

HYLAND LAKES PARISH NEWS

January 2018

Elcho Congregational UCC/Kempster Congregational UCC

*No matter who you are or where you are on
life's journey you are welcome here!*

PASTOR'S CORNER

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
Isaiah 43:18-19a*

2018. Let that sink in, it's a big number. Almost all of us were born in another century. Many of us, like those Isaiah was addressing, would like to just spend our remaining years being comfortable doing what we have always done before, and just ease into the remainder of our lives, both at home and at church. But Isaiah reminds us that we should not focus on what was, but what is to be. God is doing a new thing.

Truthfully, God is always doing something new in us and, if we allow it, through us as well. God offers us new opportunities in our lives and in the life of the church. God also offers new ways to accomplish the same tasks when what we have been doing just doesn't work anymore. Don't remember, don't focus on the past. We need to look to the future, to be open to hearing and seeing what it is that God is doing in the world, in the church and in ourselves.

What is it that God is doing that we are missing? What is it that God is calling us to do?

One ministry that has been happening at Elcho for over a year now is Messy Church. Most our people have not taken the opportunity to see what it is about or to discover how they can be a part of it, but God is doing some awesome stuff through a small number of volunteers who are faithful participants who find fulfillment in seeing the results of their work. We began with one child and his mother who came because she wanted her child to be involved in church but didn't think he could make it through Sunday worship. They have attended every single time. We have had other 7 other children who attend sporadically for a variety of reasons. This is a great program that needs to reach more people, including our members. It has the potential to reach a much larger number of children and adults. But it can only happen if we allow God to work in us and through us to make it happen. Please consider what you can do to support this important ministry.

Another great ministry of our churches is the food pantry. I commend all those who have listened to God's command to care for the poor and

vulnerable. God surely smiles every time we donate food, money, time, and prayer for those less fortunate.

Our food pantry board is working with Elcho town board to find land suitable for a community garden. Several plots have been suggested and the township is working with us to make this a possibility. While aimed at our food pantry clients, anyone who wants to participate would plant and tend the vegetables, achieving sweat equity. Another step would be to teach free classes on food preservation, so the veggies can feed people into the winter months when fresh veggies are more expensive and of lower quality.

There is one area that I am looking for God's movement in: church unity. For the last two years we have experienced a certain amount of division in church family. I believe that God wants us to live in peace with each other but it can only happen when we are willing to work together to achieve it. I pray that each one of us will work to resolve issues and work to make unity in faith and practice a goal. We can use our Covenant of Conduct and prayer to help us as we proceed.

God is doing a new thing in our midst. I pray that we will all be alert and willing to watch, listen, pray, and participate.

*Blessings,
Dana*



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- . . . To those who decorated the churches for Christmas.
 - . . . To those who helped with services through Advent and Christmas.
 - . . . To those who keep our sidewalks and parking lot plowed and shoveled.
 - . . . To those who invite others to church and church activities.
 - . . . To all who make our visitors feel welcomed.
 - . . . To those who work diligently to make our church finances transparent.
 - . . . To those who work hard to make Men's Club Dinners successful.
 - . . . To those who pray for others.
 - . . . To our Christian Ed. committee for their work with Messy Church.
 - . . . To those who donate food and/or work to the food pantry.
 - . . . To Kris, Paul, and Mary Sue for their work on the newsletter.
 - . . . To those who work to find solutions to problems.
 - . . . To those who pray for our churches, members and pastor.

I would like to thank all who sent Christmas cards, Get Well cards, and gifts to Dave and me. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

MESSY CHURCH



On December 17th we celebrated the birth of Jesus with four children. We heard and told the Christmas story, sang Away in a Manger, made Christmas tree ornaments and decorated Christmas cookies. For our shared supper we enjoyed Christmas tree grilled cheese sandwiches, chips, cookies, and rainbow sherbet and enjoyed talking with each other.

On January 21st we will talk about God's care of creation and how we can continue that care. Come and see, hear, taste and learn what our faith is all about in a different way. There is something for everyone to learn about how God works in us and through us.

Many thanks are due to our awesome Messy Church team: Olive DuBey, Sue Brautigam, Sue Mackowski, Jane Wagner, Linda Klopfer, and Dave Schindler.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Grief and loss are a part of life. Sometimes we think we have finished but then an anniversary comes or something reminds us of the loss again. Our next meeting is on December 2nd from 10 am-12 noon. This group is free and open to the community. Sue Mackowski, Bereavement Specialist and Consultant will lead the group. For additional information call her at 715-275-5399 or Pastor Dana at 715-610-1888.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

We will not meet this month due to the holidays and travel of so many of our members. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7th at 1:00 p.m. All ladies of both churches are welcome as well as any visitors.

MEN'S CLUB NEWS

Friday Fish Fry

This month's Friday Fish Fry will be on January 12th, with fried or baked fish, shrimp, fries, coleslaw and Culvers' frozen custard. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. with dinner service beginning at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$10-\$12 depending on your choice of meal.

End of the Month Dinner

Our end of the month dinner will be on January 24th. Bakers are requested to bring desserts.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

CoVantage Cares sponsored their THANKSGIVING 2SDAY again this year. Thanks to your donations (and those of supporters of other groups) CoVantage received over \$100,000. They had committed to matching gifts up to \$75,000. They must now decide what they will be able to match and how to divide the funds to the various agencies, so The Elcho Area Community Food Pantry will receive funds, but we do not yet know how much. Thank you for helping to create this "problem"!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Canned Pasta (Ravioli)
Peanut Butter
Bar Soap


Canned Fruit
Soup

Pasta
Toothpaste


CHURCH WEBSITE

A new year is rapidly approaching, so more donations will be needed to fund the website, which costs \$35 per month. If you would like to pay for a month, just mark your offering "for the church website." You can check out the website at elchokempsterucc.org


Our Facebook page is Hyland Lakes Parish. You can find announcements as well as sermons posted there. This page is for anyone who is looking for information about us.



Do you have a favorite passage or topic you would like to hear in a sermon? Do you have a favorite hymn we haven't sung in a while? Just send me an e-mail or put a note in my mailbox and I will address it.



If you or someone else in the parish is sick or hospitalized please be sure to let me know. I am more than happy to visit. Hospitals cannot contact pastors unless patients specifically tell them to due to privacy rights.



Would you like a pastoral visit? Just give me a call, note, or e-mail and we will schedule it.

COVENANT OF CONDUCT FOR ELCHO

In order for the congregation and the Church Council to deal effectively with various church issues, the following guidelines are to be followed:

1. All members affirm their right to express their opinions about the life and ministry of the congregation.
2. The congregation operates with a direct democracy form of government that allows members to share their opinions directly with the pastor, Church Council, other boards and committees, and at congregational meetings.
3. When members of the congregation express an opinion to a member of the Church Council or staff, the Council or staff person shall ask, "What would you like me to do with this information?"
4. If the member desires to have the information transmitted to the Church Council or staff, the member shall be invited to bring the information/opinion to the next Church Council meeting. The time and date shall be provided.
5. If the member *does not* wish to appear in person, the Church Council or staff member shall ask the member to use their name in reporting. If permission is *not* given, The Council or staff person shall respond by saying, "I'm sorry, but I will not be able to report this to the Church Council or staff since we do not deal with anonymous letters or comments."
6. If permission is given, the Church Council or staff person shall report the information/opinion to the Council and use the member's name.
7. At his/her discretion, a Church Council or staff member may ask that the member refer this issue to another Council or staff person for presentation.
8. Each issue shall be placed on the agenda if presented at a Church Council meeting and written in the minutes along with the action taken by the Council. Action may include: "Received as information," "Pastor and/or moderator to visit member and report at next meeting," etc.
9. Opinions may be shared in writing with the Church Council and staff and shall be handled in the above mentioned manner if the letter or statement is signed.

PRAYER LIST

Bernie	Carol	Lonnie
Philip	Janet	Dennis
Owen	Lauren	Athon
Cody	Margaret	Andy
Peter	Jean	Kelly
Kim	Bob	Jeffrey
Randy	Joshua	Patti
Marty	Marcy & Alex	BJ
Betty	Kyle	Gloria
Shirley	Cody	Pete
Mike	Joyce	Joe
Miriam	Kristin	Juan
Sarah	Dawn	Jim
Edward	Pam	Arnold
Travis	Judy	Hunter & Janet
Ann	Michael	Thomas
Ken	Elaine	Vernon
John	Heidi	Dr. Hunter
Ethan	Dave	Barbara
Ralph	Alex	Karen & Jerry
Ed	Joni	Rinald & Family
Stephanie	Warren	Sue
Joanne	Mackenzie	Georgia
Wagner Family	Anderson Family	Dinsmore Family
Daily Family	Our Shut Ins	Messy Church
Elected Officials	Storm Victims	Fire Victims
First Responders	Service Members	Our Snowbirds
Our Enemies	Peace	Those with addictions
Those who are anxious	Those who are depressed	
Those living in violence	Pastor Dana, as she leads	

HOLY HUMOR

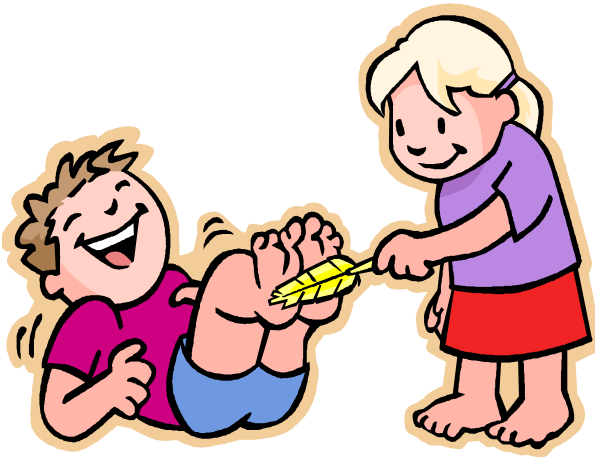
Miss Dixie asked her Sunday school class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Larry's picture of four people on an airplane, so she asked which story he was illustrating.

"Oh, that's Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus on their flight to Egypt."

"But who's the fourth person, Larry?"

"Oh, that's Pontius, the Pilot."

The World's Greatest Collection of Church Jokes, Barbour Publishing, Inc., 2003



JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Happy New Year! 2018	2 1:00 pm Book Club 7:00 pm AA	3 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics	4 <i>Pastor Dana @ Executive Committee Meeting</i>	5 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics	6 10:00 am Grief Support
7 WORSHIP 8:45 a.m. Kempster 10:30 am Elcho Communion	8 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics 1:30 pm Bible Study	9 7:00 pm AA <i>Pastor out of office District Clergy Meeting</i>	10 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics 6:00 pm Church Council (E)	11	12 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics 4:00 pm Fish Fry (P)	13
14 WORSHIP 8:45 am Kempster 10:30 am Elcho	15 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics 1:30 pm Bible Study	16 7:00 pm AA	17 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics	18 <i>Pastor Dana out of office Community of Practice</i>	19 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics	20
21 WORSHIP 8:45 am Kempster 10:30 am Elcho 4:30 pm Messy Church (E)	22 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics 1:30 pm Bible Study	23 7:00 pm AA	24 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics	25	26 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics	27
28 WORSHIP 8:45 am Kempster 10:30 am Elcho	29 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics	30 7:00 pm AA	31 8:15 am Ageless Aerobics 5:00 pm Monthly Dinner (P)			