

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“Let it **SNOW**, let it **SNOW**, let it **SNOW**”, no, no, no, don’t “let it **SNOW!!!**”

Well, it is too late now; we have already been receiving bits of **SNOW** here and there!!!

Therefore, looking at trees with no leaves and bits of **SNOW** on the ground it is likely safe to say that we have left **FALL** behind and are now entering a new season, **WINTER!!!**

“Let it **SNOW**, let it **SNOW**, let it **SNOW**” and it just might be that I can be found “**DREAMING** of a **WHITE CHRISTMAS**”!!!

Indeed, Christmas trees are beginning to appear, “Hallmark Channel” is showing “Christmas Movies” around the clock or “twenty-four seven”, homes are beginning to be decorated with lights and yard displays, stores are full of Christmas Sales, and we are just now sending out our December version of the Ely U.M.C. newsletter called the “**FISH**”!!!

Clearly, we will be able to quickly add to all this festivity type activity, Christmas Cards, Christmas Cookies, and radios with Christmas Music like “**RUDOLPH** the **RED NOSED REINDEER**” blaring out, and Christmas Presents, Presents, and Presents!!! Yup, “**TIS** the **SEASON**”!!!

So then, let us make a suggestion for the coming season as we prepare to celebrate Christmas with all its’ festivity type activity and “**HO, HO, HO**” type of pleasantries going on among us!!!

Rather than “**SUGAR PLUMS DANCING IN OUR HEADS**” may we find becoming front and center “**IN OUR HEADS**” a very special “**JOY TO THE WORLD**” which is found in God’s gracious Christmas Gift baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Bethlehem, Angels, Shepherds, and maybe even a gathering of Three Wise Men!!!

“**WHAT CHILD IS THIS**”, which has sparked all this joyous celebration? Well, it is **GOD’S SON** and our very precious **SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST** the **LORD!!!** Indeed, Jesus born so long ago in that “**LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**”!!!

There is no **GREATER GIFT**, no more beautifully wrapped package, no more beautiful ribbon or bow to be found under any Christmas Tree anywhere in any city, town, or village, than **GOD’S** gracious **GIFT** of **JESUS**, found “**AWAY IN A MANGER**”!!!

“**O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**”; yes, let us come into this special new season of the year with hearts, minds, and spirits, focused anew on the **CHRIST** of **CHRISTmas!!!**

“**HARK! the HERALD ANGELS SING**” may each of us add our voices to the joyous celebration of the **CHRIST CHILD’S** birth and the wonder of **GOD’S** precious **LOVE** for each and every one of **US!!!**

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.”

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# ***CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE:***

*WEDNESDAY*

*DECEMBER 24, 2014*

*7:00 P.M.*

**EVERYONE  
WELCOME !!!**

**COME CELEBRATE  
THE WONDER OF**

**GOD’S GRACIOUS**

**LOVE FOR US !!!**

***BUDGET TIME---2015***

Yes, our budget for **2015** has been set by the Finance Committee. You will find the **2015** Budget as approved in this Newsletter.

Although we do not run an official pledge campaign, there are still some folks who like the process of making a pledge to the church. This is the time to make pledges for the year **2015**. Please note that our Budget for **2015** is only \$1,201.25 higher than it was in **2014**.

We give **THANKS** for the thoughtful and generous **GIVING** unto **GOD'S MINISTRY** here in the Ely U.M.C. during 2014 and look forward to our continued giving of our gifts of **LOVE** during **2015**.

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Pledge 2015

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge per Week

Or

Pledge per Month

Or

Pledge for Year

\*Drop pledge sheet in offering plate or mail to church office  
305 E. Camp St. Ely, MN. 55731

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**CONFIRMATION CLASSES:**

Yes, it is time to consider offering our 7-9 grade **YOUTH** the opportunity to---

---thoughtfully spend **TIME** participating in the process of---

**---CONFIRMING THEIR BAPTISMAL VOWS!!!**

We are looking at offering Confirmation Classes in the coming two years if there are enough of our youth who are ready to participate in the process of "Confirming their Baptismal Vows".

The class schedule is at this time:

**January 2015 through May 2015**

1<sup>st</sup> Two Wednesdays of each month  
6:15-6:55 P.M.  
Ten Classes

**September 2015 through March 2016**

1<sup>st</sup> Two Wednesdays of each month  
6:15-6:55 P.M.  
Fourteen Classes

All young people and parents **PLEASE** give thoughtful consideration to this important step in our "**FAITH**"

**JOURNEY'** and our "**WALK WITH GOD**"!!! Please begin thinking about confirming Baptism vows!!!

**YOUTH GROUP:**

Many of you may recall last spring when our Ely U.M.C. Youth Group led one of our worship services.

Well, we are trying to coordinate another worship service with the Youth Group leading us in worship for this fall. Tentatively we are looking at **Sunday December 14, 2014**

We would ask our Church Family to be in prayer for our youth and for this special effort in ministry with God as we begin preparing for this special moment in time for worship and for fellowship.

\*\*\*Yes, this is a re-scheduled Event\*\*\*

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**ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE PREP**  
**IN PROCESS:**

The Budget has been set, nominations are completed, and our Annual Church Conference has been set:

We will hold our Annual Church Conference  
At 7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday December 17, 2014

\*Prior to the Ad. Council Meeting held on that night  
**“3 SIMPLE RULES”:**

Yes, coming, in the New Year, 2015 we will be having a follow-up study program to piggy-back on and off of our 2014 “ALPHA” program of 2014.

The study will be based on the book “3 Simple Rules” written by Rueben P. Job. We have ordered 20 books to hand out to those who have not received them through other avenues (Patty Rusco has donated a number of books to ongoing groups within the church), plus 30 study guides to be used during the program (we will hopefully need to order more).

We will be running the program on Sundays like we did “Alpha” from 1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.---with adjustments on Nursing Home Sundays (One or Two).

“Alpha” is **NOT** a requirement for “**3 Simple Rules**” we were just looking for a means to expand and enhance our potential for growing as a Church Family! This new **STUDY** is for everyone!!!

This is a 6 week course  
starting  
**Sunday February 1, 2015**  
through  
**Sunday March 8, 2015.**

The study focuses on  
living life with  
three basic rules:

1. Do no harm

2. Do all the good you can

3. Stay in love with God

#### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

November 19, 2014

Ely United Methodist Church: Number Present: 7

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” devotional for the day.

The minutes of the October 14, 2014 Administrative Council meeting were approved as printed in the Church Newsletter for October 2014. The Treasurer’s report for October, 2014 was accepted as presented. The October end of the month General Fund balance of \$953.58, a Building Fund balance of \$20,558.16, and a Memorial Fund balance of \$11,152.87.

#### Committee Reports

The Board of Trustees reported that Jim Nicholas installed a new lever handle latch – in place of the knob latch – on the door at the top of the stairs. This makes it possible for someone to open the door without emptying a hand.

Memorial Committee – Met November 4.

- Received a new projector for use with a computer, video players, etc.

- Received the donation of a wooden table as a memorial from the family of Charles Berglund.

- Rejected a request for additional permanent lighting in the choir seating area as not within the scope of the use of memorial funds.

Referred the request to the Ad Council.

- The committee is researching the purchase of a new portable projection screen.

Education Committee – No report.

Finance Committee – Met October 30, 2014 and developed the Church’s 2015 Budget, with a total of \$102,116.97; an increase of about \$1,201.25 over the 2014 proposed budget. The 2015 Budget was presented to the Administrative Council. The Administrative Council approved the proposed 2015 Church Budget. The final approval of the 2015 Church Budget will be at the Church’s Conference, December 17, 2014.

Nurture and Membership Committee – Received pictures of some of the infants wearing the knit hats made by church members.

Outreach Committee – “The Giving Tree” has 3 gift tags available. The gifts need to be under the giving tree at church for pickup by December 7.

Worship Committee – The committee is speaking with our youth about producing a Christmas program for the Church.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee – The Pastor’s annual evaluation has been completed and sent to the District Superintendent.

Parish Health Ministries – No report.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Pasty Making Filming for Ely TV. Two members of the staff of the Ely cable TV channel were at Monday’s pasty vegetable peeling, dough making sessions and at Tuesday’s pasty mixing, dough rolling, crimping, baking, bagging and selling. The scheduled showing time(s) are not known at this time.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Additional Lighting In Choir Seating Area – Consideration has been tabled for more detailed information on what is needed.
2. November Pasty Report – Made: 852 pasties, Sales Income: \$5,125, Expenses: \$1,596.53, Net Revenue: \$3,528.47
3. New Church Directory – The Church Directory is in need of being re-done. The current one is 5 years old and there have been many changes of the people of the church. Jeanne Tomlinson is heading a group arranging for the production of a new church directory, the summer of 2015.

#### ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. Church Men’s Group – Tuesday, December 2, 2014, 6 or 7 PM, Prehistoric Native American Tools Jay Tomlinson coordinating.
2. Church Christmas Tree and Sanctuary Decorating – Saturday, December 6, 2014, 4:00 PM
3. Church Conference – Wednesday, December 14, 2014, 7:00 PM
4. Hearts-2-Hands Quilters Will Not Meet November 25

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M. The meeting was closed by those attending reciting “The Lord’s Prayer”.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Blaine “Butch” Diesslin

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**SPECIAL REMINDER:**

2014 is A Non-BAZAAR Year!!!  
Begin thinking BAZAAR Year 2015!!! 11 MONTHS!!!  
**SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES:**

“Boundary Waters Care Center”  
Sunday December 28  
2:30 P.M.

“Ely Care Free Living”  
Wednesday December 24  
1:15 P.M.

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**BIBLE STUDY:**

December 2014 Thursday 2:00 P.M.

Thursday December 4,  
John Chapter 12  
Thursday December 11,  
John Chapter 13

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**MEN'S GROUP:**

Two up and coming events-

1. Men will led a worship service  
Sunday February 8, 2015
2. December gathering on  
Tuesday December 2, 2014 7:00 P.M  
Focus---“Prehistoric Native American Tools”.  
Presented by Jay Tomlinson---

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**PASTY REPORT NOVEMBER:**

Pasties Made----852  
Total Deposit-----\$5,125.00

Total Cost-----\$1,596.53  
Net Gain-----\$3,528.47  
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