

THE STATE OF THE CHURCH:

2017

*Yes, we come again to that moment in time when we pause to reflect on yet another year of ministry together with **GOD**, here in the Ely United Methodist Church. While we are beginning the process of saying good-bye to 2017 we rejoice in the opportunities 2018 may bring as we continue to look to our **GRACIOUS** and **LOVING GOD** for guidance, understanding, and empowerment to be **GOD'S** children in ministry with **GOD!!!***

*Indeed, **GOD** has **BLESSED** and continues to **BLESS** the Ely United Methodist Church with a **WONDERFUL** group of **GOD'S** children, brothers and sisters in the Family of God who love God and who show that love by seeking out ways to serve God and one another as sisters and brothers in the Family of God!!! Let us give **PRAISE** unto our **GRACIOUS** and **LOVING GOD** and, let us give **THANKS** unto our **GRACIOUS** and **LOVING GOD!!!***

***WOW**, 2017 has been an awesome year for us; 2017 is the year we have had the opportunity to celebrate **125 YEARS** of being in ministry with **GOD** here in the Ely United Methodist Church as children in the Family of God!!! What a **WONDERFUL** celebration, we held this past summer through Worship, Holy Communion, and an awesome Fellowship Dinner and "Power Point Program" at our neighbor's church St. Anthony's Catholic Church!!! Yes indeed, we had a **WONDERFUL** celebration at our "125th Anniversary" of being in ministry with **GOD**. This moment in time was an awesome reminder of what **GOD** has done among us, what **GOD** is doing among us, and what **GOD** can do among us, if we remain focused upon **GOD** with heart, mind, and spirit!!!*

*Now, our "125th Anniversary" celebration was indeed an awesome experience because of what **GOD** is doing among us, but it was also an awesome experience because of what a very hardworking and dedicated team of our brothers and sisters who made up the planning committee for this celebration. These dedicated sisters and brothers spent the year putting the pieces together, from invitation, to keepsakes, to worship, to communion, to fellowship dinner and program, and we were **BLESSED** by **GOD** through this experience!!! Indeed, our "125th Anniversary" is a good reminder of how **GOD** has **BLESSED** and continues to **BLESS** the Ely United Methodist Church with a **WONDERFUL** group of **GOD'S** children, brothers and sisters in the Family of God who love God and who show that love by seeking out ways to serve God and one another as sisters and brothers in the Family of God!!!*

WOW**, 2017 has been an awesome year for us; 2017 has been a year of rich vitality in our worship experiences as we continue to give **PRAISE** and **THANKSGIVING** unto **GOD!!!

Indeed, we have a number of brothers and sisters in the Family of God here in the Ely United Methodist Church who enhance and inspire our worship services through music,

organ, piano, and guitar, Sue Germek, Sharon Luthens, Mary Taylor, and Marshall Monthei.

Indeed, we have a number of sisters and brothers in the Family of God here in the Ely United Methodist Church who enhance and inspire our worship services through music as our Ely U.M.C. Choir.

Indeed, we have a number of brothers and sisters in the Family of God here in the Ely United Methodist Church who enhance and inspire our worship services through roles of leadership in worship, ushering, music coordinator, scripture reading, communion servants, advent readers, and the awesome efforts of our Lay Leader Patty Rusco.

Indeed, we have a number of children in our Church Family, they too are sisters and brothers in the Family of God here in the Ely United Methodist Church who enhance and inspire our worship services through their participation in Children's Time.

Indeed, our worship experiences during 2017 are a good reminder of how **GOD** has **BLESSED** and continues to **BLESS** the Ely United Methodist Church with a **WONDERFUL** group of **GOD'S** children, brothers and sisters in the Family of God who love God and who show that love by seeking out ways to serve God and one another as sisters and brothers in the Family of God!!!

WOW, 2017 has been an awesome year for us; as we continue to seek out ways to nurture growth in our faith walk with **GOD** as brothers and sisters in the Family of God.

Indeed, inspired by our "Visioning Committee" and the awesome leadership of Jan Rue we have begun a **NEW** program which we are calling "**KID'S CLUB**" that meets on Wednesday afternoons following school. This group is basically for our K-6 youth and friends and we have had an awesome response averaging around 12-13 young people per session. Although Jan is our amazing teacher for the program, there are usually around 4-6 other amazing adults lending a helping hand.

Indeed, through the spring of the year we continued to have a wonderful 10-12 Youth Group led by Sheri Rue and Keith Rue. These young people have all moved on to college but they have continued to stay in touch with the Ely United Methodist Church Family. The "Kid's Club" program is hopefully going to be a feeder program for a future Youth Group for older youth in our Church Family.

Indeed, during this past year Chris Urbas has continued to nurture faith growth among our youth through our Sunday Morning Sunday school program. She has provided awesome dedication and commitment to our younger youth for a vast number of years now and her "labors of love" have been a rich blessing from God!!!

Indeed, from Bible Study to "Guild" to before worship Sunday school, and studies like those for "Advent" or the "Five Love Languages" Study we have had a year rich with opportunity to nurture growth in our faith walk with God and with each other as children in the Family of God.

Indeed, our educational opportunities during 2017 are a good reminder of how **GOD** has **BLESSED** and continues to **BLESS** the Ely United Methodist Church with a **WONDERFUL** group of **GOD'S** children, sisters and brothers in the Family of God who love God and who show that love by seeking out ways to serve God and one another as brothers and sisters in the Family of God!!!

WOW, 2017 has been an awesome year for us; as our “Visioning Committee” continues to look for a variety of ways to enhance our potential for being in ministry with God and with each other in vital and meaningful ways.

Indeed, from faith enrichment through studies, to the efforts to encourage faith growth through “Kid’s Club” and “Family Movie Night” to beginning a “Comfort Basket” program these sisters and brothers in our Church Family are willing to try, are willing to fail, and willing to try again, with God’s help we will find ground for growth as the Family of God here in the Ely United Methodist Church.

Indeed, through the “Visioning Committee’s” efforts and the establishment of our “Kid’s Club” we are also entering into a commitment to using “Safe Gathering” Training as a valuable part of our work as the Family of God here in the Ely United Methodist Church. To date, five people in our Church Family have taken the Training/Background Check program and passed.

Indeed, our “Visioning Committee” team for 2017 is a good reminder of how **GOD** has **BLESSED** and continues to **BLESS** the Ely United Methodist Church with a **WONDERFUL** group of **GOD’S** children, brothers and sisters in the Family of God who love God and who show that love by seeking out ways to serve God and one another as sisters and brothers in the Family of God!!!

WOW, 2017 has been an awesome year for us; because of the awesome generosity of our brothers and sisters here in the Ely United Methodist Church during the year.

Indeed, thanks to the generosity of finances by the children of God here in the Ely United Methodist Church during this past year our gifts by way of the offering plate have enabled us to continue to participate in God’s Ministries in a great variety of meaningful ways with a relative sense of ease.

Indeed, thanks to the generosity of time and skills by the children of God in our Church Family to our wonderful “Pasty Making Ministry” and our every other year “All Church Bazaar” sponsored by the U.M.W. we have also been blessed by additional resources enabling us to be actively involved in God’s Ministries.

Indeed, as has been the case in every year prior to this it looks like we will yet again be able to meet our responsibility in relation to our Annual Conference Apportionments for 2017.

Indeed, the spirit of generosity among us during 2017 is a very good reminder of how **GOD** has **BLESSED** and continues to **BLESS** the Ely United Methodist Church with a **WONDERFUL** group of **GOD’S** children, sisters and brothers in the Family of God who love God and who show that love by seeking out ways to serve God and one another as brothers and sisters in the Family of God!!!

WOW, 2017 has been an awesome year for us; because of ways we have continued to participate in reaching out in ministry beyond ourselves.

Indeed, the shining light of the “M & M’s” or the “Methodist Milers” as coordinated by Lucy Diesslin was a phenomenal example of what we as a Church Family can do and are doing. We did a wonderful job of fund raising and in team participation with regards to the Ely “American Cancer Walk” in 2017!!!

Indeed, our “Hearts Two Hands” Quilting Group as coordinated by Toni Floyd continues year after year to give quilts to “At-Risk Kids” and “Foster Care Kids” and

once a year makes pillowcases for “Children in the Essentia Pediatric Ward” this year we provided **WOW** 138 pillowcases for a grand total 900 pillowcases to date, awesome!!!

Indeed, during this past year we have continued to participate in providing worship services to both the “Boundary Water Care Center” and the “Care Free Living” Care Centers in the community of Ely.

Indeed, during this past year we again hit our goal for the Minnesota Annual Conference program of mission outreach called “Reach, Renew, Reach”. This is the third straight year we have reached our goal \$2,000.00 year one \$1,000.00 year two, and \$1,000.00 year three.

Indeed, we can also celebrate our participation with “Stanley” and the Ely Food Shelf”, with Ely Community Resources and our “Giving Tree” at Christmas Time, and our gifts to Hurricane Relief by way of UMCOR.

Indeed, we can also celebrate our efforts in the Senior Apartments of the community as we continued this year through the able coordination of Jay Tomlinson with an assist from his wife Jeanne Tomlinson to provide decorated Christmas Trees in the Senior Apartments, awesome.

Indeed, our focus on ministry with God beyond ourselves during 2017 is a very good reminder of how **GOD** has **BLESSED** and continues to **BLESS** the Ely United Methodist Church with a **WONDERFUL** group of **GOD’S** children, sisters and brothers in the Family of God who love God and who show that love by seeking out ways to serve God and one another as brothers and sisters in the Family of God!!!

WOW, 2017 has been an awesome year for us; because of the fellowship we have shared as sisters and brothers in the Family of God.

Indeed, as an outgrowth of the “Visioning Committee” we have participated in 4 quarterly church Pot Luck Dinners this past year (one was our 125th celebration dinner). This Pot Luck was held following worship and we have had wonderful attendance to each one. Now, we also had our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner as well following Saturday afternoon tree and sanctuary decorating.

Indeed, we continue to try and maintain coffee fellowship following worship on all the other Sunday’s of the year. We give thanks that there are a few of our brothers and sisters who are willing to go the extra mile to provide this fellowship time because it is extremely valuable for our connecting with each other as God’s Family!!!

Indeed, our Prayer Chain Team and our Prayer Shawl Ministry are also valuable ways that we continue to nurture fellowship with each other as the Family of God.

Indeed, the fellowship we have shared in together as God’s Family during 2017 is a very good reminder of how **GOD** has **BLESSED** and continues to **BLESS** the Ely United Methodist Church with a **WONDERFUL** group of **GOD’S** children, sisters and brothers in the Family of God who love God and who show that love by seeking out ways to serve God and one another as brothers and sisters in the Family of God!!!

WOW, 2017 has been an awesome year for us; because of sisters and brothers in the Family of God among us who are looking forward to a new year with big changes on the horizon.

Indeed, the “Pastor Staff-Parish Relations Committee” has done a wonderful job of framing a new “Church Profile”, communicating with our District Superintendent, and visioning about the reality of new clergy leadership coming in June of 2018.

Indeed, with all of the Church Family Members here in the Ely United Methodist Church who are continuing to seek to participate in Ministry with God in an active way, the upcoming transitions the church will face can be seen as a wonderful opportunity for new ministry among us. Yes, we can look forward with an eye towards potential!!!

*Indeed, a forward looking spirit within our Church Family during 2017 is a good reminder of how **GOD** has **BLESSED** and continues to **BLESS** the Ely United Methodist Church with a **WONDERFUL** group of **GOD’S** children, brothers and sisters in the Family of God who love God and who show that love by seeking out ways to serve God and one another as sisters and brothers in the Family of God!!!*

Love in Christ, Dana

**SERVE IN MINISTRY
GROW IN LOVE FOR GOD & ONE ANOTHER
WORSHIP AS THE FAMILY OF GOD
SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER
LET US WELCOME 2018 AS WE SEEK TO
WALK WITH GOD !!!
LET US WELCOME 2018 AS WE SEEK TO
WORK WITH GOD !!!**