

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Well, it is possible that a few of us have become concerned; yes, concerned that we may find ourselves in the midst of an “endless” winter!!!

“**SNOW, SNOW, SNOW**” it may seem as though we have had an “endless” amount of snow this winter, but we are not going to have an “endless” winter!!!

“**COLD, COLD, COLD**” it may seem as though we have had an “endless” amount of cold this winter, but we are not going to have an “endless” winter!!!

However, many of us will admit that after a time, after days and days of snow fall upon snow fall, after days and days of cold upon cold, with temperatures continuing to plummet without any relief it can become hard to have a sense of “**HOPE, HOPE, HOPE**” about the possibility of a new day dawning!!!

Yes but, don't you just love those “**YES BUT**” moments in life; there comes a day with just one little spark, a ray, a twinkling, a 50+ degree day, sparking “**NEW HOPE**” for a summer yet to **BE!!!** Indeed, the snow is not going to be “endless” nor is the cold going to be “endless” for we have been blessed with a spark of “**HOPE**” for a summer yet to **BE!!!**

As Christians, as children in the Family of God, we can from the Scriptures recall a moment in time when a woman stood outside an “**EMPTY TOMB**”, she was “**WEEPING**”, and the tears she wept were the tears of sadness!!!

As Mary Magdalene stood outside the “**EMPTY TOMB**” weeping, she wept because someone she loved very much, Jesus had died; she wept as well because someone had taken the body of Jesus out of the tomb in which had been laid. As Mary Magdalene stood outside of the tomb weeping we can almost feel the hopelessness of what seemed to be “endless” amount of grief, no Jesus and no body to be found!!!

However, a spark, a ray, a twinkling, a new day about to dawn, when **JESUS** appeared to Mary **ALIVE** calling her by name; “**NEW HOPE**” and tears of **JOY!!!**

EASTER is coming!!! Easter and the celebration of Easter are about the wonder of God's gracious **LOVE** for us as children in the Family of God!!!

EASTER is coming!!! Easter and the celebration of Easter are about God's precious gift of **HOPE** for us as children in the Family of God!!!

EASTER is coming!!! Easter and the celebration of Easter are about God's offer for the **RENEWAL** of our relationships with God as children in the Family of God!!!

EASTER is coming!!! Easter and the celebration of Easter are about God's precious gift of **NEW LIFE** through **CHRIST JESUS** our **LORD!!!** Let us praise **GOD** for the **HOPE** sparked by what we as God's children call Easter!!!

Love in Christ,

Dana

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES March 19, 2014
Ely United Methodist Church Number Present: 8

Chairman Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Pastor Dana Thompson began the meeting with an Opening Thought from “The Daily Devotional”, followed by an opening prayer.

The **Minutes** of the **February 19, 2014 Ad Council Meeting** were approved as printed.

The **Treasurer’s Reports** for **February, 2014** was presented by Treasurer Mark Olson and was accepted. The February end of the month account balances:

Checking Account: \$787.91 – Church General Fund: \$196.25, Parish Health designated: \$516.66, Choir designated: \$75.00

Building Fund Savings Account: \$26,058.83; Building Fund: \$21,058.83, Undesignated: \$5,000

Memorial Fund Savings Account: \$11,621.31

The **Board of Trustees** will meet on **Monday April 7, 2014, 7:00 PM**.

The **Memorial Committee** - Approved funds to purchase a new photocopier.

The **Pastor Parish Relations Committee** met with Dana on March 5, 2014. The committee is expecting the annual pastor evaluation forms from the Conference.

Old Business

1. **Grinnell Mutual Insurance - Church Inspection** – A representative of Grinnell Mutual Insurance visited the Church on **Friday, February 21, 2014 at 2:00 PM** meeting with Jay, Dana and Butch. All requested information given and some photos taken. All comments were favorable.
2. **Pasty making for the Lenten Supper** –Thursday April 3, 2:00 PM in our church Fellowship Hall.

3. **Hosting Lenten Supper** – Thursday April 3, 2014, 6:00 PM at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church.

New Business

1. **Starting a Church Men’s Group** – Butch, Keith and other men of the Church have the feeling that a Church Men’s group might be viable and beneficial. The Ad Council approved exploring the interest level of the men via announcements and initial gathering on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 7:00 PM.
2. **March Pasty Report.** Made 751 Pasties; Gross Sales \$4,516.00; Materials Cost \$1,492.62; Total Revenue \$3,023.33 to UMW.
3. **Youth Service** – The Administrative Council and Dana gave support to the Wednesday Youth Group leading a worship service.
4. **Petty Cash** The Administrative Council approved transferring \$150 to the Pastor’s Petty Cash Fund from the General Fund.
5. **Photo Copier** The Administrative Council approved the purchase of a new photocopier for the Church.
6. **High School All-night Graduation Party** Approved a minimum donation from the Church of \$50. A free-will donation will be taken on Sunday April 13 2014, with any additional funds coming from the General Fund.
7. **Natural Church Development Survey** Approved the purchase of the survey and analysis.

Items of Information

1. **April Pasty Making – April 14-15, 2014**
2. **All-Church Pot Luck Dinner – 6:00 PM, Monday, March 24, 2014**
3. **Public Presentation – Heidi Schneider – “Judaism on One Foot: An Introduction to Jewish Practices” - 7:00 PM, Monday, March 24, 2014, after the All-Church Potluck.**
4. **April Administrative Council Meeting** – Wednesday April 16, 2014, 7:00 PM

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:42PM. The meeting was closed by those attending reciting “*The Lords Prayer*”.

Respectfully Submitted, Blaine “Butch” Diesslin

INSPIRATION: John 20: 1-18

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned to him and said in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.”

CHURCH MEN’S GROUP?

The men of the Ely United Methodist Church are very visible in their participation in, and support of, the activities and programs of the Church.

The significant level of men participating in the current Church programs has led male members of the Ad Council to wonder if there is interest in forming a Church Men’s Group.

We shared our thoughts with the entire Ad Council on March 19, 2014 and were unanimously supported to find out if there is sufficient interest among the men of the church to form a men’s group.

Butch, Keith and Jay agreed to share exploring the idea of a church men’s group with the other men of the church, to see if there is sufficient interest. Please share your thoughts.

We would like to invite interested men to attend a gathering at the Church, **7 PM, Tuesday, April 8, 2014**. The turnout and comments will indicate if a men’s group will be started. The activities and goals of the men’s group - to be determined

PASTY REPORT: March 2014

Pasties made	751
Gross Sales on pasties-	\$4,516.00
Material Costs on pasties-	\$1,492.62
Total Revenue on pasties-	\$3,023.38

Prayer Chain

BIBLE STUDY:

April 2014
Thursday 2:00 P.M.

For those who may not be aware, and as a reminder to those who do, we have an active and effective Prayer Chain ministry in our church.

If you have a prayer request, please call Linda Hane at 365-5757 or 218-343-5022 or call Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8470 or send an email to tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com.

They will start phone calls that will go through the Prayer Phone Chain and also send an email 'blast' to those on the Prayer Email List.

We have seen the incredible power of prayer through this vital ministry. If you would like to be in the Phone Chain or the Email List, please contact Jeanne Tomlinson.

Special Announcement:

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday April 20th 2014

Come to Worship our Loving and Gracious God !!!

Thursday April 10-
Genesis 30: 1-43

Thursday April 17-
Genesis 31: 1-55

Thursday April 24-
Genesis 32: 1-32; 33: 1-20

MAUNDY – THURSDAY

COMMUNION SERVICE:

Thursday April 17
7:00 P.M.

Scripture & Light Remembrance
with Holy Communion

Yes, come share in a remembrance of the Last Supper of Jesus with the original disciples; come and share in a special remembrance of the "Last Supper" as present day disciples of Jesus'. Yes, come, pause, and reflect in preparation for the celebration of Easter, come, pause, and reflect on what God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, have provided to us through the Cross of Good Friday and the RESURRECTION of EASTER!!!
