

HYLAND LAKES PARISH NEWS LETTER
January 2020
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 wish you all a happy and healthy new year. Prior to now, 2020 would have been more often associated with a visit to the optometrist. Now we might considerate it as a goal or resolution for the new year – to have clearer vision. Not with our eyes as much as with our hearts and minds. We can set goals to be more aware of and feel God's presence in our lives. We can make resolutions to discern God's call for each of us and to respond to that call. That would truly be 2020 vision.

The Advent and Christmas seasons with you were meaningful for me, even though the weather prevented us from gathering for worship on December 1st and 29th. I had the opportunity to spend a little more time with family and I hope that you did too. I am grateful for all the efforts you made in preparations and participation for Advent and Christmas. I am thankful for the well wishes, cards and gifts. Thank you so very much!

One big goal for all of us in 2020 is to complete our Local Church Profile and get it circulating. The search committee will meet again on January 12th and continue meeting to complete the profile. Watch for opportunities to give your input and feedback to help complete the profile in upcoming communications and meetings.

Peace, Paul

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.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Women's Fellowship has had an active 2019. Each year we hold fund raisers for the church that include a huge rummage sale, a craft fair, a salad luncheon, and brat barns. These events allowed us to contribute several thousand dollars to the church in 2019. This year we'll be working with the UCC at large, both in Elcho and Kempster, to think about how we want to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2021. We welcome any ideas, memories, photos, etc. that will help us flesh this out. The Women's Fellowship meets each month to plan for the upcoming year's events. We always welcome new members...no dues, lots of fun and yes....hard work sometimes, but well worth the effort! If you are interested or have any questions you can contact Sue Brautigam, Betty Tappa, or Sue Mackowski.

MEN'S CLUB/PAVILION NEWS

Pavilion Mortgage Drive Update

Our Jack LaMar/Elcho Community Pavilion has been a great addition to promote our Church and Community Activities. A great deal of faith, love, and trust combined with donations of materials, money, and labor have been combined to create and operate this wonderful facility.

Recently the two-pronged fund drive has been met with a generous response.

A. Pay Down the Principal

B. Pledge to help pay the monthly payments

The chart below shows some of the history of our Pavilion Loan. The big decrease in principal in 2019 is due-in great part-to the generosity of donors who responded to the on going pledge drive to "Pay Down the Principal".

	PRINCIPAL BALANCE
Jan 1, 2013	\$131,544.19
Jan 1, 2014	\$128,115.90
Jan 1, 2015	\$124,814.87
Jan 1, 2016	\$120,300.22
Jan 1, 2017	\$115,216.75
Jan 1, 2018	\$109,222.48
Jan 1, 2019	\$100,670.86
As of Today	\$ 71,316.19

With all the progress thus far, there is still some work required to finishing off this mortgage. The Men's Club is continuing Fish Frys and Dinners, donations to pay off the principal are continuing, and many donors are assisting by contributions to the monthly mortgage payment. All help is greatly appreciated.

Pavilion Cook Shed Improvements:

In last month's News Letter the following was published:

"The Men's Club is working on bringing the Cook Shed up to Code. We are in need of assistance in construction skills..." Wow!!! What a great response.



"The past month members and friends of the men's club have been busy installing insulation and ceiling and wall covering in the Pavilion cook shed. New lighting has also been added and the area is looking very nice. A big thank you to Bob Brautigam, David Erdmann, Chip Guldán, Randy Meissner and Bob Mott for all their time and talents working on this project. A special thanks to Todd Visser for his generous donation of insulation, building materials and advice, and to Builders Service for their support in this project. When you see these individuals please thank them for their efforts." Mark Klopfer



Fish Fry:



Our next event is the fish fry on January 10th. Doors will open at 4:00 and we will start serving dinner at 5:00.

8th ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

The December Craft Fair was a great success. The 25 Vendors and numerous customers enjoyed our venue (Pavilion & Church Basement). It was a fund raiser for our Church, the Food Pantry, as well as the Girl Scouts who sold goodies. A sincere thank you goes out to all who worked to setup, operate, and cleanup for this event. See photos.

Special Note: All proceeds from Jane Wagner's booth were donated to our Church.





PARISH PROFILE COMMITTEE

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

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

Third meeting of the parish profile information gathering group, Sunday 12/15/19

Attending: Rev. Paul Veldman, Jeff & Harriet Avery, Bob & Sue Bruatigam, Mark & Linda Klopfer, Dick & Carol Seehafer, Sue Mackowski, Kris Anderson, La Bartlett, Jane Wagner, Scott Spencer

We met to address two questions:

1) Who is God calling us to become as a congregation?

We once again focused on how we can attract new families, especially those with younger children to our fold. The magnet seems to come back to the school each time we talk about this. We agree that we want to be a community minded church with a minister that would support and encourage that.

2) Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation.

Someone asked Pastor Paul what kind of things his church did in WI Rapids. He said some of the same things we're currently doing (food pantry, AA and scouts support, crop walk), but it was in a much larger church/town. We tried "messy church" in the past, held a free community dinner, and are the only church in town to do a backpack give away. This led to some ideas about what we might think about doing to attract families to our UCC: sponsoring sporting/music events for youth, family movie or karaoke night (maybe following our free community meal), utilizing the pavilion as a venue for some of these things. We also talked about partnering with other churches in town to sponsor events.

A big question we need to think about is this: how involved are we asking our new settled pastor (part time or full time) to get in the growth of our congregation? We want to make sure our profile reflects our expectations, but realistically understanding we may not find someone who wants the responsibility or level of dedication in getting fully involved with our growth in the community. Pastor Paul was refreshingly honest in telling us that at this point in his journey, he wouldn't be the kind of pastor that would want the level of involvement we are looking for.

Minutes submitted by Sue Mackowski

ELCHO FOOD PANTRY

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Please check the calendar on our website:

<https://elchokempsterucc.org>