

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

So, a few weeks ago I was invited to a Northstar District meeting, providing the clergy of the Northstar District an opportunity to meet our new Bishop, Bishop Bruce Ough.

Our meet and greet of Bishop Bruce Ough took place at the Alexandria U.M.C. in Alexandria, Minnesota.

Taking a trip from Ely, Minnesota to Alexandria Minnesota is roughly a 275 mile trip one way. Of course, for me I was going to have to make a round trip if I wanted to come home!

Well, many of you may be able to imagine this, but getting to Alexandria in time for the meeting meant I was leaving before daybreak because I wanted to make a couple of stops along the way.

The very first thing I noticed after getting out of the garage and getting the car pointed in the right direction to begin the trip to Alexandria was the absolutely **AMAZING** morning sky!!!

Yes, it was the **WONDER** of **GOD'S** creation that caught my eye early that morning, both the beauty of the stars and the planets up, up in the sky, **AWESOME!!!**

I am sure many of us have paused to consider at one time or another that we indeed do reside in an **EXPANSIVE** universe, an

EXPANSIVE creation!!! Yet, our **GRACIOUS** and **LOVING** **GOD** cares for us in the midst of all this expansiveness!!!

The Psalmist in Psalm 8: 3-4 states: "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?"

No, beyond the caring is the **LOVING** by our **GRACIOUS** and wonderful **GOD!!!** We are entering the month of November, November is that month in which we set aside a day and call it Thanksgiving Day!!! Let us pause and give **THANKS!!!**

Indeed, God loves us; recall the **GIFT** of **JESUS** born in "Bethlehem", going to the "Cross", the "Empty Tomb" and the "Resurrection"!!! God's **GIFT** of **LOVE** for us!!!

Indeed, God loves us; out of love God has provided each of us the opportunity to experience the wonder of **LIFE!!!** During our lives we have many opportunities to establish relationships with both family and friends. Family and friends, relationships lived out, what a blessing from **GOD!!!**

November is the month in which we celebrate a special day with all kinds of delicious foods, all kinds of football, all kinds of family and friends, and we call that day **THANKSGIVING DAY!!!**

So, **LOVE** and **LIFE** as we celebrate in a spirit of thanksgiving let us pause to say **THANK YOU GOD!!!**

In a spirit of thanksgiving, mindful of various **BLESSINGS** we have received from **GOD** let us also give **THANKS** unto **GOD** for the Ely U.M.C. and our **CHURCH FAMILY!!!**

Love in Christ,

Dana

NEW/OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Years ago we tried what we called an “Intergenerational Sunday School” which met before worship on Sunday morning. We ran this Sunday School for a few years with some degree of interest.

The “Visioning Committee” has been looking at a variety of ways to ENCOURAGE our Church Family to continue moving in a direction of “Nearer, My God to Thee”!!! One idea was to start a new Sunday School class meeting before worship for people who may not fit into the k-6 Sunday School during worship plan.

This new Sunday School will NOT, will NOT replace our regular Sunday School for k-6 which meets during worship. This Sunday School would be in ADDITION to the regular Sunday School Program.

So, beginning in DECEMBER 2012 and running through FEBRUARY 2013 we will hold a Sunday School class for anyone interested before worship with a focus on the Scripture which is being used for that morning’s sermon. We will run this Sunday School class from 9:00-9:30 AM on choir Sundays and 9:00-9:40 AM on those Sundays the choir does not bless our worship services!!

***HEAD’S UP ---- December 2,2012
***HEAD’S UP ---- 9:00-9:30 AM and 9:00-9:40AM
***HEAD’S UP ---- Sunday morning Scripture reading reflection
***HEAD’S UP ---- EVERYONE WELCOME !!!

P.S. We will try it ---- see what happens !!!

ELY U.M.C. CHURCH CONFERENCE 2012

Location: Virginia U.M.C.
Date: Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012
Time: 3:00 PM

Yes, we will soon begin putting together the paper work and making preparations for the 2012 Church Conference ---- Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Nominations Committee ---- Stay tuned in !!!

BIBLE STUDY

November
2:00 pm

Thursday, November 1
Romans 6
Thursday, November 8
Romans 7
Thursday, November 15
Romans 8
Thursday, November 22
NO BIBLE STUDY
THANKSGIVING DAY
Thursday, November 29
Romans 9

CONFIRMATION

NOVEMBER

6:15 – 7:00 pm

Class: Wednesday, November 7

Class: Wednesday, November 14

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

***CELEBRATION
COMING***

Sunday December 23, 2012

***ADAM PORTHAN
AUGUST RICHTER***

***ANNA URBAS
EVAN WOGNUM***

Please keep these four ***WONDERFUL*** young people in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to finish up their work in preparation for Confirmation Sunday!!!

**YOUTH GROUP
FOR NOVEMBER:**

5:30-6:15 PM

5:30-7:00 PM

Wednesday, November 7:
5:30-6:15 PM Confirmation class follows

Wednesday, November 14:
5:30-6:15 PM Confirmation class follows

Wednesday, November 21:
NO YOUTH GROUP-THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, November 28:
5:30-7:00 PM

PASTY REPORT:

Pasties made: 722

Profit report to come next month

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Ely United Methodist Church

October 17, 2012

Number Present: 9

Vice-Chairman Keith Rue called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Keith began the meeting with an Opening Thought from “The Upper Room”, followed by an opening prayer.

The Minutes of the September 19, 2012 Ad Council meeting were accepted after being amended as follows: **“Creation of a Reserve Fund of the Church ... Moved by Butch Diesslin; Second by Jeanne Tomlinson; that the Church establish a Reserve Fund account ...”** Creating the Reserve Fund does not require creating a separate bank account for the fund.

The **Treasurer’s Reports** for September, 2012 was presented by Treasurer Mark Olson. The end of the month account balances - General Fund: \$5,882.90; Building Fund: \$4,690.09; Memorial Fund: \$10,820.78; Reserve Fund: \$5,000.00.

The **Board of Trustees** met October 2. Numerous maintenance projects were discussed: Repair and addition of insulation in the ceilings of the upstairs storeroom and staircase, repair of east basement wall, repair of refrigerator-freezer, repair of hot water heater. The Trustees are seeking input on what to do with the Church’s front lawn. Plumber BJ Rusco expressed concern about the Church’s propane distribution system and made recommendations. BJ also made long-term recommendations about the church’s heating system plumbing, which has been modified and added on to numerous times without sufficient shutoff valves – requiring shutting down and draining the entire system for any maintenance, meaning longer service calls. BJ will be providing estimates for updating the propane distribution and the heating plumbing.

The **Finance Committee** will meet Wednesday October 24, 4:00 PM to develop the 2013 Church Budget. Committee members have been notified by mail.

The **Outreach Committee** is in need of a Chairperson. Those interested should contact Pastor Dana. Thanks to Toni Floyd for setting up the Food Shelf collection display.

The **Pastor Parish Relations Committee** met in September and decided upon the pastoral compensation for 2013.

Old Business

1. **Church Website Update** – The “draft” version of the Church Website is operating, but not available to the public. Many details to be added first. For info and questions contact Jay at tomlinsonjay@gmail.com
2. **Grinnell Mutual Insurance – Loss Control Report** – No action, continued to November.
3. **Refrigerator-Freezer Status** - The freezer portion of the combination unit ceased cooling again. The serviceman has been contacted.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **November Pasty Making: November 19-20, 2012 7:00 AM.** Jeanne Tomlinson is accepting new customers – contact Jeanne with new customer names and phone numbers.

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, Blaine “Butch” Diesslin

THANKS for your **GIVING**

from ELY UMC

OUTREACH

Our Church Family had the opportunity again this year to join in sharing with the Ely Area Food Shelf. It was wonderful to see Stanley the Scarecrow's basket being filled with healthy food for families.

The cash and checks will be used by the Food Shelf to purchase \$10 worth of goods for each \$1 donated. As of October 22, 2012 over \$420 has been donated!!!

Again, this year, Ely UMC has shown its love and concern for our community during this Thanksgiving season.

MAY YOU HAVE A

BLESSED THANKSGIVING

***P.S.

STANLEY SAYS:

“I ENJOYED WORKING WITH YOU
AGAIN THIS YEAR !!!

THE GIVING TREE

IS GOING UP !!!

Ely United Methodist Church has an opportunity again this season to make Christmas special for families with children in our community.

By November 1st, our Giving Tree will be decorated with children's Christmas wishes. Each tag has suggested items as gifts to choose from.

Please select a tag and enter you name and phone number on the list next to the tag's number.

You may join someone else when selecting a tag if you wish. All gifts need to be under the tree, unwrapped by December 1st.

They will be picked up by December 3rd. Ely UMC Outreach again thanks you for the generosity and love you share with those in our community.

May the spirit of giving to God's children be with you always.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

INSPIRATION : Psalm 118: 1-9, 21-29

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, ‘His steadfast love endures forever.’
Let the house of Aaron say, ‘His steadfast love endures forever.’
Let those who fear the Lord say, ‘His steadfast love endures forever.’

Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place. With the Lord on my side I do not fear. What can mortals do to me? The Lord is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success !

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the alter.

You are my God and I will give thanks to you, you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY

However, please remember Saturday, Dec. 1,2012. We will again be having our ANNUAL Sanctuary Decorating Party in ANTICIPATION of CHRISTMAS !!!

Yes, Saturday December 1

4:00 PM Tree Decorating Party

5:30 PM Chili feed-hosted by

ROD LOE !!!

Everyone Welcome !!!

APARTMENT TREE DECORATING

Monday, December 3, 2012

6:00 – 8:00 PM or as long as it takes

Senior Apartment Christmas Tree Decorating

(Generally 5 trees go up)

(The more help the less time involved)

Ely UMC Youth Group has claimed 2 trees for themselves as a

SPECIAL PROJECT !!! (3 trees left to do)