

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

What is that cute little saying people sometimes use; well, it goes something like this they're just "like two peas in a pod"!!!

Indeed, that is what they are, who are; well, you know who. I am sure that during your lifetime it has not escaped your attention that these common characters, yes indeed "characters" are in truth what we might call kindred spirits.

They are just "like two peas in a pod", pea one the world famous, yes world famous EASTER BUNNY and pea two that world famous, yes world famous SAINT NICHOLAS who may be more well known by his common name SANTA CLAUS!!!

"Two peas in a pod", the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus, how can that be, one is winter time and one is spring time? Well, just take a few moments pause and think about it and it will become clear.

First, whether we are talking Easter Bunny or Santa Claus they both wear whiskers under their noses. Second, the Easter Bunny has a cute little white bunny tail and Santa Claus has a white beard. Third, the Easter Bunny is a favorite of little children, and of this truth there is no doubt when it comes to Santa Claus. Fourth, the Easter Bunny has hopped down many a bunny trail, while Santa Claus has hopped down many a chimney. Fifth, but certainly not least, the Easter Bunny is very generous hiding Easter Baskets filled with goodies for all the children to find, while Santa Claus shows his generosity by leaving Christmas gifts under the Christmas Tree.

*One, two, three, four, and five, the **Easter Bunny** and **Santa Claus**, are clearly just "like two peas in a pod"!!!*

However, the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus have absolutely nothing on GOD, JESUS, the HOLY SPIRIT, providing us with those very generous and gracious "two peas in a pod" special gifts of CHRISTMAS and EASTER!!!

When we pause to consider the wonder of CHRISTMAS and the gift of a little baby boy named JESUS who was born in Bethlehem, and when we close in on, the center of it all, at its' core we are looking at GOD'S gracious LOVE reaching out to humanity!!!

When we pause to consider the wonder of EASTER and Mary Magdalene going to the tomb where JESUS had been laid only to discover "the stone rolled away" and "the tomb empty" because as she herself proclaimed to the disciples "I have seen the Lord" and when we consider the wonder of the RESURRECTION, and when we close in on, the center of it all, at its' core we are looking at GOD'S gracious LOVE reaching out to humanity!!!

Love and love again, ultimately revealed to humanity by our "Triune God" when it comes to Christmas and Easter they can be described as "two peas in a pod" because of the wonder of GOD'S gracious LOVE for God's children!!!

Love in Christ,

Dana

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

March 18, 2015

Ely United Methodist Church

Number Present: 7

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

Pastor Dana Thompson provided the “Opening Thought” from Jimmy Houston’s “*Hooked For Life*”, about how a map can not catch fish, but can help lead you to fish and the Bible can not save you but can help lead you to being saved. The “Opening Thought” was followed by prayer.

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

The **Treasurer’s Report** for February 2015 was presented and highlighted by Treasurer Mark Olson. The February end of the month account balances – Building Fund: \$ 21,591.86, Memorial Fund: \$ 11,052.95; Parish Health Ministries \$516.66; Reach, Renew, Rejoice \$1,100.00; Zach Dean \$675.00; Undesignated Funds \$ 3,000; General Fund: \$1,895.12. Mark pointed out that the February income reported included Pasties monies from both January and February and a \$2,000 transfer from the Undesignated Fund approved at the February Ad Council meeting. He also pointed out that the percentage of Pasties net income going to the General Fund is 60%.

Committee Reports

The **Board of Trustees** reported the UMW purchased a new washing machine for the Parsonage. Next meeting is to be April 6. \$100 was charged by the city for unfreezing the water line to the church.

Outreach will be hosting a Quilting Day on Saturday, March 21, to benefit the *Wounded Warriors Program*.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **New Church Directory.** An article will appear in *The Fish* in April or May about the new church Directory.
2. **Reach, Renew, Rejoice** – \$25 was received in February to move the total received to date: \$1,125. The Board felt that no funds should be sent until the end of the year when \$2,020 of the total would be sent with any balance carried forward to the following year’s commitment.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Movie Day: The Visioning Committee** will be hosting a movie day on April 12th as part of our **Outreach** for all church members and the Ely community. The movie is *God Is Not Dead*. The viewing permit of \$85 has been paid from the Outreach budget and the Ely Echo is donating ad space for 2 weeks. Northland Market will be donating refreshments and drinks for the event.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A Thank You letter from the Zach Dean family was received and posted on the bulletin board.
2. A Progress Report on our Guatemalan child support for Elvelin Sarai Jiatz Cutzal who is now 12 years old was received and posted on the bulletin board.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **March Pasty Report:** Made 753 pasties. Gross Income: \$4,535; Expenses: \$1,385.16; Net Income: \$3,149.84.
2. **Lenten Supper Pasty Making – Thursday March 19, 2015 – Start time is 2:00 PM.**
3. **April Pasty Making – April 20 & 21.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM, and was closed with the unison reciting of *The Lord’s Prayer*.

Respectfully Submitted, by Jay Tomlinson, Ad Council Chair, for Blaine “Butch” Diesslin, Ad Council Secretary

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

Lucy Diesslin opened the meeting with a prayer at 2 pm. The minutes from our January 28 meeting were read and approved as written. There was no Treasurer’s Report.

Old Business

- *Women’s Worship Service on April 26, 2015:* Lucy suggested maybe getting Suzanne to do a sermon or someone from the Emma Norton facility to talk about it, but it was felt that we should stick with women from the church. Lucy had found a good sermon on-line about Forgiveness that we could have read – maybe using several readers. Jeanne has a number of inspirational short stories from her brother-in-law’s church newsletter. We’ll bring these to the March meeting and decide from there. We have a number of women who have signed up to help.
- *North Star District request for donation:* Tootsie Loe was not available to speak to this.

New Business

- Bonnie Berglund had forwarded a letter from the District to Lucy to share with the group asking us to consider possibly hosting a District event sometime in 2016, 2017 or 2018. We discussed it briefly since it seems impractical to actually have an event here given the distance folks would have to travel. We decided to table this and discuss it after Bonnie is back.
- Lucy also distributed a flier about the “North Star District Day Apart” event on March 21. We were pleased that this time we actually got the information before the event although it is in Paynesville so too far to be practical.

- We discussed the May Friendship dinner. We decided on Tuesday May 19 as the date so that we can include that information in the April newsletter. We already have a commitment from Caroline Owens to share a presentation about her experiences this past year in Africa – she worked with a group to help set up a library in Ghana to help kids who had been trafficked in the fishing industry there.
- Dana had asked earlier if Lucy could find the UMW minutes that documented the change in the pasty money distribution percentages. Lucy found the meeting minutes and reported that on Sunday May 29, 2011 we had voted to allocate pasty profits as follows: 10% to the Building Fund, 30% to UMW and 60% to the General Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

PASTY REPORT MARCH 2015:

Pasties Made----753
Total Deposit-----\$4,535.00
Total Cost-----\$1,385.16
Net Gain-----\$3,149.84

UMW:

The United Methodist Women will be leading the Worship Service on April 26.

If you would like to help out in any way – perhaps providing refreshments, ushering, providing special music, reading scriptures, providing an inspirational talk – please contact Jeanne Tomlinson at 235-8470.

BIBLE STUDY:

April 2015

Thursday April 16- Philippians 1: 1-30

Thursday April 23- Philippians 2: 1-30

Thursday April 30- Philippians 3: 1-21, Philippians 4: 1-23

***MAUNDY-THURSDAY
COMMUNION SERVICE:***

Thursday April 2, 7:00 P.M.

**“Communion Service of Candle Lights and Scriptures”
Everyone Welcome**

SPECIAL SHOWING:

Ely U.M.C. Sponsoring

Sunday April 12, 2015 Presentation of

“GOD IS NOT DEAD”

1:00 P.M.

Ely U.M.C. Sanctuary

Free Popcorn like Refreshments Provided

Will set a 10 Minute Intermission to Stretch

Everyone Is Welcome

*Open to the Community of Ely
Bring a Friend*

*Special Showing Takes Place---
April 12, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.*

The Sunday After we Celebrate Easter!!!
