

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

So, as we come to the month of MARCH we tend to finally begin to “**think spring**”!!! However, as we begin to “**think spring**” during the month of MARCH in the land of the “**Boundary Waters**” we must quickly acknowledge that thinking about and celebrating spring in the land of the “**Boundary Waters**” are in fact two very different things. Yet, spring is coming and we can begin to “**think spring**”!!!

Ah, “**back in the day**” the month of MARCH for the Thompson boys growing up in the Twin Cities, who were anxious to “**think spring**”, meant it was time for throwing baseballs and kite flying. Kite flying, indeed; for with the month of March comes warmer temperatures and stronger winds, two perfect ingredients for adventures in the sky with kites!!!

What is that little phrase made popular by the month of MARCH??? Yes, indeed; “**in like a lion, out like a lamb**” or “**in like a lamb, out like a lion**”!!!

Basically, the “**theory**” is, if the month of MARCH comes in quietly and calmly with regards to the weather it is going to go out roaring and wild with regards to the weather, or as the “**theory**” goes if the month of MARCH comes in roaring and wild with regards to the weather it is going to go out quietly and calmly with regards to the weather.

Indeed, a little phrase made popular by the possible variations found in the weather during the month of MARCH by joining together the “LAMB” and the “LION”, the “LION” and the “LAMB”!!!

Well, the prophet Isaiah used a very similar union of God’s creatures:

Isaiah 11:6

“The wolf shall live with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.”

Isaiah 65: 25

“The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent-its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt and destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.”

Indeed, something greater than a “**theory**” is found here in the words of the prophet Isaiah, what we find here is a “PROMISE” which comes from our gracious and loving GOD, a “PROMISE” concerning hope, peace, and unity, rooted in “LOVE”!!!

So, “**back in the day**” to begin “**thinking spring**” meant flying kites and throwing baseballs. Those days are basically gone for the Thompson boys.

So, there will come a day in the future when we as God’s Children will be able to proclaim “**back in the day**” about the trials, tribulations, and challenges of life because of God’s “PROMISE” concerning hope, peace, and unity, rooted in “LOVE”. Indeed, all those trials, tribulations, and challenges of life, will be “GONE” as we commune with our gracious and loving GOD!!!

Love in Christ,

Dana

Minutes for the Guild/UMW at Ely United Methodist Church on Wednesday, January 28, 2015

In President Lucy Diesslin’s absence, Secretary Jeanne Tomlinson led the meeting. The meeting was started at 2 pm.

The minutes from our November 19 meeting were read and approved as written.

For the Treasurer’s report, Jeanne read off the account balances from the January 5 audit: Checking has \$987.48, savings has \$7,489.81 and our CD has \$10,688.92. Jeanne commented that \$100 had been sent in November to the Ledgerrock Community Church to help buy boots for VCC students per our November meeting decision. We had also approved \$500 to be paid to the Ely United Methodist Church for the Reach-Renew-Rejoice campaign but that check had not been written yet since it was a 2015 campaign. Jeanne will contact Sharon to have her do the check.

Old Business

- *Women’s Worship Service* in 2015: Lucy had requested that we set a date to do this service. We agreed on April 26 which will give us a couple of Guild/UMW meetings to work on this. Linda Hane had requested to be involved. Tootsie Loe suggested that Sue Tedrick be contacted since she might be interested. Jeanne will do an announcement in church to see if there are other women in the church who might be interested in participating.
- *North Star District request for donation*: Tootsie Loe had not heard back when she first inquired about what monies we have paid to the District and where it goes. She’ll pursue it again and report back at our next meeting.

New Business

- Jeanne relayed a request from members of the Visioning Committee that the Guild/UMW minutes be included in the FISH. It was agreed we should do this. The secretary will make a shorter version of the minutes that will include only UMW business topics and will send those to Dana. We’ll start with these minutes being included in the March issue.
- Pastor Dana inquired about the Guild/UMW possibly helping a local family in view of recent health issues of one of the family members and the associated expenses. We supported his idea for taking a free will offering this coming Sunday that will be used to buy groceries for the family. Tootsie Loe moved that the UMW guarantee enough funds beyond whatever is collected at the free will offering to enable the purchase of at least \$200 worth of groceries. Jan Tessier seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dana will get assistance from a friend who had approached him about this idea to do the shopping.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

PASTY REPORT FEBRUARY 2015:

Pasties Made----725
Total Deposit-----\$4,347.00
Total Cost-----\$1,328.18
Net Gain-----\$3,018.82

CONFIRMATION CLASSES:

6:15 – 6:55 P.M.

March 2015 Wednesday March 4
 Wednesday March 11

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES:

“Care Free Living”

Wednesday March 11,
1:15 P.M.

“Boundary Waters Care Center”

Sunday March 22,
2:30 P.M.

SPECIAL REMINDER:

**2014 is A Non-BAZAAR Year!!!
Begin thinking BAZAAR Year 2015!!! 8 MONTHS!!!**

LENTEN SUPPERS:

Schedule for March 2015

Suppers Begin at 5:30 P.M.

Cost of Suppers---\$3.00 per person
\$6.00 per family

March 5-Host Church: First Lutheran

March 12-Host Church: Ledgerrock Community
& Grace Lutheran
at Ledgerrock

March 19-Host Church: Ely U.M.C.
at St. Anthony’s Catholic

March 26-Host Church: St. Anthony’s Catholic

COMING SOON:

Sunday April 12

Movie Day/Night---no time has been set

“God ‘s not Dead”

Finance Committee Report:

March 2015

The Finance Committee of the Church wishes to share its concerns about the finances of the Church.

The cost of operation of the Church in 2014 was about \$2,000 more than the 2014 Budget projection and also \$2,000 more than the revenue of the Church. The Church had sufficient funds to cover all the operating expenses for 2014.

The revenue of the Church in January was about \$2,500 less than the average monthly expenses. This resulted in a very low balance in the General Fund of the Church at the end of the month.

The Church General Fund is fortunate to have anticipated pasty sales revenue and funds in reserve that can be used to pay expenses over the next few months –however the reserve funds are not sufficient to cover all the church’s costs of operating without generating additional income of about \$5,000 during 2015. The projected 2015 shortfall is about 5% of the annual budget.

The Finance Committee is requesting the assistance of church members in overcoming the revenue shortfall of 2014,

and in preventing an additional revenue shortfall in 2015, by each member considering increasing their 2015 giving.

March 2015:

Reach-Renew-Rejoice Campaign:

Thanks to some generous donors these past two months, we are already more than halfway to our 2015 goal with this campaign!

Please continue to donate what you can to this fundraiser to help churches in the Minnesota Conference.

You can leave your donation in the basket at the back of the church, or just mark your check or envelope as a “Reach-Renew-Rejoice” donation and put it in the offering plate.

Our 2015 -

Goal-----\$2,020

Received to Date (3-1-15)-----\$1,100

UMW:

The United Methodist Women will be leading the Worship Service on April 26.

If you would like to help out in any way – perhaps providing refreshments, ushering, providing special music, reading

scriptures, providing an inspirational talk – please contact Jeanne Tomlinson at 235-8470.

THE SEASON of LENT:

What is this “Season of Lent” thing, that the Church begins to mention, as we leave behind the WONDER of CHRISTMAS and move towards the JOY of EASTER???

Well???

“We are entering the season of Lent which is perhaps the oldest traditional season of the Church Year. Lent is 40 days in length, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending the Saturday before Easter. The 40 days of Lent excludes the five Sundays of Lent and Palm/Passion Sunday. The events of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Holy Week, while a part of Lent, form a three-day climax to the life of Jesus and move us into Eastertide.”

“It appears that from early times, Lent was a time of preparation for prospective Christians (Catechumens) who would be baptized during the early hours of Easter morning. These people spent intensive time in prayer and fasting during the 40 days of Lent and the Christian Community supported them by joining in prayer and fasting. Thus, from those early days, Lent has become a time ---

when special attention is given to living the Christian life; a time of special reflection on one’s own baptism and a time to consider our unique call to be followers of Jesus in our own day.”

***The above description of Lent is found in our Lectionary Bulletin Inserts but is worth considering as we

begin to prepare for our own CELEBRATION of EASTER, and our own walk with GOD enriched by JESUS and the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT!!!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES February 18, 2015 Ely United Methodist Church Number Present: 12

President Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pastor Dana Thompson provided the “Opening Thought” from “*Listening To The Teacher*”, which was followed by prayer.

The Minutes of the January 21, 2015 Ad Council meeting; as printed in the February 2015 issue of “*The Fish*” newsletter; were approved as printed.

The Treasurer’s Report for January, 2015 was presented and highlighted by Treasurer Mark Olson. The January end of the month account balances – Building Fund: \$ 20,986.91, Memorial Fund: \$ 11,159.82, Parish Health Ministries \$516.66, Undesignated Funds \$ 5,000, General Fund: \$1.96. Mark pointed out that General Fund balance on January 1, 2014 was about \$2,000 greater than the General Fund balance on January 1, 2015. The General Fund balance of February 1, 2015 does not include the January pasty sales revenue of approximately \$1,800.

Committee Reports

The **Memorial Committee** purchased a large (7’ x7’) projection screen.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **New Church Directory.** A new pictorial Church Directory will be printed by fall, 2015. Watch for the times when photos will be taken during the summer.
2. **Reach, Renew, Rejoice** – Donations during January of \$365

were received. Total received to date: \$1,100.

3. **Hand Sanitizer Dispensers** – Two hand sanitizer dispensers have been purchased and have been mounted near the entry doors of the Church – one in the entryway to the Sanctuary, and one in the Fellowship Hall next to the door from the Nursery/Parking Lot on the lower level.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Cash Flow Concern:** There is concern that the operating expense payments may occur prior to the depositing of revenue in the Church’s General Fund. Motion by Lucy Diesslin/Second by Jeanne Tomlinson to transfer \$2,000 of the \$5,000 Undesignated Funds to the Church’s General Fund. Motion Approved.
2. **Church Facilities Use Request:** Toni Floyd requested permission to use the Church Fellowship Hall for a sewing day on Saturday March 21, 2015, 10 AM – 4 PM. M:Jeanne/S:Mark - Approved
3. **Church Equipment Use Request:** Jeanne Tomlinson requested the use the Church’s digital projector for a program to be presented on the evening of March 10, 2015 to the members of the Ely AAUW chapter. M:Butch/S:Lucy - Approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A Thank You letter from the Ely Food Shelf for the Church’s 2014 donations totaling \$402.
2. A Thank You letter from Ely Young Life for the Church’s donation of \$500.
3. A Thank You letter from Northern Lights Clubhouse of Ely for the Church’s donation of \$50.
4. A Thank You letter from Children’s International for our ongoing sponsorship of a child.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **February Pasty Report:** Made 725 pasties. Gross Income: \$4,347: Expenses: \$1,328.18: Net Income: \$3,018.82.
2. **Prayer Chain – Personnel Changes** – There have been changes in the volunteers on the Prayer Chain. The changes are posted on the Church Bulletin Board in the overflow “coffee” room.
3. **March Pasty Making – March 16 &17, 2015**
4. **Lenten Supper Pasty Making – Thursday March 19, 2015.**
5. **Lenten Supper Host – Thursday March 19, 2015** at St Anthony’s Fellowship Hall.
6. We are accepting new Pasty customers. Contact Jeanne Tomlinson at (218) 235-8470 with new customer names, pasty quantities and phone numbers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM, and was closed with the unison reciting of *The Lord’s Prayer*.

Respectfully Submitted, Blaine “Butch” Diesslin, Ad Council Secretary

BIBLE STUDY:

March 2015

Thursday 2:00 P.M.

Thursday March 5- Jonah Chapters 1 & 2

Thursday March 12- Jonah Chapters 3 & 4

Thursday March 26- Psalm 23
