

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Well, well, well, we certainly have had our **MARCH** winds this year. Anyone daring to “Fly a Kite” may have found themselves in “orbit” on some days in March!

Well, well, well, following those March winds and all that “Kite Flying” we have done, the theory is that we will have **APRIL** “Showers” soon puddling up on our doorsteps!

Well, well, well, these April “Showers” we are referring to are meant to inspire **MAY** “Flowers”, or so the story is meant to go!

Well, well, well, the problem is what we had was not April “Showers” but some very dramatic **FEBRUARY** “Showers” leaving some question about what we might expect in April!

Indeed, there are a few cute little sayings about months and weather and expectations which sometimes “Ring True” and other times do not “Ring True”!

Personally, I question the one about “a bird in the hand and two in the bush” because “the bird in the hand” is generally infinitely more valuable than “the two birds in the bush”. This lesson was learned a few years ago while pheasant hunting in North Dakota!

Indeed, let us be at least somewhat hopeful that there will be more April “Showers” in anticipation of May “Flowers, than there will be April “Snow Showers”!

However, here is something that we can truly count on in the month of **APRIL**, we will be able to **CELEBRATE** the wonder of **EASTER** on April 16, 2017, **GOD WILLING!!!**

Yes, there are a great many “cute” little sayings which sometimes “Ring True” and sometimes do not “Ring True”, which sometimes are not really all that reliable, our April “Showers” and May “Flowers” may be among them.

However, **“GOD IS LOVE”** is a beautiful phrase which is something we can **RELY** upon, **COUNT** on, and **DEPEND** on!!!

**EASTER SUNDAY** is a day upon which we can truly **CELEBRATE** the reality of **GOD’S LOVE** for us as children in the Family of God!!!

**EASTER SUNDAY** is about **GOD** fulfilling a promise wrapped in **LOVE** through **JESUS**, the **CROSS**, and the **EMPTY TOMB**, evidenced in the **RESURRECTION!!!**

**John 3: 16**

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.”**

Indeed, we have a gracious, compassionate, caring, and **LOVING GOD!!!**

Indeed, when we gather to worship God on Easter Sunday we can do so with thankfulness of heart and praise in our voices because **GOD’S LOVE** for us is real:

**RELY** on it!!!  
**COUNT** on it!!!  
**DEPEND** on it!!!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana

## CHURCH BAZAAR:

**2017**

Yes, this is the year 2017 when we again hold a BAZAAR event, during the month of NOVEMBER!!!

Our Ely U.M.C. BAZAAR is an every other year, very, very SPECIAL EVENT sponsored by and hosted by our Ely U.M.C. Women's Group the U. M. W.!!!

This very SPECIAL BAZAAR is a great help in the financial support of our participation in God's Ministries here in the Ely U.M.C.---it has been a very RELIABLE FUND RAISER for many years now!!!

We INVITE EVERYONE, WOMEN and MEN to take some time and consider how they can enhance our 2017 CHURCH BAZAAR!!!---This is our first promotional plug!!!

We INVITE EVERYONE, WOMEN and MEN to think about:

**BAKED GOODS**---to be sold

**CRAFT GOODS**---to be sold

**COFFEE ANDS**---to be shared

**8 MONTHS TO PREPARE**

**READY, SET, GO!!!**

## 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ELY U. M. C.: Sunday August 6, 2017

The fact is, most of us have not been around for all 125 years of our Church Family serving in ministry with God here in the Ely U.M.C.!!!

However, many of us may recall being a part of our "Centennial Celebration" as a Church Family here in the Ely U.M.C.!!! Our "Centennial Celebration" took place in the summer of 1992 and went from a Sunday to Sunday, eight days of joyful celebration!!!

Our 125<sup>th</sup> year CELEBRATION is going to be a 1 DAY EXTRAVAGANZA on Sunday August 6, 2017!!!

First, we want YOU there, as we celebrate the WONDER of GOD, and the AWESOME ways GOD has blessed us here in the Ely U.M.C.!!!

Second, we want YOU there, as we celebrate not only what GOD has done for us as a Church Family but also how we have been blessed by one another as BROTHERS and SISTERS in the Family of God!!!

Third, we want YOU there, both those who are NEAR and those who are FAR as we celebrate 125 YEARS of GOD'S MINISTRY among us here in the Ely U.M.C. mindful that GOD LOVES each and every one of us, those who are NEAR and those who are FAR!!!

Our first planning session was held in February without any major decisions being made---basic brain storming took place.

Our next meeting date has not been set, please stay tune and consider pitching-in!!!

**BIBLE STUDY:**

***April & MAY 2017***

Thursdays 2:00 P.M.

Thursday April 6- Romans 15 & 16

Thursday April 27- Acts 2: 1-42

Thursday May 4- I John 1 & 2

Thursday May 11- I John 3

Thursday May 18- I John 4 & 5

\*\*\*\*\*

***“BOUNDARY WATERS CARE CENTER”  
WORSHIP SERVICE:***

Sunday April 23- 2:30 P.M.

.....

***“CARE FREE LIVING”  
WORSHIP SERVICE:***

Wednesday April 12- 1:15 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ALL CHURCH POTLUCKS:**

Here is a little **reminder**, the “Visioning Committee” came up with the idea to try “**something old**” and make it “**something new**” again.

Well, this “**something old**” becoming “**something new**” was and is Church Potluck Dinners. We decided to try four during the year-

May 7

August 6 which will be our

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

November 5

There were reports on our first attempt at “**something old**” becoming “**something new**” being received warmly by 41 people, by 43 people, and also by 47 people!!! Regardless of the actual number, this was an **AWESOME** experience, providing an **AMAZING** opportunity to **NOURISH** our bodies with excellent food at a bountiful feast, and to **NOURISH** our spirits with the food of wonderful **FELLOWSHIP!!!**

So, we are giving a little heads up for the next opportunity to be the people of God gathered together for “**something old**” becoming “**something new**” in the form of our **2<sup>nd</sup>** Potluck Dinner of 2017 to be held

**May 7 --- 11:30 A.M.**

**following our Worship Service**

**EVERYONE WELCOME !!!**

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT:**

Here is another little “heads up” about another new venture we are calling “Family Fun Night” to be held if all goes according to plan

again, if all goes according to plan-

*Wednesday April 26, 2017*

*Sloppy Joes & Chips 5:30 – 6:00 P.M.*

*6:00 – 7:30 P.M.*

*Movie---possibly “Inside Out”*

*Potentially a Movie for Young, Younger, and Youngest among us!!!*

Again “Family Fun Night” is yet another opportunity to nurture our connections as the FAMILY of GOD!!!

**EVERYONE WELCOME !!!**

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Guild/UMW** at Ely United Methodist Church on Wednesday February 22, 2017 2-4 pm

The Guild/UMW met at the Church with 6 people in attendance. Secretary Jeanne Tomlinson opened the meeting with a unison reading of the UMW Purpose and a prayer by Pastor Dana Thompson.

The minutes from our January 25, 2017 meeting were read and approved as read. (Motion Tootsie Loe, second Jeri Walburn & Janice Tessier).

There was no Treasurer’s Report.

**Old Business**

- **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** (Aug 6, 2017) Jeanne Tomlinson reported that details of the first brainstorming session held on February 8 are in the March *FISH*.
- **Reach-Renew-Rejoice 2017 Donation:** Tabled until more meeting participation.
- **May Friendship Dinner:** Discussion on date and other details tabled until March meeting.

There was no **New Business**.

We adjourned at 2:12 pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

***PASTY REPORT:***  
**February 2017**

**Pasties Made-** 630  
**Sales-** \$3,789.00  
**Cost-** \$1,199.75  
**Net Income-** \$2,589.25

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES**

**March 15, 2017**

### **Ely United Methodist Church**

Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Attendees (9): Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Toni Floyd, Mark & Marge Olson, Keith Rue, Dana Thompson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

Pastor Dana provided the “Opening Thought” from *The Upper Room* (March 15, 2017 entry) followed by prayer.

The **Minutes** of the February 15, 2017 Ad Council meeting were approved as printed in the March 2017 *FISH*. M/Marge/S/Keith.

The **Treasurer’s Report** for February 2017 was presented and highlighted by Mark Olson. End of month balances: Building Fund \$22,926.09 (with \$13,000 Undesignated), Memorial Fund \$10,279.71, Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project \$15, General Fund \$2,772.12. The report was approved as submitted. M/Jeanne/S/Marge.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Marge reported that the **Board of Trustees** will meet next on April 3.

Toni reported for **Outreach** that the Hearts Two Hands group would be having it’s 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May.

Jeanne reported for **Pastor-Parish Relations** that she has contacted the District office to get a copy of the Church Profile in order to start work on that. She’ll be scheduling a committee meeting for sometime in April.

Marge reported for **Parish Health Ministry** that they will resume taking blood pressures on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday starting in April.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Five Love Languages Study Sessions:** Keith reported that the study has been good fellowship and a good exchange of ideas.
2. **125<sup>th</sup> Ely UMC Anniversary:** Butch reported that he had contacted Amici’s as a possible location for our dinner and celebration. Total cost if they provided everything for the facility (tables, chairs, tablecloths, etc) would be about \$1200. The cost would be less if we transported and used our own. The St. Anthony Fellowship hall has been reserved for now between 12 noon and 3 pm in case we decide to have it there. The committee will try to meet in the next couple of weeks.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Summer Multi-Church BBQ:** Marge reported that might possibly be held in July, having it at Whiteside Park after Grace Lutheran holds its annual ecumenical worship service there.
2. **Points from Amazon:** Dana reported that Don Kess had given him a small information sheet that had been handed out at the Grace Lutheran Church that included an explanation about how folks could designate the church as a charity-of-choice and could then earn points on their Amazon purchases that would generate funds for the charity. No action was taken.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mark reported receiving a thank you from Children’s International for the monetary birthday gift we had sent, and we received and thank you from the District for our Reach-Renew-Rejoice donations in 2015 and 2016, which totaled to \$3,020.

### **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

**Ely UMC Lenten Supper** will be on March 30. Pasty production will begin at 3 pm. We will only be making 128 of the small pasties this year.

**February Pasty Report** – Pasties made: 630; Sales: \$3789; Cost: \$1,199.75; net income \$2,589.25.

Next pasties will be March 20 & 21.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord’s Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pictures Please!**

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning committee would like to create a photo presentation of our Church's events and activities of the last 25 years, including pictures from our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

The committee is accepting pictures in digital formats or printed photos. Digital photos can be e-mailed to Jay Tomlinson - [Tomlinson.Jay@gmail.com](mailto:Tomlinson.Jay@gmail.com) . Printed photos should be brought to the church office.

A brief description of the event, the date, names of individuals pictured, etc., is appreciated.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, August 6, 2017  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**10:00 A.M. Worship Service  
Noon –  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner & Program**

***PASTY REPORT:  
March 2017***

<b>Pasties Made-</b>	<b>703</b>
<b>Deposited-</b>	<b>\$4,245.00</b>
<b>Cost-</b>	<b>\$1,303.97</b>
<b>Net Income-</b>	<b>\$2,941.03</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

***MAUNDY-THURSDAY***

***OPEN COMMUNION  
TABLE***

**Thursday April 13, 2017**

**1:30 – 5:30 P.M.**

\*\*\*\*\*

***EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP***

***10:00 A.M.***

***April 16, 2017***

\*\*\*\*\*