

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Wow, we have certainly had some warm weather in early March. Yes, we have had the kind of warm weather that can begin to cause a person to **“THINK SPRING”!!!**

Wow, we have not even reached April quite yet and there is a sense of **“SPRING IS IN the AIR”!!!**

Wow, as we move toward April and we come to the first day on the calendar for the month of April, we find a day which has been labeled **“APRIL FOOLS”** day!!!

Wow, wow, and wow again, while looking outside there is some brand new white **STUFF** coming down out of the sky. Now, you may correct me if I am wrong but I believe that new white **STUFF** is called **SNOW**, but please say it is not **SO!!!**

Ah, all those **PRE-SEASON** jitters and **“ICE OUT”** or not, **“SPRING** has definitely not **“SPRUNG”!!!**

Well, it seems some of us have experienced just a bit of false **HOPE** with regards to **“SPRING”!!!**

We just recently came off the celebration of **EASTER** and **EASTER SUNDAY!!!** However, before what we today, call **EASTER SUNDAY** was a day we now refer to as **GOOD FRIDAY!!!**

When we reference **GOOD FRIDAY** we are making reference to the **CRUCIFIXION** of our Lord and Savior **JESUS CHRIST!!!** Clearly, the many people who followed **JESUS** and thought that he might be the **MESSIAH** were likely feeling a bit disillusioned by the **HOPE** they had experienced because of **JESUS!!!**

Indeed, Jesus had taught those who gathered to him with great wisdom and understanding. Indeed, Jesus had also demonstrated great love and compassion towards those who gathered around him seeking a new path. Indeed, Jesus had performed miracle after miracle before those who gathered around him. Often times, it was even the enemies of Jesus who acknowledged these miracles had been done. Is there any real wonder why those who followed Jesus had been sparked with a spirit of **HOPE???**

The difference between “Think Spring” and “Spring is in the Air” and the white “Stuff” coming down out of the sky, and a feeling of “False Hope” and **JESUS**, is found in the **“FALSE READING”** of **GOOD FRIDAY** as a realization of “False Hope” in **JESUS** as the **MESSIAH!!!**

Recall, the **EMPTY TOMB**; recall, Mary Magdalene and her personal encounter with **JESUS** following the **RESURRECTION**; recall, the disciples of Jesus behind locked doors and their personal encounter with **JESUS** following the **RESURRECTION**; and finally recall, a man who became famously known as the original “Doubting Thomas” and his personal encounter with **JESUS** following the **RESURRECTION**; now then, when it comes to **JESUS** the **MESSIAH** we find a sense of **HOPE** which **SPRINGS** forth when we open our hearts in **FAITH** to the wonder of **GOD’S LOVE** for us!!!

An **“APRIL FOOL”**, not when “Good Friday” is followed by “Easter Sunday” in the hearts, minds, and spirits of **GOD’S** children whose **HOPE SPRINGS** forth from the wonder of **GOD’S** gracious **LOVE!!!**

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Ely United Methodist Church

March 16, 2016

Number Present: 7

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

Attendees: Jay Tomlinson, Jeanne Tomlinson, Margie Olson,

Mark Olson, Lucy Diesslin, Dana Thompson, Butch Diesslin

Pastor Dana Thompson began the meeting with an Opening

Thought from “The Upper Room” devotional for March 16, 2016, followed by an opening prayer.

The Minutes of the February 17, 2016 Ad Council meeting were approved as printed. (Lucy D/Margie O)

The **Treasurer’s Report** for February, 2016 was presented by

Treasurer Mark Olson and accepted. The February end of the

month account balances - General Fund: \$3,512.81; Building

Fund: \$27,805.68; Memorial Fund: \$11,973.51; Parish Health

Ministries 481.66; Undesignated Funds \$3,000, R3 Project

\$306.00. M/Jeanne/S/Lucy

The **Board of Trustees** will be meeting April 4, 2016. The

Church’s fire extinguishers will undergo an annual checking in the

near future. The extinguishers will now be inspected by Summit

Sales & Services of Grand Rapids, MN at a lesser cost than

Nardini Fire Equipment, Co., of Brainerd.

The **Memorial Committee** will be meeting in May, 2016.

The **Visioning Committee** will meet April 6, 2016.

### Old Business

1. **Church Furnace Project – Update** – The two new furnaces have been ordered.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. **Church Computer Printer Replacement** – The Ad Council unanimously approved the purchase of a new printer for the Church Office. Mark Olson offered to evaluate options and buy a printer. (M/Margie/S/Jeanne)
2. **Petty Cash Fund** – The Church’s Petty Cash Fund needs to additional funds. Unanimously approved transferring \$200 from the Church’s General Fund. M/Lucy/S/Jeanne
3. **Parish Health Ministries – Prayer Shawl Ministries Fund Transfer** Donna Rusco, Parish Health Ministries Chair, requested the Ad Council approve the transfer of a portion of the Parish Health Ministries funds to the Prayer Shawl

Ministries fund. Motion Lucy, second by Margie, to transfer \$81.66. Motion approved.

4. **Bibles for the Children of the Church** Pastor Dana requested the purchase of 10 Bibles to be given to the children of the Church when the child’s reading is at the 3rd grade level. Motion by /Lucy/S/Jeanne/ Approved

### ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **“War Room” Study Books for Library** – The Ad Council approved having approximately 10 copies of the “War Room” Study Book, in the Church Library with the “War Room” DVD, for future self-study. Current participants in the discussion group will be asked to donate their “clean” study books after the close of the current study.
  2. **New Church Directory** – The new pictorial directories of the Church Family have arrived and are available for pick-up at the Church. A BIG “**Thank You**” to everyone for participating, and a special **Thank You** to the volunteers involved in the design, layout, proof-reading, etc.
  3. **Lenten Supper** – Our Lenten Supper on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at St Anthony’s Fellowship Hall had paid attendance of 65 people (\$196), an additional 90 pasties were sold (\$270) for take-home. Total Expenses were \$248.80, Net Income to UMW of \$21.20 (compared to a 2015 net income to UMW of -\$37.21).
  4. **March Pasty Report** – by Jay Tomlinson – Made 755 pasties; Sales Receipts Deposited: \$4,515; Expenses \$1,305.84; Net Income: \$3,209.16. March 2015 comparison: Made 753 pasties; Net Income \$3,149.84.
  5. **New Church Tables** – Six new resin-topped tables have been purchased for use in the Fellowship Hall. Six of the older tables will be available for loan to Church family members on a ‘first come’ basis.
  6. **April Pasty Making – April 18-19, 2016**  
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.  
The meeting was closed by those attending reciting “**The Lords Prayer**”.
- Respectfully Submitted,  
Blaine “Butch” Diesslin, Ad. Council Secretary

***PASTY REPORT:***

**March 2016**

Pasties Made- 755  
Deposit of Sales- \$ 4,515.00  
Expenses- \$ 1,305.84  
Income- \$ 3,209.16

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***BIBLE STUDY:***

**April 2016  
(Parables of Jesus)  
Thursday 2:00 P.M.**

Thursday April 7- Matthew 21: 33-44  
Thursday April 14- Matthew 18: 21-35  
Thursday April 21- Matthew 25: 14-30  
Thursday April 28- Luke 14: 8-33

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***“BOUNDARY WATERS CARE CENTER”***

*Worship Service*

*Sunday April 24, 2016*

*2:30 P.M.*

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***“CARE FREE LIVING”***

*Worship Service*

*Wednesday April 20, 2016*

*1:15 P.M.*

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***SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:***

New Photo Directories are

Available in Church Office

We would like each Church Family Household to  
Pick up a Directory

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## ***SNOW SHOVELING 2015-16***

***THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS !!!  
YOU HAVE BEEN AWESOME !!!***

### **Sidewalks and Ramp:**

**November- Mark Olson**  
**December- The Richter Family**  
**January- Bruce Olson**  
**February- Justin Zemke**  
**March- Bruce Olson**  
**April- ??? Really ???**

### **Parking Lot Plowing and Parsonage Driveway:**

**Phil Hegfors**  
**Butch Diesslin**

Yes, we thank you all for your **AWESOME** efforts in dealing with the snow situations of the 2015-16 winter!!! **GREAT JOB !!!**

Well now, soon it will be time to start thinking about “Lawn Mowing Volunteers”---at this time it appears like we have May, June, July, August, September, and October available for the taking---however, no sign-up sheet has been set out yet---still given we are looking at April this should not be considered an “April Fool’s” idea!!!

The **Guild/UMW** at Ely United Methodist Church on Wednesday February 24, 2016

The Guild/UMW met at the Church with 4 people in attendance. At 2:05 pm, Secretary Jeanne Tomlinson opened the meeting and asked Pastor Dana Thompson to say a short prayer.

The minutes from our November 16, 2015 meeting were read and approved as read; motion by Jeri Walburn and second by Tootsie Loe.

There was no Treasurer’s Report.

### **Old Business**

- For the **Reach-Renew-Rejoice** campaign, Jeanne reported that we had met our \$2020 pledge for 2015 and are now collecting funds for a 2016 goal of \$1000. She recommended we consider making a donation but felt that we probably need more people in attendance before discussing the amount so the topic was tabled.

### **New Business**

- Tootsie Loe shared an idea of a “Foodless Food Sale” that we might think about as a possible church fundraiser for this fall. This topic was also tabled until a future meeting date.
- Jeanne Tomlinson read a postcard from the UMW about March 23 being a “Second Annual Day of Giving” to the “Legacy Fund”. There was no interest in contributing more to the national organization than we currently give.

Our next meeting will be March 23. Janice Tessier will be hostess.