

## A Note from Pastor Craig

Today is the first day of fall. I love autumn. Not today's weather (rainy and cold), but the entire season as it develops from late August through the beginning of December – the variety of brilliant colors, leaves falling from trees, the tamaracks turning gold, bright blue skies and crisp (not cold!) temperatures in October, the natural world preparing for winter, and the experience of harvest in farming areas. It's a great season. I also enjoy and appreciate community and cultural events during this time of year – the beginning of school, homecoming, Halloween, Thanksgiving, the approach of Christmas. All so filled with memory and sentiment.

The church year we observe annually has its own distinctive seasons – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and the Season after Pentecost (Ordinary Time). Each church season has its unique theme, purpose, and movement, which sometimes corresponds to the what's happening in the natural world, and sometimes not. For instance the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (life beyond death and new creation) has a similar feel to the rebirth of the natural world with the coming of spring, although Easter and spring are not identical.

Fall/Autumn is different, however, from the Season after Pentecost/Ordinary Time. Whereas autumn features the diminishment of the natural world before the “death” of winter, Ordinary Time focuses on our growth in love for God and for one another, or as Paul puts it “until all of us come to the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the

Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13)

My hope and prayer for you between now and December is while you watch the natural world wither and diminish, you would find your faith deepening, your love for God and others growing, and your hope being renewed. Have a blessed October!!

Pastor Craig

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## Contact Information and Office Hours for October 2018

Church Office: (218) 365-3355

Parsonage: (218) 365-3716

Email: [elymethodist@elyumc.org](mailto: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 Oct 8-13 so we will have church volunteers staffing the office from 10 AM – 12 Noon during that week.

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## Prayer Chain

EUMC's Prayer Chain is a group of dedicated church members who have committed to pray regularly for specific issues as they are requested. We have a **Phone** Prayer Chain and an **Email** Prayer Chain depending on how you wish to be notified. We

have seen the incredible power of prayer through this vital ministry.

If you are not already a part of this ministry but would like to be, please speak with Linda Hane or Jeanne Tomlinson, or send an email to [prayer@elyumc.org](mailto:prayer@elyumc.org).

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### **Pillowcase Party**

By Toni Floyd

Congratulations H-2-H!!! 100 pillowcases have been sewn by Hearts 2 Hands members Bev Johnson, Jeanne Tomlinson, Jeri Walburn, Donna Rusco and Toni Floyd. Additional helpers included Linda Barnhill and Sue Sprott. Sheila Matthews donated fabric and Mary Taylor donated 10 completed pillowcases. All 100 pillowcases were washed and bagged by Toni Floyd. Next, they will be given to Pam Iverson to be taken to St. Mary's pediatric ward. What a wonderful team of hard-working ladies this year that helped us hit 1,000! Thanks for all you do to make a child's hospital stay a little brighter!!

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### **Serving in the Church**

The June 4, 2018 entry of the *Upper Room* had an inspiring story about a women who had been approached to serve in the church in a capacity for which she did not feel qualified but ended up serving. She found that even though it made her step out of her "comfort zone", this first opportunity was instrumental in growing her faith and she continues in active service in the church.

The scripture for that June 4 entry was Luke 5:1-11, the story of Peter and his fellow fisherman who fished all night and caught nothing, and then Jesus came in the morning and told them to try again. She added the following comment.

"When we receive an opportunity to serve the Lord, it may feel as if it is beyond our abilities. Or perhaps the call doesn't make sense to us. That was the case in today's scripture reading. Peter had much more experience fishing than Jesus did. He had just spent all night fishing with no results when Jesus told him to put his nets out in deep water. But Peter did what Jesus asked. Peter not only caught nets full of fish, but he also took his first step toward a life of incredible faith. **Stepping forward in faith, even when we have doubts, helps us grow as followers of Christ.**"

With those thoughts in mind, our church needs an Interim Head Usher. This will only be until the end of the year and primarily involves making sure we have two ushers scheduled for each Sunday. Many of the Sundays already have people signed up. This position will probably require talking to some people at church or making some calls in order to fill in the remaining Sundays. If you are willing to serve in this capacity – or would just like to learn more about it – please call the church office. Please leave a message if no one is in the office at the time.

And along the same vein, the Nominating Committee will soon be active in lining up personnel to be nominated for the various church committees and roles for 2019. Please be in prayer for where you might be able to serve

your church. If you are approached, perhaps you will see it as **your** opportunity to grow as a follower of Christ.

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**Confirmation Class**

Pastor Craig is planning to hold Confirmation Classes starting in November. He will be contacting 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders in our church family who are eligible to take these classes. We are not sure if we have a complete list of those who are eligible, so if you know of a young person who would qualify, please contact Pastor Craig.

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**Dates to Remember**

(Details to follow in future *FISH* issues)

- Sunday, November 5: Church Potluck
- Sunday, November 19: Thanksgathering at Ledgerrock
- Sundays, Nov 25, Dec 3, 10 & 17: Advent Study
- Saturday, December 2: Hanging of the Greens and Church Christmas Potluck
- Sunday, December 9: Parsonage Christmas Open House

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**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES  
September 19, 2018  
Ely United Methodist Church**

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

**Attendees (15):** Bonnie Berglund, Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Rich & Toni Floyd, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Dan Johnson, Carol Linneman, Mark Olson, Bryan Rusco, Donna & Norm Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson  
**Opening:** Pastor Craig provided the “Opening Thought” from a book of essays by Marilyn Robinson, *When I Was A Child I Read*”, quoting various texts from an essay titled “Wondrous Love”.

**Minutes:** The July 18, 2018 Ad Council minutes as printed in the August *FISH* and the August 19 Ad Council ad hoc meeting minutes as printed in the September 2018 *FISH* were approved as printed. Motion to approve by Lucy Diesslin, second by Linda Hane. Motion approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mark Olson presented the July and August 2018 treasurer’s reports. Receipts & disbursements for July were \$10,285.25 & \$2,249.11, respectively. Receipts & disbursements for August were \$8,467.92 & \$8,854.47 respectively. End of month balances (August): Building Fund \$9,626.97; Memorial Fund \$10,911.60; Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project 2018 \$167.25, Gift of Giving \$782, Landscape Project \$200, available General Fund \$12,847.68. Motion to accept the July and August reports by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Toni Floyd. Motion approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Board of Trustees:** Bryan Rusco reported that the parking lot crack sealing and line painting had been completed and that the tub and shower sealing in the parson was completed. The A/C units in the parsonage still need to be installed. With the church front lawn being landscaped there

won't be a need for mowing in September & October but we'll need folks to sign up for snow shoveling in November and December.

- **Memorial Fund Task Force:** Carol Linneman reported the next meeting will be on November 6. They had received a request from the choir for music for the Thanksgathering and did a "phone vote" to approve the funds.
- **Finance:** Butch Diesslin reporting the committee will be meeting in November to prepare the 2019 Budget.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee met on September 12 and reviewed Pastor Craig's "time-away" plans: Oct 4-6 for the Reach Conference in Sioux Falls; Oct 8-13 for family commitments; Nov 12-16 for Continuing Education in Buffalo, New York; Nov 17-23, Dec 25-27 and Dec 21-Jan 2 for vacation. Jeanne also announced a Parsonage Open House to be co-hosted by Pastor Craig and the PPR on Sunday, December 9 from 3-5 pm. This will be open to all the church family, including children. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 17 at 5:30 pm.
- **Outreach:** Toni Floyd reported that with the 100 pillowcases that H2H did in August, we have reached our goal of 1,000 pillowcases since 2010. These colorful pillowcases go to pediatric wards in Duluth and are given to hospitalized children. She shared some pictures and an email from parents of one of the children who received a pillowcase to

give everyone a feel for how these pillowcases help.

- **Worship:** Linda Hane reported that Pastor Dana will be covering the service on November 19 when Pastor Craig will be gone. She will contact him to see if he'll want any assistance with the service.
- **Parish Health Ministry:** Donna Rusco reported that she and Norm have been visiting a number of the shut-ins and post-surgery church members. Bonnie Berglund reported that she had 500 File of Life forms printed at the Echo and will be speaking about the File of Life – and distributing them - at Eagle's Nest.
- **Visioning:** Rich Floyd reported on the following:
  - **Comfort Baskets:** There had been some confusion with the distribution policy & procedures of the baskets so the committee formalized those.
  - **Kid's Movie:** *Charlotte's Web* will be shown at the church on Sept 23 at 2 pm. Arrangements have all been taken care of for prep of the sanctuary and popcorn & snacks. Each child was sent a "Golden Ticket" giving them free admission, and free snacks, as a way of spreading the word and making the kids feel special.
  - **March Movie:** The committee discussed having a study session subsequent to the next movie. Details to be decided.
  - **Kid's Club:** The meeting date has been changed to Thursday to accommodate Jan

Rue's work schedule. The time will still be 3-5 pm. The first club meeting will be Thursday, October 4.

- **Advent Study:** Pastor Craig will lead a 4 week Advent study starting Sunday, November 25. Two sittings are being considered for each session, one on Sunday afternoons and one on the following Monday evenings.
- **Idea for a sub for Sunday worship when Pastor Craig is out of town:** Have one or more church members share their story.
- **Idea for a Bible Study:** Reading & contemplating passages from *The Vine & Branches*"

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Parsonage small window problem:** When the crews were working on cleaning & fixing the windows, Butch Diesslin had been able to fix some of the issues with the siding on the parsonage that were impeding the opening of some of the windows. However, the window in the small upstairs bathroom is still impeded because more extensive fixes to the siding would be required. As the window still opens up to 4 inches and the bathroom has a fan, it was moved that we just leave it as is. Motion by Mark Olson, second by Rich Floyd. Motion approved.
- **Landscape Project:** Dan Johnson reported that the planned work for the landscaping had been

completed a couple weeks earlier than planned, but that with the heavy rains from Saturday night that washed away a lot of the new topsoil and seed, some re-work will be required. He'll be watching for a day without rain to do that.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Retirement of Stanley and the Giving Tree / Outreach Committee:** Toni Floyd reported that in view of the decline of acceptable food donations for Stanley and that we have been receiving primarily monetary donations instead, it might be best to change of the Food Shelf drive to sometime in March when they have a special drive that gets an additional percentage donated by the Council of Churches Foundation. Since Stanley is essentially a "fall" themed focus, Toni spoke with Chris Urbas who is interested in using Stanley for a possible Sunday School project.

Along that line, because of the problems we've had with confusing tags and getting full participation for the Giving Tree, and because we are doing the "Gift of Giving" for the assisted living and nursing home residents this year, Toni recommended we discontinue the Giving Tree. Chris Urbas expressed an interest in having the kids doing something along that line, perhaps focusing on getting gifts for one child.

Toni also pointed out that when she was asked to do Outreach, Stanley and the Giving Tree were the only

two projects in addition to the Hearts Two Hands she was already doing for which she was to be responsible. She's listed as the chair of the Outreach Committee but there is no real committee, it is just her. When Jay read the responsibilities of the Outreach Committee from the 2006 Church Servants Handbook, it sounded more like what the Visioning Committee has been doing since it was formed. Jay suggested that we change the Visioning Committee name to Visioning/Outreach. No action was taken. Bryan recommended that we all review the Handbook and see if there are other changes that are needed. Jay will email a copy of it to everyone.

2. **Personnel Nominations on Website:** Jay reported that some information had been updated on the website for the "Personnel Nominations" (Committees/Nominations) to correct some missing & incorrect items.
3. **Confirmation/Range UMC Gathering:** Pastor Craig asked about what our tradition has been for Confirmation Classes. The UMC churches in Virginia, Hibbing & Eveleth are planning to have a joint Confirmation Class that would be held on a monthly basis, probably in Virginia, starting about 3:30 pm and he wondered if we'd be interested in that. For the last 30 years, Pastor Dana held classes for 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> graders affiliated with the church, meeting twice monthly for two years. We felt it would be better to have our own class rather than have them travel to Virginia. We will need to determine the names of those who are eligible so Pastor Craig can contact them to see if they are interested. Jeanne offered to

do a short article in the October *FISH* to spread the word.

4. **Budget for Comfort Baskets:** Rich Floyd asked to allocate funds for the Comfort Basket supplies. It was pointed out that these fall under the Outreach budget and there are still adequate funds in that budget to cover this.
5. **Planned Giving Seminar at Ely UMC:** Pastor Craig shared an email he had received from Becky Boland, the Director of Planned Giving from the MN United Methodist Foundation offering to do a seminar about planned giving at our church if there is any interest. This was tabled to the next meeting.
6. **Interim Head Usher:** Jay reported that Amy Richter had moved to Duluth and resigned her position as Head Usher so we'll need an Interim Head Usher to handle the rest of this year. As there were no immediate volunteers from the Ad Council members, Jay will make an announcement at church this coming Sunday.
7. **New Church Equipment Use Form:** In the interest of time, Jay tabled this to the next meeting.
8. **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sign:** Jeanne Tomlinson suggested that it's been over a year now since we celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary so perhaps we should take the sign down. There was general agreement.
9. **Nursery Room Condition:** Linda Hane has been working on cleaning the Nursery Room since the flooding this past Saturday night and reported that the room, and the furniture in it, needs to be inspected as

there are numerous problems that need to be addressed. Bryan Rusco said the Trustees will check it out.

**Correspondence** - None

**Items of Information.**

1. ***Commission on the Way Forward:*** There was an article in the September *FISH* about this. Bishop Ough is holding a listening session to explain what has been happening and to answer questions and listen to concerns. It will be held in Duluth at the First United Methodist Church in Duluth at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 25, 2018. Pastor Craig and Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson are currently planning to attend; others should let Pastor Craig know. We'll work on setting up a carpool.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary