

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

So, growing up March **WINDS** came along and we knew kite season was upon us. We lived on the edge of a sandpit early on, so we had some great room to roam during kite season. Indeed, we had some awesome kite seasons while growing up!!!

So, growing up April **SHOWERS** were there to greet us and slow down preparations for baseball season; but the real reason for those April **SHOWERS** was apparently the gift of May **FLOWERS!!!**

So, Mom was a big fan of those May **FLOWERS** but three boys leaving kite season behind were almost always ready for baseball season to begin and green grass aside those April **SHOWERS** tended to be a hindrance!!!

Now, you have to realize by now, us three boys did not grow up in Ely, Minnesota. Had we been among those who spent our childhood in Ely, Minnesota we would have been bemoaning not those April rain **SHOWERS** but those April snow **SHOWERS** which also have a tendency to mess up the beginning of a baseball season!!!

However, growing up in the Twin City Area things matched up pretty well with March **WINDS**, April rain **SHOWERS**, and May **FLOWERS!!!**

Indeed, those April **SHOWERS** were a critical part of the beauty to behold when the May **FLOWERS** came into bloom much to Mom's joy!!!

Coming into the month of April, this year, the **SHOWERS** we have the opportunity to encounter are not directly related to May **FLOWERS**. No, the **SHOWERS** we have the

opportunity to experience as we move into April this year are the **SHOWERS** of **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE!!!** Just like those many April showers which provided the opportunity for Mom to experience the beautiful joy of May flowers in bloom, the **SHOWERS** of **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE** provides each of us the opportunity to experience the renewing fragrance of our relationships with God!!!

When we pause to consider the fragrance after the rain **SHOWERS** of **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE**, we celebrate the joy and the beauty of new life in bloom, a little baby boy named Jesus born in Bethlehem so long ago. What was the special **SHOWER** of **LOVE**; it was "**EMMANUEL**" God with us!!!

When we pause to consider the fragrance after the rain **SHOWERS** of **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE**, we become reflective of "Emmanuel" in the form of a little baby boy named Jesus, the son of God, who grew to be a man that would take the Holy Week journey for us, Palm Sunday, Last Supper, denials and betrayals, false accusations and trial, guilty verdict though innocent, the cross of Good Friday, mocked, ridiculed, a crown of thorns and death!!!

When we pause to consider the fragrance after the rain **SHOWERS** of **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE**, we celebrate the joy and beauty of new life in bloom for the "Tomb" which held the crucified Jesus was found by Mary Magdalene to be an **EMPTY TOMB!!!**

Indeed, April **SHOWERS**, and **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE**, sparking the joyous celebration of **NEW LIFE** as we find revitalization and renewal for our walk with God!!!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana

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***Pastor Dana Appreciation Celebration***  
**May 20, 2018 2-4 PM**  
***Update***

Sheri Rue is chairing a committee for planning our special “Pastor Dana Appreciation” Celebration on May 20. If you would like to help with this, please let her know. (Email: [ks6rue@msn.com](mailto:ks6rue@msn.com))

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**Pastor Dana Photos Needed!!**

We are **STILL** looking for photos of Dana taken during his 31+ years here in Ely. **Please look through your photos to see if you have any of Dana during his time here in Ely.** If you are willing to share, please send any digital copies to [tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com); printed photos may be sent to: *J. Tomlinson, PO Box 387, Ely, MN 55731.* In both cases, please note the date the picture was taken and the name(s) of anyone in the photo with Dana, if you know them. For printed photos, if you want them back, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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***BIBLE STUDY:***

April 2018  
2:00 P.M. Thursday

Thursday April 5- Acts 11 & 12  
Thursday April 12- Acts 13 & 14  
Thursday, April 19 – No Bible Study  
Thursday April 26- Acts 15 & 16

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***Transitions***

As we prepare to say goodbye to Pastor Dana and to welcome our new pastor, Rev. Craig Haberman, here are some tips from the Conference for all of us to help make this transition successful.

- Show love, regard, and even grief, for your departing pastor.
- Open your hearts and decide that you are going to love your new pastor.
- Begin praying daily for the new pastor, even as you continue praying for your departing pastor.
- Know that welcoming your new pastor in genuine and effective ways lays the ground work for a healthy and vital relationship and the development of stable, long-term ministries together.

## *A Time to Step Forward*

You all probably know that our church has been very “spoiled” these past 30 years with a pastor who does way more than his share of keeping the church functioning. He does secretarial work, janitorial work, maintenance, equipment operation, and many other tasks on a regular basis. Not only will our new pastor not have the knowledge, nor should he have the responsibility, for handling all of these non-ministerial responsibilities, but between June 10 and July 29 we won’t even have a pastor here.

SOOO....we **all** need to be thinking about what we can do to help keep our church doors open and our church functioning normally during this time and beyond. Please pray for God to guide you, and have an open mind and willing heart as you are approached by other church members to serve.

To start, we need **Ushers**. This is a *very important role* in our church in making sure the church is ready for worship on Sunday morning, being there to meet and greet people as they arrive, help them find a seat, if necessary, taking care of moving the offering plates through the sanctuary during the offering time, ringing the bell at the end of the service, and doing a little pick-up after the service is over. If you want more details before signing up, please just ask one of the Ushers from the list of those who have already served. (See the big red sign-up poster on the wall in the back of the sanctuary). If you can’t take care of a whole month, specify a Sunday or two that you CAN do.

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## **Guild/UMW Minutes**

Wednesday February 28, 2018 1-3 pm

The Guild/UMW met at the Church with 7 people in attendance. Secretary Jeanne Tomlinson opened the meeting at 1 pm with a prayer by Pastor Dana and unison reading of the UMW Purpose.

The minutes from our January 24, 2018 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Linda Hane; second by Janice Tessier.

There was no Treasurer’s Report.

### **Old Business**

- **Parsonage Carpeting:** Jeanne reported that the \$1100 approved at the January 24 meeting was only half the actual cost. She moved that we also cover the remaining balance to a maximum total of \$2500. Motion seconded by Jeri Walburn. Motion passed.

### **New Business**

- **Refrigerator Repair:** Pastor Dana reported that the refrigerator had broken down earlier and had now been repaired. This will be covered as usual with UMW funds.
- **Lenten Suppers Pasties Making:** Jeanne reported that we will be hosting a Lenten Supper on March 22 with our usual pasties dinner. Work will start at 3 pm. There will be a work sign-up sheet on Sunday March 11 and Sunday March 18. We will only be making 128 pasties this year

because of the continued decline in attendance at these dinners.

- **Friendship Dinner:** Jeanne brought the topic up so that we can plan on discussing it in more detail at our March meeting. Linda Hane offered to make the punch this time.
- **Health Kits:** We are assuming we'll be doing Health Kits again this year for Lucy Diesslin to take to the church conference. We'll cover this in March once Lucy is back.
- **Easter Egg Hunt Items:** Linda Hane reported that Amici's will be holding an indoor Easter Egg Hunt on Easter in the afternoon. They are asking for donations – both supplies and money – to help make the event a success. Linda will have a box set up at the church for the 4 Sundays in March for the any donations.
- **Fire Victims:** Pastor Dana reported that church members donated \$201 dollars in a free will offering taken on February 25 for the families who were burned out of there homes on February 18. There will be another free will offering taken on Sunday March 4.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 1:25 pm.  
Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Tomlinson, Secretary

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## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES March 21, 2018

**Call To Order:** Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Attendees (7):** Linda Hane, Lucy Diesslin, Marge & Mark Olson, Dana Thompson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

**Opening:** Pastor Dana provided the “Opening Thought” from *Hymn Stories* reading the background and lyrics for “This Is The Day”, followed by prayer.

**Minutes:** The February 21, 2018 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the March 2018 *FISH*. Motion to approve by Mark Olson, second by Linda Hane. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark Olson presented the February 2018 treasurer's report. Receipts & disbursements were \$6,208.60 & \$8,275.28, respectively. End of month balances: Building Fund \$17,483.28; Memorial Fund \$10,825.96; Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project 2018 \$36, Safe Gathering \$387, available General Fund \$4,900.80. Motion to approve by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Board of Trustees:** Pastor Dana reported following parsonage work: the windows have been varnished, all the walls, except in the bathrooms, have been repainted, curtains have been taken down from all the rooms, except his bedroom.

**Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee had met on March 14 and has started work on transition tasks. Sheri Rue is coordinating the May 20<sup>th</sup> “Dana Appreciation Celebration” and Linda Hane is lining up various persons/groups to handle the worship services on the Sundays between June 17 and July 22. Dana will be back to take care of July 1 and July 22. Linda will talk with Marshall Monthei, the college students, the Men’s Group and UMW for handling the other dates. We’ll be working next on identifying more transition needs and planning next steps to involve more church members in the process.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Little Eagles Childcare Center, Inc.:** Pastor Dana reported that he’d not had a chance to speak with Amy Richter yet.
- **Copier Replacement:** Jay Tomlinson had researched possible copiers and found at least 15 on-line. Costs range between \$400 & \$600. We discussed getting one for just printing black or having the option of color. It was decided we’d primarily be printing black-only but having the color option would be good and wouldn’t impact the cost that much since one can select to copy “black-only” so the color ink cartridges would not need to be replaced very often. Marge Olson moved that we allocate up to \$500 to purchase a new copier, and that we also purchase one extra black ink cartridge. Second by Jeanne

Tomlinson. Motion approved. Jay Tomlinson & Mark Olson will work together on selecting & ordering the copier. Mark Olson moved that we ask the Memorial Committee to cover the cost for the new copier. Second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion approved. Pastor Dana will bring it up at the next Memorial Committee meeting in May.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Name Tags:** Jay Tomlinson reported that the Visioning Committee has been looking into making name tags for church members to help our new pastor learn our names. The committee is requesting \$200 for the costs involved in what they are planning. Jeanne Tomlinson moved to allocate \$200 from Nurture & Membership to this. Second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion approved.
2. **Christmas Gifts for Carefree Living/Nursing Home residents:** Jay also reported that the Visioning Committee is working on a project of giving a Christmas gift to each resident in our local Carefree Living facility and Boundary Waters Care Center. There are about 100 residents and the thought is to give each a gift at a cost of about \$10 per person. The thought is to fund this with free-will offerings. The committee would like approval to proceed with the project. Linda Hane so moved, second by Mark Olson. Motion approved.
3. **Love Offering:** Lucy Diesslin moved that we once again guarantee a minimum of \$100 for our annual

Love Offering that she'll take to the Conference the end of May. Second by Linda Hane. Motion approved. The date for the offering will be announced later.

4. **Safe Gatherings Allocation:** Dana commented that the Safe Gathering "designated" amount of \$387 shown in the Treasurer's Report was allocated in 2017 and that there are still funds set aside in the Memorial Fund to cover any additional training costs. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that the \$387 designated for Safe Gathering be "undesignated" and essentially moved back to the General Fund. Second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion approved.
5. **Piano Tuning:** Pastor Dana asked for guidance on where to direct the bill from the piano tuner for working on both the upstairs and downstairs pianos. Normally the upstairs piano is tuned periodically and covered from the General Fund but it had been indicated that the downstairs piano costs could be covered by the UMW. Jeanne Tomlinson will bring the issue up at the upcoming Guild/UMW meeting. In the meantime, Mark Olson will pay the bill.

#### **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

1. **March Pasties Report** – Pasties made: 683; Sales \$4099; Cost: \$1,279.93; Net Income: \$2,819.07.
2. **Ely UMC Lenten Supper** – we will be doing ours on March 22, 2018; start time is 3:00 PM. We'll be making 128.

3. **Annual Conference** – Pastor Dana and Lucy Diesslin will be signing up for the Church Conference which will be May 30 – June 1, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary