

**Thank You, Pastor Dana
for 31 Years of sharing God's love**

Pastor Dana has claimed a "soon-to-be-retired" privilege of not writing any more *Pastor's Ponderings* for the *FISH*. We will miss those monthly "Dana thoughts" that always reminded us of God's love and joy in Dana's unique way. In place of that, we'd like to take this space to express our deep appreciation to Dana.

Dear Pastor Dana,

Thank you for being such a wonderful pastor and friend. You have regularly reminded us of God's love, and the importance of our sharing that love with others, in so many ways. Not only through your sermons, and Bible Studies, and special discipleship classes, and guiding our youth in Children's Time, confirmation classes, Youth Group and Kid's Club, but by example in all the time you spent with us in fellowship after worship, in morning coffee group, in pasty-making, on fishing trips, sharing meals in restaurants or our homes or outdoors, by visiting & praying with us in our homes, in the hospitals, assisted-living facilities & nursing homes, attending & supporting so many community activities & fundraisers, and being there for pretty much any group that was meeting at the church. You have been a wonderful part of our lives for so many years and we thank you again and again for your part in so many wonderful memories.

- Your grateful Ely UMC Congregation

**Contact Information and Office Hours
for June 11 through July 27**

Church Office: (218) 365-3355

Urgent Need: (218) 365-3716

Email: elymethodist@elyumc.org

Pastor Dana will be leaving Ely after the June 10 Worship Service and will only be returning a couple times thereafter to lead our Worship Services on July 1 and July 22. Pastor Craig will not be arriving until July 29. We have been calling this our "pastor-less" time and we are making efforts to keep our church functioning effectively during that time.

Starting June 11, we will be staffing the church office with volunteers from **10:00 AM to 12 Noon on Monday through Friday**. During that time, our volunteers will be processing the mail, checking the answering machine, answering the phone, accepting any deliveries and whatever other secretarial tasks arise.

If you have a general church question or request that is not urgent, please call the Church Office during those times, or just leave a message with your name, phone number and the best time to reach you, and someone will call you back.

If you have an urgent need for ministerial services, such as for someone in the hospital or a death in the family, etc., please call the Parsonage (218) 365-3716. Your call will automatically be forwarded to someone in the church leadership who will assist you.

We Are All Members of One Body

I Corinthians 12:12-20

For those of you who use the *Upper Room* for your daily devotions, you might remember having read the entry for February 23, 2018. It was based on the scripture listed above where Paul used the human body as a metaphor for how the church family should work. The writer described a special gift that she and her husband had received as an anniversary gift: a crossword puzzle made with Scrabble pieces that had their names and the names of all their children and grandchildren – depicting family interdependence and unity. Families don't always live in harmony, but they are still family. Removal of even one piece of the puzzle would have destroyed the effect.

Similarly, church families don't always live in perfect harmony either. But each one of us have an important role to play in our church to keep it vital and effective. If even one person is "missing" our effectiveness is diminished. Imagine what we could accomplish if every church member played an active role in furthering God's kingdom.

Preparing the Parsonage: Washing Windows

Over the past few months, if you've been reading the minutes of the Administrative Council and the Guild/UMW that are included in the church newsletters, you'll have noticed that a lot of planning and work has already been done to get the parsonage ready for Pastor Craig. As we get ready for his move-in dates of July 24-25, we'll be making some

announcements during the summer worship services asking for some extra help in some of those preparations. In particular, once we figure out an exact schedule, we'll have a sign-up sheet for folks to help wash the windows, screens and doors of the parsonage. We'll be scheduling time(s) during the weeks of June 11 and June 18. If you are willing to help and don't get a chance to sign-up, just call the church office or send an email.

***Rule of Christ* Workshop Wednesday, June 13, 2018 5:00-7:00 PM**

On Wednesday, June 13, the Ely UMC Pastor Parish Relations Committee is hosting a special workshop that will be led by Bob Hoelt, a conference *Rule of Christ* trainer. This workshop teaches a specific process for working through conflicted situations based on Matthew 18:15-20. All of us run into conflict, whether it is created by a misunderstanding or misinformation. We can all use help to better navigate through the rough times. Wouldn't it be great to have a step-by-step Christian life tool for working through those difficult issues?

All members of the congregation are invited to attend this training. In order to ensure that there are enough materials for each participant, we need to know in advance how many will be participating. There will be sign-up sheet at the back of the church between June 3 and June 10. If you would like to come but won't be able to come to the church during that time, please send an email to the church or call the church office and leave a message that you would like to sign up.

Gifts for Nursing Home and Assisted Living Residents

The Staff at the Boundary Waters Care Center voiced a concern that some of the residents do not have family present and do not receive any gifts during the Christmas season. The need for all the residents to feel the spirit of Christmas through the love of receiving at least one gift at Christmas is a wish of the Staff members who care for them.

The Visioning Committee proposed an outreach project to the Administrative Council that our church provide at least one present to all residents, not just some, of the Boundary Waters Care Center and to all residents of the Carefree Living Facility as well. There are a maximum of 42 residents at the Boundary Waters Care Center and a maximum of 47 residents at Carefree Living.

Working with the Staff at both the Boundary Waters Care Center and Carefree Living, the Visioning Committee would be able to learn more about each resident and the Staff members would assist in directing what each might need or would like to receive as a Christmas gift. Suggested gifts could range from team logo fleece blankets, ornaments, special candy, to picture frames, keeping the price of each gift to \$10 or under.

In order for our church to achieve this mission, we would need to raise around \$1,000 for the project. Rather than asking the Ad Council for funds, the Visioning Committee believes we, as church members ourselves, can raise the approximate \$1000

needed through donations and with free-will offerings through the coming months.

Our church could share the wonder of Christmas and the spirit of receiving through our giving of gifts to those in our community who most need reassurance and who are unable to be with their families or their church during this special time of year. This project was presented to and has been approved by the Administrative Council. We believe we can do this.

Guild/UMW - Minutes

Wednesday April 25, 2018 1-3 PM

The Guild/UMW met at the Church with 7 people in attendance. Prior to the meeting Ann Spangler and Marge Olson shared information about possible options for getting the parsonage windows washed. Ann washes windows professionally and is willing to do the entire project without help, but the more volunteer help she gets from church members, the less it will cost. We'll be paying her \$20/hr. There are 21 windows and 2 doors to washed. The windows have storm windows attached to the outside which will need to be removed, cleaned and replaced after washing the external side of the windows. Since that has not happened for 18 years, some of the holding pins will probably break in the removal process. There is brush on one side of the house that should be trimmed down if it is getting too high in order to properly position ladders. All the screens should also be washed. The window cranks have not been used for the same number of years, so there may be some issues with those also. We would like to get the internal sides of the windows done before the carpet is put in, which is currently scheduled for the week of

June 24, so they should be done sometime between June 11 and 23. It would be good if all the needed bathroom work would be done before we do this also. It is not known if that will happen.

The meeting was officially convened at 1:35 pm by President Bonnie Berglund who read the day's *Upper Room* scripture, devotion and prayer and then led us in a unison reading of the UMW Pledge.

The minutes from our Mar 28, 2018 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Janice Tessier; second by Lucy Diesslin.

Bonnie gave the Treasurer's Report from Sharon as follows: CD \$10,801.71; Savings \$7,529.72; Checking \$4,690.89 with the April pasty expenses yet to be paid. The balance should be \$3,516.04 after that. Linda Hane moved to approve; second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed.

Old Business

- **Parsonage:** Bonnie reported that she will be contacting Pastor Craig to see if he has any special preferences for the window covers, be them drapes, or blinds, etc. We will be taking down the drapes and sheers prior to the window washing and having them cleaned. Since they have been hanging for 18 years, there is the possibility that cleaning will not be adequate and may need to be replaced in addition to the ones that we are already planning on in the bedrooms.
- **UMW Friendship Dinner:** Subsequent to the March meeting, after some discussions with various UMW members, the date for the dinner was changed from May 15 to May 14. Jeanne has confirmed that

Northland is available to cater the dinner on that date. We decided on the following menu: broasted chicken, baby red potatoes, steamed fresh vegetables, broccoli/cauliflower salad and cake for dessert. Linda Hane will take care of the punch. We discussed decorating and program. Lucy Diesslin offered to get some small flowers for centerpieces and she and Jeanne will come earlier in the day to set the tables. For a program, with the short notice for lining up a speaker, we decided to do a "hymn sing". Jeanne & Linda will check with Sharon Luthens to see if she's available to play the piano. Jeanne will have a sign-up sheet ready for this coming Sunday, April 29.

- **June Worship Service:** The UMW will be in charge of the worship service on June 17. It had been discussed earlier to have a "hymn sing" instead of a sermon. We will need to recruit helpers for different parts of the service. It was decided we'd work on details at our May 23 meeting.
- **Health Kits:** Instead of doing UMCOR Health Kits this year, Lucy will be delivering over 20 knitted preemie hats that church members have been making.
- **Dicer Machine & Scales:** Jeanne reported that Norm Rusco took charge of looking into a replacement dicer after having to make repairs to it during our March pasty making. A model similar to what we have would run around \$4,000. He was able to find a commercial-grade vegetable processor for about \$900. He and Donna will be donating funds to the Memorial Fund which will cover the cost for the dicer. As to the scales, it was felt by those using them that the issue is mostly just batteries so perhaps being more pro-active about

changing them out would resolve the periodic issues with failures during dough making.

New Business

- **UMW Fundraiser:** Bonnie Berglund suggested we might want to look at perhaps having a fundraising “salad luncheon” similar to what was done last year for raising Relay for Life funds since our accounts balances will be decreasing significantly with the parsonage carpeting, drapes and window washing. The opinion was expressed that our account balances are probably higher than what many UMW groups have and with all the other special offerings and fund-raising going on, perhaps we should wait until we feel there is a real need. We decided we could think about this a later date.

Our next meeting will be May 23 with Bonnie Berglund as hostess.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 2:15 pm.

Administrative Council – Minutes

May 16, 2018

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

Attendees (9): Bonnie Berglund, Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Linda Hane, Mark & Margie Olson, Dana Thompson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

Opening: Pastor Dana provided the “Opening Thought” from *600 Hymns & Praise Songs*, reading the history and words of “Pass it On”, followed by prayer.

Minutes: The April 18, 2018 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the May 2018 *FISH*. Motion to approve by Lucy Diesslin, second by Bonnie Berglund. Motion approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Mark Olson presented the April 2018 treasurer’s report. Receipts & disbursements were \$14,398.64 & \$9,188.57, respectively. The receipts included \$4,083.89 from the March and April pasty sales. End of month balances: Building Fund \$16,293.54; Memorial Fund \$10,699.66; Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project 2018 \$167.25, available General Fund \$9,956.58. Motion to approve by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Memorial Fund: Pastor Dana reported that the committee had decided to change the date of the annual memorial service from August to May. It was held on May 13. They approved covering the cost of the new copier & 2 ink cartridges in memory of Ed Curnow. They also approved the cost of the new food processor in memory of Donna & Norman Rusco’s parents.

Nurture & Membership: Bonnie Berglund reported that she has a meeting scheduled with Pastor Dana during the week of May 21.

Pastor-Parish Relations: Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee had met on May 9 with only 4 committee members in attendance. They decided to continue with the “Service Opportunity” bulletin inserts, repeating the ones from the previous month only worded differently to encourage people to sign up for service during August and beyond. Their next

meeting will be on June 13 from 5-7 PM for the “Rule of Christ” Training which will be led by Robert Hoeft, a trainer provided by the conference. We will open this up to anyone in the congregation who is interested in attending. Jeanne will write an article for the June *FISH* and will have a sign-up sheet available for June 3 & 10 and will make announcements about it at those worship services.

Worship: Linda Hane reported that plans are coming along for June 17 through July 22 Sunday worship services by the various persons and groups.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Parsonage Phone/Internet Service:** Mark Olson reported on the results of his conversations with Midcontinent Cable company on their various service levels and prices for internet service. After some discussion, Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we proceed with arranging with Midco for their “Internet 150 Plan” (150 mbps download/\$44.95/month 1st yr/\$75.32 thereafter) and then to arrange with Frontier to change over ownership of the parsonage phone line to Mark Olson and add call forwarding to the line. Second by Butch Diesslin. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Budget for Dana’s Appreciation Celebration:** Linda Hane moved that we allocate \$200 to cover the costs of the May 20 celebration. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Mark Olson mentioned that we have already received a donation to pay for part of the costs. Motion approved.
2. **Ad Council Meetings in June, July & August:** Jay Tomlinson brought up the possible need for the Ad Council

to meet during the summer which we normally do not do. In particular, we have an opportunity to meet with Pastor Craig on July 18 since he is willing to come meet with us that evening while he’s in the area. Butch Diesslin moved that the Ad Council chair have the authority to schedule an Ad Council meeting during the summer as needed with at least one week’s notice to the committee members. Second by Mark Olson. Motion approved. It was agreed that the Ad Council would definitely meet on July 18.

3. **Multi-church BBQ & joint church service:** Margie Olson and Jeanne Tomlinson reported that our annual multi-church BBQ/picnic will be on Sunday, April 12 from 12-2 at Semer’s Park. Some of the ministers are discussing holding a joint worship service to be held at the park and want to know if our church would be interested in participating. Since our new minister will not be here until the end of July, the Ad Council needs to make the decision. Mark Olson moved that we hold our usual worship service on that day and that we not participate in the joint service; second by Linda Hane. Motion approved.
4. **July 29 Ice Cream Social:** Jay Tomlinson asked if we could go ahead & arrange for buying a couple of 3-gallon tubs of vanilla ice cream for our July 29 Ice Cream Social. Butch had suggested we could order them from the same source that the Kiwanas use for their Blueberry Festival fundraiser which will be the same weekend. Lucy moved that we proceed with that plan; second by Linda Hane. Motion approved. Butch indicated that the ice cream is ordered through the Northland Market and that he would place our order as a separate one at the same time he does the other.

Correspondence

1. **Northwoods Partners** sent two thank you notes to the church – one in appreciation for the donation from the Lenten Supper monies and the other for our ongoing support and encouragement of the organization.
2. **Gary & Dayle Felder** sent a note indicating they'd be arriving back in town shortly and included a donation toward the Pastor Dana Appreciation Celebration.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary
