

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*So now, what do you think is it **"TOMATO"** or **"TOMATO"**?*

Well, actually a tomato, is a tomato, is a tomato!!!

Well, actually no, a tomato, is a tomato, is a tomato is not necessarily true. There are some tomatoes which are better than other tomatoes!!!

*Recently, I had the opportunity to celebrate the eating of my first three home grown garden **TOMATOES** of the year!!! Home grown garden tomatoes put those store bought---even store bought "fancy tomatoes" to shame!!! Personally, I would say that home grown garden tomatoes are **AWESOME** when compared to store bought tomatoes!!!*

*Indeed, sometimes one thing can be better than another thing whether it is **"TOMATO"** or **"TOMATO"** home grown is far **SUPERIOR** to store bought!!! Sometimes one thing is better than another thing, a homerun is better than a strike out, a balanced meal for dinner is better than a chocolate chip cookie dough blizzard for dinner, walking here and there is better than taking the car everywhere, these are examples of the truth that sometimes one thing can be better than another thing!!!*

***LIVING** with the **LOVE** of **GOD** in our hearts is better than not living with the love of God in our hearts!!!
Actually, when we open our hearts to the **JOY** to be found when **LIVING** with the **LOVE** of **GOD** in our hearts there is so much more than love, there is grace, support, comfort, compassion, guidance, understanding, caring, forgiveness,*

*and renewal, that goes along with the wonder of **GOD'S** precious **LOVE!!!***

*Now, **LIVING** with the **LOVE** of **GOD** in our hearts is not better because we will have perfect earthly lives, not at all.*

Consider Abraham, who lived with the love of God in his heart which meant for him leaving home, homeland, and his family, being guided by God to new beginnings with all kinds of dangers and uncertainties.

Consider Moses, who lived with the love of God in his heart which meant for him, conquering his fears as he stood at the "burning bush" so with God's help he could face pharaoh and participate in delivering the Israelite people out of bondage in Egypt.

Consider Mary, who lived with the love of God in her heart, which meant for her a pregnancy by the Holy Spirit, questioning in the heart of her husband to be Joseph, and a son dying on a cross.

*Consider God's Son, **JESUS**, who **LIVES** with the **LOVE** of **GOD** in his heart, which meant for him leaving the comforts of God's Kingdom to dwell among us on earth where he would face, doubters, hostility, ridicule, injustice, false accusations, a trial, a cross, crucifixion, and skeptics even after the **RESURRECTION!!!***

*Now, **LIVING** with the **LOVE** of **GOD** in our hearts is better in both the good times and the bad times because of grace, support, comfort, compassion, guidance, understand, caring, forgiveness, and renewal, that goes along with the wonder of **GOD'S** precious **LOVE!!!***

Love in Christ,

Dana

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life"

INSPIRATION---I CORINTHIANS 13: 1-13

“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant, or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

BIBLE STUDY:

September 2014

Thursday

2:00 P.M.

Thursday September 11- John 1: 1-51

Thursday September 18- John 2: 1-25

Thursday September 25- John 3: 1-36

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES:

“Boundary Waters Care Center”

Sunday September 7
2:30 P.M.

“Ely Care Free Living”

Wednesday September 10
1:15 P.M.

SPECIAL REMINDER:

2014 is a Non-BAZAAR Year!!!

Begin thinking BAZAAR Year 2015!!!

MEN'S GROUP GATHERING:

Well, this last spring we began trying to get a Men's Group going here in the Ely U.M.C.

Over this past summer we have tried to keep the seeds germinating by having a couple of Men's Breakfast gatherings at the Grand Ely Lodge which were well attended.

"MANWICH NIGHT"

"NATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY NIGHT"

COMING!!!

Yes, we are moving into the fall of 2014 and we would like to continue to see the men of the Ely U.M.C. coming together for a variety of functions.

Dana Thompson will provide "Manwich" Sandwiches and potato chips for an evening gathering of the men; Dana has also contacted Rich Floyd about hosting a nature and photography program for **Tuesday Night October 7, 2014!!!** (Dinner at 6:00 P.M.—Program Following)

Please **note** this is just an advance announcement and the date is preliminary based on Rich's availability to host the program.

P.S. RICH IS AN AWESOME PHOTOGRAPHER!!!

Pasties coming again in October

As happens every year, we are getting ready for this coming season of pasty-making by updating and organizing the pasty calling lists. Current callers: Jeanne will be calling you in September to review your lists so please take a look and see if you have any updates you'll want to make.

We could use a couple more callers to spread out the calling load. We've added quite a few new customers over this past year. If you'd be willing to spend a couple hours each month during the week just prior to pasty making, please call Jeanne (235-8470).

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

YOUTH GROUP BEGINS

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3

5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

SHERI & KEITH RUE COORDINATING

CONFIRMATION

CLASSES:

Yes, it is time to consider offering our 7-9 grade **YOUTH** the opportunity to---

---thoughtfully spend **TIME** participating in the process of---

---**CONFIRMING THEIR BAPTISMAL VOWS!!!**

We are looking at offering Confirmation Classes in the coming two years if there are enough of our youth who are ready to participate in the process of “Confirming their Baptismal Vows”.

The class schedule tentatively would look like this:

January 2015 through May 2015
1st Two Wednesdays of each month
6:15-6:55 P.M.
Ten Classes

September 2015 through March 2016
1st Two Wednesdays of each month
6:15-6:55 P.M.
Fourteen Classes

All young people and parents **PLEASE** give thoughtful consideration to this important step in our “**FAITH JOURNEY**” and our “**WALK WITH GOD**”!!! Please begin thinking about confirming Baptism vows!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS

COMING NOT TO TOWN:

However **SUNDAY SCHOOL** is **COMING** back into our schedule here in the Ely U.M.C. beginning this fall in **SEPTEMBER!!!**

We are **HOPEFUL** of continuing to offer two different choices for **SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

First and vitally **IMPORTANT** is providing Sunday School opportunities for our young children up through 6th grade. As in the past we will try to run Sunday School during our worship services with the youth going to Sunday school following the Children’s Moment in worship. We will begin holding Sunday School Classes on Sunday September 7. Chris Urbas is our **AWESOME** Sunday School Coordinator who I am sure would appreciate some help.

Second is providing a before worship Sunday School opportunity for one and all. These before worship Sunday school Classes will begin on Sunday September 14th with a focus on the Scripture Reading to be used during our morning worship service. These classes will start at 9:00 A.M. with coffee provided and run until 9:35 A.M. on non-choir Sundays and until 9:30 A.M. on choir Sundays.