

## A Note from Pastor Craig

Greetings! I'm writing this on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, which is a gorgeous day in Ely; bright sunshine, blue skies, temperatures in the sixties, and birds singing. That's the good news; the bad news is the forecast through Memorial Day weekend looks dismal. Like each of you, I'm waiting for summer to fully arrive! I want to share several short items.

**First**, we're receiving new members on Sunday June 9, 2019. In this regard I do want to say that anyone who walks through the doors of our church and participates in church activities is an important part of our church. You belong here, and can know this is your church family and I am your pastor. This is why we include everyone in our photo directory and give you name tags!

As with most organizations, including churches, we do have an official membership roll. Official members of our church are those individuals who take the additional step of committing to support Ely United Methodist Church by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, and their service.

If you are currently a part of our church family, are not an official member, but would like to be, I invite you to contact me and we'll include you with the others joining on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Second**, as you may be aware and I mentioned earlier this spring, the United Methodist Church is making the news a lot as we seek to define more clearly our

denominational position on same-sex marriage and ordination of gay and lesbian persons.

There isn't any additional news to report except to add there are people working very hard at the denominational and annual conference levels to "get out in front of this" in advance of the General Conference to be held in Minneapolis in May of 2020. As a member of the Minnesota Annual Conference Board of Trustees I have been involved in three online meetings to date regarding this issue; meetings that will continue in the months ahead. I am impressed with the competence and commitment of the people involved in finding a pathway for Minnesota United Methodists churches regardless of what General Conference 2020 decides.

Jay Tomlinson and I will attend the Minnesota Annual Conference session in St. Cloud during June 18 – 20 and will bring back more information then. For now, I want to mention again my commitment to be your pastor regardless of who you are or where you stand on this issue. In my view there is room in our church for everyone.

**Finally**, thank you again for your enthusiastic participation in church activities on so many "fronts" – worship, outreach ministries, education, fellowship, taking care of administrative details, caring for our building, and so on. I'm grateful. Summer residents/visitors – it's great to see you!

Pastor Craig

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

Church Office: (218) 365-3355

Parsonage: (218) 365-3716

Email: [elymethodist@elyumc.org](mailto:elymethodist@elyumc.org) Website: [elyumc.org](http://elyumc.org)

Pastor Craig is planning to be in the church office from 9 AM to 11 AM on Tuesdays through Saturdays except for scheduled trips. He will be out of town on the following dates:

June 18-20 (MN Annual Conference)

June 28-July 7 (Includes 2 Sundays)

July 16-July 22 (Includes 1 Sunday)

August 12-14 (Monday – Wednesday)

August 30-31 (Friday & Saturday)

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**Summer Sunday School**

While there will be no Children’s Sunday School from June through August, the Adult Sunday School will continue to meet at 8:45 AM on the Sundays that Pastor Craig is here. (Please note his schedule listed above).

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**Summer FISH  
Covering June, July & August 2019**

For those of you who may not have noticed, last year we had separate *FISH* issues for June, July and August,

even though for many years prior to that we normally had one issue that would cover those summer months. Since we were transitioning through Pastor Dana’s retirement in June, being “pastorless” for much of the summer, and then welcoming Pastor Craig in August, the Ad Council felt it was important to do a newsletter each month to keep everyone informed with the latest information and plans as they developed. At this point, we feel the “transition phase” is pretty much complete – so we’re going back to the traditional summer issue.

You will notice that there is NOT a calendar in this printed issue since it does cover three months. There is, however, a JUNE 2019 church calendar on our website ([www.elyumc.org](http://www.elyumc.org)) and at the beginning of July & August, respectively, you will find calendars for those months posted also so that you can keep up to date with the scheduled church events throughout the summer.

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**Summer Dates to Remember**  
(Events we currently know about..)

**JUNE**

**June 9**, Sunday @10 AM – New Members being received during worship

**June 9**, Sunday @2:30 PM – Boundary Waters Care Center Worship Service

**June 13**, Thursday @ 7:05 PM Visioning Committee Meeting

**June 18**, Tuesday 10 AM-2 PM – Hearts Two Hands

**June 18-20** – Minnesota Annual Conference in St Cloud (Pastor Craig & Lay Representative Jay Tomlinson attending)

**June 19**, Wednesday @1:15 PM – Carefree Living  
Worship Service

**June 30**, *Gift of Giving* free will offering during the  
Worship Service

### **JULY**

**July 7**, Sunday @2:30 PM – Boundary Waters Care  
Center Worship Service

**July 8**, Monday @7 PM – Trustees Meeting

**July 9**, Tuesday @7 PM Worship Committee

**July 11**, Thursday @ 7:05 PM Visioning Committee  
Meeting

**July 16**, Tuesday 10 AM – 2 PM – Hearts Two Hands

**July 24**, Wednesday @1:15 PM – Carefree Living  
Worship Service

**July 30**, Tuesday 10 AM – 2 PM – Hearts Two Hands

**July 31**, Wednesday – Jumpin’ Jehosopaths

### **AUGUST**

**August 4**, Sunday @2:30 PM – Boundary Waters Care  
Center Worship Service

**August 8**, Thursday @ 7:05 PM Visioning Committee  
Meeting

**August 11**, Sunday – Joint Ecumenical Service at 10:30  
AM; Multi-Church picnic @ 12:00 Noon

**August 16**, Friday @4 PM – Relay for Life in Whiteside  
Park

**August 18**, *Gift of Giving* free will offering during the  
Worship Service

**August 28**, Wednesday @1:15 PM – Carefree Living  
Worship Service

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## **2019 Love Offering for Missions**

The funds collected from our church for this offering will be taken to the MN Annual Conference on June 18. We took a free will offering for this on Sunday, May 26. If you were not able to give at that time, but would like to contribute, you may still do so. You may send it to the church by June 15 or put it in the offering plate during the June 2, 9 or 16 Worship Service. Remember to make checks out to *Ely United Methodist Church* and write **Love Offering** in the memo line.

The total 2019 **Love Offering** of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will be divided to the following missions:

### **Lao Sampham Methodist Church, Laos(60 percent)**

Furthering efforts to expand the United Methodist presence in Laos, develop leaders, support pastors, and create programs to spur socio-economic development in one of the poorest countries in the world.

### **Volunteer Lawyers Network (20 percent)**

Providing free civil legal services to people living in poverty, and partnering with community organizations to provide culturally competent services to immigrant and refugee neighbors.

### **Volunteers Mission Scholarships (20 percent)**

Offsetting the cost for first-time mission trip participants who work on projects domestically or abroad – and have their lives changed through their experience.

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## **The 2019 Gift of Giving Project**

In 2018, the Ely United Methodist Church adopted a community outreach project and titled it **Gift of Giving**. The project proved to be a huge success and a very rewarding experience. The following explains the project and what is involved to duplicate the success we experienced in 2018.

**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 provides 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 close to \$10. Approximate \$1,100 is needed for the project to cover the gifts and supplies.

**What is the current status of the project?** Through the heartfelt generosity of our congregation and guests, the project is been totally funded with donations and free-will offerings. This year's *Gift of Giving* free will offering dates are June 30, August 18, and if necessary, October 6.

### **What are the tasks needed to complete the project?**

- Secure the funds for the *Gift of Giving* 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 had many volunteers participating in last year's project and it seemed all felt the project was a rewarding experience. If you would like to volunteer to help with any part of this year's project, please notify project coordinator Jay Tomlinson (218-235-1879). Thank you.

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## Church “Spring Cleaning”

The time has come – and some say the time is way overdue – to do some “spring cleaning” in our church similar to what we did last year to get the parsonage ready for our new pastor. We got a start on that on May 1 with a small crew who thoroughly washed down the walls in the kitchen and the nursery areas to prepare them for painting. Thanks to Margie Olson for organizing this. Kudos to the crew: Margie & Mark Olson, Linda Hane, Sheri & Andre Rue, and Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson.

We hope to schedule a few more cleaning times through the summer. We will announce the dates during church as well as putting them in the bulletins. If you would like to be notified as soon as dates are set, please call the church office and ask to be notified about the Spring Cleaning dates and be sure to supply your name and phone number or email address

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## **Jumpin’ Jehosaphats Wednesday, July 31 at Whiteside Park**

We are sponsoring the *Jumpin’ Jehosaphats*, a Gospel/Dixieland music group, for a concert here in Ely at the band shell in Whiteside Park on Wednesday, July 31. We’ve had this group in Ely before - some of you may remember them. It is comprised of a few Minnesota Conference clergy & lay musicians who enjoy singing and playing in a band together. Two members of the group many of you will know are Elton Brown and

Suzanne Makes. Watch for fliers coming out later this summer to learn more about this event.

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## **Multi-Church Service & BBQ/Picnic Sunday, August 11, 2018 at Semer’s Park** Ecumenical Worship Service at 10:30 AM BBQ/Picnic at 12 Noon

*First Presbyterian, Grace Lutheran, Ely United Methodist and St. Mary’s Episcopal* churches invite members and friends to gather for worship, fellowship, food and fun in the Semer’s Park Pavilion on Sunday, August 11. We will start the day with an Ecumenical Worship Service at 10:30 AM. After the service, we’ll rearrange the furniture and move on to our BBQ/Picnic starting at 12 Noon. As usual, burgers, brats, hotdogs, buns, condiments, lemonade & water will be provided. The rest will be POTLUCK items we get to bring. So plan to bring your favorite picnic item – which can be a home-prepared or store-bought side dish, snack item or dessert. If it turns out to be a nice day, you and your family can plan on some extended time after the picnic to take advantage of the other activities available at Semer’s Park. There is no need to sign-up to attend the event – just come and join in a good time.

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## **Relay for Life Friday, August 16**

As of publishing time, we're stilling waiting for more details on this event from the Ely Relay for Life committee. All we know at this point is the date and start time: Friday, August 16 at 4 PM. We'll keep you posted as to whether we will once again be able to have our M&M (Methodist Milers) Team participating.

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### **Prayer Shawls Needed**

By Donna Rusco

Our Prayer Shawl ministry welcomes crocheted, knitted and quilted lap throws measuring in area of 31" X 48" or less. Use patterns of your choice. All shawls are used. Surplus goes to the nursing home for Christmas with much appreciation. Yarn is available for shawls. Ask Donna Rusco or Gail Haney for yarn.

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### **2019 Ely UMW Bazaar Saturday, November 2**

Just a reminder that it's an ODD year so we'll be having our bi-annual church UMW Bazaar this coming November. Now is the time to start working on homemade craft items to sell.

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### **UMW Minutes**

Wednesday April 24, 2019 1-3 PM

The meeting was officially convened at 1:12 pm by Vice President Lucy Diesslin with Linda Hane, Beverly

Johnson, LaVerne Lindholm, Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Janice Tessier, Jeanne Tomlinson, Jeri Walburn and Pastor Craig also in attendance. Lucy opened with a prayer and we did a unison reading of the UMW Pledge.

The minutes from our March 27, 2019 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Margie Olson; second by Janice Tessier.

Sharon Luthens had submitted the Treasurer's Report with the checking account balances of \$3,474.99 in checking, \$6,043.21 in savings and CD \$10,000. No April pasty deposits or expenses are included in the checking account balance. The report was accepted as submitted.

Sharon had left a note asking for approval to pay Jan Rue \$100 from the UMW accounts to cover costs of Kid's Club snacks. Motion to approve expenditure by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Donna Rusco. Motion passed.

### **Old Business**

- **Friendship Dinner 5:30 PM Wed May 22:** Jeanne reported having placed the food order with Northland with the choices decided at the March 27 meeting. She will call Jan Rue about doing cupcakes or cookies for dessert. Tootsie Loe has offered to take care of flowers for the table centerpieces. For program, Linda Hane will contact Sheri Rue about a possible mission trip talk. We can check with Heather Monthei at choir if Sheri isn't available. Lucy suggested for a future dinner that we try to get Rich Floyd to do his photo

presentation on sandhill cranes. We talked about making an extra effort this year to personally invite women to attend.

- **“Spring Cleaning”**: Margie reported that Brett Porthan will paint the walls in the kitchen and nursery if we can get the walls washed before his busy season starts. We decided to schedule the cleaning for Wednesday May 1 starting at 6 PM. Someone will make an announcement at church on April 28 to try to recruit additional help. Margie will check with Brett about cleaning solutions. Margie has started a task list for the other cleaning to be done but did not have it with her. We’ll set other times later in the summer after more summer folks arrive.

#### **New Business**

- **Hostess Schedule for 2019-20**: Jeanne suggested we go ahead and start up our hostess schedule for Sept 2019 to May 2020 since we’ll be doing a dinner in May instead of a business meeting.
  - **Sept 25** – Lucy Diesslin
  - **Oct 23** – Linda Hane
  - **Nov 20** – Jeanne Tomlinson
  - **Jan 22** – Margie Olson
  - **Feb 26** – Jeri Walburn
  - **Mar 25** – Janice Tessier
  - **Apr 22** – Donna Rusco
  - **May 20** – Dinner
- **Bazaar**: Lucy brought up the thought that we should increase the costs for our baked goods.

We agreed and decided to change the price for the cardamom bread to \$8.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 1:45 pm. Motion by Bev Johnson, second by Margie Olson. Motion passed.

For our devotional study, we read Chapter 3 of our study book, *Attitude is Your Paint Brush - It Colors Every Situation*. The chapter was about having an “Attitude of Confidence” in the Bible, in the Church and in God.

We then enjoyed a cherry topped pound cake supplied by Donna Rusco.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson  
Secretary

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#### **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES May 15, 2019**

**Call To Order**: Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Attendees (9)**: Bonnie Berglund, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Dan & Bev Johnson, Carol Linneman, Margie & Mark Olson, Jeanne Tomlinson

**Opening**: Pastor Craig provided the “Opening Thought” by reading a couple poems by William Stafford and then led us in prayer.

**Minutes:** The April 17, 2019 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the May *FISH*. Motion by Marge Olson; second by Linda Hane. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark Olson presented the April 2019 Treasurer's Report. Receipts & disbursements were \$12,436.35 & \$8,595.07, respectively. The receipts included both the March and April pasties sales. End of month balances: Undesignated Funds \$14,805.39; Building Fund \$10,079.45; Memorial Fund \$10,636.82; Parish Health Ministries \$400; R3 Project \$145.25; Gift of Giving Project \$15.16, Landscape Project \$218.78. Motion to accept by Linda Hane, second by Bonnie Berglund. Motion approved.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Board of Trustees:** Margie Olson reported (1) the kitchen & nursery walls were washed down and are ready for painting by Brett Porthan; (2) Butch Diesslin is adding a handle to the front door of the church so that we can use the hook to hold it open; (3) the fire extinguishers were inspected; (4) the insurance guy came and took pictures. Jeanne Tomlinson brought up the need for a parsonage inspection by the pastor, PPR Chair and Trustees Chair. They'll schedule a time
- **Memorial Fund:** Carol Linneman reported on their meeting the previous week. They went through the kid's activity bags and then purchased supplies to refill them. Their meetings will now be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month in each quarter since the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday was conflicting with a meeting the pastor needs to attend.
- **Education:** Pastor Craig reported that Confirmation Class, which has 3 participants, just held their last meeting for this school year. They'll resume in the fall.
- **Finance:** Bev Johnson is planning to ask the committees to discuss possible needs for 2020 as a start for preparing the 2020 budget.
- **Nurture & Membership:** Bonnie Berglund reported having met with Pastor Craig on May 1 to discuss changes and handling membership related activities that Pastor Dana took care of. The emphasis was on welcoming and assimilating new people as well as membership record keeping.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the May 1 meeting was cancelled since there wasn't anything specific to meet about. The next meeting will be in September.
- **Worship:** Linda Hane reported we had 82 people attend worship on Mother's Day /Memorial Service. She reviewed the coverage plans done so far for the June/July Sundays that Pastor Craig will be gone. (June 30: Jay Tomlinson with conference report; July 7-Communion: Dana Thompson; July 21 Al Soderberg). The Worship Committee is still working on lining up people to help with the various parts of the service. They are also working on getting some special music lined up for some Sundays. The bulletin "pre-printed blanks" are running out so steps are being taken to have new ones printed with the new sketch of the church that Gerald Niskala has done. This was discussed further under New Business.



- **Parish Health Ministry:** Pastor Craig had met with Donna Rusco and reported that she's been doing a lot of visiting and takes part in a grief support group.
- **Visioning:** Pastor Craig went through his Visioning Committee meeting notes and reported
  - They have formalized the committee to make it a standing committee (to be chaired by someone selected through the normal nomination process).
  - It's time to do another *Natural Church Development Survey*.
  - The *Prayer Wall* instructions will include a statement indicating that the *Prayer Wall* is prepared on Thursdays for insertion in the Sunday Bulletin on Friday morning.
  - They'll be looking at movies for a future "movie time" and when they find one, then they'll work out a schedule for showing it rather than the way it happened this last time.
  - The committee selected a new book *What Should I Believe – Is There Really a God and Does He Care About Me?* by Phil A. Smouse to give out to kids this September as part of "Bring a Kid to Church" month.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Direct Deposit Offering:** Tabled to future date
2. **Jumpin' Jehosaphats:** Pastor Craig reported the date has been changed to Wednesday, July 31 and that has been taken care of with the city. Linda Hane asked if the group had any posters they could share

that could be used in promoting the event. Pastor Craig will check with them. We agreed that we would not do any food.

3. **Progress on Ad Hoc Committee for Church Handbook:** Jeanne Tomlinson distributed an updated organizational chart and an outline of the plans for the rework of the handbook. After some discussion it was agreed that the existing committees and leadership roles currently documented in the handbook would be retained and no new ones added other than the Visioning Committee. It was recommended that any notable activity/responsibility that is not documented specifically in the handbook (such as "Bulletins", "Newsletter", "Congregational Records", etc. should be included in the Organizational Chart as a matter of completeness.
4. **Lenten Supper Fund Distribution (\$228):** Linda Hane moved that we split the amount between the Ely Community Health Center and the Northern Lights Clubhouse. Second by Marge Olson. Motion passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request for Visioning Committee survey funding (\$300):** After a short discussion, Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we approve \$300 for another survey. Second by Linda Hane. Motion passed. It was mentioned that this is part of the Nurture & Membership budget.
2. **Request Funding for Books for Bring a Kid to Church Month in Sept (\$200):** Marge Olson moved we approve \$200 for the books; second by Carol Linneman. Motion passed. This is part of the Education budget.

3. **Revisions to the Church History page on the Church Bulletin:** Pastor Craig suggested we might want to add something that would indicate current/future focus in addition to the significant historical events. Marge Olson indicated we should include some of the other significant church improvements that have occurred since this was last updated. It was decided that we should just leave the back as it is for now and take more time to work on changes since we need to get the bulletin “blanks” printed soon. We’ll just have a year’s worth printed.
4. **Landscape concerns and funding:** Dan Johnson reported that he has ordered a tree for the front landscaping at an approximate cost of \$450 and two bushes to be planted on the sides of the sign at a cost of about \$200. The committee will also be working on landscaping the area under the sign at the lower parking lot. There was already \$300 allocated in the Memorial Fund for some of this and there is currently \$218 designated for landscaping, but this will not be enough. Carol Linneman and Marge Olson felt that the Memorial Fund would probably be able to allocate enough funds to cover what is needed but they won’t be meeting next until August. It was decided that Dan would once again make an announcement in church about the need for donations that are specifically designated for landscaping. Since there have never been funds budgeted for this, the committee will also be tracking the costs for any annual plants & maintenance costs so that it can become part of the budget.

**Correspondence** – None

**Items of Information.**

1. **Newsletter:** Jeanne reported there will be just one summer issue (June/July/August) as we used to do prior to last summer. Key dates for the summer will be listed but there won’t be a printed calendar for each month. Having an on-line calendar for each month is a possibility that will be discussed with Jay. Jay has been looking into possibly adding some color to the newsletter. He’d learned that having 2 pages (1 side of 8.5”X11”) of color would be an extra \$15. It was mentioned we might look more into electronic distribution of the newsletter for those willing to forego the printed copy in order to save on costs. Jeanne pointed out that the current on-line version of the newsletter can be printed but it won’t come out like the printed booklet-form newsletter; in addition, none of the pictures are currently included.
2. **Summer Ad-Council Meetings:** Linda Hane asked about whether Ad Council should meet in the summer. It was pointed out that if the need arises, the Ad Council Chair can always call for one.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord’s Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary