

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Mid-April, the lakes are open, **WOW** and exclamation points!!! Dare I begin to start thinking about all those walleyes which need to be caught this coming summer by friends and family???

Nope! Nope? Yes, nope forgetting about Mid-April we come to Later-April and at least two days of blizzard like conditions, **WOW** and exclamation points!!! Whatever happened to “April Showers bring May Flowers”???

So, Ely weather at times can give us some insights into the many joys of life; to use a baseball term because the baseball season has started despite the blizzard like conditions we are now facing, life at times can throw us a “**CURVE BALL**” or two!!!

Actually, we are talking about how life can often times be very predictable and routine and then at times in comes a “**CURVE BALL**” and the predictable becomes “**TURVY**”- “**TOPSY**”, **WOW** and exclamation points!!!

Now, the “**CURVE BALLS**” we face in life can be high or low, they can be good or bad, and at times they can have an indifferent impact on our lives.

Still, in life, when those “**CURVE BALLS**” are thrown our way it is comforting to know, whether they are thrown as highs or lows, good, bad, or indifferent there is an ever overriding constant---**GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** for us, as **GOD’S** children!!! **WOW** and exclamation points of **JOY, JOY, JOY!!**

When we think of love, when we think about the qualities of love, we can turn to the Apostle Paul’s letter written to the

Corinthian people, I Corinthians 13; I Corinthians 13 has often been referred to as “The Love Chapter”!!! (Please Do So) Further, as we face the “**CURVE BALLS**” of life thrown as **HIGHS** or **LOWS**, even in the dirt; good, bad, or with a bit of indifference let us think today about **GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** and consider **GOD’S LOVE** for us includes:

- COMPANIONSHIP
- FORGIVENESS AND MERCY
- GRACE
- COMFORT AND JOY
- HOPE
- JESUS THE CHRIST
- HOLY SPIRIT
- CHURCH

Ah, the “**CURVE BALLS**” which are thrown over the home plate of our lives are sometimes “**HIGH**” and sometimes “**LOW**” and maybe even in the dirt, they can be good, bad, or indifferent but they exist as a part of the ebb and flow of living life; whether the “**CURVE BALLS**” we face are joys or sadness in the weather of our lives there is a constant---**GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** for us, as **GOD’S** children!!! **WOW** and exclamation points of companionship, forgiveness, mercy, grace, comfort, joy, hope, **JESUS** the **CHRIST**, the **HOLY SPIRIT**, and the church, **JOY, JOY, JOY!!**

Indeed, weathering the uncertainties of life we have the **ROCK** solid foundation of **GOD’S LOVE** revealed to us by **JESUS CHRIST!!!**

Love in Christ,  
Dana

Minutes for the Guild/UMW at  
Ely United Methodist Church on  
Wednesday, March 25, 2015

At 2 pm Jeanne Tomlinson asked Pastor Dana Thomas to open the meeting with a prayer.  
The minutes from our February 25 meeting were read and approved as written.  
There was no Treasurer's Report.

### **Old Business**

- *May 19 Friendship Dinner:* Jeanne reported that she missed the deadline to have a "Save the Date" notice in the April newsletter but will have a full article prepared in time for the May newsletter. We'll discuss the details for the dinner at our next meeting on April 22.
- *North Star District request for donation:* We tabled this topic until next year when it will probably recur.
- *Hosting a District event:* This was tabled at our previous meeting and will be discussed at our next meeting when Bonnie Berglund has returned.
- *Women's Worship Service on April 26, 2015:* Since we did not have a copy of the sermon on Forgiveness that Lucy had suggested, we decided to focus our worship service planning on assigning roles to folks who had signed up to help. We'll pass around the inspirational stories that Jeanne had collected from her brother-in-law's newsletters, and the sermon on Forgiveness after Lucy has returned, so that we can each read them. We'll need to decide on what reading(s) we'll be doing along with corresponding hymns and scripture reading and possibly the Call to Worship and then try to set a time for a practice run. We'll work on this informally over the next few weeks.

### **New Business**

- Jeanne distributed copies of the North Star District *Comment*. Of note is a North Star District Spring Gathering in Pequot Lakes on Saturday, April 25. Since that is about a 4 hour drive away, and the day before our worship service, we might not have anyone interested in attending but Jeanne will post a copy of the notice on the bulletin board and get the other two copies of the newsletter to Lucy Diesslin and Bonnie Berglund.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

## **New Church Directory for 2015:**

We are working with Lifetouch Photography to once again come to the church to take portrait pictures of families and individuals for an updated church directory. We are currently booked for Lifetouch to come take portrait pictures on July 31 and Aug 1 but will also be looking for additional dates. Please consider working on the Directory Committee since we will need help making phone calls, choosing pictures of church activities and deciding on formats, etc. Contact Jeanne Tomlinson at 235-8470 if you are willing to help.

## LOVE OFFERING – MAY 17, 2015

Each year, churches of the MN Annual Conference take a Love Offering for Missions. The 2015 Love Offering will go to three projects that will advance our theme “God’s Vision, Our Mission—Unleashed.”

Grace Children’s Center in Vietnam will receive 60% of the offering. This center is located in Ho Chi Minh City and is currently providing education and day care for young children. Currently there is one teacher who volunteers her time. The children learn to grow fruit, raise chickens and ducks, and make hats---all of which is sold to help support the school. The Love Offering would pay off a \$10,000 loan on the building, hire additional teachers and buy sewing machines.

Thirty (30)% of the offering will be used for grants that help churches form partnerships with local schools. This summer, churches will be invited to apply for up to \$1,200 to help them form school relationships. A few of the possibilities might be supplying backpacks, clothing, or weekend meals.

The last 10% will go to Volunteer in Mission Scholarships. That program enables teams to work on mission projects domestically and abroad. As you pray about these mission opportunities, please consider making a donation as you are able.

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES April 15, 2015 Ely United Methodist Church Number Present: 8

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

Pastor Dana Thompson provided the “Opening Thought” from “*The Upper Room*” For April 15, 2015. The “Opening Thought” was followed by prayer.

The Minutes of the March 18, 2015 Ad Council meeting; as printed in the April 2015 issue of “*The Fish*” newsletter. A motion to accept as printed by Jeanne Tomlinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Margie Olson was approved unanimously.

The **Treasurer’s Report** for March, 2015 was presented and highlighted by Treasurer Mark Olson. The March end of the month account balances – Building Fund Account: \$ 21,910.23, Memorial Fund Account: \$ 11,270.42; Checking Account: \$4,809.24.

Checking Account Funds: General Fund: \$2,505.97, Parish Health Ministries \$516.66, Reach, Renew, Rejoice \$1,125.00, Zach Dean \$39.15, Undesignated Funds \$ 3,000. Motion to Accept Treasurer’s Report (M: Margie Olson/S: Jeanne Tomlinson) Accepted

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The **Board of Trustees** Met on April 6. Reviewed existing projects and identified new projects.

The **Memorial Fund Task Force** – Will meet in May

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **New Church Directory.** Jay is taking general interest pictures of Church activities and facilities. Contact Jay if you would like pictures taken of your Church group/activity. Jeanne Tomlinson is writing an article about the new church directory for the April, 2015 issue of “*The Fish*” Church Newsletter. The photographer for the directory publisher will be scheduled for July to take portraits, and in August for re-takes.

2. **Reach, Renew, Rejoice** – The total donated to date: \$1,125; unchanged during March.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. **Side Street Barbecue** – Muffin Nelson requested to speak to our Ad Council and invite our Church members to join the members of First Presbyterian Church and Grace Lutheran Church at the “**Second Annual Side Street Barbecue**”. The event will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave E., adjacent to Grace Lutheran Church. Grilled meats will be provided and those attending are requested to bring and salad or dessert item to share. **Date: Sunday, August 9, 2015.** Moved by Jeanne, Second by Lucy: Our Church will participate and the Church will contribute \$100 toward the cost of the Meat, Buns, etc. Motion Approved. Jeanne and Margie will be our Church’s planning representatives for the event. Jay will contact Muffin Nelson with our acceptance of the invitation to participate in the Barbecue.
2. **Habitat For Humanity – Ely Home Construction** – Muffin Nelson reported on the new house building plan and requested volunteers to help with construction. The members of the Church Men’s Group will discuss and respond. The members of UMW will consider providing a lunch for the volunteer construction workers.
3. **Annual MN United Methodist Church Conference – May 27-29, 2015**  
Lucy Diesslin will be our delegate to Annual Conference and will bring our Church’s **Love Offering** to the Conference. Motion by Lucy; Second by Jeanne – To take our Love offering on Sunday, May 17, and for the Church to guarantee a minimum of \$100 total. Carried.
4. **Lenten Supper Proceeds** – Motion by Margie, Second by Jeanne – that the \$230 income from the Lenten Supper be distributed as follows: Northern Lights Clubhouse: \$65; Minding our Future: \$65; Northwoods Partners: \$100. Approved.

### CORRESPONDENCE

1. A Thank You from Children’s International for our sponsorship of our Guatemalan child - Elvelin Sarai Jiatz Cutzal - was received and posted on the bulletin board.

### ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **Church Computer** – Dana reported that the Church’s computer in the Pastor’s Study is not functioning properly. The computer will be taken to Wolfland Computers for diagnostics, etc.
2. **April Pasty Making – April 20 & 21.**
3. **UMW Friendship Supper – May 19, 2015** – catering by Northland Market
4. **Relay For Life – Friday, August 21, 2015** – The Ely UMC Methodist Miler’s Team will be participating. Contact Jeanne Tomlinson, Lucy Diesslin or Margie Olson for more info or to sign-up.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM, and was closed with the unison reciting of **The Lord’s Prayer**.

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

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### TRUSTEE NOTICE:

### TRUSTEE THANKSGIVING:

The volunteer lawn mowing sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the overflow room. Please sign up for a month (May, June, July, August, September, or October). If you can’t do an entire month, you can always split the month with someone.

A big thank you to our winter sidewalk shoveler’s, Mark Olson, Bruce Olson, Dave & Sara Archambault, and Justin Zemke. Also thank you to Butch Diesslin and Phil Hegfors for plowing the parking lots.

## Women's Friendship Dinner:

Join us on Tuesday, May 19, in the church Fellowship Hall for our annual Women's Friendship Dinner. We'll gather at 5:30 pm; dinner will be served at 6 pm. After dinner, guest speaker Caroline Owens will share her experiences early last year in Africa – she worked with a group to help set up a library in Ghana for kids who had been trafficked in the fishing industry. Northland Market will be catering the meal. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church starting May 3. The cost is just \$10 per person, payable to Lucy Diesslin or Jeanne Tomlinson by Sunday, May 17.

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### ***SEASON FINALE PASTY REPORT:***

<b><i>PASTIES MADE-</i></b>	<b>907</b>
<b><i>TOTAL DEPOSIT-</i></b>	<b>\$5,438.00</b>
<b><i>TOTAL COST-</i></b>	<b>\$1,514.70</b>
<b><i>NET INCOME-</i></b>	<b>\$3,923.30</b>

***GREAT SEASON---ONE AND ALL !!!***

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## Men's Group Dinner:

The Ely U.M.C. Men's Group will set aside Tuesday night May 19<sup>th</sup> for a 5:45 P.M. meeting and dinner at the Grand Ely Lodge. Please consider setting this night a part to fellowship together as the Men's Group while the Women of our Church Family celebrate their "Friendship Dinner at the church.

One thing would like to consider when we get together for dinner is setting aside a Men's Group day of labor at the upcoming Ely "Habitat-For-Humanity" build taking place this summer.

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### **Bible Study:**

May 2015

Thursday 2:00 P.M.

Thursday May 7- Philippians 4: 1-23

Thursday May 14- "The Parable of the Pounds"

Luke 19: 11-27

Thursday May 21- "Parable of the Wedding Banquet"

"Parable of the Great Dinner"

Luke 14: 7-24

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## **Pasty Making Reflections:**

Well, as we close the 2014-2015 “Pasty Making Season” with all April Pasties in the **BAG**, the first word that comes to mind is **AWESOME !!!**

Well, as we close the 2014-2015 “Pasty Making Season” with all April Pasties in the **BAG**, the second word that comes to mind is in actually five words joined as one thought: **THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!!**

Indeed, we have had a wonderful Pasty Season with wonderful fellowship while participating in a wonderful fund raiser!!!

Now, it would be easy to single out a few people for labors that go above and beyond but the true depth of **WONDERFUL** when it comes to our “Pasty Making Season” is the **EVERYONE** from big labors, to medium labors, to small labors joined to make a **WHOLE!!!**

Yes, **AWESOME, THANK YOU ONE AND ALL, WONDERFUL JOB EVERYONE!!!**

## **Bazaar Coming in**

### **November 2015:**

- Crafts for the Bazaar
- Baked Goods for the Bazaar
- Coffee And...for the Bazaar

So, all you bakers, all you crafters, all you coffee anders..., please give thought as to how you might participate in our 2015 Church Bazaar.

Yes, the more of us who participate, the more fruitful the results as a Fund Raiser this bazaar has been. Generally, the Bazaar has been a real blessing when it comes to adding to our bottom line with regards to our General Budget Balance during Bazaar years.

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**2015** the **“M & M’s”** are **BACK!!!**

Yes, we will be participating in this year’s “Relay for Life”---Stay tuned for further information!!! (Methodist Milers)