

A Note from Pastor Craig

I'm writing the first draft of this note on Thursday morning, October 18, when the forecast is for bright sunshine and an afternoon high of fifty-nine degrees. Oh, how sublime! I'm almost tempted to do some yard work outside this afternoon in short pants and short sleeves! But on the other hand, I'm realistic enough to know that deer season will soon be here, then cold, snow, and ice. Next week my snow tires arrive at Mike Motors.

The calendar this time of year is just so much fun – deer season, Halloween, family birthdays (both sons and four grandchildren), Thanksgiving, and then... “I'll be Home for Christmas, You Can Count on Me” and all the excitement and joy and exhaustion of December.

Our church leadership and I have been putting our heads together to plan Advent and Christmas activities for our church. One of these activities will be an **Advent Bible Study** I will lead at the end of November and beginning of December. What I'm planning to do is to cover the fascinating first chapter of Luke, considering what hope looked like for Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary the mother of Jesus and what hope looks like for you and me. The title is “What Does Hope Look Like When Joy is not yet Visible?”

Our gatherings will be Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 2:30. We may also include a Monday evening gathering if there is sufficient interest.

Here is a tentative outline:

- 11/25: “Hope for Two Senior Citizens Whose Luck Has Run Out” - Luke 1:1-25

- 12/2: “Hope for an Unwed Teenager” - Luke 1:26-38
- 12/9: “Two Separate Hopes Become Intertwined Together” - Luke 1:39-56
- 12/16: “When Hope's Destination Isn't Visible” - Luke 1:57– 2:1

I hope you and your family have a wonderful and blessed November! Would you give prayerful consideration to attending our Advent study? It would be great to see you there.

Pastor Craig

Contact Information and Office Hours for November 2018

Church Office: (218) 365-3355
Parsonage: (218) 365-3716
Email: elymethodist@elyumc.org

Pastor Craig is planning on being in the church office from 8:30 to 10:30 AM on Tuesdays through Saturdays. He will be out of the office the week of Nov 12-16 so we will have church volunteers staffing the office from 10 AM – 12 Noon during that week. ***There will be no office hours during the week of Nov 19-23.***

ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK Sunday November 4, 2018 immediately following the Worship Service.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to spend time in worship together and then spend some valuable and precious moments in fellowship together with a meal. This is your chance to share in God's Meal at the Communion Table as we worship and then spend time as

brothers and sisters around the Sunday dinner table and sample a variety of DELICIOUS (opinion gained from other such occasions) dishes provided by members of our Church Family.

Bring a dish to share if you can – or just come and share in the food and fellowship.

**THANKSGATHERING 2018
25TH ANNIVERSARY
Sunday, November 18, 6:00 PM
Ledgerock Community Church**

The theme this year, “**Homecoming**”, has the idea of a heart warming family gathering coming together for a reunion and encouragement. On a larger scale, it includes the eternal Homecoming of believers to their heavenly home (Hebrews 10: 24-25).

Singers from the various churches and community are invited to sing in the **Thanksgiving Choir** under the direction of Sue Germek. Many of the participants have been at the Thanksgiving before as part of the growing family and new participants are always welcome to join in. There will be special choir practices on Monday Nov 12, Tuesday Nov 13 and Thursday Nov 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Ledgerock Church.

Each church is invited to provide a tray or two of bars or cookies for the refreshment tables following the program. Invite friends and neighbors to attend.

At the conclusion of the program, a basket will be located in the foyer in which a Free Will Offering may be made for the Ely Food Shelf if so desired.

Folks of all ages and walks of life are invited to attend. The annual Children’s Story Time has become a regular part of Thanksgathering. For the young at heart, two slide shows reveal animals doing their best to win your hearts. A nursery room is provided, however, it will not be manned. The building is handicap friendly with an elevator. Ushers will be available to help in any way they can.

Following the program, join together downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for continued fellowship and refreshments.

Gift of Giving Project Update

What is the *Gift of Giving* project? Caregivers at Carefree Living and the Boundary Waters Care Center (BWCC) voiced a concern that some of the residents do not have family present and do not receive any gifts during the Christmas season. The ***Gift of Giving*** project is to provide a meaningful and personal gift to each resident of the Carefree Living and Boundary Waters Care Center during the holiday season.

What is the cost and how is this project funded? There are approximately a combined 100 residents at the BWCC and at Carefree Living. Suggested gifts for each resident will be kept at or under \$10 requiring approximately \$1,000 for the project.

What is the current status of the project? Through the heartfelt generosity of our congregation and guests, the project has been totally funded with donations and free-will offerings, ***raising a total of \$1,149!!!***. The next phase of the project is to actually see it through.

What are the tasks needed to complete the project?

- Liaison with the staff at Carefree Living and BWCC to determine the gifts for each resident.
- Purchase the gifts.
- Coordinate with the Kid's Club and Sunday School children to help with individualized cards, wrapping & bagging gifts and delivering gifts.
- Coordinate with the staff at Carefree Living and BWCC how they would suggest delivering of the gifts.

We have a good start on some of these tasks, but time is growing short and we need help to complete this project successfully. If you would like to volunteer to help with any part of this project, please notify Jay Tomlinson (218.235.1879). Thank you.

Future Dates to Remember

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

Sundays, Nov 25, Dec 3, 10 & 17: Advent Bible Study

Saturday, December 1: Hanging of the Greens and
Church Christmas Potluck

Tuesday, December 11: UMW Christmas Luncheon at
the GEL

Sunday, December 9: Parsonage Christmas Open House

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) - Minutes Wednesday September 26, 2018 1-3 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 10 people in attendance. We opened with a unison reading of the UMW Pledge.

The minutes from our May 23, 2018 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Bev Johnson; second by Linda Hane. Motion approved.

Bonnie gave the Treasurer's Report from Sharon as follows: Checking \$667.83; Savings \$6,033.48; CD \$10,813.83. Jeanne Tomlinson moved to accept; second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion passed.

Old Business

- **Parsonage:** Bonnie reported that all the drapes were cleaned, all shears were removed and not replaced per agreement with Pastor Craig, blinds were installed on downstairs window that did not have any window coverings, installed carpet was installed in the 3 bedrooms, all the windows were washed, repairs to same were done as needed, the floors, counters and toilets throughout the house were are washed, the upstairs tub & shower were cleaned and then resurfaced, a shower & shower curtain rod were installed in the main bathroom, the fixed door was removed and replaced with a curtain rod. Two A/C units were purchased but have not yet been installed. Bonnie expressed appreciation to all the people who helped get the parsonage ready.
- **June Worship Service:** The worship service the UMW did on June 17 went very well. We had good participation from a lot of women. Bonnie thanked all who were involved.

New Business

- **UMW expenses for Parsonage Preparation:** Sharon Luthens reported that we spent the following: \$2,324.26 for the carpeting; \$558.67 for the drapery cleaning and blinds; \$245 for Ann Spangler who coordinated the window washing; \$178.02 for cleaning & repair supplies for a total of \$3,305.95.
- **UMW annual expenses:** Sharon reported on our 2017 regular expenses as follows: \$2,700 for janitorial work, ~\$350 for coffee & snacks (which is mostly covered by the coffee donations received during fellowship), cleaning & bathroom supplies, ~\$900 for youth group dinners & kid's club snacks, ~\$750 for building & custodial supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, etc.) , ~\$650 to the Emma Norton House (our North Star District annual donation).
- **Janitor Performance:** When discussing the janitorial work cost, it was brought up that we have noticed times when it appears that some cleaning was not done very thoroughly – areas not vacuumed, floors not cleaned, etc. It was recommended that we try to keep track of such things over the next month and discuss it at our October meeting. If it's determined that we need to address problems, someone will contact the owner of the cleaning service (Bull's-Eye Cleaning) and discuss the issues.
- **Finance Records:** Lucy reported that in the process of cleaning out the storage room at the back of the room, she found about 20 manila envelopes that have old finance records – checks, receipts, invoices, check book ledgers and an annual summary ledger. Sharon did point out that she does keep all the details for at least a year after the annual audit and will continue to do so but would then bring the previous records to the church for storage. It was moved that we discard

all but the annual ledger from the envelopes since that has the all information that we would ever need. Motion by Linda Hane, second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Lucy offered to take the items to be discarded and burn them. Jeanne offered to store the ledger sheets with the other UMW records that she has.

- **Mixer Repair:** Bonnie reported that we had a repairman come a few weeks ago to do maintenance on our big mixer. The mixer had been leaking oil into the pasty dough towards the end of our pasty season last spring so Dan Johnson took care of arranging for a maintenance person. Since the closest available qualified repairman was from the Cities we had a mileage fee in addition to the maintenance charge. The bill came to \$654.87. Dan had reported that he'd been unable to find any records of previous maintenance for the mixer. Lucy will check with Butch to see if he knows where the records might have been kept. For the moment we are storing the record of what was done for this maintenance along with the refrigerator/freezer maintenance log on the side of the refrigerator.
- **CD change:** During the initial presentation of the Treasurer's report, it was pointed out that our CD is a 3 month certificate earning .45% interest and is coming up for renewal on Oct 3. It was moved that, instead of renewing with the same term and interest, we purchase a 1-year CD for \$10,000 and move the balance of the CD over that amount to the checking account. Motion by Lucy Diesslin, Second by Bev Johnson. Motion approved. Sharon will take care of that during the week after the CD matures.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson,
Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES October 17, 2018

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

Attendees (9): Bonnie Berglund, Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Mark Olson, Bryan Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

Opening: Pastor Craig provided the “Opening Thought” from a memoir by Frederick Buechner on being aware of God’s continued presence in every aspect of our life, however mundane.

Minutes: The September 19, 2018 Ad Council minutes as printed in the October were approved as printed. Motion to approve by Butch Diesslin, second by Bonnie Berglund.

Treasurer’s Report: Mark Olson presented the September 2018 treasurer’s reports. Receipts & disbursements were \$7,913.40 & \$9,100.13, respectively. End of month balances: Building Fund \$9,191.180; Memorial Fund \$10,990.80; Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project 2018 \$167.25, Gift of Giving \$782, Landscape Project \$10, available General Fund \$13,210.20. Motion to accept Bonnie Berglund, second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Board of Trustees:** Bryan Rusco reported that the next Trustees meeting will be Monday, October 29 at 7 PM. They will be forming a committee to evaluate solutions for the periodic interior flooding when we get heavy rains as well

as an assessment of other work that needs to be done. He asked that he be notified about any issues that we might notice that need to be addressed.

- **Memorial Fund Task Force:** Carol Linneman had sent Jay a note that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 6 at 9 AM.
- **Finance:** Butch Diesslin reported the committee will be meeting in mid to late November to prepare the 2019 Budget once the apportionments and salary figures have been determined.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee had just met earlier and voted to give Pastor Craig a 2% raise. The exact budget impact will not be known until we get the most current information about the health insurance from the conference but it is estimated to be approximately a \$1,000 increase in the Ministerial Support category. The next meeting was set for Monday, Nov 12 at 5:30 PM although that may need to change. The DS, Mark Miller, is scheduled to meet with the PPR on Saturday, November 10 at 10 AM.

Outreach: Toni Floyd had relayed that the Hearts Two Hands are continuing to work on quilts and will be meeting again on October 30 and November 6. (*The November 6 date has since been cancelled.*)

- **Worship:** Linda Hane has been working with Pastor Craig on some special Christmas worship service possibilities. It has been suggested that we change the Christmas Eve service time from 7 PM to 5 PM. We’ll need to find out if our organist, Sue Germek, would be able to accommodate such a change, and if so, then ask the congregation for feedback before making the change.

- **Visioning:** Jay Tomlinson reported from the Visioning Committee Initiatives the following:
 - **Gift of Giving:** \$1,049 has been collected which exceeded the goal. The committee will be working on contacting Carefree Living and the Boundary Waters Care Center to work on details. The committee would welcome a lot more participation from the congregation in purchasing, wrapping and delivering the gifts to make it a more church-wide project. Perhaps the kids could make the gift cards.
 - **Winter Bible Study:** A possible Bible Study program on “The Vine & the Branches” starting on Sunday, February 3 has been proposed. Keith and Sheri Rue volunteered to be the facilitators if there is sufficient interest.
 - **Kid’s Club:** This is going well so far even with the change from Wednesday to Thursday. Nancy Markwardt has volunteered to assist with this activity.
 - **Advent Study:** Pastor Craig will conduct a 4 week Advent Study beginning on November 25th and continue on the following 3 Sundays in December. Each session might also be held on the Monday evening for folks unable to take part in Sunday sessions, if interest is sufficient.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Source of Payment for Starkman asphalt crack sealing proposal:** There was some confusion about where the funds should come from for the parking lot work (crack sealing and line painting). It was paid out of the General Fund because the

original approval for the expenditure did not designate a specific fund, but it was felt that it should have been from the Building Fund. Bryan Rusco moved that we take the monies from the Building Fund; second by Butch Diesslin. Motion passed.

- **Church Equipment Use Form:** Jay Tomlinson distributed a copy of a Building Use form which had been developed in 2012, that included a line about Equipment removal from the church, but had never been actually used. The discussion focused on the logistics of how this form would be handled and who would be in charge of enforcing its use. It was felt that the key problem the form should address was items being borrowed from the garage and not being returned. Bryan Rusco offered to be a point person for anyone needing to borrow items. Jay will work on creating a form for Equipment borrowing and another for Building use. The former would be stored in the area where the garage key resides with instructions on completing the form and contacting Bryan Rusco when taking items and when returning. The latter will be in the church office and primarily handled by Pastor Craig.
- **Interim Head Usher:** Jay Tomlinson reported that no one had stepped forward to serve as Interim Head Usher and he had not had time over the past month to do any active recruiting. Since the Nominating Committee will soon be approaching people for the 2019 positions we will not be pursuing this actively although we are still in need of ushers for some of the December services.
- **Planned Giving Seminar at Ely UMC:** Per a request from Pastor Craig, this subject has been tabled to the November meeting.

- **Confirmation Class:** Pastor Craig has been contacting the families of the youth who are eligible and is confident he'll be having classes if a suitable meeting time can be arranged.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Pasty "Food Cop":** Butch Diesslin had sent a letter to Jay Tomlinson that was shared with the group about the importance of having someone taking responsibility for making sure pasty workers are informed about proper food handling practices and that those are followed. It was suggested that we mostly just need reminders and having posters in strategic locations detailing the proper practices would probably work best. Butch turned over poster samples he had down-loaded that we'll look through and select some for laminating and posting in the pasty-making area. It was also suggested with do a half-sheet bulletin insert for the Sunday just before pasties as a general reminder to anyone who might work. The insert could also include some of the benefits of pasty-making for the church and the workers to help encourage other people to come.
2. **Pastor's Guest at Parsonage:** Pastor Craig asked if it would be an issue if his father came to stay with him for a couple of months as his father transitions to a different living situation. We agreed this was not a problem and thanked Pastor Craig for letting us know.
3. **Fellowship Hall Door Lock problem:** Jeanne Tomlinson brought up that the back door lock has stopped functioning and appears to be something beyond the need for new batteries. The door knob assembly itself is also having problems – pasty customers regularly struggle with the door trying to get it open when arriving and departing. Butch Diesslin offered to take a look at it. Bryan Rusco

moved that Butch Diesslin assess the condition of the lock and door knob and initiate whatever steps are needed to repair or replace the unit(s). Second by Mark Olson. Motion passed.

4. **Church Use for a Book Signing:** Linda Hane had passed on a request from Jack Williams, Barry Williams' brother, to use the church for a book signing. It was felt that by having such an event at the church it was essentially endorsing the book with no one having read it, and that, even though there would probably not be any problem with the book itself, there are other venues in town that would be more appropriate for such an event.

Correspondence - None

Items of Information.

1. **October 2018 Pasty Report:** 777 made; gross income \$4,534 + \$156 to be collected for a total of \$4,690; cost \$1,522.84. Net Income \$3,167.16. Last October we made 823 pasties and had a net income of \$3,397.21.
2. **Change of date for Ad Council Meeting:** Because the 3rd Wednesday in November is the day before Thanksgiving, it was recommended we change the date for our next Ad Council meeting to the following week. Butch Diesslin moved we meet on Wednesday, November 28 at 7 PM. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary