

## A Note from Pastor Craig

*Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter  
Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here  
Here comes the sun, Here comes the sun,  
and I say, it's all right*

(from "Here comes the Sun" by The Beatles)

It is snowing heavily as I write these words – April 12<sup>th</sup>, our latest, and hopefully last, winter storm! The words above, from the song "Here Comes the Sun" fit what most of us are feeling right now, even those who love winter. Enough of this weather already! Where are the sun and warm temperatures anyway? I can't remember what summer feels like!

Although the coming of Spring and the Easter event, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, are two different realities altogether, there certainly are similarities – new life, rebirth, the experience of hope, and a feeling of "expansiveness" in our life, as if all things are possible.

Winter, on the other hand, is sometimes used, as a metaphor for death and for how things were before Christ's resurrection, when it felt as though we "locked in," stuck in an unchanging reality. In *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, written by C.S. Lewis, the imaginary world of Narnia is locked in a bitter and endless winter by the evil White Witch. Following Aslan's death on the stone table and his coming alive again, a

glorious Spring pushes Winter out right in front of everyone's eyes.

An older Easter hymn puts it this way:

'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;  
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying  
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Spring will come to Ely sooner or later. As will glorious summer; with loons, blueberries, hiking, canoeing, fishing, boating, picnicking, swimming, sunsets, and Minnesota Twins baseball. But all too soon it will be time to say goodbye to summer, the sun will make its long and inevitable journey away from Border Country and winter will descend upon us once more. This cycle is a permanent part of our life.

But the joy of Easter, the birth of a new creation in Christ, the dawn of hope, the promise of the Spirit, and a world where there aren't limits on God's grace, love, and mercy are here permanently and will never fade. For this we rejoice, even as we "lobby" for a longer summer.

I hope you have a joyous and blessed month of May!  
Pastor Craig

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### **Contact Information and Office Hours for May 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 on May 3 & 4 and again on May 27 & 28.

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**UMW Friendship Dinner  
Monday, May 14, 2018 5:30 P.M.**

Calling all gals!! Join us on Wednesday, May 22, in the church Fellowship Hall for our annual UMW Friendship Dinner. We'll gather at 5:30 pm; dinner will be served at 6 pm. Northland Market will be catering the meal and UMW will once again cover some of the cost so it will still be only \$10 per person. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church starting May 7. Please sign up and turn your payment in to Jeanne Tomlinson by Sunday, May 19. Make any checks payable to **UMW**. We hope to see you all there!

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**Memorial Sunday - May 12, 2019**

You'll see on the church calendar that Memorial Sunday will be celebrated on May 12<sup>th</sup> this year. So what is Memorial Sunday?

The Memorial Committee at Ely UMC administers monetary gifts donated to the church in memory of loved ones who have passed away. These funds are kept

separately from the church's general fund and aren't used for everyday expenses like insurance or utilities. Rather, they fund occasional purchases that benefit the church, like a defibrillator, a new Bible for the altar, new music for the choir and kids' books for the church library, just to name a few. Memorial funds can help defray the cost big items too, like the church re-roofing project in 2008. There is a folder available for viewing in the church library that holds a complete record of Memorial gifts.

Every year one Sunday is designated as Memorial Sunday. On that day, we take a few minutes during the worship service to recognize the Memorial gifts of the past year. This year, Memorial Sunday is on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please join us in worship on the 12<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate this year's gifts and dedicate them to the memory of our departed loved ones. Stay for fellowship after the service too – there will be cake!

The Memorial Committee is open to suggestions, so if you have an idea for an item that would serve our church family, we invite you to talk with one of the Committee members: Carol Linneman, Margie Olson, Janice Tessier, Sharon Luthens, Marge Forsberg and Jeri Walburn.

*By Carol Linneman, Memorial Committee Chair*

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## **ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK**

**Sunday, May 19, 2019**

immediately following the Worship Service.

It's time for our second quarterly all-church potluck for this year. Please join us for some wonderful fellowship and great food following the worship service. Bring a food item to share if you can – or just come and share in the food and fellowship. There's always plenty of both.

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### **Holy Week and Easter Services**

This is Pastor Craig with a huge “thank you” for being part of our Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter worship services this year. We took some very traditional services that are centuries old, made a few changes, and came up with something that vividly brought to life the last events of Jesus' life. You turned out for them and participated enthusiastically. Thank you!

In remembering and entering into these events of so long ago, they become a part of who we are here and now. Christ comes off the pages of the Bible and enters into our hearts and life together.

- On Palm Sunday the seventy-two people present in our worship service sang “Hosanna” along with the throngs of people two thousand years ago, rejoicing that Jesus is among us as God's Chosen One. We no longer have to wait for one who will

embrace sin, suffering, and death on our behalf. The Savior of the world is here!

- Thursday evening we remembered both Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples and his death. By coming to his table we embraced and received Christ in all his fullness. By commemorating his death, we both grieved at the presence of the powers of darkness in the world and came face to face with the depth of God's steadfast love for the world and each one of us. Forty-nine people attended this service.
- Easter Sunday one hundred eleven people rejoiced and gave thanks for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, whereby the powers of sin, evil, death, and darkness have been overcome. As a result we live in a world where God's grace, mercy, and love is not limited, where there is an open door in the heart of everything!!

A special thanks to the Worship Committee for their imagination and hard work in all the details of planning and bringing these services to life, to Sue Germek, Sharon Luthens, the choir for their music, and to the confirmation students for helping with the Holy Week Service.

### **Barb Anderson's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Barb Anderson was an active Ely church choir member and “pasty roller”. She is still remembered often for her practical jokes on fellow pasty workers. In 2013, she

moved with her long-time friend, canoe-guide business partner and housemate, Bea Brophey, to a senior living facility in Columbia, MO to be closer to her daughter. Bea passed away in March 2018. Barb's daughter reports that Barb has been living with Alzheimer's Disease for many years, but it has impacted her short-term memory much more than her long-term memory. She still retains a lot of knowledge about past events. Even after several health scares, Barb continues to be her active self. "She uses a wheelchair and dog-paddles around telling the 'old people' either to hurry up or step out of her way. She participates in all of the activities offered each day and remains as competitive as ever during games."

If you want to send a card and perhaps share a fun memory with her, her address is:

Barb Anderson  
Lutheran Senior Services at Lenoir Woods  
3850 Cartwright, Suite 608  
Columbia, MO 65201

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### **UMW Minutes**

Wednesday March 27, 2019 1-3 PM

The meeting was officially convened at 1:05 pm by Vice President Lucy Diesslin with Linda Hane, Tootsie Loe, Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Janice Tessier 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 February 27, 2019 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Tootsie Loe; second by Margie Olson.

Sharon Luthens had submitted the Treasurer's Report with the checking account balance as \$2,758.38, savings is \$6,040.23 and the CD is \$10,000. No March pasty deposits or expenses are included in the checking account balance. The report was accepted as submitted.

### **Old Business**

- **Friendship Dinner:** The group decided on the following dinner menu from Northland Market: broasted chicken, fresh steamed veggies, broccoli/cauliflower salad, roasted baby red potatoes and punch. Jan Rue will be approached about making cupcakes or cookies for dessert. For program we'll see if Sheri Rue could perhaps talk about a mission trip she's done or Heather Monthei talk about one of her trips. We could do another sing-along if we aren't able to secure a speaker. As in the past, we'll ask attendees to pay \$10 each with UMW covering the balance.

### **New Business**

- There was no new business to discuss. As a matter of information, it was mentioned that the **Relay for Life** will be in August and our **Church Bazaar** will be in November.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 1:45 pm.

For our devotional study, we read Chapter 2 of our study book, *Attitude is Your Paint Brush - It Colors Every Situation*. The chapter was about having an "Attitude of Compassion" and focused on compassion being self-giving, gracious and active.

We then enjoyed a lemon cake supplied by Janice Tessier.

Our next meeting will be April 24 at 1 pm with Donna Rusco as hostess.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson (with notes from the meeting taken by Lucy Diesslin).  
Secretary

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES APRIL 17, 2019**

**Call To Order:** Acting Chair Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**Attendees (7):** Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Dan & Bev Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Donna Rusco.

**Opening:** Pastor Craig provided the "Opening Thought" with thoughts about John 20 and that John 20 is so personal.

**Minutes:** The March Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the April *FISH*. Motion by Marge Olson; second by Linda Hane.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark Olson presented the March 2019 Treasurer's Report. The bills have been paid and the apportionments paid. Receipts: \$8216.00; disbursements were \$10,188.48. End of month balances: Undesignated Funds \$10,989.11; Building Fund \$9,642.25; Memorial Fund \$10,632.16; Parish Health Ministries \$400; R3 Project \$120.25; Gift of Giving Project \$15.16, Landscape Project \$218.78. Motion to accept by Linda Hane, second by Margie Olson. Motion approved. Beverly Johnson asked how the checking account balance this year compared with last year. Mark indicated that he would check into it and let Beverly know.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Board of Trustees:**

1. Volunteers are needed to wash the walls in the kitchen and nursery after the April pasties. Brett Porthan will do the painting. Margie will let the UMW know about this at their next meeting on April 24, 2019.
2. Closet doors in the overflow room have been removed and temporarily stored in the back room of the sanctuary behind the blackboard.
3. Norm Rusco hung the 3<sup>rd</sup> handicap sign for the parking lot on the outside East wall of the church.
4. We are working on a solution for the leaks in the basement/ baseboard and tile damage due to water leaking into basement from melting snow. No action on this will be taken until the water seepage problem is solved. We are working with landscaping committee regarding the runoff.

5. The basement outside door is rusting. Brett will look into it and determine if we can paint it or it needs to be replaced
6. The pew that was located in the overflow room behind the table was moved to the sanctuary and was added to the last row in the middle section.
7. The railing that is at the top section of the stairs going down to the lower parking lot is in the way for the plows. Phil Hegfors will make a sleeve for the railing so it can be removed during the winter.
8. Cracks in the ceiling of the church library need to be patched and painted.
9. Church Servants Handbook of Responsibilities – 2 changes.
  1. We meet 3 times a year. April, July and October.
  2. Chairperson is chosen by committee membership at April meeting.
10. Two basement windows need to be painted in the parsonage and the AC units are still to be installed.

**Memorial Fund Task Force:** Pastor Craig reported that the Memorial Service is scheduled for May 12 (Mother's Day, Opening Weekend of Fishing).

**Finance:** No Report

**Education:** No Report

**Nurture and Membership:** Pastor Craig reported that he and Bonnie Berglund will be meeting when she returns.

**Pastor-Parish Relations:** No Report.

**Worship:** The Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service has been planned. Linda reiterated that it appears that folks have been reticent about signing up to bring

refreshments after services. It was suggested that she ask directly, which she indicated she had.

**Visioning:** The Visioning Committee Meeting for April 11 was postponed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Jumpin' Jehosaphats – Linda Hane reported that the Band Shell at Washington Park has been reserved for August 1 with the Church as a backup (inclement weather). Advertising for the event was discussed along with potential means for a free-will offering. Pastor Craig reported that they will be bringing their own sound system, so we won't have the responsibility of providing one. Pastor Craig will correspond with the group to see what length of time they think they will be playing and when their preferred time to start the concert is.
2. Blessing of the Boats and Potluck: Pastor Craig reported that the blessing is on April 22, 2019, at noon at Semers Beach. There doesn't appear to be much for us to do.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Distribution of Lenten Supper Income in the General Account: There is \$228 in the general account from the Lenten Supper. Suggestions were: The New Free Clinic. The decision about disbursement was deferred until the next meeting of the Ad Council.

### **Correspondence**

1. Pastor Craig received a call from Lifeline Screening. It was suggested that our building is

probably too small to accommodate their equipment.

2. Pastor Craig reported that the Easter lilies will be delivered Friday (4/19) around 10:00AM. Beverly will remove the anther sacs (yellow things). The blossoms last longer and have less scent.

**Items of Information.**

1. Lenten Supper: 89 pasties made; 78 attended; 74 Pasties served; 15 sold; 76 paid for a total of \$228 to the General Fund; 15 sold for \$45 to UMW.
2. April Pasties Report: 801 pasties made, 796 sold; \$4800 was deposited. Total Cost was \$1270.10, Net Income: \$3529.90. (Last Year: 936 were made and 904 sold).
3. April Movie: *Pieces of Easter*: 12 attended. The movie was shown in the Fellowship Hall instead of the sanctuary (consensus was that it was a good place to show it – sound was improved with the sound system donated by Susan Germek). Popcorn and juice were provided.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Johnson, Acting Secretary

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***Articles for the FISH***

Just a reminder to all – the EUMC *FISH* is our church newsletter. We sometimes ask some groups or individuals to write specific articles about coming events but we always welcome articles from other members of the congregation. If you have thoughts or information you'd like to share with other *FISH* readers, please send it to the church. Send electronic versions to [elymethodist@elyumc.com](mailto:elymethodist@elyumc.com) or paper versions to *FISH* Editors, Ely United Methodist Church, 305 E Camp St, Ely, MN 55731.