Loe and Margie Olson in attendance. The meeting was opened with a unison reading of the UMW Pledge.

The minutes from the September 26, 2018 meeting were read. It was pointed out that, under New Business, "Lucy will take care of that during the week after the CD matures," it was Sharon Luthens who would take care of checking into changing the current CD. Motion was

made by Bonnie Berglund and seconded by Janice Tessier to accept the minutes as amended.

Treasurer's Report: October

Expenditures		Deposits	
Zups – pasties supplies and coffee	\$84.57	October Pasties	\$4534.00
Sullivan's Supply – pasties supplies	\$115.93	Interest from CD	\$826.10
Ace Hardware – Parsonage Supplies	\$34.58		
UMC – General Fund – October Pasties	\$1900.30		
UMC – Building Fund – October Pasties	376.72		
Bulls-Eye Cleaning	225.00		

Checking: \$3138.35

Savings: \$6037.19

CD: \$10,000.00 – 1.95%, matures 9/3/2019

Motion was made by Margie Olson and seconded by Tootsie Loe to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business:

- 1) Discussion of the Cleaning Service: several members pointed out deficiencies. Whether or not there was a list of expectations and specific tasks to be completed was discussed. Margie Olson thought she might have an original list on her

computer. She agreed to take the list and discuss it with the Bull's-Eye cleaning service.

- 2) Tootsie Loe voiced a concern that when the dishwasher was used, it must be dried thoroughly to prevent rust for forming. Lucy Diesslin will have Butch add drying the dishwasher to list of tasks for using the dishwasher.

New Business:

- 1) Lucy Diesslin indicated that UMW will again participate in the Northwoods Partners' Festival of Trees and we will do a wreath. Pam or Jan Rue will decorate the wreath spending less than \$50.00. Motion was made by Tootsie Loe and seconded by Margie Olson to pay for it. The motion passed unanimously
- 2) Lucy Diesslin voiced a concern about the **Reach Renew Rejoice** campaign that the Ad Council had pledged \$1000 and there had been less than \$200 received so far.
- 3) Christmas Luncheon date: It was decided to keep it on Wednesday and a date of December 12 at noon at GEL was agreed upon. Jeanne Tomlinson will be in charge of the arrangements.
- 4) Margie Olson and Bonnie Berglund went to the parsonage. Pastor Craig is happy with the carpet. AC is still in boxes.
- 5) Lydia's Project – don't pack scarves in baggies. Mary Wognum is putting tags on the scarves. Call her 218-343-5626 when they are ready. (by May 1, 2019)

Correspondence: none

Next Meeting: November 28, 2018, Linda Hane hostess.

(President Bonnie Berglund will be leaving November 4 and returning April 24)

Following the meeting, Chapter 14 of *God Was Here and I was Out to Lunch* was read and discussed. Since Chapter 15 is the final chapter and since the group enjoys this particular author, it was suggested that perhaps Jeanne Tomlinson could investigate other potential books.

Following the discussion, Lucy Diesslin served a cranberry cake with a butter sauce that was enjoyed by all.

The business meeting adjourned at 1:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beverly Johnson, note taker