

## A Note from Pastor Craig

Greetings! I'm writing these words on a simply gorgeous August afternoon - bright blue sky with a few fluffy clouds, brilliant sunshine, and moderate temperatures. However, this morning it was about fifty degrees when I walked from the parsonage to church. The air had a September-sort of feel to it and I saw a few dried up leaves littering 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East.

So, I shouldn't have been surprised when Jeanne Tomlinson reminded me the newsletter was coming out in a week or so; it is getting to be that time of year. Yet as I sat down to compose this "Pastor Page" I realized I am out of practice. It's not as if I've forgotten how to write, after all I've been drafting sermons and writing email messages all summer. It's that I haven't done the kind of pondering, thinking, and listening that is the soil out of which these monthly page-long messages sprout. I felt a bit disoriented.

But isn't this what summer is all about - a change of pace in our life, an alternate rhythm to our days/weeks, being able to participate in a variety of events/experiences not available to us during the school year? It's almost as if we have our summer life and our rest-of-the-year life.

For some of us life gets quieter come Memorial Day and we're less busy. For others it seems as though our schedule is all over the place. We're either away from home or when we are home we have company. And then for still others of us our activity level is about the same, only we're doing different things.

It's the same with Sunday mornings at church. During the school year it's more or less the same group of people in the pews on Sunday morning, year round residents who happen to be in town. On summer Sundays, we just never know who is going to walk through the doors - "lakebirds" (the opposite of snowbirds!) who are in town for the summer, people visiting Ely for a week or two, and church members who either aren't running summer businesses or who still have some energy left after a week of hectic activity here in town. I really enjoy both aspects of our church - the school year routine and the variety/energy of summer.

All this is my way of saying - "Thank you Ely UMC for being 'the little church with the big heart' all year-round!" This summer has been a wonderful celebration-in-Christ for us at the end of the road. I'm not ready for it to end just yet, but it will in its appointed time. And then, when the school year

begins, I will have my heart open to each of you and God's presence in our life together.

With appreciation for all that is and my anticipation for what is coming next.

Pastor Craig

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**Contact Information and Office Hours  
for September 2019**

Church Office: (218) 365-3355  
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Pastor Craig is planning to be in the church office from 9 AM to 11 AM on Tuesdays through Saturdays except for September 23-25.

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**Jumpin' Jehoshaphats**

The Jumpin' Jehoshaphats started off their 2019 Annual World Tour of Northern Minnesota in Ely on Wednesday evening, July 31<sup>st</sup> before an enthusiastic crowd at the band shell in Whiteside Park. Their tour continued for the

next three days with concerts in Emily, Pine River, and Little Falls.

The Jehoshaphats are United Methodists from Minnesota who have been playing Dixieland/Gospel music together for close to thirty years. For this concert they featured a vocalist and musicians on keyboard, flute, tuba, trombone, and drums. The trombone player also played a number on the conch – yes, the conch, as in sea shell. Their renditions of old favorites included solos in the traditional Dixieland pattern by each musician on nearly every number.

Musicians from Ely included former pastor Suzanne Mades on flute and Elton Brown on tuba. Elton also sang "What a Wonderful World" as a solo.

The concert was a gift from our church to the city of Ely. However, we took a free-will offering for Young Life Ministries here in town. Concert-goers generously donated \$687.77!

Thank you to our church for underwriting and supporting the concert. A special thanks to Linda Hane for her many promotional efforts around town, including approaching the theater folks to announce the concert on the State Theater marquee.

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## **The 2019 Multi-Church Worship Service and BBQ/Picnic**

*First Presbyterian, Grace Lutheran, Ely United Methodist and St. Mary's Episcopal* churches hosted approximately 140 participants for worship, fellowship, food and fun in the Semer's Park Pavilion on Sunday, August 11. We started the day with a wonderful Ecumenical Worship Service at 10:30 AM. Rev. Pamela Webster and Rev. Mary Groeninger from St. Mary's Episcopal, Rev. Corey Larsen from First Presbyterian, Rev. Eric Thiele from Grace Lutheran and our own Rev. Craig Haberman each led parts of the worship, with music and direction from Sarah Mason and Gabe Pointer. After the service ended at 11:35 AM, the hall was quickly rearranged to accommodate the BBQ/Picnic and the food lines started up at 11:45 AM. As usual, burgers, brats, hotdogs, buns, condiments, lemonade & water were provided and the participants brought a wonderful variety of side dishes, snacks and desserts. We were all grateful for the wonderful weather. Special thanks to the faithful grillers, Jay Tomlinson and Dan Johnson from Ely UMC, to the event committee, Denise Norman (committee chair), Arlene Today, Pat Merfeld, Margie Olson, Jeanne Tomlinson and Pam Webster, as well as to all the additional helpers who pitched in for set up and clean up.

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