

HYLAND LAKES PARISH NEWS LETTER
December 2019
Elcho Congregational UCC/Kempster Congregational UCC

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you
are welcome here***
From the Interim Minister

I pray that you all had a joyous Thanksgiving wherever you were and whoever you were with. I had the opportunity to drive down to Sheboygan Falls and visit my dad for his 99th birthday and then enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with some of our family. I have a lot to be thankful for.

We are now in the Christian season of Advent. The Latin word adventum means coming, arrival, approach, and appearance. Traditionally, it's a time for us to prepare for the coming celebration of the birth of Jesus, but I find that the words arrival, approach, and appearance are equally important for Christians to consider. During this time of preparation, I pray that we all experience the arrival of Christ into our lives in the midst of all the busyness. I hope that we witness the appearance of the Holy Spirit in our interactions with others and I expect that we will observe the appearance of God's love as we continue to worship and serve God.

Thanks to your help, the Search Committee continues to make good progress on the Local Church Profile. The questions below are from the profile. Please consider them, write down some of your thoughts and share them at a short meeting after worship on December 15th. Send written thoughts or emails to me if you cannot attend the December 15th meeting.

- ❖ **Who is God calling us to become as a congregation?**
- ❖ **Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation. *For example:***
 - *Describe two experiments your congregation has initiated or engaged in the past year, what were the results and where do you see your next steps?*
 - *Has your church had a multi-year strategic plan or vision statement; if so, where do you see that plan/vision taking you?*

Peace, Paul

HANGING OF THE GREENS



Thank you to all who decorated our Sanctuary for the Christmas celebration season.

A new addition is the Advent Wreath Stand.

Please contact Reverend Paul if you can participate in the Advent activities by lighting the Advent Candles at the beginning of Sunday worship.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



.....24 December.....

Candle Light Service

7:00p.m.-8:00p.m.

PARISH PROFILE COMMITTEE

Committee will gather information from our Members to include in Church Profile as part of our search for a “Settled Minister”.

Next meeting: December 15th after Worship Service.

Members of the Parish Profile Committee:

Pastor Paul Veldman, Ade Dillon, Olive Dubey, Sue Mackowski, Tina Rasmussen, Scott Spencer, Betty Tappa, Larry Anderson,

If you cannot attend meetings, please e-mail your input to:

Sue Mackowski at smack10@frontiernet.net

OR

Betty Tappa at bjtappa@aol.com

Minutes of the second meeting of the parish profile information gathering session, Sunday, 11/3/19

Attending: Rev. Paul Veldman, Betty Tappa, Jeff & Harriet Avery, Bob & Sue Bruatigam, Porky & June Houge, Dick & Carol Seehafer, Olive DuBey, Sue Mackowski, Kris Anderson, Char Schowalter

Rev. Paul read the minutes of our first meeting held on Sunday, 10/13/19. We decided to focus on three questions:

Describe what you'd like to see as the ministry goals of a settled pastor.

When was the last time you were excited about coming to church? Why?

Describe how your vision of a settled minister will have an impact beyond our church walls.

Discussion began with Rev. Paul stating that we had a healthy church, but an aging church with no young families with kids. This situation is not unique to Elcho UCC, but will have to be addressed in our profile. We know there are young families in the area (response to backpack program showed this, and the large turnout at local sporting events). One of the challenges a settled pastor would accept is how to bring those families in. We talked about thinking of ways to reach out to the school without crossing any boundaries.

We want to look for a settled pastor who would look at our situation as an opportunity for growth both in our church and community. A pastor with a young family might be an asset, but that person would also have to be

outgoing and willing to approach community members in a healthy outreach. We are looking for someone who wants a strong church/community working relationship. It was brought up that the settled pastor be able to deliver a strong and inspiring Sunday sermon.

Elcho is in large part, a retirement community and not many of those people living in the town proper. We don't have many multi-generational church goers. We'll have to think "outside the box" on attracting new members. A few ideas were thrown out...a UCC "welcome wagon" program for families new to the area; a "shepherding" program in which someone would mentor new parishioners and "teach them the ropes".

A big plus for us (one of strengths of our profile) is that we have a congregation that is willing to work with and help a new pastor grow our church.

Our meeting concluded with Rev. Paul quoting some stats from the 11 year compilation of membership and attendance figures. These figures come from the UCC conference and are based on numbers that we've sent to them over the years.

UCC membership in 2008 was 183 versus 94 in 2018.

UCC average attendance in 2008 was 70 versus 38 in 2018.

Kempster average attendance in 2008 was 14 versus 9 in 2018.

Some of the people attending today's meeting questioned these figures as possibly over inflated.

Minutes submitted by Sue Mackowski

GRIEF AND LOSS 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. Sue Mackowski, Bereavement Specialist and Consultant will lead the group. For additional information call her at 715-275-5399.

Grief Support Schedule

Grief Support Meetings have been changed from "regularly scheduled" to "**as needed**". Call Sue or Pastor Paul for assistance.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Christmas party potluck 🍽️ will be Dec.11th, at noon, in the church basement.

This is a potluck, so bring a dish to pass and a "white elephant gift" elephant 🐘 or a "regifted" gift. If you bring your gifts to church any Sunday before the party, Vickie Pelzer will be happy to wrap them.

Setup for the party will be 9:30 a.m. the morning of the party, Dec. 11th.

MEN'S CLUB/PAVILION NEWS

Cook Shed Improvements:

The Men's Club is working on bringing the Cook Shed up to Code. We are in need of assistance in construction skills that range from expert all the way to holding a ladder or getting a tool. Please call Mark Klopfer at 262-720-4856 to volunteer.

Fish Fry:



Our next event is the fish fry on December 13th. Doors will open at 4:00 and we will start serving dinner at 5:00.

8th ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Saturday—December 7th—9:00a.m to 2:00p.m.



SO MANY VENDORS (25 and counting) IT TAKES BOTH THE ELCHO COMMUNITY PAVILION + THE UCC BASEMENT TO HOUSE THE EVENT

Wreaths, Hand-Made Crafts, Candy, Magnolia & Vine Jewelry, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Rafa Cutlery, Afghans, Beef Jerky, Wooden Toys, and Much More.

ENTRANCE FEE: A non-perishable food item for Elcho Area Community Food Pantry

Hourly Door Prize Drawings
Food and Beverage Available:

- ✓ Antigo Bakery Donuts
- ✓ Hotdogs
- ✓ Chili
- ✓ Beverages



. Come and shop for unique Christmas gifts

ELCHO FOOD PANTRY

Thanksgiving Baskets:

42 Thanksgiving Baskets were distributed on November 30th by the Elcho Food Pantry using the Elcho Community Pavilion as headquarters for the event. Great synergy and cooperation by community service organizations.

CoVantage Multiplies Our Donations:

- Stop in at CoVantage and make a donation to **CoVantage Cares – Elcho.**
- Your donation + the CoVantage **matching funds** contribution will go to the Elcho Area Community Food Pantry.
- Program runs from December 3 to December 17.

What a great way to multiply your giving efforts and benefit our community and those in need during this Season of Giving.

Lights of the Northwoods

Our Food Pantry volunteers will be working at the Lights of the Northwoods event at Hodag Park, 509 Hodag Park Road in Rhinelander on December 14th. For their efforts to the event, all food items donated at that days event + \$500.00 will go to the Elcho Area Community Food Pantry. Click the link below for more information.

<http://www.lightsofthenorthwoods.com/>

Chili Cook Off:

Just Days Away.....The December 15 “Chili Cook-Off” hosted at Elcho Club House.

Bring:

- a. Your Chili to be judged for prize \$\$\$\$ *(If entering Chili, bring by 11:30 a.m.)*
- b. Your appetite
- c. \$5 cash 💵 to purchase chili samples
- d. More cash 💵 to purchase raffle tickets for prizes (TV + others).



Proceeds of the event support the food pantry. Enjoy the Packers vs Bears game, chili, refreshments, being with friends, and winning prizes all while supporting the Food Pantry.

Weekend Meals for Elcho School Students

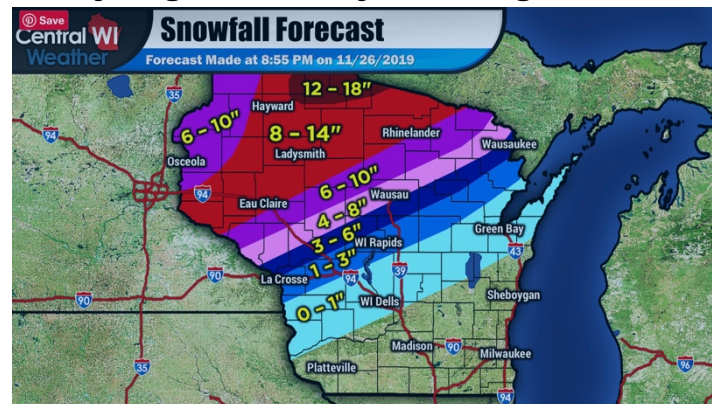
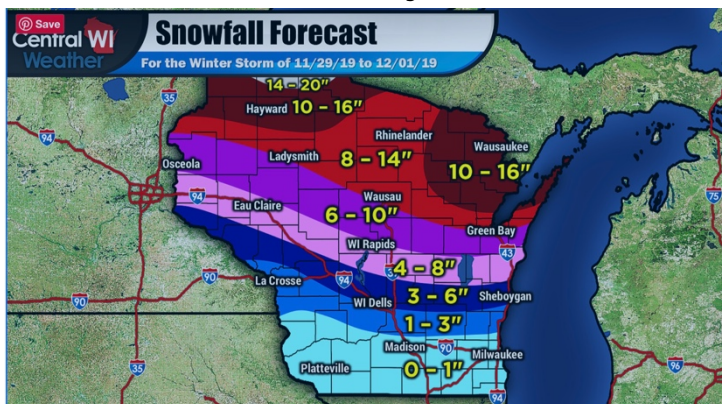
The Food Pantry and the Elcho School District are working together to provide weekend nutrition for our community's school age children. Students will be able to pick up and take home food Friday after school on an every other weekend basis. Kick off for this program is scheduled for January 10, 2020. Contact Linda Klopfer if you are interested in helping with this needed project.

GARDEN CLUB

Closed for the season

FOOTNOTE FOR OUR HISTORY

***Church Services on 1 Dec 2019 cancelled due to the snow storm/s
Wednesday and Then Saturday Night- Sunday Morning***



CHURCH CALENDAR

Please check the calendar on our website:

<https://elchokempsterucc.org>