

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“O Happy Days”, often means different things to different people. “O Happy Days”, sprinkling a little joy in the hearts, minds, and spirits of individuals in a variety of ways.

“Joy to You and Me, and All the Boys and Girls” what a wonderful thought. “Joy to You and Me, and All the Boys and Girls” what a wonderful goal to nurture as people living in the world today.

“O Happy Days” and “Joy to You and Me All the Boys and Girls” sounds like an opportunity to celebrate! “O Happy Days” and “Joy to You and Me All the Boys and Girls” sounds like an opportunity to be “Merry”!

Happy, Joy, and Merry sounds like an opportunity to feel good, to feel good and to celebrate!

“O Happy Days” sounds a little bit like Christmas! “Joy to You and Me All the Boys and Girls” sounds a little bit like Christmas! Ah, yes indeed, happy, joy, and a little bit of “Merry Christmas” sparking some excitement in the hearts, minds, and spirits, of boys and girls of all ages across the land.

“O Happy Days”, “Joy to You and Me and All the Boys and Girls”, wrapped in a nice little package of “Merry Christmas” with Santa Claus, Christmas Trees, Christmas Decorations, Christmas Cookies, and Christmas Gifts! Wow, that is a lot of happy, a lot of joy, and a lot of merry, as family and friends reach out to one another in a spirit of celebration!

“O Happy Days” beyond Santa Claus, the Christmas Trees, the Christmas Decorations, and the Christmas Cookies; “O Happy Days” the Christmas Gift of the Christ Child, God’s gift to the world!

“Joy to You and Me, and All the Boys and Girls” beyond Santa Claus, the Christmas Trees, the Christmas Decorations, and the Christmas Cookies; “Joy to You and Me, and All the Boys and Girls” the Christmas Gift of the Christ Child, God’s gift to the world!

“**MERRY CHRISTMAS**” beyond Santa Claus, the Christmas Trees, the Christmas Decorations, and the Christmas Cookies; yes “**MERRY CHRISTMAS**” is the Christmas Gift of the Christ Child, God’s gift to the world! Truly, this is something which can nurture a happiness and joy and merriment within our hearts, minds, and spirits, a time to celebrate as the Children of God within the Family of God!!!

GOD’S gracious **LOVE** is revealed yet again, in the Christ Child, God’s love revealed not for one, or two, or three, **GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** revealed for one and for **ALL!!!**

“O Happy Day”, “Joy to You and Me, and All the Boys and Girls” wrapped in a very “Merry Christmas”, wrapped in an opportunity to feel good and to celebrate because of **GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** for us!!!

Although, our traditional **THANKSGIVING DAY** may be over and **DONE**, our reasons for **GIVING THANKS** unto our gracious and loving **GOD** who continues to nurture happiness, joy, and a bit of merriment in our hearts, minds, and spirits, wrapped in the gift of the **CHRIST CHILD** remains ever **PRESENT** with a great big **BOW** on the **PACKAGE** of **LOVE** for not one, or two, or three, but for **ALL!!!**

Love in Christ,

Dana

INSPIRATION:

Luke 2: 1-20

“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying’

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those who he favors!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

ADVENT SEASON

Study CONTINUES:

Sunday December 8---Chapter Four---

“From Nazareth to Bethlehem”

Sunday December 15---Chapter Five---

“The Manger”

ELY U.M.C.

BAZZAAR:

Well, our Ely U.M.C. Bazaar was held on November 9, 2013 and is was a huge success **THANKS** to the many people who took the time to **PARTICIPATE** in a variety of ways!!!

We say **THANK YOU** to those who lovingly labored, making cardamom bread, bake goods, and crafts!!!

We say **THANK YOU** to each and **EVERY** person who served in many and various ways, what a **BLESSING** you have been as a part of the Church Family!!!

Bazaar Total: \$2,477.50

ALPHA
ALPHA
ALPHA

ALPHA: Can be about MANY things to MANY people

-LEARNING about faith in GOD

-LIVING our faith in GOD

-SERVING by faith as GOD'S children

-RENEWING our faith as GOD'S children

ALPHA
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ALPHA:

BEGINS---January 12, 2014
Sundays at 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

BIBLE

STUDY:

December 2013

2:00 P.M.

Thursday December 5---I Corinthians Chapters 12

Thursday December 12---I Corinthians Chapter 13

NEWSLETTER BLURB:

Make your voice heard; Minnesota Conference requests input for feasibility study

The Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church recently launched a feasibility study, and United Methodists across the state are being asked to participate. The study will assess the conference's readiness for a congregational development capital campaign to seed new faith communities across the state and help existing congregations like ours grow in strength, spirituality, and community impact.

Please visit the home page of the conference website (www.minnesotaumc.org) and click on "Feasibility Study" to learn more about the efforts underway and provide input through a brief online questionnaire. All responses submitted through the questionnaire are confidential and go directly to the consulting firm that's leading the conference through the feasibility study process.

Your feedback is important and will be used to formulate objectives and plans. Many of our church leaders are participating in the feasibility study. A report on the findings will be presented at the 2014 annual conference session.

ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE:

We will be setting the

Ely U.M.C. Conference

For Wednesday December 18, 7:00 P.M. just prior to our regularly scheduled Administrative Council Meeting to receive reports on budget, nominations, other.

EVERY ONE WELCOME

2014 Church Budget Set:

The Church Finance Committee met on Thursday November 7, 2013 to determine the Church's Budget for 2014. The end result is an estimate that the cost of operating the Church will be about \$100,000, or about \$130 more than the estimated cost of operation in 2013.

The Budget was developed by the committee by using known operating costs for the coming year – Conference Apportionments and Ministerial Support – and also making estimates of the other costs of operation of the Church.

The Finance Committee feels these Budget Expenses are realistic, conservative and achievable by the Church.

The Finance Committee is sharing this cost of operation estimate with each of the members of Ely UMC because – we; The Members; are the primary source of the money needed to pay these operating expenses.

The Finance Committee is telling each of us that if each of us increased our giving by 2 Cents for each Dollar we have given this year, the Church's revenue increase will be adequate to cover expenses.

We - as Members of the Ely UMC – must remember that the costs of operation of the Church need to be met, whether we are able to attend the Church's Worship Services or not.

Blaine "Butch" Diesslin, Finance Committee Chairman

GRASS IS GREEN --- SNOW IS WHITE !!!

We are now looking for volunteers for sidewalk snow shoveling for the winter months. We need to keep the Church sidewalks and entryways clear of snow and Ice during the winter months. Mark & Margie Olson have signed up for November, so December thru April need to be filled. Volunteers can sign up for a month at a time by themselves or get together with other people and do a month that way.

The walkways and sidewalks to the church entrances – the front door, the handicapped ramp and the rear door to the Fellowship Hall (basement) – must be kept safe for walking and be welcoming to those coming to the Church during the winter months.

The maintenance of the sidewalks entails the removal of snow and ice in a timely manner after a snowfall, to ensure the sidewalks are as safe as possible. **On Sunday mornings the walkways need to be shoveled before 8:30am**. The Church provides snow shovels, ice scrapers and brooms for removing snow and ice. These tools are stored in the Church garage during the summer months and are placed next to the front doors and the back door to the Fellowship hall during the winter months.

NOVEMBER PASTY REPORT:

2013-	2012-
801 Pasties Made	709 Pasties Made
\$4,816.00 Deposited	\$4,232.00 Deposited
\$1,363.87 Product/Supply Exp.	\$1,230.62 Product/Supply Exp.
\$3,452.13 Net Income	\$3,001.37 Net Income

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Ely United Methodist Church

Number Present: 9

November 20, 2013

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

Pastor Dana Thompson began the meeting with an Opening Thought from “The Upper Room”.

The Minutes of the October 16, 2013 Ad Council meeting were approved as printed.

The **Treasurer’s Reports** for October, 2013 was presented by Treasurer Mark Olson. The October end of the month account balances - General Fund: \$1,894.92; Building Fund: \$20,979.97; Reserve Fund \$5014.48, Memorial Fund: \$11,608.13

The **Board of Trustees** Chairperson Margie Olson reported the stairway remodel has been completed.

Thanks to Rich Floyd and Norman Rusco for the new carpentry, painting and lighting. Thanks also to Trustee members Butch Diesslin, Bryan Rusco and Mark Luthens.

The tile floors in the hallway and the kitchen have been stripped and waxed. The Fellowship Hall floor will be stripped and waxed in the summer.

There are sign-up opportunities for volunteers willing to shovel the snow off the Church Entrance sidewalks.

The Church’s emergency AED is now available in the back of the Church. Special Thanks to the family of Richard and Geri Floyd for the memorial to them used to purchase this potentially lifesaving device. Thanks also to Don Markwardt for making the beautiful storage box.

The **Finance Committee** met on Thursday, November 7, 2013 and developed the 2014 Church Budget. The 2014 Budget total is \$100,915.72. The budget will be approved at the Church Conference on Wednesday, December 18, 2013.

The **Memorial Committee** met and approved the purchase of flashlights to clip onto music for ease of reading when the room is darkened. The memorial committee also approved the purchase of new baptismal towels, as a memorial to Edward Curnow.

OLD BUSINESS

1.

November 9, 2013 Church Bazaar – Was considered a Success! The proceeds of the event totaled \$2,477.50. Many Thanks to all who assisted, donated and supported the event.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **November Pasty Report – Made 801 pasties; Materials and Supplies Expense: \$1363.87; Receipts: \$4,816; Net Income: \$3,452.13**

CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Ely Food Shelf** – Sent a Thank You letter for our donations of \$406 during the month of October.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **Decorating of the Church – Saturday, December 7, 2013, 4:00 PM.** Come and help decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. Decorating will be followed by a **Chili Supper**, featuring **Rod Loe’s** homemade Chili.
2. **Church Women’s Dinner** will be **Monday December 9, 2013.** Social gathering at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM. The meeting was closed by those attending reciting “**The Lord’s Prayer**”.

Respectfully Submitted, Blaine “Butch” Diesslin

SPECIAL NOTICE:

Women's Christmas Dinner

Join us on Monday, December 9, in the church Fellowship Hall for our annual Women's Christmas Dinner. We'll gather at 5:30 pm; dinner will be served at 6 pm with a short program following dinner. Northland Market will be catering the meal. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church. The cost is just \$10 per person, payable by December 8.

WOW WOW WOW !!!

CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24

7:00 P.M.

WOW WOW WOW !!!

CHRISTMAS TREE

DECORATING PARTY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7

4:00 P.M.

ROD LOE CHILI FEED FOLLOWS

WOW WOW WOW !!!

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

MONDAY DECEMBER 9

5:30 P.M.
