

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Well, we tried to think "**SPRING**" a wee bit last month with a strong reminder about April beginning with that special little something called "**APRIL FOOLS**" Day!!!

Well, "**APRIL FOOLS**" Day is past and we can begin to get serious about thinking "**SPRING**"!!!

Well, in days gone by, growing up in the Twin Cities of Minnesota **MARCH** winds and "Kite Season" were a very strong indication that spring was coming.

Well, in days gone by, growing up in the Twin Cities of Minnesota "**APRIL SHOWERS**" had a ring of truth without a great deal of threat to those April showers being in the form of big white flakes.

Well, in days gone by, growing up in the Twin Cities of Minnesota those famous "**APRIL SHOWERS**" did generally lead to the blossoming of all those "**MAY FLOWERS**".

Well, living in Ely, Minnesota rather than in the Twin Cities of Minnesota you can tend to gain a bit of a different perspective: March winds generally have more to do with blizzard like conditions than they do with Kite Season. April Showers can and are often in the form of either little or big white flakes rather than rain drops. May flowers, may still come up in May but they do so at the risk of frost bite kinds of mornings.

Well, living in Ely, Minnesota rather than in the Twin Cities of Minnesota you can tend to gain a bit of a different perspective: However, even in Ely, Minnesota it is hard not to begin to think "**SPRING**" when you can look out across a nearby lake of your choice and see a perfectly mirrored

reflection along the shoreline or something moving along like a little ripple or a wave. Yes indeed, "**ICE OUT**" tends to heighten our excitement about "a spring that waits to be" to quote the U.M. Hymnal #707 "The Hymn of Promise".

Ah yes, perspective; let us leave behind the Twin Cities and Ely, Minnesota and triggering of thoughts of "**SPRING**" and turn to perspective as it relates to **GOD** as we consider the words of the prophet from (Isaiah 55: 8, 9): "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts".

Indeed, we have much to learn from **GOD** about life, love, hope, grace, forgiveness, generosity, and patience nurtured by understanding. Indeed, aside from the above mentioned things there are a great many more things, we can and should take the time to learn from **GOD, JESUS, and the HOLY SPIRIT!!!**

Indeed, we have much to learn from **GOD** about how to **WALK** as children in the Family of God and about how to **WORK** in **SERVICE** with **GOD** as children in the Family of God!!!

LEARNING, when, where, how; we learn as we grow in our **LOVE** for **GOD** through our worship and fellowship with each other, through developing our prayer lives, and when we spend time reading and reflecting on **GOD'S HOLY WORD!!!**

LEARNING, requires our investing ourselves in heart, mind, and spirit, to our relationships with **GOD, JESUS, and the HOLY SPIRIT!!!**

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Ely United Methodist Church

April 20, 2016

Number Present: 11

Chairman Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
Attendees: (11) Jay Tomlinson, Jeanne Tomlinson, Margie Olson, Mark Olson, Lucy Diesslin, Dana Thompson, Butch Diesslin, Toni Floyd, Bonnie Berglund, Bob Lindholm, Keith Rue

Pastor Dana Thompson began the meeting with an Opening Thought from “The Upper Room” devotional for March 20, 2016, followed by an opening prayer.

The **Minutes of the February 17, 2016 Ad Council** meeting were approved as printed. (Jeanne T/Lucy D)

The **Treasurer’s Report for March, 2016** was presented by Treasurer Mark Olson and accepted. The February end of the month account balances - General Fund: \$7,796.18; Building Fund: \$28,464.99; Memorial Fund: \$11,496.22; Parish Health Ministries 400.00; Undesignated Funds \$3,000, R3 Project \$306.00. M/Lucy/S/Jeanne

The **Board of Trustees** met April 4, 2016.

- The monthly grass mowing sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board ready for volunteers
- The Church’s fire extinguisher annual check has been completed
- Dave Archambault will be replacing/repairing garage siding
- One of the Parsonage Dehumidifiers needs to be replaced. Funding will be requested of UMW Butch will install the new dehumidifier and dispose of the old dehumidifier
- The Church Siding will be pressure washed and air conditioner filters will be cleaned by Jer Niskala
- Bryan Rusco will evaluate the air direction control of the Church’s air conditioners

The **Outreach Committee** met on March 19 and made a quilt for ALS

The **Memorial Committee** will be meeting on May 3, 2016.

The **Visioning Committee** will meet May 3, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Church Furnace Project – Update** – The two new furnaces have been delivered and mounted in the furnace room. The units received are a newer design than ordered, at no price difference. The furnace plumbing will be updated after the current heating season ends.
2. **A New Computer Printer** for the Church office was purchased with money from the Memorial Fund.
3. **Lenten Supper Proceeds** – This year’s Lenten Supper proceeds of \$196; along with \$104 from the UMW; will be donated to: Northwoods Partners (\$100), Northern Lights Clubhouse (\$100) and the Ely Food Shelf (\$100). M/Jeanne/S/Lucy/ Approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Handicapped Ramp Safety Concern** – Concern was expressed that the current design of the railings on the handicapped entrance ramp do not prevent children from falling to the ground. The Trustees will evaluate redesign of the railings for improved safety.
2. **Church Flower Garden** – Liddy Sheppard has volunteered to oversee the flower garden in front of the Church, and has offered to contact the Ely Garden Club. UMW offered funds, if needed, for plants, seeds and nutrients.
3. **125th Anniversary Recognition** – 2017 will be the 125th Anniversary of The Church. Those present approved a motion: That the Church have a recognition event of the 125th anniversary – and that an Ad Hoc committee be formed to plan, organize and oversee the anniversary event. M/Butch D/S/Jeanne T/Approved
4. **Annual Conference Lay Representative Expenses** – The Church is looking for a volunteer from the congregation to be its Lay Delegate to Annual Conference in St. Cloud, MN, June 21-23, 2016. Dana feels strongly that our church should have a lay representative in attendance at the conference. Approved: The Church will pay for delegate’s hotel room for up to 3 nights, plus reimburse up to \$150 for meal and travel expenses. M/Lucy/S/Jeanne

CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Children's International** – Letter of recognition and “Thank You” for our \$35 for our sponsor child’s Birthday gift.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **April Pasty Report** – by Jay Tomlinson – Made 851 pasties; Sales Receipts Deposited: \$5,114.00; Expenses \$1,380.16; Net Income: \$3,733.84.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

The meeting was closed by those attending reciting “*The Lords Prayer*”.

Respectfully Submitted, Blaine “Butch” Diesslin, Ad. Council Secretary

PASTY REPORT:

APRIL 2016

Pasties Made-	851
Deposit of Sales-	\$ 5,114.00
Expenses-	\$ 1,380.16
Income-	\$ 3,733.84

BIBLE STUDY:

May 2016

(Parables of Jesus)

Thursday 2:00 P.M.

Thursday May 5- Luke 16: 19-31

Thursday May 12- Matthew 13: 1-23

Thursday May 19- Luke 15: 1-32

**Thursday May 26- John 10: 1-18
(Last Text “The Good Shepherd”)**

“BOUNDARY WATERS CARE CENTER”

Worship Service

Sunday May 22, 2016

2:30 P.M.

“CARE FREE LIVING”

Worship Service

Wednesday June 1, 2016

1:15 P.M.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

New Photo Directories are

Available in Church Office

We would like each Church Family Household to
Pick up a Directory

“REACH, RENEW, REJOICE”:

“**Reach, Renew Rejoice**” is the Special Campaign Drive set up by our Annual Conference to nurture the growth of the United Methodist Church here in the Minnesota Annual Conference.

Last year (2015) we *pledged* to raise \$2,020.00, which we accomplished. A very well done job!!!

This year (2016) we set a *goal* of raising \$1,000.00 to go toward “**Reach, Renew, Rejoice**” and here is a recent update:

Beginning 2016 we had already set aside \$	57.00
We have Received 3 gifts of	\$ 250.00
Total Received through 4-23-16	\$ 807.00
Needed to reach <i>goal</i> set for 2016	\$ 193.00

Thank you pasty team!!

We just finished another successful season of making lots of lots of pasties for the folks in the area – and helped augment our church revenue. For anyone who likes statistics, in our last 6 ‘pasty months’ we made a total of 4,784 and netted almost \$20,000 for our church accounts. We have 12 callers who contact almost 300 customers in each of those months to get the orders, then a team of over 40 people who take care of the various tasks involved in getting everything ready, putting the pasties together, baking, bagging, selling, and then cleaning up afterwards. Thank you all!!!

Women’s Friendship Dinner

Calling all gals!! Join us on Tuesday, May 17, in the church Fellowship Hall for our annual Women’s Friendship Dinner. We’ll gather at 5:30 pm; dinner will be served at 6 pm. We’ll have a guess speaker and will announce who that will be later. Northland Market will be catering the meal and UMW will once again cover some of the cost so it will only be \$10 per person. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church starting May 1. Please sign up and turn your payment in to Lucy Diesslin by Sunday, May 15. Make any checks payable to **UMW**. We hope to see you all there!