

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*Who or What Am I?*

I am short, actually I am the shortest, but you might consider that a leap one out of four times, who or what am I?  
*Who or What Am I?*

Some have considered me a father of sorts, wiggled out or not, I did cross a river once in a little boat, and a state yes a state, who or what am I?

*Who or What Am I?*

I do not quiver because of the Ely weather, some have suggested I may be cherub like wings and all, I shoot the arrow and dead center is the heart when I aim, who or what am I?

*Who or What Am I?*

I loved to read, I could burn the candle, I could spilt a rail or two, I felt at home among the logs, that is the honest truth, who or what am I?

*Well, how did you do? I would guess that many of you went “four for four”, **CONGRATULATIONS!!!** We may have tossed in a “Ground Hog” or two but no need!!!*

*Who Am I?*

I was there when Moses was attracted to the fire, I saw the first sunrise and sunset, I have but one Son but many, many, children, who Am I?

*Who Am I?*

I have been called a light, I have been called a shepherd, I have but one Father, but sisters and brothers too numerous to count, who Am I?

*Who Am I?*

I was not known very well in olden days, people had a hard time catching the Spirit, but today I help inform, guide,

and nurture a whole body of people, I create a fire in the belly for loving and serving others, who Am I?

*Well, how did you do? I hope and pray that many of you went “three for three”, **CONGRATULATIONS!!!** We may have tossed in a “Tri for Tri” or two but no need!!!*

*Indeed from the earliest of days children begin to learn about the months of the year including short February, children begin to learn about George Washington crossing the Potomac River, children begin to learn about Cupid and Valentine’s Day, and of course children begin to learn about old honest Abraham Lincoln. These things become “old school” even in “elementary school”! Indeed, we could possibly say it is **“ELEMENTARY”!!!***

*We are all children in the **FAMILY** of **GOD** and how quickly do we identify, how familiar are we, and how aware are we, of **GOD** the **FATHER**, **GOD** the **SON (JESUS)**, and **GOD** the **HOLY SPIRIT**, in our day to day living out our lives?*

*Yes, we as **CHILDREN**, no matter the age, within the **FAMILY** of **GOD**, need to develop our ability to identify our **“TRIUNE GOD”** among us, need to develop our sense of familiarity with our **“TRIUNE GOD”** among us, and need to develop our awareness of our **“TRIUNE GOD”** among us, if we are going to experience the richest depths of **GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** for us!!!*

*Love in Christ,*

*Pastor Dana*

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**POTLUCK DINNERS:**

**2017 x 4**

Yes, we as a Church Family are looking for ways to enhance our connection as sisters and brothers in the Family of God!!!

The "Visioning Committee" has proposed reviving an old concept from days "gone by"!!!

The old concept we are going to try to revive for 2017 is the concept of the "**CHURCH POTLUCK DINNER**"!!! We are going to hold 4 "Potluck Dinners" during 2017 following our worship services on February 5, May 7, August 6, and November 5!!!

While we will hold these 4 "Potluck Dinners" during the year as a trial effort we will also continue to hold our "All Church Christmas Potluck Dinner" following our "Christmas Tree Decorating Party"!!!

Well, this now sounds like 2017 X5 "Potluck Dinners" except that our August 2017 "Potluck Dinner" is going to actually fall on the day we celebrate our **125<sup>th</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY** as the **ELY U. M. C. FAMILY**!!! Although, no decisions have been made by the "Anniversary Committee" our Dinner that day will not likely be a standard "Potluck Dinner"!!! Keep tuning in to find out!!!

**FEBRUARY 5**  
**POTLUCK DINNER** !!!

COME ONE, **NO** COME **ALL** !!!

**CHURCH BAZAAR:**

**2017**

Yes, this is the year 2017 when we again hold a **BAZAAR** event, during the month of **NOVEMBER**!!!

Our Ely U.M.C. **BAZAAR** is an every other year, very, very **SPECIAL EVENT** sponsored by and hosted by our Ely U.M.C. Women's Group the **U. M. W.**!!!

This very **SPECIAL BAZAAR** is a great help in the financial support of our participation in God's Ministries here in the Ely U.M.C.---it has been a very **RELIABLE FUND RAISER** for many years now!!!

We **INVITE EVERYONE, WOMEN** and **MEN** to take some time and consider how they can enhance our 2017 **CHURCH BAZAAR**!!!---This is our first promotional plug!!!

We **INVITE EVERYONE, WOMEN** and **MEN** to think about:

**BAKED GOODS**---to be sold

**CRAFT GOODS**---to be sold

**COFFEE ANDS**---to be shared

**10 MONTHS TO PREPARE**

**READY, SET, GO!!!**

**125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ELY U. M. C.:**  
**Sunday August 6, 2017**

The fact is, most of us have not been around for all 125 years of our Church Family serving in ministry with God here in the Ely U.M.C.!!!

However, many of us may recall being a part of our “Centennial Celebration” as a Church Family here in the Ely U.M.C.!!! Our “Centennial Celebration” took place in the summer of 1992 and went from a Sunday to Sunday, eight days of joyful celebration!!!

Our **125<sup>th</sup> year CELEBRATION** is going to be a **1 DAY EXTRAVAGANZA** on Sunday August 6, 2017!!!

First, we want **YOU** there, as we celebrate the **WONDER** of **GOD**, and the **AWESOME** ways **GOD** has blessed us here in the Ely U.M.C.!!!

Second, we want **YOU** there, as we celebrate not only what **GOD** has done for us as a Church Family but also how we have been blessed by one another as **BROTHERS** and **SISTERS** in the Family of God!!!

Third, we want **YOU** there, both those who are **NEAR** and those who are **FAR** as we celebrate **125 YEARS** of **GOD’S MINISTRY** among us here in the Ely U.M.C. mindful that **GOD LOVES** each and every one of us, those who are **NEAR** and those who are **FAR**!!!

First planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 8, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. and we welcome anyone interested in the planning of this **EVENT** to join us!!!

Please, planning is just the beginning and we are letting you know the date as well so let’s all, “Get Ready”!!!

**“HEY TIM: “IT’S TOOL TIME”**  
**Or**  
**“HOME IMPROVEMENT” :**

As we enter 2017 and begin to focus on a new year of our lives... possibly making New Year’s Resolutions and promises to ourselves for better health and wellness... I want us to also be mindful that Christ reminds us that **loving each other** is the most important thing we can do here on earth.

John 13: 34-35 says, “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love one another. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

And from the ever popular I Corinthians 13:13 “There are three things that will endure- faith, hope, and love- and the greatest of these is love.”

But do you ever feel like the person you love the most isn’t getting the message? Or perhaps that even though you are surrounded by loved ones, you don’t **FEEL** very loved?

It is possible. And it’s also possible that you might be showing your love in the wrong language. Understanding how people communicate **LOVE** and appreciation is the key to making the most of our relationships. If you can’t show someone that you love them in their language, it’s like it never happened. It’s like trying to have a conversation with someone in English who only speaks Spanish. It just doesn’t work! No matter how hard you try...

During February we are going to explore “The Five Love Languages”, in an attempt to help you communicate **LOVE** with those you love the most.

Call it “Home Improvement”, “State of the Union”, or “What’s Under the Hood”...

I ask you to consider joining me on the journey...A journey to strengthen our relationships and fill our **LOVE** tanks.-----Mondays at 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.---Starting February 6, 2017 for 7 weeks---Jan Rue

***PASTY REPORT:***

**January 2017**

<b>Pasties made</b>	<b>754</b>
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>\$4,526.50</b>
<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$1,307.15</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$3,219.35</b>

***GREAT EFFORT EVERYONE !!!***

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***BIBLE STUDY***

**February 2017  
Thursday --- 2:00 P.M.**

- Thursday February 2- Romans Chapters 1 & 2**
- Thursday February 9- Romans Chapters 3 & 4**
- Thursday February 16- Romans Chapters 5 & 6**
- Thursday February 23- Romans Chapters 7 & 8**

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***APARTMENT CHRISTMAS TREE  
CREW:***

Yet again, this year we put up Christmas Trees in the Zenith, Sibley, and Pioneer Apartment complexes. Just a word of **APPRECIATION** and **THANKSGIVING** to our tree decorating crew of Bev Johnson, Dan Johnson, Jay Tomlinson, and Jeanne Tomlinson for the **WONDERFUL** work and “laboring in love.

The Apartment Complexes continue to appreciate our setting Christmas Trees up year by year. However, when you set Christmas Trees up year by year you must also take them down. So, we also share this word of **APPRECIATION** and **THANKSGIVING** with our Christmas Tree removal crew of Jay Tomlinson and Jeanne Tomlinson.

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***“ELY BOUNDARY WATERS CARE  
CENTER”***

***WORSHIP SERVICES:***

February 2017  
Sunday February 19, 2017  
2:30 P.M.

***“ELY CARE FREE LIVING “  
WORSHIP SERVICES:***

February 2017  
Wednesday February 1, 2017  
1:15 P.M.

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## *I CORINTHIANS 13: 1-13*

“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Ely United Methodist Church

January 18, 2017

Number Present 8

Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Attendees: Dana Thompson, Keith Rue, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson, Mark & Marge Olson, Butch & Lucy Diesslin

Pastor Dana Thompson provided the “Opening Thought” from *The Upper Room* (January 18, 2017 entry) followed by prayer.

The minutes of the December 21, 2016 Ad Council meeting; as printed in the January 2017 issue of “*The Fish*” newsletter; were approved as printed. M/Lucy/S/Marge.

The **Treasurer’s Report** for December 2016 was presented and highlighted by Treasurer Mark Olson. The End of Year account balances: Building Fund: \$13,818.59, Memorial Fund: \$10,176.33, Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project \$15.00, Undesignated Funds \$3,000, General Fund: \$5,081.71. Mark pointed out that receipts for 2016 (\$101,365.29) were considerably lower than 2015 (\$109,684.70) but that we were still able to pay all of our bills. The report was approved as submitted. M/Butch/S/Keith.

### **Committee Reports**

The **Board of Trustees** will be meeting in April.

The **Memorial Committee** will be meeting on February 7th.

The **Pastor-Parish Committee** will meet in the Spring to begin work on the new minister search. The plan is to get things moving fast enough so that the summer church members can be actively involved in the process.

## OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Five Love Languages Study.** The 7 week study is scheduled to start on Monday, February 6 from 5:30-6:30 pm. There will be a sign up sheet at church for the next two Sundays in order to determine the count for ordering the materials. Jan Rue will lead the study.
- 2. 125<sup>th</sup> Ely UMC Anniversary** – The committee will meet on Wed February 8 at 7 pm for an initial brain-storming session.
- 3. Church Potlucks** – The first church potluck for 2017 will be on Sunday February 5 at 11:30 am. Dana will put information about this in the *FISH* and the church bulletin and it will also be announced during the Jan 22 & 29 worship services.

## NEW BUSINESS

- 1. 10,000 gift** – The church received a donation of \$10,000 from Margaret Wood with a letter expressing her appreciation for the church and her desire to have the monies spent for some project or for whatever the church would need it. It was decided to hold the money in the Building Fund in the “Undesignated” category until a project that seems appropriate can be determined.

M/Jeanne/S/Butch/Motion approved. It was suggested we not wait too long so that we can report back to Margaret with details of how it will be used. A thank you note for the donation has already been sent.

- 2. Rifle Proof Vests for local Law Enforcement** – Dana reported on a presentation at this month’s ministerial meeting by *Shield 616* - an organization trying to get more extensive protective gear for our local police & sheriffs. Normally the equipment that is being requested would run to

over \$2200 per person but can be obtained for about \$1000. Marge is going to look into this to get more information.

## ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- 1. January Pasty Report:** Made 754 pasties. Gross Income: \$4526.50; Expenses: \$1,307.15; Net Income: \$3,219.35.
- 2. UMW Information for [elyumc.org](http://elyumc.org)** – Bonnie Berglund wrote a description of UMW for our church website and it has now been posted there.
- 3. General Giving 2011-2016** – Dana distributed a chart showing our general fund giving. 2015 was the highest and 2016 was the next to the lowest over the 6 years.
- 4. Pasties “Flyer”** – Per a suggestion made during the December 2016 Ad Council meeting, a half-sheet flyer was added to each pasty customer’s bag on January 17. The flyer thanked the customer and let them know we are looking for new customers. We already have 3 new customers as a result of this flyer.
- 5. Secretary Records** – Butch handed over all the Secretary’s notebooks to Jeanne. He will give a digital copy of the records to Jeanne later.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM, and was closed with the unison reciting of *The Lord’s Prayer*.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary