

We Are The Church!

At no time in our church's history has it become more evident that the title of the hymn ***We Are The Church*** applies to us today. That may not be the exact title of the hymn, but I'm certain that line is in the hymn, and if it's not the title, it should be!

Our minister of 31 years has just retired. He says he is not retiring, but just changing jobs, to which my wife says, "If you're not being paid, you are still retired, regardless of the job you are doing." She knows this because I'm retired, but still doing the job without being paid!

I think you would have to go back to the 1800s to find a minister whose congregation allowed him to stay with the same church for 31 years. Most congregations today wouldn't stand having the same minister preaching to them for more than 5 years, let alone 31 years. This says something about the character of our now retired minister doesn't it?!

We have a new minister coming, but not for another 6 weeks. This takes us back to the hymn title ***We Are The Church***, as now we have to not only cover the church office, phone calls, newsletters, bulletins, and everything else our now retired minister used to do for us, but also plan and deliver 6 church services good enough to keep the rest of us interested in coming to church and giving our money. Some of us might be worried that our new minister won't be able to 'fill the shoes' of our now retired minister of 31 years, but I think that after trying to 'fill his shoes' for

just 6 weeks, we will all welcome our new minister with loud praises of joy...and, of course, ice cream!

It's not really true that we won't have a minister for six weeks because, technically, our District Superintendent becomes our minister of record for this interim time period. He should come visit us during this time. We could go fishing. He usually comes for a visit in January or February when you need more than a long handled axe or a 24 inch chainsaw to even find water. I don't fish in the winter, too many other fun things to do!

I think we will survive this time of having no appointed minister. Our recently retired minister has agreed to come back and preach to us, twice, meaning we really have to cover only four Sundays. I wonder if his messages will be filled with how great it is to be retired...or not? We also have another retired minister in our congregation, actually three other retired ministers in our congregation, but this one has agreed to preach on one other Sunday. Now we are down to needing to prepare only three messages. It's getting easier all the time!...but, we will probably still need a secretary.

Yes, I think we will survive. ***We Are The Church***, and after these next six weeks, I think we will be closer friends and a more loving congregation as we learn more about what it takes to actually be the church!

With loving thoughts,

Jay Tomlinson, Ad Council Chair

ICE CREAM WELCOME FELLOWSHIP

July 29, 2018 • 11:15 AM • Fellowship Hall

The Ice Cream Welcome Fellowship is a planned social time to be held directly following our church service on Sunday July 29th to meet greet our new Minister, Craig Haberman.

There will be two 3 gallon tubs of vanilla ice cream from Northland Market with toppings galore, coffee, and juice drinks for all to partake.

Volunteers are needed to spearhead and organize this ice cream social event. There are opportunities to serve, to provide toppings, to provide juice drinks for those who do not wish to have coffee. If you would like to volunteer to be on the committee, to provide a topping, to be a server, to provide drinks or other goodies, please sign-up on the sheet provided at the back of the church on Sunday mornings. Thank you.

Let's welcome Pastor Craig Haberman in style!

Contact Information and Office Hours for July 1 through July 27

Church Office: (218) 365-3355

Urgent Need: (218) 365-3716

Email: elymethodist@elyumc.org

We are continuing to staff the church office with volunteers from **10:00 AM to 12 Noon on Monday through Friday.** During that time, our volunteers

will be processing the mail, checking the answering machine, answering the phone, accepting any deliveries and whatever other secretarial tasks arise.

If you have a general church question or request that is not urgent, please call the Church Office during those times, or just leave a message with your name, phone number and the best time to reach you, and someone will call you back.

If you have an urgent need for ministerial services, such as for someone in the hospital or a death in the family, etc., please call the Parsonage (218) 365-3716. Your call will automatically be forwarded to someone in the church leadership who will assist you.

A Gift of Giving Project for Nursing Home and Assisted Living Residents

The Visioning Committee's ***A Gift of Giving Project*** to reach out and partner with local community businesses by providing at least one Christmas gift to each resident of the *Boundary Waters Care Center* and the *Carefree Living Facility* is in direct line with the Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference suggestion of community outreach, as reported by Lucy Diesslin, our Conference Delegate.

The Visioning Committee has proposed that funds for the ***A Gift of Giving Project*** be raised through a ***Free Will Offering*** taken on July 1st and on July 29th, and on one Sunday in October yet to be determined. Checks should be written to the Ely United Methodist Church and designated to ***A Gift of***

Giving Project. A basket designated for this purpose will also be provided on these Sundays in the rear of the church.

The Visioning Committee believes we, as church members, can raise the approximate \$1,000 needed through donations and with *Free Will Offerings*. If funds collected exceed the target amount, the excess funds will be used to provide something for the caregivers at each facility.

Our church could share the wonder of Christmas and the spirit of receiving through our giving of gifts to those in our community who most need reassurance and who are unable to be with their families or their church.

**Preparing the Parsonage:
Washing Windows**

Over the past few months, if you've been reading the minutes of the Administrative Council and the Guild/UMW that are included in the church newsletters, you'll have noticed that a lot of planning and work has already been done to get the parsonage ready for Pastor Craig. As we get ready for his move-in dates of July 24-25, we'll be making some announcements during the summer worship services asking for some extra help in some of those preparations. In particular, once we figure out an exact schedule, we'll have a sign-up sheet for folks to help wash the windows, screens and doors of the parsonage. We'll be scheduling time(s) during the weeks of June 11 and June 18. If you are willing to help and don't get a chance to sign-up, just call the church office or send an email.

**Parsonage "Welcome" Prep
Monday, July 23, 2018**

We would like to prepare a nice welcome for Pastor Craig when he arrives at the parsonage. If you are available to help with last-minute cleaning & decorating on Monday, July 23, please come to the parsonage (1006 2nd Avenue E) between 9 AM and 12 Noon. If you would like to prepare a special treat or quick-warm up meal or two for him, please plan to drop it off during that time, or call the church office to make other arrangements.

What Do We Need Name Tags For?

Well, the pat answer to the question posed above is that we don't. After all, we haven't had nametags, well, forever, which is for as long as I have attended this church. We can still lean over to our neighbor next to us in the pew and ask, "Who are those people sitting in the back row on the left?"

I recently heard one church member say, "I don't need a name tag. Everyone knows who I am!" If you have a memory like mine, remembering names is a problem. Who was that church member anyway?

We have a new minister coming in a few weeks time. I'm sure after two or three Sundays we will all be able to remember his name. He won't be so lucky. He will have to remember more than 100 names in the same time frame. In order to help him, the Visioning

Committee thought we could wear nametags. It might even help the rest of us identify, by name, our summer guests and those in our regular congregation we don't talk to because we can't put a name to the face.

Imagine that!

If you look to the back of our church, you will see two beautiful nametag boards holding some 240 nametags. Yep, there are some 240 of us, believe it or not. We've placed the nametags by family as close as possible to the side of the church where you normally sit. Those who sit in the middle pews...well, you might find your nametag on either peg board. (We are Methodists, and though we don't put our names on the pews, we know where we sit all the time, right?)

Anyway, to make things easy for us, the nametags are all on lanyards, so there are no pins to stick you, no sticky residue left on your clothes, and you have a place to hang it when leaving after fellowship. Once you find your nametag, you can place your nametag on any peg you wish. The idea is, if it's always on the same peg, it should be easy to find. (Wishful thinking, right?) You may even take it home if you prefer, and no doubt, some of us will...mostly by accident though. Remembering to wear it when we come back might be an issue, however. No one is going to force you to wear your nametag, but don't be surprised if you hear, "Who is that person who doesn't have a nametag?"

Yes, change is always difficult, especially for those of us Methodists set in our ways, who sit in the same pew every Sunday, who love to make and/or eat pasties. However, some changes make life interesting,

like meeting new people, or like trying to remember which peg we left our nametag on. I figure we might need the next month to practice and get used to this new change. Hopefully, it will become habit.

If, by some unexplainable chance, your nametag is not in back of the church, your name is misspelled, your nametag is the wrong color, you need a nametag for a visiting guest, or whatever the problem is, please let me know and I'll have a new or corrected nametag made for you ASAP.

With loving thoughts,

Jay Tomlinson, Visioning Committee Member

Multi-Church Picnic

*****Notice***:** The Multi-Church Picnic for this year will be held on Sunday AUGUST 12, 2018 **not April** as was reported in the Administrative Council's minutes that were printed in the June 2018 *FISH*. Many thanks to the vigilant *FISH* readers who caught this error.

So that you can plan ahead – the picnic will be at Semer's Park from 12 Noon to 12 PM. As before, burgers, brats, hotdogs, buns, condiments, lemonade & water will be provided. The rest will be POTLUCK items we get to bring. We'll have more details at church and in the August *FISH* as we get closer to the date.

The UMW/Guild at Ely United Methodist Church

Wednesday May 23, 2018 1-2:45 pm

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

The meeting was officially convened at 1:08 pm by President Bonnie Berglund with 11 people in attendance. Pastor Dana provided an opening prayer and then we did a unison reading of the UMW Pledge.

The minutes from our April 25, 2018 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Lucy Diesslin; second by Donna Rusco. Motion approved.

Bonnie gave the Treasurer's Report from Sharon as follows: CD \$10,801.71; Savings \$7,529.72; Checking \$2,988.31. Linda Hane moved to approve; second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion passed.

Old Business

- Parsonage: Bonnie reported that we still don't know the exact install date for the carpeting but it should happen during the last week of June. The bathroom work has started but we don't yet know when it will be completed. After conversations with Pastor Craig, it was decided we'd proceed with cleaning & rehanging the existing drapes but remove all the shears. The living room drapes are down and taken to the cleaners and should be ready shortly. Pastor Craig would like some time to settle in before doing anything else with the window coverings.

Bonnie and Jeanne Tomlinson will take down the remaining drapes, except for the master bedroom, and Bonnie will take them in for cleaning. Bonnie will be talking to Ann Spangler to set a date for the window washing.

- UMW Friendship Dinner: Our May 15 Friendship dinner had 22 participants. The hymn-sing for our program time was well received.
- Knitted Preemie Hats: Lucy Diesslin reported that she'll be taking 45 knitted preemie hats to conference.
- June Worship Service: We discussed the general format of the service that the UMW will be handling on June 17 and decided on the basic pieces which different women can handle: (1) Call to Worship & opening hymn, (2) Congregation Greetings/Prayer Requests/Prayers to include singing the Lord's Prayer, (3) Children's Moment, (4) Scripture Reading, (5) Short (5-7 minutes) inspiration/message if someone wants to do that, (6) Hymn Sing, (7) Offering & Doxology (8) Closing Hymn & Benediction. Bev Johnson agreed to lead the hymn sing and Sandra Lee agreed to take care of the Children's Moment. Bonnie will put together a sign-up sheet for all the different parts of the service, including ushering and refreshments and will have it out at the May 27 and June 3 worship services. Then we'll meet again on Tuesday June 12 at 1 PM to finalize the details.

New Business

- Ice Cream Social: Bonnie mentioned that the church will be doing an Ice Cream Social during Fellowship Time on July 29, Pastor Craig's first Sunday with us. Butch Diesslin is taking care of ordering the ice cream. We should probably do another sign-up sheet for help and supplies as we get

closer to the date.

- Change of Name: Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we change the name “Guild/UMW” to just “UMW”. This should help all women in the church know they are welcome to participate in the group. Second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion approved.
- 2018-19 Meeting/Hostess Schedule: We went through next year’s meeting schedule and people volunteered to hostess as follows:
 - Sept 26 – Jeanne Tomlinson
 - Oct 24 – Lucy Diesslin
 - Nov 28 – Linda Hane
 - Jan 23 – Jeri Walburn
 - Feb 27 – Bev Johnson
 - Mar 27 – Janice Tessier
 - Apr 24 – Donna Rusco
 - May 22 – Bonnie Berglund

Correspondence

- Thank you note from Northwoods Partners for our support.
- MN Conference Connection newsletter.
- Letter from the MN Conference about the Lydia Project they are doing for the 2020 UM General Conference that will be held in Minneapolis/St Paul. They would like to provide 10,000 knitted/crocheted purple scarves to give to the conference participants. They are asking for an estimated count from each church if there are people willing to make these. They

would need to be completed by the MN Conference in 2019. We decided to have a sign-up sheet at the coming worship service along with copies of the letter that has all the specifics.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 2:15 pm.

We then went to our study book by James W. Moore, *God Was Here & I Was Out To Lunch*. We read Chapter 12: *Don’t Miss...the Joy of Service*. This chapter was about three conversations the author had with three different people in his past that had a major impact in determining how he would serve God.

We then enjoyed a lemon dessert supplied by Bonnie Berglund.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Secretary
