

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Well, there is certainly the **SHORT** of it, and the **LONG** of it!!!

Indeed, there are **SHORT** trips here and there, and there are **LONG** trips here and there!!!

Indeed, there are **SHORT** periods of time, and there are **LONG** periods of time!!!

Ah yes, a short trip may look like a trip to the grocery store, the neighborhood park, to church, or to a friend's garage sale. Ah yes, a long trip may look like a trip to another city, another state, another continent, or even "to the moon".

Ah yes, a short period of time may be a full second, a minute, a hour, a day, a week, a month, a year, or even more. Ah yes, a long period of time may be a full second, a minute, a hour, a day, a week, a month, a year, or even more.

Now, as far **FEBRUARY** goes it is a **SHORT** month, but because of various weather factors it can occasionally be viewed as a very **LONG** month. Indeed, **FEBRUARY** as a part of our journey or trip through the year is **SHORT**, but because of various weather factors it can occasionally be viewed as a **LONG** part of our journey or trip through the year.

THANKFULLY, the month of **FEBRUARY** also includes a day we call "Valentine's Day" which highlights the idea of the **HEART** and **LOVE!!!**

Let's take a moment, pausing to consider the **LONG** and the **SHORT** of it!!!

When we experience a short journey or a long journey, possibly we could call it a trip and when we are dealing with a short amount of time or a long amount of time regardless of its' duration the **LONG** and the **SHORT** of it is how much better the going is with our **HEARTS** enriched by the very precious wonder of **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE!!!**

Indeed, when we as Children in the Family of God make the choice to journey with God neither the distance nor the time are nearly as relevant as the relationship grounded in **LOVE** we have with **GOD!!!**

Indeed, with **GOD** through **JESUS** and the power of the **HOLY SPIRIT** we are blessed with a very precious kind of **COMPANIONSHIP** that has staying power whether we are on a short or long trip and whether or not the duration of that trip is long or short!!!

Now, what makes our **COMPANIONSHIP** with **GOD**, **JESUS**, and the **HOLY SPIRIT** so very precious is the gift of **LOVE!!!**

GOD'S companionship and love blossoming through relationship truly does make distance and time irrelevant because with **GOD** we will find an eternal relationship rooted in **LOVE!!!**

Love in Christ,

pastor Dana

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

January 17, 2018

Ely United Methodist Church

Call To Order: Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Attendees (10): Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Linda Hane, Mark & Marge Olson, Keith Rue, Donna Rusco, Dana Thompson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

Opening: Dana provided the “Opening Thought” from *Hymn Stories* reading the background and lyrics for “Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us”, followed by prayer.

Minutes: The December 20, 2017 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the January 2018 *FISH*. Motion to approve/Lucy Diesslin; Second/Linda Hane. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Mark Olson presented the December 2017 treasurer’s report. Receipts & disbursements were \$10923.90 & \$9369.33, respectively. End of month balances: Building Fund \$17,175.86; Memorial Fund \$10,902.06; Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project 2018 \$16, Safe Gathering \$387, available General Fund \$9,147.52. Motion to approve/Jeanne Tomlinson; Second/Marge Olson. Approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Trustees: Marge Olson is no longer on the committee but offered to convene a meeting of the current group in February to determine committee leadership.

Outreach: Toni Floyd had reported to Marge Olson that she’s working on Valentine boxes for our college students. She will ship them once she has all the addresses.

Pastor-Parish Relations: Jeanne Tomlinson reported that Mark Miller and contacted her with the news that the cabinet had found a pastor who would be a great fit for Ely UMC and who is willing to serve there. The PPR Committee will be meeting with Mark and this person on February 3 to affirm (or not affirm) this appointment.

Parish Health Ministry: Donna Rusco reported that we delivered 10 prayer shawls to the Boundary Waters Care Center last year. This has been an ongoing delivery, of varied amounts as shawls are available, since we started doing prayer shawls in 2008.

Visioning: The committee will be meeting Thursday, January 18. This meeting was rescheduled from last week due to bad weather.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Potluck Supplies:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that Lucy Diesslin will approach the UMW at their next meeting on January 24 to see if they will be willing to cover the cost of potluck dinner supplies for our scheduled potlucks.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **All Night Graduation Donation:** Mark Olson had received a request for donation from the All Night Graduation committee. We’ve been giving \$50 to this event every year. Butch Diesslin moved that we do so again; second by Marge Olson. Motion approved.
2. **Amici’s Easter Egg Hunt Donation:** Pastor Dana had received a letter from Courtney Field from Amici’s asking for a donation of money and/or supplies to support an indoor Easter egg hunt in view of the problems in the past of the outdoor event (normally handled by Ledgerock Community Church) being cancelled because of bad weather. Linda Hane offered to get more details on this from Amici’s and Ledgerock before we make a decision.
3. **Copier:** Pastor Dana reported that the church copier, which we’ve had for about 5 years, is having problems and that it’s probably time to replace it. No action was taken on this.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We received a thank you from Northwoods Partners for the Festival of Trees wreath that the UMW had donated. The note was passed to Lucy to share at the next UMW meeting.
2. We received a thank you from the Ely Young Life for our donation.
3. We received a report from Children’s International about our adopted child.
4. We received a thank you from the American Cancer Society for the monies which had been collected & paid through the church.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **January Pasties Report** – Pasties made: 735; Sales \$4413; Cost: \$1,444.75; Income: \$2968.25

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord’s Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

*All-church
Potluck*

Sunday February 4, 2018
11:18 A.M.

Yes, this is a wonderful opportunity to spend time in worship together and then spend some valuable and precious moments in fellowship together with a meal.

Yes, this is a wonderful opportunity to share in God's Meal at the Communion Table as we worship and then spend time as brothers and sisters around the Sunday Dinner Table as we share a variety of DELICIOUS (opinion gained from other such occasions) dishes shared by our Church Family!!!

**“come one, come all” !!!
Welcome, welcome, welcome!**

“CARE FREE LIVING”

Worship service:

Wednesday February 14, 2018
1:15 P.M.

*Ash Wednesday
Open communion table*

Wednesday February 14, 2018
1:00 – 5:30 P.M.

Yes, on Ash Wednesday from 1:00 – 5:30 P.M. we will have an Open Communion Table set up in the Sanctuary for all those who desire to spend time with God and share in the Communion Meal as we prepare to begin the Season of Lent in preparation of the celebration of EASTER!!!

Indeed, the Season of Lent is a time for each of us as Children in the Family of God to begin preparing in heart, mind, and spirit, to celebrate the depth and breath of God's amazing and gracious LOVE for us, as displayed by the gift of baby Jesus, the life of Jesus, the death of Jesus, and then ULTIMATELY the resurrection of Jesus and NEW LIFE or as we tend to summarize it all EASTER!!!

Bible study:

February 2018

February 1- Jonah Chapters 1 - 4

February 15- Acts Chapters 1 & 2

February 22- Acts Chapters 3 & 4

notify Pastor Thompson right away, even if you think the information you have is common knowledge.

Care Baskets:

From time to time, each of us goes through occasions of great joy as well as incidents of great sorrow. Two events that personify these feelings involve the beginning of life and the end of life here on earth. In the midst of these events, it's comforting to know that others share our feelings and are thinking of us. Our church will participate in this sharing by giving baskets of care to members who are in either of these situations. Although it is commonly known when these events occur, there could come a time when they are not, or at least not known immediately. You could imagine how you might feel if others received these baskets, and when your time came, you did not. It is absolutely imperative that no one who should get a basket is overlooked, even for a short time. For this reason, we ask that if you know of a church member who suffered the death of a close loved one, or of new parents who are rejoicing in the birth of a child, you