

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Yes, we are in the midst of the “**SEASON** of **LENT**”!!!

LENT is a good time to **LEARN**!!!

LENT is a good time to **EXPLORE**!!!

LENT is a good time to **NURTURE**!!!

LENT is a good time to **THINK**!!!

LENT is a good time to...**GROW** through **L.E.N.T.**!!!

Indeed, what might I focus on if I want to spend some time learning during the “Season of Lent”?

Obviously, there are a great variety of things we could spend time learning about during the “Season of Lent”. We might spend time learning about March winds or Daylight Savings Time.

Indeed, what might I focus on if I want to spend some time learning during the “Season of Lent”?

Well, we could spend some time learning about God’s will for us and God’s hopes for us as children in the Family of God. Yes, we can turn to God’s Holy Word the Scriptures, we can turn to more prayer, we can turn to more fellowship, and we can turn to more worship during the “Season of Lent” for the express purpose of learning more about who and what God would like us to become as children in the Family of God!!!

Indeed, what might I focus on if I want to spend some time exploring during the “Season of Lent”?

Obviously, there are a great variety of things we could spend time exploring during the “Season of Lent”. We might spend time exploring the Boundary Waters or the quickest route to Duluth.

Indeed, what might I focus on if I want to spend some time exploring during the “Season of Lent”?

Well, we could spend some time exploring where our hearts are at in relation to our daily walk with God!!!

Indeed, what might I focus on if I want to spend some time nurturing during the “Season of Lent”?

Obviously, there are a great variety of things we could spend time nurturing during the “Season of Lent”. We could spend time nurturing a fondness for chocolates or for long walks in the snow!!!

Indeed, what might I focus on if I want to spend some time nurturing during the “Season of Lent”?

Well, we could spend some time nurturing our relationships with God through Jesus Christ and the wonder of the Holy Spirit!!!

Indeed, what might I focus on if I want to spend some time thinking during the “Season of Lent”?

Obviously, there are a great variety of things we could spend time thinking about during the “Season of Lent”. We could spend time thinking about the Spring Thaw to be or just how much energy is required to shovel out of all those March snow storms.

Indeed, what might I focus on if I want to spend some time thinking during the “Season of Lent”?

Why not take the time to reflect on and think about the wonder of God’s gracious **LOVE** for us as illuminated by God’s gifts of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the God’s Church Family!!!

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Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana

The **Guild/UMW** at Ely United Methodist Church
Wednesday January 24, 2018 1-3 pm

The Guild/UMW met at the Church with 6 people in attendance. Vice-President Lucy Diesslin opened the meeting at 1 pm with a prayer by Pastor Dana and unison reading of the UMW Purpose.

The minutes from our November 15, 2017 meeting were read and approved as read.

There was no official Treasurer’s Report but Dana provided the following 2017 year-end balances from the audit done in January: CD \$10,777.52, checking \$1038.33, savings \$7,576.01.

Old Business

- **Festival of Trees Wreath:** Lucy reported that we had a received a Thank You from Northwoods Partners for purchasing and decorating the wreath. Our thanks, once again, to Jan Rue for doing the decorating.

New Business

- **Parsonage:** Lucy reported that the carpeting for the parsonage will come to approximately \$1100. Jan Tessier moved the UMW pay for this. Second by ???. Motion passed.
- **CD:** We had previously discussed whether we should cash in our CD when it comes due in April in order to make the funds more readily available. Since the CD term is not long it was decided to hold off on doing that now.
- **Potluck Supplies:** Jeanne Tomlinson had made an “in absentia” motion to have the UMW cover the costs of potluck supplies for the church’s quarterly potlucks which should come to less than \$100 per year. Linda Hane seconded the motion. Motion passed. Marge Forsberg suggested that we

purchase the supplies locally and mentioned we could probably arrange for a bulk order to save funds.

- **Guild/UMW Hostess for February:** We did not have anyone signed up to do hostessing for our February meeting. Donna Rusco offered to take care of it instead of doing April since she might be gone for that one

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 1:30 pm.

We then went to our study book by James W. Moore, *God Was Here & I Was Out To Lunch*. We read Chapter 8: *Don’t Miss...God’s Surprises*”. This chapter was about Pentecost which showed us God’s Surprising (1) Love for all people, (2) Presence in Unexpected Places and (3) Judgment of what we fail to do.

We then enjoyed carrot cake supplied by Jeri Walburn. Our next meeting will be February 28 with Donna Rusco as hostess.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson
Secretary (Minutes prepared with notes taken by
Donna Rusco & comments by Lucy Diesslin)

BIBLE STUDY:

March 2018

2:00 P.M. Thursday

Thursday March 1- Acts 5 & 6

Thursday March 8- Acts 7 & 8

Thursday March 15- Acts 9 & 10

Thursday March 22- No Bible Study-Lenten Supper Pasty

Thursday March 29- No Bible Study- Maundy Thursday

**ELY MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION'S
LENTEN SUPPERS 2018:**

March 1- First Presbyterian Church assisted by
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

March 8- First Lutheran Church

March 15- St. Anthony's Catholic Church

March 22- Ely United Methodist Church at St. Anthony's

The "Lenten Suppers" are held at 5:30 P.M. on the above dates at the above locations. The "Lenten Suppers" include a simple meal, good fellowship with community brothers and sisters, and a time of worship.

The cost of these "Lenten Supper" meals is \$3.00 per person and \$6.00 per family.

We would encourage everyone to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to participate in the "Season of Lent" with our brothers and sisters across the community and in the Family of God. What a **WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY!!!**

"SAFE GATHERINGS":

What is "Safe Gatherings"???

"Safe Gatherings" is a program meant to help United Methodist Churches enhance the quality of safely doing Ministry in challenging times, with children and to a lesser degree with adults.

"Safe Gatherings" is first of all a training tool or program of about 2 hours that concludes with a test around creating and maintaining a strong and "safe environment" for working with our children.

"Safe Gatherings" is second of all a way of doing background checks for all of those who are working with our children.

We would like to see everyone who is working with our children participate in this twofold program to enhance the quality of our ministry with our youth who are a very **"PRECIOUS"** gift from **GOD** to us!!!

We have had 6 people complete the "Safe Gatherings" program to date, Jan Rue, Keith Rue, Jay Tomlinson, Jeanne Tomlinson, Rich Floyd, and Dana Thompson, **THANK YOU** one and all!!!

We can access the "Safe Gathering" Program by way of our Ely U.M.C. Website.

When you register to take the "Safe Gatherings" Program doing so under the Ely U.M.C. means that we will be billed by the MN. ANN. CONFERENCE and you pay nothing plus we receive notice that you have completed the course.

We would like everyone working with and spending time with our children to take the "Safe Gatherings" Program; please consider doing so.

<https://safegatherings.com/app/registration>

MAUNDY-THURSDAY

OPEN COMMUNION TABLE:

Thursday March 29
Church Sanctuary

1:00 -5:30 P.M.

Yes, we welcome everyone to spend time in Communion with God on Maundy-Thursday in the church Sanctuary. The Communion Table will be open and all are invited to pause in communion with God as we move into Good Friday and then a celebration of Easter and the **RESURRECTION!!!**

CHURCH MOVIE

NIGHT/DAY:

Sunday March 18, 2018

1:00 P.M.

“Courageous”

Yes, we are holding yet another time of fellowship as the Family of God by way of a movie **EXTRAVAGANZA!!!**

We invite everyone to participate in the showing of the movie titled “Courageous”, which will be shown in the church Sanctuary.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

February 21, 2018

Ely United Methodist Church

Call To Order: Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Attendees (6): Linda Hane, Carol Linneman, Keith Rue, Dana Thompson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

Opening: Dana provided the “Opening Thought” from the Feb 21 devotion from the *Upper Room* followed by prayer.

Minutes: The January 17, 2018 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the February 2018 *FISH*. Motion to approve/Linda Hane; Second/Keith Rue. Approved.

Treasurer’s Report: On behalf of Mark Olson, Dana presented the January 2018 treasurer’s report. Receipts & disbursements were \$8,125.95 & \$10,285.99, respectively. End of month balances: Building Fund \$17,476.58; Memorial Fund \$10,821.80; Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project 2018 \$16, Safe Gathering \$387, available General Fund \$6,987. Motion to approve/Jeanne Tomlinson; Second/Keith Rue. Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Memorial Fund: Carol Linneman reported there was no new business at the last meeting. The next meeting will be May 1.

Outreach: Dana reported for Toni Floyd that she had sent the Valentine boxes for our college students. We received a nice thank you note from Evan Wognum which Dana read to the group.

Pastor-Parish Relations: Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee had just met at 5:30 pm and had set a monthly meeting time of the 2nd Wednesday at 5:30 pm. The committee is working on scheduling a “Rule of Christ” training, possibly sometime in the 2nd half of June. The training will be scheduled primarily for the PPRC but it will be open to anyone in the church interested in attending. The committee also announced that we’ll hold an Appreciation/ Retirement Celebration for Dana on Sunday, May 20 from 2-4 at the church. It will be an “open house” format. There will be an article in the upcoming *FISH* to let folks know.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Potluck Supplies:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that the UMW approved covering the cost of supplies for our quarterly potlucks.
- **Amici's Easter Egg Hunt Donation:** Linda Hane reported that she learned that Ledgerock was not planning on doing any more Easter egg hunts and that Amici's is definitely planning on doing the event. We decided that instead of making a direct donation, we'll just put out a box for folks to donate supplies and/or money if they are interested. Jeanne will take care of setting up the box and putting a short article in the March FISH.
- **Copier Replacement:** No action had been taken at the last Ad Council meeting. Dana reported the copier is still having issues. There is one toner left and he recommended we plan on getting one before that toner runs out. Jay agreed to look into the costs for a replacement.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Parsonage Use in July:** Dana requested permission for leaving some of his furniture and his canoes in the parsonage until July 22 since the new pastor will not be moving in until July 25-26. Motion made by Linda Hane to grant permission for him to leave any personal items in the parsonage until that date as long as they are not stored in the rooms that will be re-carpeted. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion approved.
2. **Gluten Free Wafers/Bread Communion Option:** Linda Hane reported there had been some comments that we are not providing a communion option for anyone who is sensitive to gluten. We decided to look into getting gluten-free wafers and provide those as an option during communion. Dana will see if Cokesbury carries them.
3. **Funding for "Bring a kid to church" books in September:** Keith Rue moved that we allocate up to \$400 to cover the costs of the books we give out to kids in September. Second by Linda Hane. Motion passed. The funds will come from the Education Council budget.

4. **Safe Gatherings Training/Background Checks:** Dana reported that we now have 6 people who have completed the training. He emphasized once again that we need more people trained. He and Jan are the only two who are currently trained who are always at Kid's Club and when he leaves we'll need to make sure we have at least one other person.
5. **Little Eagles Childcare Center, Inc.:** We received a letter from Amy Richter, the Director of the Little Eagles Childcare Center, explaining how the center is a non-profit providing quality childcare for those who need it in our area. They are currently trying to raise money to purchase supplies and are looking for donations. We decided we'd have Amy come to the church on some Sunday to talk about it and hold a free will offering at that time. Dana will contact her to work out the date.
6. **Collection for 2 families burned out early Sunday am:** Linda Hane moved to set up a collection basket in the back of the church for these families for the next two Sundays (Feb 25 & Mar 4). Second by Keith Rue. Motion approved. Linda will take care of setting it up.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We received thank you notes from Children's International, Young Life and UMCOR for our recent donations.
2. We received a Certificate of Appreciation from the church conference for 100% payment of our apportionments in 2017.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **February Pasties Report** – Pasties made: 721; Sales \$4,322; Cost: \$1,174.34; Net Income: \$3,147.66
2. **Ely UMC Lenten Supper** – we are scheduled to host on March 22, two days after pasties. We will only make 128 pasties this time and will also be reducing the amount of coleslaw.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

Amici's Easter Egg Hunt

Amici's Event Center has decided to host a free Easter Egg Hunt for the community this year in order to have a warm indoor venue for kids to enjoy this time-honored tradition. They are asking for donations of money and/or supplies to help make the event memorable. If you would like to help and have any of the following to donate, please bring them to the church on any Sunday in March and put them in the "Easter Egg Hunt Donations" box: plastic eggs, candy, craft projects, decorations, items to stock free gift bags. There will also be an envelope on the box for any monetary donations.

Pastor Dana's Retirement

For the few of you who might not know this already, Pastor Dana will be retiring this June. His final official Sunday sermon with us will be June 3, although he might be returning occasionally to handle some services until our next pastor arrives. We are planning an open house Retirement/Appreciation Celebration for Dana on Sunday, May 20 from 2-4 pm at the church. We hope you can come!

We are also looking for photos of Dana taken during his 31+ years here in Ely. If you are willing to share, please send any digital copies to 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. For printed photos, if you want them back, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Our Next Pastor

It is the intention of Bishop Bruce Ough to appoint the Reverend Craig Haberman as pastor of the Ely United Methodist Church, and our Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (PPRC), acting on behalf of the congregation, has affirmed the Bishop's intention. Each church member's supportive prayers and acts of kindness during the transition period will be greatly appreciated by all of the involved parties.

Pastor Craig will be arriving in Ely in late July and will be here for his first Sunday on July 29. He is an experienced minister and has served in several churches in Northern Minnesota. He has many ties to this area and was excited to see that our church finally had an "opening". We are excited to have him and feel that he will be an excellent fit for us. We have some more information about him in a brochure that is available at church or by email. If you would like a copy, please contact the PPRC Chair, Jeanne Tomlinson (email: tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com; phone: (218) 235-8470).

