

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Ely, Minnesota in February with rain showers instead of snow showers or expanded snow showers which we often call blizzards!

So, with the month of **MARCH** upon us it seems logical to think about a group of people called farmers.

Good farmers know how to **PREPARE** their fields in the anticipation of maximizing their potential for a bumper crop!

Good house painters know how to **PREPARE** a house in order to maximize their potential for a quality paint job!

Good teachers know how to **PREPARE** lessons before a class to maximize the potential learning experience of their eager students!

Good cooks know how to **PREPARE** ahead of time in order to maximize their potential for providing an absolutely delicious meal!

Good clowns know how to **PREPARE** special sight gags to maximize their potential for getting a good belly laugh out of their audience at each and every performance!

Apparently **PREPARING** often leads to something **GOOD!!!**

As children in the Family of God, Advent is the season of the year when we seek to **PREPARE** in heart, mind, and spirit for a wonderful **CELEBRATION** of the **CHRIST CHILD'S** birth!!!

As children in the Family of God, Lent is the season of the year when we seek to **PREPARE** in heart, mind, and spirit, for the wonderful **CELEBRATION** of new life evidenced by the Empty Tomb and the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior **JESUS CHRIST!!!**

Indeed, with Advent we begin to **PREPARE** to celebrate what we call Christmas, and then with Lent we begin to **PREPARE** to celebrate what we call Easter!!!

CHRISTMAS and **EASTER** go together like steak and eggs, surf and turf, peanut butter and jelly, or maybe even rutabagas and pasties. Just as there are some wonderful food combinations that nourish the body **CHRISTMAS** and **EASTER** go hand in hand to nourish the spirit's of God's Children, "all are we"!!!

CHRISTMAS and **EASTER** are matching book ends!!! If you pause to think about it **CHRISTMAS** is about new life which is found in the form of baby Jesus born in that "O Little Town of Bethlehem"; while **EASTER** is about new life which is found in the "Empty Tomb" and the "Resurrection" of God's Son, Jesus!!! Indeed, matching book ends of **NEW LIFE!!!**

CHRISTMAS and **EASTER** are matching book ends!!! If you pause to think about it **CHRISTMAS** is about **GOD'S** love for us in the form of **GOD'S** gift of **JESUS**; while in like manner **EASTER** is about **GOD'S** love for us displayed through a cross and **JESUS!!!** Indeed, matching book ends of **LOVE!!!**

Yes, we as children in the Family of God have at least two very powerful reasons for entering the season of **LENT** seeking to **PREPARE** in heart, mind, and spirit, for a **EASTER CELEBRATION** grounded in **NEW LIFE** and **LOVE!!!**

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana

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

9 MONTHS TO PREPARE

READY, SET, GO!!!

125th 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 **125th 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!!!**

Our first planning session was held in February without any major decisions being made---basic brain storming took place.

Our next meeting date has not been set, please stay tune and consider pitching-in!!!

The **Guild/UMW** at Ely United Methodist Church on Wednesday January 25, 2017 2-4 pm

The Guild/UMW met at the Church with 6 people in attendance. Vice President Lucy Diesslin opened the meeting with a prayer and a unison reading the UMW Purpose.

The minutes from our November 16, 2016 meeting were read and approved as read. (Motion Janice Tessier, second Tootsie Loe).

For the Treasurer's Report, Pastor Dana reported account totals from the most recent audit which appears in the February *FISH*: Checking \$978.98; Savings \$7,512.33; CD \$10,739.86.

Old Business

- **125th Anniversary:** (Aug 6, 2017) Lucy reported the first planning meeting will be on Wednesday, February 8 at 7 pm.

New Business

- **Reach-Renew-Rejoice 2017:** Jeanne Tomlinson asked the group to consider making a start-up contribution to the fund. It was felt that we needed more people present for that decision so it was tabled.
- **May Dinner:** Lucy Diesslin asked if there were any suggestions for someone to approach for a program. Jeanne Tomlinson indicated she'd been asked previously to do a presentation on her Jan/Feb 2016 trip to India and would be willing to do that. We'll need to set a date for the event later.

We adjourned at 2:20 pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES February 15, 2017 Ely United Methodist Church

Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Attendees (5): Mark & Marge Olson, Dana Thompson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson
Pastor Dana provided the "Opening Thought" from *The Upper Room* (February 15, 2017 entry) followed by prayer. The **Minutes** of the January 18, 2017 Ad Council meeting were approved as printed in the February 2017 *FISH*. M/Marge/S/Mark.

The **Treasurer's Report** for January 2017 was presented and highlighted by Mark Olson. End of month balances: Building Fund \$22,922.57 (with \$13,000 Undesignated), Memorial Fund \$10,278.13, Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project \$15, General Fund \$3,776.53. The report was approved as submitted. M/Jeanne/S/Marge.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marge reported that the **Board of Trustees** will meet next on April 3. Dana recommended the Trustees check out the parsonage this fall to assess any work that might need to be done for a new pastor in 2018 following his retirement in June.

Dana reported that the **Memorial Fund Task Force** met on February 7 and decided to use funds from Joan & Kenny Biebl's donations, with Glenn Biebl's approval, to cover the cost for the recently purchases omni-directional microphone. The next meeting will be May 2.

Marge reported for the **Parish Health Ministry** that the EMT responders told her that they are looking for and using the *File of Life* handouts we had distributed to people.

Jay reported that the **Visioning Committee** met on February 9. We will be holding a *Family Fun Night* on Wednesday, April 26, starting at 5:30 PM. We'll have sloppy joes and chips and then watch the movie *Inside Out*, an animated Disney movie that runs about 80 minutes so we should be done by 7:30 PM. The Youth Group that normally meets at that time will be helping out with the event.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Five Love Languages Study Sessions:** Jay reported that the study is going well. The first session had about 22 participants and the second had about 12, the latter primarily because of a hockey game. It was generally agreed that Jan Rue is doing a wonderful job leading the study.
2. **125th Ely UMC Anniversary:** Jay reported that the committee met on February 8 with just 3 participants, himself with Butch & Lucy Diesslin. (Additional persons interested in being on the committee, Marge Olson, Linda Hane & Trish Schreffler, were unable to attend.) They brainstormed a number of ideas for the August 6 celebration: (1) Getting invitations out to folks by March 31 to try to get an idea about how many might be coming. (2) Having a catered dinner later in the afternoon (~2) and using St Anthony's fellowship hall. (3) Creating a Power Point presentation of old photos from the archives. (4) Having large banners to put around the outside of the church to announce the 125th Anniversary. (5) Singing "The Pasty Song". (6) Highlight all the church's outreach & activities done in the last 25 years. (7) Do a "pasty play" using an updated script from one done for the 100th Anniversary. (8) Have give-aways such as Frisbees (not mugs). (9) Have a

mixer game/scavenger hunt opening activity. (10) Use some of the funds that were received from Margaret Wood to cover some of the costs for the event. Dana suggested the committee contact St. Anthony's right away to see if their Fellowship Hall would be available that day. Dana also reported that the Gary & Betty Ellis had sent some funds to be used for the celebration and are planning to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Feb 5 all-church Pot Luck Dinner:** We all agreed that our first all-church potluck this year was a success. Keith Rue counted 47 participating out of the 49 people who attended church. Our next Pot Luck will be May 7.
2. **All Night Grad Party:** Mark brought the letter from the All Night Grad Party committee that he had received late last year. We decided to send \$50 again.
M/Jeanne/S/Marge.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mark reported receiving 3 tax receipts from 3 groups showing our total giving for 2016: \$445 to the Ely Food Shelf; \$500 to Young Life; \$441 to Children's International. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

LENTEN SUPPERS:

2017

Yes, the Season of Lent is upon us and we will again be starting to celebrate the “Ecumenical” “Lenten Suppers” with all the other churches in the community of Ely.

The “Lenten Suppers” are scheduled for Thursday night’s beginning at 5:30 P.M. The cost of the “Lenten Suppers” is a donation of \$3.00 per person or \$6.00 per family.

Our “Ecumenical” “Lenten Suppers” consist of a meal from roughly 5:30-6:00 P.M. followed by a short worship service to be concluded by 6:30 P.M.

We **HOPE** to see many of you there through the course of the “Season of Lent”! The schedule follows:

**March 9- First Presbyterian Church- Assisted
By St. Mary’s Episcopal Church**

March 16- First Lutheran Church

**March 23- Ledgerock Church- Assisted
By Grace Lutheran Church**

**March 30- Ely U.M.C.
Held at St. Anthony’s Church**

April 6- St. Anthony’s Catholic Church

BIBLE STUDY:

March 2017

Thursdays 2:00 P.M.

Thursday March 2- Romans Chapters 9 & 10

Thursday March 9- Romans Chapters 11 & 12

Thursday March 16- No Bible Study

Thursday March 23- Romans Chapters 13 & 14

Thursday March 30- No Bible Study

***“BOUNDARY WATERS CARE CENTER”
WORSHIP SERVICE:***

Sunday March 19- 2:30 P.M.

***“CARE FREE LIVING”
WORSHIP SERVICE:***

Wednesday March 8- 1:15 P.M.

ALL CHURCH POTLUCKS:

Here is a little **reminder**, the “Visioning Committee” came up with the idea to try “**something old**” and make it “**something new**” again.

Well, this “**something old**” becoming “**something new**” was and is Church Potluck Dinners. We decided to try four during the year-

- February 5
- May 7
- August 6 which will be our
125th Anniversary Celebration
- November 5

There were reports on our first attempt at “**something old**” becoming “**something new**” being received warmly by 41 people, by 43 people, and also by 47 people!!! Regardless of the actual number, this was an AWESOME experience, providing an AMAZING opportunity to NOURISH our bodies with excellent food at a bountiful feast, and to NOURISH our spirits with the food of wonderful FELLOWSHIP!!!

So, we are giving a little heads up for the next opportunity to be the people of God gathered together for “**something old**” becoming “**something new**” in the form of our 2nd Potluck Dinner of 2017 to be held

May 7 --- 11:30 A.M.
following our Worship Service

EVERYONE WELCOME !!!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT:

Here is another little “**heads up**” about another new venture we are calling “**Family Fun Night**” to be held if all goes according to plan

again, if all goes according to plan-

Wednesday April 26, 2017

Sloppy Joes & Chips 5:30 – 6:00 P.M.

6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

Movie---possibly “Inside Out”

***Potentially a Movie for Young, Younger,
and Youngest among us!!!***

Again “**Family Fun Night**” is yet another opportunity to nurture our connections as the FAMILY of GOD!!!

EVERYONE WELCOME !!!

GOD LOVES US !!!
