

A Note from Pastor Craig

Greetings and Happy (soon to be) New Year! I hope your Christmas gatherings were joyful times. For those of you who spent most of this special day alone, I pray that you felt the warmth and love of the Christ Child. In Jesus, God has come near to each of us with both the tenderness of a child, and also with the burning splendor of the Lord of the universe.

And now it is on to 2019, a new year! And what does 2019 hold in store for our world, for our church, for each one of our families and for us? To say “new year” may bring to our imaginations that what comes in 2019 may just be totally different from what was before; that the sorrow and hardship from 2018 will be a distant memory.

Yet, in God’s kingdom, the new does not *replace* the old, but is built bit by bit *from* the old. God uses what is already here to fashion what is coming next.

- Jesus’ ancestry was “from the house of David,” which means not just that he came genetically from Old Testament roots, but that his life and mission was in continuity with what God was doing centuries before he was born.
- As Jesus taught, he emphasized that he didn’t come to replace the Law (of Moses), but to fulfill the Law.
- Paul and other New Testament writers continually refer to the Old Testament. The teachings of Marcion, an early church leader who tried to remove all Old Testament references from the New Testament, were soundly dismissed.

The same thing is true with each of each of us. In our families we have been formed by family traditions and ways of doing things far more than we know. In truth, the apple doesn’t fall

far from the tree; we are very much like those who have gone before, and not just our appearance. Yet each new generation sets down new roots and forges new ways of doing things.

I have worked on my family genealogy off and on for about twenty years. The members of the group I meet with for continuing education twice a year spend significant amounts of time studying our respective multigenerational families. Our learning suggests that change is possible, yet is slow and incremental.

What, then, is the good news in Christ as 2019 begins? Newness is possible! The new life that comes to us from God’s goodness can and will make a difference in our life. The way our life is now isn’t the way it necessarily will be in the future.

What brings me caution, however, is to realize that God desires to work within me and my life (and yours too!) as it already is. There is no running away from our life, a “somewhere over the rainbow!” There is no land far away where we can escape everything here.

So then, in the upcoming church season of Epiphany, lets you and I, consider just who this baby Jesus grows up to be and how his presence can slowly transform our life and our world.

I hope you stay warm and have a blessed January!
Pastor Craig

**Contact Information and Office Hours
for January 2019**

Church Office: (218) 365-3355
Parsonage: (218) 365-3716

Email: 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 out of town and the **office will be closed December 30-January 3**. He will be out of town January 28-30 but the office will be open from 10 AM – 12 Noon on those days.

Church Use & Equipment Use Forms

As you can read in the Ad Council minutes, some new forms have been created that will need to be completed by anyone wanting to use the church and/or church equipment for any non-church function.

Pastor Craig has copies of the **Building Use Application** forms and he should be contacted in advance if you would like to use the church for a non-church function.

If you need to borrow any equipment from the church, please contact the Board of Trustees President Bryan Rusco at (218) 343-4485. If the equipment is available and Bryan approves your request, you will be asked to complete an **Equipment Use Application**. The forms are stored in the Fellowship Hall middle storage closet on the door where the garage keys are kept.

Apartment Christmas Trees

For those who may not be aware of one of our outreach ministries, every year a small group of church members set up and decorate five artificial Christmas trees in three of our local apartment buildings: Pioneer, Zenith and Sibley. Many thanks to the following folks who took care of this ministry on Monday, December 3: Lucy Diesslin, Linda Hane, Dan Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Norman Rusco and Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson. We were done in just two hours this year thanks to this great crew.

Reach-Renew-REJOICE!!

Once again our congregation has shown an amazing response to a last-minute request for monetary support of one of our ministries. In the December *FISH* we reported how we were far behind on the 2018 giving to the Conference's *Reach-Renew-Rejoice* five-year campaign to help start up new churches and help struggling churches. In just the first two Sundays of December we received enough contributions to not only meet our \$1,000 goal for 2018 but to exceed it! At publishing time, we have \$1,112.25 in the fund so we'll be sending in \$1,000 for 2018 and will have a head-start for 2019, which will be the last year of the campaign. Thank you so much to all who responded. We are so blessed to have such a generous and giving congregation.

Pastor Parish Health Ministry

By Margie Olson & Donna Rusco

The Ely United Methodist Church Parish Health Ministry program started in 2004 when Chairperson Donna Rusco, passed the Parish Nurse Education Program at Concordia College and a committee was formed. Health education (i.e. Women's Heart Health Awareness month in February, Influenza updates, local health seminars, etc.), phone calls, visits to persons who are unable to get out and about or attend worship services and visits to all the community health care facilities are part of the Ely United Methodist Church Health Ministry program.

A \$1035 grant was applied for and received in 2007 from the United Methodist Church Conference. The grant provided funds for Blood Pressure Cuffs and Stethoscopes, Hand Sanitizers, Oxygen bottle, First Aid Kits and Cabinets, DVD player which is used for the nursing home and Carefree Living services and tapes of that era.

The File of Life program was also started with the grant money. The File of Life packet is a refrigerator magnet with an attached red plastic pocket. In the plastic pocket is a tri-fold paper on which you can record your vital emergency information. Fill in the information on the paper. Remember, the information will help the Ambulance and first responders to better assist you in an emergency. File of Life packets are in the Church Family room or contact Margie Olson or Bonnie Berglund if you are interested in one.

A Blood Pressure clinic was offered every 2nd Sunday of the month and because of this clinic some medical situations were discovered and the person/s were

referred to seek medical attention from their doctor. Due to low need (many people getting their own BP kits, etc.), blood pressures are now done by request any Sunday by Margie Olson or Donna Rusco.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in 2008 and we are so blessed to have volunteer knitters in the church who provide the shawls which are given out to the sick or needy and also shawls are brought to the Nursing Home each December.

In 2013 an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) was donated by the Floyd Family in memory of Richard & Geraldine Floyd.

If anyone has any suggestions as to what else could be a part of the Parish Health Ministry, please contact Donna Rusco.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) -
Minutes
Wednesday, November 28, 2018 1-3 pm**

Prior to the meeting, those who had arrived early assisted with the December 2018 *FISH* newsletter mailing.

The meeting was officially convened at 1:08 pm by Vice President Lucy Diesslin with Marge Forsberg, Linda Hane, Tootsie Loe, Sharon Luthens, Patty Niskala,

Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Janice Tessier, Jeanne Tomlinson and Jeri Walburn also in attendance. We opened with a unison reading of the UMW Pledge.

The minutes from our October 24, 2018 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Tootsie Loe; second by Jeri Walburn. Motion approved.

Sharon Luthens presented the November Treasurer's Report showing \$4,850 in income; \$4,621.77 in expenditures; account balances as follows: checking \$3,562.33; savings \$6,037.19; CD \$10,000. Jeanne Tomlinson moved to accept; second by Donna Rusco & Linda Hane. Motion passed.

Old Business

- **Reach-Renew-Rejoice:** Jeanne Tomlinson moved that UMW give \$300 to this year's Reach-Renew-Rejoice campaign. Second by Janice Tessier. Motion passed.
- **Cleaning Service:** Margie Olson reported she'd left a message with Lori Boes (Bull's-Eye Cleaning) but had not heard back yet.
- **UMW Christmas Luncheon:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that she'd made reservations for 16 with the Evergreen Restaurant at the GEL for noon on Wednesday, Dec 12 for our luncheon. There will be sign-up sheet at the church the next two Sundays (Dec 2 & 9) for women to sign up. Jeanne will call the GEL on Monday, Dec 10 with the actual count.

There was no **New Business**.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 1:36 pm.

We then went to our study book by James W. Moore, *God Was Here & I Was Out To Lunch*. We read and discussed Chapter 15: *God's Call to Come Home*". This final chapter was about coming home to God's presence, God's sacrificial love and God's grace. Jeanne Tomlinson will talk to Pastor Craig to arrange for our next devotional study book.

We then enjoyed a delicious pineapple/pudding cake supplied by Linda Hane.

Our next meeting will be January 23 at 1 pm with Jeri Walburn as hostess.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson,
Secretary

Administrative Council - Minutes Wednesday, November 28, 2018

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

Attendees (9): Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Margie & Mark Olson, Keith Rue, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

Opening: Pastor Craig provided the “Opening Thought” from an Advent devotional book that included a devotional thought about how you travel determines how you arrive, essentially how important it is to approach Advent with a waiting & anticipating attitude.

Minutes: The October 17, 2018 Ad Council minutes as printed in the October were approved as printed. Motion to approve by Margie Olson, second by Lucy Diesslin.

Treasurer’s Report: Mark Olson presented the October 2018 treasurer’s reports. Receipts & disbursements were \$9,200.30 & \$8,029.83, respectively. End of month balances: Building Fund \$8,514.16; Memorial Fund \$10,615.32; Parish Health Ministries \$400; R3 Project \$187.25; 2018 Gift of Giving Project \$1,169, Landscape Project \$199.16; available General Fund \$14,380.67. Motion to accept by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Linda Hane. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Memorial Fund Task Force:** Carol Linneman had sent Jay a note that they had met on Tuesday, November 6 and discussed that there are still memorial funds available for Safe Gathering and Kid’s Club. They also discussed using funds to buy room dividers to allow for moving part of the play area into the Fellowship Hall and to possibly replace the chalk boards with white boards.
- **Finance:** Butch Diesslin presented the proposed 2019 Budget that the committee had developed. He moved that it be approved as presented, Margie Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee had met with the District Superintendent

Mark Miller early in November to go over Pastor Craig’s evaluation that they had completed prior to the meeting. Mark was pleased to hear how well the transition has been going. The committee will meet next on Monday, Dec 3 to plan refreshments for the Parsonage Open House on Dec 9.

- **Worship:** Linda Hane reported that the children will be singing on some Sunday in December. The Advent Lighting schedule is set up. We discussed the requests to move the Christmas Eve service to earlier. Susan Germek said she could come as early as 5:30 pm. Linda Hane moved that we try having the service at 5:30 pm this year to see how it goes. Second by Butch Diesslin. Motion passed with 2 abstaining. We decided we should make sure we have ads in both the Echo and the Shopper to make sure folks know about the time change. Linda Hane will contact the Shopper and Pastor Craig will contact the Echo.
- **Visioning:** Jay Tomlinson reported that the Gift of Giving project is proceeding nicely. The kids are working on the cards and there are scheduled times to package up the gifts and deliver them to the residents. All the details are in the December *FISH*.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Church Use and Equipment Use Forms:** Jay distributed copies of the forms. Linda Hane moved we approve them, Lucy Diesslin seconded. Motion passed. Pastor Craig will be in charge of the Church Use form Bryan Rusco will be in charge of the Equipment Use form with Pastor Craig as a secondary. It was

suggested we do an article about the forms in the next newsletter.

- **Planned Giving Seminar at Ely UMC** (tabled from October): Pastor Craig reported that he'd called about this but hasn't received a call back yet. It was decided to take this off the agenda and put it back on the agenda after he'd heard back.
- **Confirmation Class:** Pastor Craig started confirmation classes today with Janae Murphy, Lauren Olson and Lily Tedrick. Logan Loe wasn't able to attend the first meeting today but should be able to join later.
- **Fellowship Hall External Door Lock Problem:** Butch Diesslin reported that he had fixed the lock although with the colder weather we still need to regularly check the batteries. Marge mentioned the dead-bolt still has trouble opening all the way sometimes. Butch will add some lubricant. It was also mentioned that pulling the door toward you while entering the codes helps the bolt move back more easily.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Ely-wide Prayer Service for Christian Unity:** Pastor Craig reported that Pastor Corey Larson had called to tell him about an annual ecumenical prayer service, that it would be held on January 20th at 7 pm and wanted to know if it could be held in our church. The clergy would run the service. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we host the event; second by Linda Hane. Motion passed.
2. **Christmas Poinsettias:** We discussed how these had been handled in the past. Sheila Shultz had handled the finances but Pastor Dana had taken care of ordering. Pastor Craig

offered to do the sign-up forms and take care of ordering the flowers by December 12 for delivery on Christmas Eve.

3. **Apartment Christmas Trees:** We talked about this annual tradition that originally had been handled by the youth group but just a few people have taken care of it the past few years. It was decided to have Jay & Jeanne decide on a date and announce it at church to try to recruit additional participants.

Correspondence - None

Items of Information

1. **November 2018 Pasty Report:** 806 made; gross income \$4,850 to be collected for a total of \$4,690; cost \$1,404.95. Net Income \$3,445.05. Last November we made 778 pasties and had a net income of \$3,463.68.
2. **New member joining:** Pastor Craig announced that Evelyn Wallendar would be joining our church in December.
3. Mark mentioned that he'd paid *Young Life, Northwoods Partners* and *North Star District Fund* the amounts we had budgeted for this year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary