

*Dear Sisters and Brothers,*

*Well, now it seems we have finally had our first bit of snow, and thanks to the Ely Memorial High School and their Play Troup I am guessing some of us are “Dreaming of a White Christmas, just like the ones we used to know”!*

*Ah yes, “Up on the rooftop reindeer pause out jumps good old Santa Claus down through the chimney with lots of toys all for the little ones Christmas joys.---Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go! Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go! Up on the rooftop click, click, click down thru the chimney with good Saint Nick”.*

*Ah yes, “Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.---The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes; I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.”*

*Clearly, we have been exposed to, not one but two very different perspectives on **CHRISTMAS**:*

*One perspective on Christmas is based on a vast variety of secular traditions, “Up on the rooftop reindeer...”*

*Another perspective on Christmas is derived from God's prophets of old as told orally and the Good News of the Gospels as recorded later in God's Holy Word, “Away in a manger...”*

*One perspective on Christmas at its' worst is a great commercial venture seeped in profit margins, and at its' best is a heartwarming expression of love shared by people one with another through various gifts and kindnesses.*

*Another perspective on Christmas is steeped in the **WONDER** of **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE** for all humanity: Let us refresh our minds with the words of the angel, as shared with the shepherds, who were out in the fields watching their flocks by night, “Do not be afraid; for see- I am bringing 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.”*

*One perspective on Christmas is frosted cookies, decorations, lights on houses and trees with packages wrapped with bows underneath and the busy noise of Santa's workshop. A celebration focused on a moment in time.*

*Another perspective on Christmas is that as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew and a prophecy fulfilled: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, ‘God is with us.’” Yes, God in Jesus leaving behind the wonder of God's Kingdom to journey with us, in order to guide us **HOME**. A celebration for the here and now with **ETERNAL** implications!!!*

*Let us pray one for another during this special season of the year in a spirit of “**MERRY CHRISTMAS**, which finds each one of us splashed with the renewing **WONDER** of **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE**; a **LOVE** which is meant for each of our brothers and sisters in the Family of God and is meant for us!!!*

*Love in Christ,*

*Pastor Dana*

**ADVENT STUDY:**

***“Under Wraps”  
The Gift We Never Expected***

Sunday December 6- “God Is Jealous”  
Sunday December 13- “God Is Faithful”

Our Advent Study Group will meet at 12:30 P.M. on  
December 6- in case people would like to go to the  
Christmas Concert.

Our Advent Study Group will meet at 1:00 P.M. on  
December 13.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BIBLE STUDY:**

***December 2015  
Thursday 2:00 P.M.***

Thursday December 3- “The Birth of Jesus”  
Luke 2: 1-40

Thursday December 10- “The Resurrection of Jesus”  
John 20: 1-18

Thursday December 17- “The Birth of the Church”  
Acts 2: 1-42

\*\*\*\*\*

**ALL CHURCH BAZAAR:**

***SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2015  
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.***

**WOW**, what an **AWESOME** Ely U.M.C. Bazaar we had  
this year.

**THANK YOU** to absolutely everyone who played a hand  
in making it work out, from “palm to pinky finger” we say  
**THANK YOU** one and all!!!

The Bazaar for 2015 has provided an additional \$2,477.50  
toward our finances as we continue to seek sharing in God’s  
Ministries, with God and one another!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE:**

We are Scheduling our  
All Church Conference for  
Wednesday December 16, 2015  
prior to  
Our Administrative Council Meeting

All Church Conference Begins at  
7:00 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

**R R R:**

***REACH, RENEW, REJOICE !!!***

“Reach, Renew, Rejoice” is a 5 year campaign of the Minnesota Annual Conference to help establish new churches and revitalize others.

Our Ely U.M.C. commitment for 2015, the first of 5 years is \$2,020.00-

To date 11-22-15 we have raised----- \$1,845.20

To reach our commitment to the Annual Conference as set be the Administrative Council we need to raise another \$ 174.80

It ***would be nice*** if we could reach this “Reach, Renew, Rejoice” commitment of \$2,020.00 by-

Sunday December 20, 2015

\*\*\*\*\*

**FROM THE TRUSTEES:**

***SNOW SHOVELING & SIDEWALKS-***

It is winter time which means we are once again looking for volunteers to shovel the sidewalks at the church. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the overflow room. You can volunteer for a month or share a month with someone. Thank you in advance for signing up! Let’s keep our sidewalks clear of snow and ice!

\*\*\*\*\*

***Hanging of the Greens:***

Do you like decorating a Christmas tree and hanging wreaths and garlands and ribbons? Join us to decorate our church sanctuary on Saturday Dec 5 at 4 pm. No special skills required - just a willingness to pitch in and help.

\*\*\*\*\*

**All-Church Potluck:**

Plan to attend our All-Church Christmas Party Potluck at 6 pm on Saturday Dec 5. Bring your favorite dish to share along with a serving utensil for it (if needed) and your appetite. Plates, cups and tableware will be provided. This is an **all-family** event - for adults and kids alike. Please join us for some wonderful fellowship to celebrate this Advent season.

## The **Guild/UMW** at Ely United Methodist Church Wednesday October 28, 2015

President Bonnie Berglund opened the meeting at with the unison reading of Our Purpose followed by Dana leading us in prayer. We had 10 people in attendance. The minutes from our September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were read and approved.

Bonnie read the balances in our various accounts which she had received from Sharon: Checking \$687.56 Savings \$7,502.92 and CD \$10,721.03.

### **Old Business**

- The **Reach-Renew-Rejoice** campaign needs \$399,80 to reach our commitment for 2015 2015.
- **Church directory** picture taking went well
- Update on the **2015 Bazaar**: Lucy put ads in the Echo, Timberjay and the Shopper. Chris Urbas made posters and they are posted around town. Patty Rusco called for desserts and serving staff. Margie Olson and Jan Rue are making the table decorations. Joan Nicholas will bring the change and be at the *Coffee ands..* table. Donna Ruscoe, Linda Williams and LaVerne Lindholm will be at the bake table. Lucy Diessline and Toni Floyd will be at the craft table. Lucy suggested that we have \$4 as the suggested donation at the *Coffee ands..* table.
- We filled the two open hostessing dates January 27- Jeri Walburn and February 24- Tootsie Loe for refreshments.

## The **Guild/UMW** at Ely United Methodist Church Wednesday November 18, 2015

Vice President Lucy Diesslin opened the meeting at 2 pm with a unison reading of Our Purpose and a prayer by Pastor Dana Thompson. We had 7 people in attendance. The minutes from our Oct 28 meeting were read and approved as read with one minor spelling correction. There was no Treasurer's Report.

### **Old Business**

- Lucy Diesslin reported that the **2015 Bazaar**, held on Nov 7 from 1-3 was successful. We made \$2576.61. The advertising that was done was very effective. Lucy had received two bills for the paper ads, \$40 from the Ely Echo and \$23 from Timberjay. She'll submit those to Sharon. Dana agreed to deliver them. The Shopper bill hasn't arrived yet. One suggestion that was received was to post signs outside during the event – one near the church to help direct folks to the basement door, and perhaps one up on Sheridan & 3<sup>rd</sup> as another advertisement. Tootsie Loe may already have a sign for the latter.
- For the **Reach-Renew-Rejoice** campaign, Jeanne reported that we have just under \$175 towards our \$2020 goal for 2015.

### **New Business**

- Tootsie Loe inquired about our **Christmas dinner**. It was briefly discussed and agreed that we should do what we did last year – have an all-church potluck dinner after the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 5. Jeanne agreed to write up an article for the December newsletter and get it to Pastor Dana by Sunday, Nov 22. We might think about a women's dinner for some time in the winter.

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## CANDLE LIGHT

### SERVICE

Thursday December 24, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Come---Celebrate---Worship---Praise---Fellowship

Why???

**GOD'S GIFT !!!**

**THE CHRIST CHILD !!!**

**BORN IN BETHLEHEM FOR US !!!**

**WE ARE LOVED !!!**

**LET US PRAISE and THANK GOD !!!**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES**      **November 18, 2015**  
**Ely United Methodist Church**                      **Number Present: 9**

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”, followed by an opening prayer.

**The Secretary’s Report:** The minutes of the October 21, 2015 Ad Council meeting were approved as printed. Motion by Margie Olson, seconded by Lucy Diesslin - unanimous.

**The Treasurer’s Report:** The October 2015 treasurer’s report was presented by Treasurer Mark Olson and accepted. The October end of the month account balances - General Fund: \$1,513.34; Parish Health Ministries \$481.66; Reach, Rejoice, Renew Fund \$1720.20; Building Fund: \$21,299.06; Undesignated Funds \$3,000.00; Memorial Fund: \$11,483.63. Motion by Jeanne Tomlinson, seconded by Bob Lindholm - unanimous.

**Board of Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that there was a recall on the Stihl Weed Wacker we purchased and that she would take it to Joe’s Marine to have the recall checked out. She also reported that we are still looking for volunteers for shoveling snow for the winter months. (Except for Feb).

**Memorial Fund Task Force:** Dana Thompson reported that the Alter Glass has been replaced, that the Memorial Committee approved the purchase of 6 new tables for the basement, a new space heater was purchased for the nursery room for use during pasty days and for use in the Minister’s office when needed, and a plexiglass cover has been purchased for the children’s alter in the basement.

**Finance Committee:** Butch Diesslin reported that the Finance Committee will meet in December prior to the Church Conference to develop the 2016 Church Budget.

**Outreach:** Toni Floyd reported that the check and all the food donated for the Food Shelf through the *Stanley Scarecrow* program have been delivered to the Food Shelf. She is also looking into new Outreach ideas for 2016.

**Pastor Parish Relations Committee:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that the committee met November 11, 2015 and approved a 1% salary

raise (\$445.00) for the Minister for the 2016 Church Budget for the 2016 Church Budget prior to 2016 Church Conference.

**Parish Health Ministries:** Margie Olson reminded everyone that we are in the “Cold and Flu Season” and recommended that non-touching greetings be exchanged at church. The distribution of *File of Life* magnetic refrigerator packets with emergency medical information has been a huge success with over 1000 given out and another 600 ordered. The packets are available for anyone.

**Visioning Committee:** Lucy Diesslin reported that the committee met on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, and Rich Floyd has prepared an idea similar to a *Care Ministry Team* to be presented and discussed at their next meeting. They also set a movie date on January 17<sup>th</sup>, to show the movie *War Room*. The committee also reported that the *Advent Preparation* study group is going well even though attendance has been low (hunting season was mentioned).

### Old Business

1. **Church Directory** – The Church Directory information will be submitted in mid December and the new directory should be completed and delivered in early 2016. A request was made to anyone who has any additional photos of Church activities to email them to Jay Tomlinson at [tomlinson.jay@gmail.com](mailto:tomlinson.jay@gmail.com)
2. **Reach, Renew, Rejoice Update** – Contributions of \$1,845.20 of the requested \$2,020 for 2015 have been received from our church family members.
3. **6 New Tables for the Basement** – Margie Olson made a motion to renew our membership to *Sam's Club* (\$45) so the tables can be purchased there under tax exempt status. Seconded by Jeanne Tomlinson - unanimous. Margie will handle the purchase of the tables.
4. **Reach, Renew, Rejoice – 2016 Church Commitment** – The Ad Council tabled discussion to the December 16<sup>th</sup> Ad Council meeting following approval of the 2016 Church Budget and the Church Conference meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. **Church Bazaar** – Lucy Diesslin reported that the Bazaar was quite a success raising \$2,576 and change with very few items left. The next church bazaar will be scheduled in Nov of 2017.
2. **Nominations Reporting** – Nominations for all positions have been filled except for the Lay Member who attends the Annual Church Conference to vote on behalf of the Ely United Methodist Church. Lucy Diesslin agreed to remain as that

person with the understanding that a Lay Member Substitute will attend the Annual Church Conference and vote on her behalf as she will not be able to attend due to the change in meeting time of the Annual Conference. The Lay Member Substitute has yet to be determined.

3. **Pastor's Salary for 2016** – The Ad Council voted to approve the Pastor Parish Relations Committee recommended 1% increase in the Pastor's salary. Motion by Margie Olson, seconded by Jeanne Tomlinson – unanimous.
4. **Handicapped Parking** – Bob Lindholm recommended removing one of the three parking spots designated as Handicapped Parking until a need for a third spot is deemed necessary. Motion by Margie Olson, seconded by Bob Lindholm – unanimous.
5. **Christmas Eve Service** – The Ad Council discussed whether changing the time of our Christmas Eve service to an earlier time would be more beneficial to our congregation. It was agreed that it is too late to make any changes for 2015, but research and feedback from our church members on this topic will be sought for making an informed decision for 2016.

### ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **October Pasty Report** – Total made = 804. Total Income = \$4,810. Total Expense = \$1,653.35. Net Income = \$3,156.65. 2014 Net Income for October was \$3,183.94 making 803 pasties.
2. **November Pasty Report** – Total made = 853. Total Income = \$5,126.00. Total Expense = \$1,628.55. Net Income = \$3,497.45. 2014 Net Income for November was \$3,528.47 making 852 pasties.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM. The meeting was closed by those attending reciting “*The Lords Prayer*”.

Respectfully Submitted, Jay Tomlinson for Blaine “Butch” Diesslin