

A Note from Pastor Craig

The month of March is upon us us. This means March Madness for men's college basketball fans. For the Irish it means St. Patrick's Day.

In some places March means the coming of spring: When I was growing up the adage we learned in school concerning March was "In like a lion, out like a lamb," which confused me for two reasons. First, I thought the saying had to do with the color of things outdoors and wasn't snow white, like a lamb and grass in the spring, brown like a lion? Second, once I realized it had to do with the "fury" of the weather it still didn't make sense because I lived in northern Minnesota where Spring didn't come until May!

Well, anyhow, in the church March means the season of Lent, the forty days (not counting Sundays) when we remember and commemorate the events of Jesus' life leading up to the Last Supper, his arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection from the dead. The forty days is an arbitrary figure but recalls the forty years the Hebrews spent in the wilderness following their escape from Pharaoh in Egypt and the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by the devil.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is March 6 this year. Our worship team is sponsoring an evening Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.

This service has become one of my favorite services of the year, right behind Christmas Eve and Easter. The

service recognizes two realities of our life that none of us can avoid or outrun: our mortality (we're all going to die) and our sin (we're fallible human beings who do things that hurt ourselves and others and don't do things we really ought – the so called "sins of commission and omission!")

At first thought it might seem as though a service focusing on these two "dark" realities would be a grim and unhappy service. What I've found is it's just the opposite, it's merely acknowledging what we already know about ourselves (we're sinners who are going to die), yet the service is hopeful because we recognize that in Christ God overcomes both of these obstacles in our life. I do hope you will plan on attending the service.

Our church will also be participating in the round-robin Thursday evening series of church suppers held at various churches in Ely from March 14 through April 11. Our church is making pasties for the March 21 supper, which we will host at St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

Meanwhile – hang in there. March is a great month in Ely. I know winter gets long, but Spring will arrive, eventually! I hope you have a wonderful March.

Pastor Craig

Contact Information and Office Hours

for March 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 the office the week of March 25-29.

Gift of Giving Project

The Visioning Committee would like to thank all who participated in the 2018 Gift of Giving project for the residents of the Carefree Living and Boundary Waters Care Center facilities. The success of the project was evident to all who participated and especially for those who were present to help distribute the gifts to the residents. We're not sure who received the greater gift, the gift givers or the gift receivers...maybe both!

Take time to check out the photo spread posted on the church bulletin boards and to let Pastor Craig or any of the Visioning Committee members know whether this is an outreach project our church should continue in 2019 and perhaps beyond. Visioning Committee members include: Rich Floyd, Linda Hane, Keith Rue, Jan Rue, Patty Rusco, Gail Haney, Lucy Diesslin, Jay Tomlinson and Pastor Craig Haberman. Thank you for your feedback.

You may send your thoughts on the Gift Of Giving project to the church office at 305 E Camp St, Ely, MN 55731; call the church office at (218-365-3355); or email your thoughts to Pastor Craig at minister@elyumc.org or Rich Floyd, Visioning Committee Chairperson at visioning@elyumc.org

March Food Shelf Drive

If you've been reading the Ad Council minutes, you'll know that last fall we re-evaluated our annual Stanley the Scarecrow food shelf drive and decided to change it to a monetary collection in March. The primary reason for a *March* drive would be the matching funds from the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches' Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, essentially doubling whatever we collect and give to the Ely Food Shelf.

So, starting this coming Sunday, March 3, and for every other Sunday in March, there will be a basket in the back of the sanctuary labelled for the "March Food Shelf \$\$ Drive". Please consider giving a donation to this cause this month – remembering that however small the donation, it will have double the impact. Please drop any cash donations into the basket. If you would like to write a check, please make it out to ***Ely United Methodist Church*** and write ***Food Shelf*** in the memo line, then drop it in the basket or in the collection plate during the morning offering.

Our Sponsored Child through *Children International*

Many of you might not know that our church has been donating regularly to *Children International* for many years to cover the cost of sponsoring a child. Normally we are assigned a younger child and we get to hear from the same child through his or her growing years. As the child grows up, we are assigned a new one. Our current sponsored child, **Evelin Sarai Jiatz Cutzal**, is from Guatemala and is now 16 years old and we have been receiving letters from her over the past 9 years. They are all posted on the small bulletin board in the annex just above the recycling basket. Please feel free to look through and read these letters to get better acquainted with Evelin. We thought we'd share on of her more recent ones, as translated from Spanish.

Dear sponsor:

I say hi with a big hug, and I hope you and your family are healthy. I tell you that I feel happy because the Independence of the country is coming and my classmates and I march in the morning and it is very nice, there are school bands and dancing and other things. In the afternoons I spend time in my community and I like to play soccer with my cousins and friends. I tell you that I am healthy with my family. I say goodbye with a big hug and I wish you success in all you do. God bless you.

Evelin Sarai Jiatz

Extended Church Fellowship...

Not everyone reads the little tri-folded **Welcome Visitors** flier that is in the pockets on the back of the pews - or some may have read it some time ago and have forgotten. So, we'd like to point out a few things listed in it that occur pretty much every week. We invite you to check them out if you are interested in getting better acquainted with other members of the congregation. The more time you spend with other church members, the more you will feel a part of the church. In fact, it doesn't take long before it feels like family.

These activities are open to anyone wanting to participate and you don't even have to tell anyone ahead – just show up. We can guarantee you'll be welcomed with big smiles.

- **Sunday Coffee Fellowship:** This happens right after the worship service at the back of the church (unless there's a potluck – then it's downstairs in the Fellowship hall). It's a great time to meet up with folks you didn't get a chance to talk to earlier during the congregational greeting time.
- **Sunday "Do Lunch":** Right after Fellowship at church (unless there's a potluck!), we get together for lunch at the **Ely Steak House** which is just a block away on Sheridan Ave. We each pay for our own meal – and every ticket automatically gets a 5% discount. They seat us at tables in the large room to the left - probably because we can get kind of rowdy. And couples be warned: because of a long-running tradition, it's not uncommon that

there's a "men's table" and a "women's table" (probably one reason it gets kind of rowdy).

- **Weekday Morning Coffee Group:** Monday through Friday, from 10-11 AM, there are usually a few folks from the church gathering at the **Dairy Queen** which opens for food at 11 AM but is open for "coffee groups" earlier than that. Some of us get coffee, some get tea, hot chocolate or a soft drink, some just pop in to be with the group for a bit. If it's a small group, we usually sit at the table near the front door; otherwise we sit in the back room (because a larger group sometimes gets a little rowdy here, too).

Future Dates to Remember

(Check this month's calendar for March events.)

April 18 - Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
April 21 – Sunday Easter Service 10 am

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES February 20, 2019

Call To Order: Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM.

Attendees (10): Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Dan & Bev Johnson, Carol Linneman, Margie & Mark Olson, Keith Rue, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

Opening: Pastor Craig provided the "Opening Thought" with thoughts about the soon-to-start UMC General Conference in

St. Louis that will be making a decision about how the United Methodist Church will proceed with handling GLBT and same-sex marriage issues. The Bishops have recommended a "One Church" model which allows for a diversity of views under the United Methodist umbrella. We all need to be in prayer about this conference.

Minutes: The January 16, 2019 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the February *FISH*. Motion by Marge Olson; second by Linda Hane.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Olson presented the January 2019 Treasurer's Report. Receipts & disbursements were \$7,923.86 & \$11,272.89, respectively. End of month balances: Undesignated Funds \$12,040.88; Building Fund \$9,192.01; Memorial Fund \$10,623.87; Parish Health Ministries \$400; R3 Project \$112.25; Gift of Giving Project \$15.16, Landscape Project \$218.78. Motion to accept by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Keith Rue. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Board of Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that she had been elected as the new Chair. The outdoor parking lot lights have now been fixed. She and Pam Turnbull have been working on cleaning out the closets in the back of the sanctuary. The committee had also discussed the erosion that's happening in the lower parking lot. Bryan Rusco will be working on that.
- **Memorial Fund Task Force:** Carol Linneman reported that they'd met on February 5. The new white boards have been paid for (about \$290) and are installed in the Fellowship Hall. Memorial Sunday will be May 12. The committee also worked on updating the Memorial Committee responsibilities for the Church Handbook.

- **Finance:** Bev Johnson reported that the annual audit was completed last month and all looked good. We had over \$54,000 total in all the accounts at the end of 2018.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee will be meeting next on March 13.
- **Worship:** Linda Hane reported the committee met on Tuesday, February 5, and have planned services up through Easter, including an Ash Wednesday and a Maundy Thursday service. The choir will be singing in both of these additional services. They also worked on “pulpit supply” for the Sundays that Pastor Craig will be gone: June 30 (Jay Tomlinson with the Annual UMC Conference Report); July 7 (Dana Thompson); July 21 (TBA); Dec 1 (Marshall Monthei). The next committee meeting will be April 7. We had a brief discussion about using candelabras for the Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services. The ones we currently own are in bad shape and only hold 5 candles each but we would need ones that hold 7 candles each. Given how pricey they are to purchase it was suggested we could look at just renting them for those services.
- **Visioning:** Jay Tomlinson reported the committee met on January 17 and worked on the following:
 - **Gift of Giving:** The committee is looking for congregation feedback on whether to repeat this as a project for this coming December. There will be an article in the March *FISH* asking for that.
 - **Vine & Branches Bible Study:** This started on February 10 with 21 participants on Sunday and 9 on Monday.
 - **Prayer Wall:** The committee is still working on logistics for this new feature for the Sunday bulletin. The hope is to include prayers from the prayer chain and those submitted by people during church on the Prayer Request forms in the pew pads.
 - **Bible Study:** The committee is looking for feedback about interest and availability for a weekly Bible Study in addition to the Sunday morning one. A questionnaire was made available at the church this past Sunday and will be available for the next few Sundays for interested people to supply this information.
 - **Church Handbook:** The committee also worked on creating information about the Visioning Committee for the Church Handbook which is being updated this year.
 - **Potlucks:** They also had a discussion about changing the quarterly Potluck Sundays to ones that would not be in competition with Communion or other key events since it created a bit of a log-jam in the kitchen for our February one. The next scheduled potluck will be May 19 since the first Sunday would be Communion and the next Sunday is Mother’s Day and Fishing Opener weekend.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Progress on Ad Hoc Committee for Church Handbook:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that she hasn't actually formed a committee yet but is very appreciative of the committees who have been pro-active in providing handbook updates for their own committee information so far. She plans to have a sketched out "organizational chart" as a starting point for the March Ad Council meeting that will be part of the handbook revisions.
2. **Hosting Results for the Ely-wide Prayer Service for Christian Unity Jan 27:** Pastor Craig reported that the event was fairly last-minute in getting organized but he felt it turned out well. Partly due to the extremely cold weather on that day, there were only about 35 people in attendance but many of those were local clergy, many of whom participated in the service. He was proud of our church in being good hosts for this event.
3. **Retirement of Stanley – Replacement with March Food Shelf Drive:** As had been discussed at our September 2018 Ad Council meeting (and reported in the October 2018 *FISH*), the Ad Council had approved retiring Stanley the Scarecrow and looking instead at doing a drive in March for monetary donations for the Ely Food Shelf. The primary reason for a *March* drive would be the matching funds from the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches' Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, essentially doubling whatever we collect and give to the Ely Food Shelf. Mark Olson moved that we hold this drive, putting out a donation basket and having an article in the upcoming March *FISH* and announcing it during church each Sunday. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion approved. Margie Olson mentioned that we should also plan on donating our

Lenten Supper income (after expenses) to the Ely Food Shelf. This can be discussed at the March 20 Ad Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Confirming Nominations – Outreach Chair and Trustees

Chair: Pastor Craig brought up that two positions had not been filled at our December Annual Church Conference but had now been filled so we need to confirm their nominations. He presented Jay Tomlinson for Outreach Chair and Margie Olson as the Trustees Chair and moved that their nomination be confirmed. Second by Margie Olson. Motion approved. As a follow-up, Jay commented that his vision for the Outreach Committee Chair is to identify and chart all the Outreach Projects; confirm the coordinators of each Outreach Project, many of whom are already in place such as for Hearts-2-Hands, Prayer Shawls, Comfort Baskets, and others; learn whether each coordinator would like to present their project to the congregation on an annual or even more frequent basis; work with the Worship Committee to identify times when the Outreach Project Coordinators might provide a presentation in church about the their projects.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Items of Information.

1. **New District Superintendent:** Pastor Craig announced that our current DS Mark Miller has been assigned a church starting in September so we will be getting a new DS.

2. **District Leadership:** Pastor Craig also reported that Mark Miller had asked him to take on the District Leadership role that Pastor Dana had held and he had agreed. So he will be gone on February 28 for that. He will also be gone on March 11 to attend the annual “Clergy Day Apart” event.
3. **Lenten Supper:** We will be hosting our Lenten Supper on March 21. We’ll put out sign-up sheets on March 10 and 17 to recruit help for this.
4. **February Pasties Report:** Pasties made: 664; Sales \$3,998; Cost: \$1,318.51; Net Income: \$2,679.49. Last January we made 721.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord’s Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

UMW Minutes
 Wednesday January 23, 2019

The meeting was officially convened at 1:02 pm by Vice President Lucy Diesslin with Linda Hane, Beverly Johnson, Tootsie Loe, Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Jeanne Tomlinson and Jeri Walburn also in attendance. Lucy opened with a prayer and we did a unison reading of the UMW Pledge.

The minutes from our November 28, 2018 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Margie Olson; second by Linda Hane.

On behalf of Sharon Luthens for the Treasurer’s Report, Beverly Johnson reported the checking account balance as \$3,562.33 with no change in the savings & CD accounts.

Old Business

- **UMW Christmas Luncheon:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that we had 18 women attend the luncheon on December 12. Everyone agreed it went very well.
- **Cleaning Service:** Margie Olson reported that she had met with Lori Boes (Bull’s-Eye Cleaning) and they re-created a list of cleaning responsibilities for the janitor and that this appears to be working.
- **Reach-Renew-Rejoice:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that with an article in the December FISH and two Sundays of announcements about the fund, we ended up raising over \$1,100. \$1,000 was sent in for our 2018 donation and \$112.25 was held to start the 2019 fund for the final year of the campaign. The Ad Council voted to set the goal again at \$1,000 and to send in whatever is raised, as well as committing to raise awareness several times during the year so there hopefully won’t need to be a last-minute plea.

New Business

- **Lydia Project:** We discussed how we're doing on making purple scarves for the 2020 UM General Conference to be held in Minneapolis/St Paul. From the reports of those already done and who all is still working on them, we are confident we will far exceed our pledge of about 100. Mary Wognum is collecting and tagging the completed scarves.
- **Church "Spring" Cleaning:** It has been over 12 years since the church has had a full cleaning so it has been suggested that we see about organizing one for this year. Margie reported she'll be approaching the Board of Trustees about painting the kitchen and children's room. We briefly discussed timing since it was suggested that Fall might be a better time to do that with all the pollen & dust that accumulates in the Spring but it was felt we'd have a better chance of getting it done if we do it in late May/early June with the arrival of more summer help. Lucy suggested we contact Braschko's about stripping & re-waxing the floor if we can't recruit enough younger help to do that task. Margie agreed to ask the Braschkos if they still do that type of work. We'll do more detail planning (list, times, etc) as we get closer to that time.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 1:25 pm.

For our devotional study, Jeanne reported that she'd talked with Pastor Craig who did some research but couldn't find many devotionals in the format we've been using other than those by James W Moore. Jeanne

learned Mr. Moore has over 40 such books and compiled a list of 4 of those that she felt might work for us:

- *Attitude is Your Paint Brush - It Colors Every Situation*
- *Are You Fired Up or Burned Out?*
- *Some Folks Feel the Rain - Others Just Get Wet*
- *Rich in the Things That Count the Most*

She had downloaded the first to her Kindle for us to check out and decide if that will work for us. We read the Introduction and decided that we'd make that our next book, so Jeanne will take care of ordering it. But it was also agreed that she should just go ahead and order the other three so that we can have them in our church library for future use.

We then enjoyed a delicious strawberry-topped "poke cake" supplied by Jeri Walburn.

Our next meeting will be February 27 at 1 pm with Beverly Johnson as hostess.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson,
Secretary