

A Note from Pastor Craig

During the past four weeks I've experienced a delightful and dizzying variety of people, places, and events; from Ely to Sand Point Lake, to Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, to Spokane, Washington and points in-between. My first weeks in Ely as your pastor have been memorable. The time away was a treasury of new experiences to add to my family album.

Now I am pleased to be back in Ely for an extended period of time - to slowly settle into the community and become part of our congregation. To use one of the new figures of speech you see on social media: "This is happening" and I couldn't be more captivated.

I received a text message and picture from my family in Sioux Falls this morning (Thursday, August 23rd) showing my granddaughter Jordan in a "first day of school" pose. Can it be that time of year already? Wow!

So here we are at the front end of the transition from vacation to the beginning of school, from summer to autumn. The time between now and Christmas is my favorite time of the year, both in terms of the seasons and what's happening in our community. I'm also looking forward to our fall schedule here at church.

I have appreciated your encouragement, suggestions, support, and good humor during my first weeks with you. I'm grateful for all the ways you have introduced me to yourselves and to "the little church with a big heart." I'm looking forward to what comes next in our life together as pastor and congregation.

I hope you have a blessed September.
Pastor Craig

Contact Information and Office Hours for September 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.

Additional Thanks

Last month, we missed thanking Sue Peterson and Mike Brandau for their help with the parsonage prep work over the summer. Sue helped out with some of the cleaning and Mike Brandau donated his time with a lot of the plumbing work that was done. Thank you Sue & Mike!

In addition, thanks to the following folks who helped keep the church office open a few hours each week-day this summer at times we didn't have a pastor in town: Bonnie Berglund, Lucy Diesslin, Gail Haney, Patty Niskala, Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Sheila Shultz and Jeanne Tomlinson.

Special thanks to Bev Johnson (and her ready assistant, Dan Johnson) who began preparing, printing & folding the weekly church bulletins last June, and are continuing to provide that service for our church. It should be noted that they've also been taking care of getting the hymnal numbers up onto the boards in front of the church each week.

While we're at it, our gratitude also to Bryan Rusco, Norm Rusco and Mark Luthens who have been fixing up the steps and railings from the upper parking lot to the lower parking lot.

Letter from Alexandria MN

The following letter was received a few weeks ago and has been duplicated here, with permission from the sender, in order to share it with all the church members to whom it was addressed.

July 30, 2018

Ely United Methodist Church
305 Camp Street
Ely, Minnesota 55731

Dear Members of the Church:

My name is Bob Swenson. I have been a member of the United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Minnesota since 1961 (58 years. Wow!). Although I presently am not very active in church activities, in the past I have done it all!

During my time as a member of the church I have seen many pastors come and go — twelve to be exact. During that period of time there have been two pastors that I think were absolutely outstanding. Lucky for you one of those is Pastor Craig Haberman. Consider yourselves lucky to have him as your next pastor.

I am a pretty tough critic and have never written a letter like this before. But — I thought you should know. When he left I told him, “Craig, I am happy and sad about your leaving – happy for you because you’ll be in the land you love – but sad because we hate to see you leave!”

Please give him a royal welcome – he deserves it!

Very Sincerely,
Robert C. Swenson
Alexandria, Minnesota

Encouraging the Pastor

The following was submitted by church member, Gail Haney. It's taken from InTouch, a devotional periodical similar to The Upper Room.

Do you attend church? If so, God has placed a person in your life whose job it is to train you in righteousness and speak the truth, even when you don't want to hear it. You are blessed to have a pastor who loves you and cares about your spiritual well-being. He needs to know you care about him too.

Many churchgoers neglect to encourage the pastor, but being aware of his needs is an important part of belonging to the body of Christ. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul models the way we're to encourage those who minister.

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2. **Tell your pastor you appreciate him.** There's nothing more uplifting to a person's heart than to know someone else cares. Words are certainly valuable, but actions can speak even more loudly. So intentionally seek ways to demonstrate your love for your minister.
3. **Express confidence in the pastor.** Let him know you recognize the sincerity of his faith and appreciate his commitment to speak scriptural truths into your life.
4. **Affirm the call of God on his life.** Work with your pastor; respond to him in a way that shows you understand he's been called to minister and therefore has God's hand upon him. And when you experience the Lord working through him, let him know.

5.

Above all, pray for your pastor. Don't assume that others in the church are praying or that a spiritual leader doesn't need intercession. The opposite is true. The devil would like to thwart effective ministering, but you can help to defend your shepherd as he tends the flock.

Landscape Committee Update

By Dan Johnson

Permission to landscape our church front yard has been approved by the Administrative Council. A rock garden theme will include three slow-growing evergreens, one 5 to 6 feet tree and two 24-inch dwarf pine cultivars, various perennials and space for planting annuals. Rocks and border edging will delineate the garden areas. The remainder of the yard will be a seeded lawn of salt tolerant boulevard grasses.

Estimated cost of the three space appropriate evergreens is \$700, since they will be about 8-10 years old at time of purchase. Garden soil, edging, seed, perennials and annuals, along with miscellaneous materials constitute the remainder of the expenditures, about \$1,000.

Several of the congregation have volunteered equipment and labor which will be needed for stripping the current lawn, spreading garden soil, placing rocks and seeding.

As for rock, **all can help by donating a stone or two.** We will need about fifty small, 7 to 9 inch stones, about a dozen 12 to 15 inch rocks, and seven small "boulders," 18-24 inches.

We will be starting work on this in early September, hopefully as soon as the day after Labor Day. Helping hands are always needed and appreciated. We'll do what we can this fall and then finish up next spring.

The estimated cost of \$1,700 is being funded through designated landscape gifts and from our current memorial fund, if needed. If you care to donate to the cost of plants and materials, make your check out to the Ely United Methodist Church and write **Landscape** on the memo line of your check.

September is Bring a Kid to Church Month

EUMC's *Bring a Kid to Church* month is September. We will start on the second Sunday, though children are absolutely welcome on the first Sunday, as well as every other Sunday. Each child (or family of siblings) will get a copy of **The Jesus Story Book Bible** if he or she did not get one in previous years. Children who have already received the *Bible* in a prior year will instead get a book entitled **Indescribable**, which points out God's presence in science and nature.

Also, on Sunday, September 23 we will be showing the children's movie, **Charlotte's Web**, at 2:00 PM. The movie teaches integrity, compassion, and the value of friendship. We sure hope to see you and your child or children there. It is a wonderful opportunity to start, or further, children on their spiritual journeys.

The United Methodist Church *Commission on the Way Forward* **5 Things You Need To Know**

During the past decade or so same sex marriage has been a social issue with legal implications. This national debate has reached into every family, community, and church as well. Christians with both traditional views on human sexuality and liberal views have expressed their concerns within congregations. All Christian denominations are responding in one way or another regarding same-sex marriage within local churches and the ordination of gay and lesbian persons.

Coming out of the 2016 General Conference, the United Methodist Church appointed a thirty-two person **“Commission on the Way Forward”** to make a thorough and prayerful study of the issue and bring a report to the Council of Bishops. This report will come before a specially-called General Conference to be held in St. Louis on February 23 – 26, 2019.

The Commission’s recommendation is for a **“one church”** model, which seeks to make room within the United Methodist Church for people of both viewpoints. An excellent and concise summary of the process can be found online at <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-5-things-you-need-to-know>. This page includes numerous links to additional and comprehensive information. (The 5 things are: **Formation, Task, Issues, Recommendations** and **Who Decides**. These 5 things are listed and explained in detail within the link shown above.)

Bishop Bruce Ough is holding listening sessions around the Minnesota and Dakotas Annual Conference this fall to present where things stand presently, to answer questions, and to listen to concerns. The one in our area will be at the First United Methodist Church in Duluth at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 25, 2018. These gatherings will be similar to ones held a year ago, which were informative and compassionate toward all viewpoints.

If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Craig know and we can arrange car pools.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES Ad Hoc Meeting – Sunday, August 19, 2018

Chair Jay Tomlinson called for an ad hoc meeting of the Administrative Council following church on Sunday, August 19, 2018 to address an immediate need to discuss funding for the Landscaping project for the front of our church.

Attending: Butch Diesslin, Toni & Rich Floyd, Linda Hane, Mark & Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson.

The Landscape Committee had submitted a detailed plan to the Board of Trustees with an estimated cost of \$1,700. The Board of Trustees has requested approval of funds for this project in order to proceed as soon as possible. Marge Olson mentioned that some donations had already been received and that the Memorial Committee had agreed they would allocate monies from the Memorial Fund to make up for what wasn’t covered by donations. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we approve \$1,700 to be funded by member donations and the Memorial Fund, if needed. Second by Linda Hane. Motion approved.