

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Well, as we come to the close of August 2015 and begin to anticipate the beginning of September 2015, I see the summer months “slip sliding away”.

Well, as we come to the close of August 2015 and begin to anticipate the beginning of September 2015, I see the summer walleye fishing season “slip sliding away” or in other words **WINDING DOWN!!!**

Well, as the summer of 2015 walleye fishing season is “slip sliding away”, and as September of 2015 begins coming into focus there are numerous opportunities to celebrate not the wrapping up but the **WINDING UP** like a “Grandfather Clock” or “Grandmother Clock” many Ely U.M.C. activities which have been in hiatus for the summer.

Now, when I pause to think about the reality of the summer walleye fishing season **WINDING DOWN** I am saddened by the idea that there will be, fewer and fewer delicious walleye dinners, fewer and fewer moments out in the B.W.C.A. enjoying the peace and quiet, fewer and fewer sightings of eagles and or other wildlife while spending time in God’s creation, and fewer and fewer moments spent with friends during play time with fishing rod in hand.

However, just as the summer walleye fishing season is **WINDING DOWN** joyfully we can announce that the Ely U.M.C. fall ministries are in the process of **WINDING UP** just like a “Grandfather Clock” or “Grandmother Clock”!!!

Indeed, where the **WINDING DOWN** of activities may spark some sense of sadness the **WINDING UP** of activities here in the Ely U.M.C. sparks a sense of **JOY!!!**

Yes, **SUNDAY SCHOOL** is about to bloom and I look forward to seeing all our wonderful young people yet again. God has truly blessed us with some very **AWESOME** young people and I look forward to seeing them more often yet again. Let us hope that they will again bless us with praiseful singing in worship!!!

Yes, **SUNDAY SCHOOL** is about to bloom and I look forward to the **WONDERFUL** discussions we share with one another in our before worship Sunday School Classes, while focusing on our Scripture Reading for that morning’s Worship Service.

Yes, **BIBLE STUDY** is about to bloom and spending time with brothers and sisters in the study of God’s Word is a **PRECIOUS** use of one’s time, time which sparks the potential for our growing deeper relationships with God and with one another.

Yes, **PASTY TIME** is about to bloom and what a **JOY** there is when we as brothers and sisters in the Family of God work, and work, and work together to complete a task which nurtures our potential for being in ministry with God and deepens our relationships with each other as the Family of God. There is much to be said for not only walking arm in arm but working arm in arm.

Yes, **YOUTH GROUP** is about to bloom yet again as our older youth continue to gather for fellowship and support of each other while living their **FAITH** within the community of Ely, **AWESOME**.

Yes, we can now begin to anticipate the women’s group which is called the **GUILD**, and the un-named men’s **GROUP** will yet again gather together for fun and fellowship as we seek to become more **PRESENT** for one another as brothers and sisters in the Family of God.

WINDING DOWN bummer, **WINDING UP** with **JOY**, **JOY**, **JOY**, as we celebrate renewed opportunities to **WALK** with **GOD** and **WORK** with **GOD**, and as we celebrate renewed opportunities to **WALK** with one another and **WORK** with one another!!!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

What a **JOY** to announce that it is time to start Children's Sunday School for Fall 2015.

Children's Sunday School meets weekly during our morning worship service. Our young people gather in worship with us for the beginning of the service. Then following the Children's Moment they go on to Sunday School for the remainder of the service.

What a **JOY** to share in worship with our children and then see them learning about **GOD** in Sunday School. Yes, providing our children the opportunity to learn more about **GOD** and **GOD'S LOVE** for us is a vitally important part of our being the Church and sharing in God's Ministries!

So, let's target Sunday September 13th for starting up our Children's Sunday School.

We **INVITE** all the **CHILDREN** in our Church Family to take advantage opportunity to learn about and grow in **GOD'S LOVE!!!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

What a **JOY** to announce that it is time to start our All Comers Sunday School Class which meets before worship at 9:00 A.M.

Our All Comers Sunday School Class is open to **ONE** and **ALL!!!**

The All Comers Sunday School Class takes the form of a discussion about our morning worship Scripture Reading. We have the opportunity to share our thoughts and ideas about the Scripture. We do use some prepared questions to help encourage discussion, but our time together goes where it goes.

Now, because we meet in the same location that the choir practices we have two different time schedules. Choir Sundays class goes from 9:00-9:30 A.M. and on non-choir Sundays class goes from 9:00-9:40 A.M.

So, let's target Sunday September 13th for starting up our All Comers Sunday School Class.

We **INVITE** all of our Church Family Members to consider sharing in this time of reflection and fellowship.

P.S. Coffee is provided.

PEW RE-FINISHING PROJECT:

Yes, in August we yet again attempted to accomplish our every three year Pew-Refinishing Project---

Wait

did we say we attempted to---

We Accomplished

yet again our every three year effort to wash the pews in the sanctuary, re-coat the pews with some variation of Tung Oil, and clean the pew cushions.

Yes, with an **AWESOME** pew re-finishing crew of 12 people washing, oiling, and cleaning of cushions took us just under a morning's worth of time.

Yes, our pews are now yet again protected for another three years and we the Ely U.M.C. Family pause to say

THANK YOU:

Bonnie Berglund

Dan Johnson

Frank Martinelli

Jim Nicholas

Joan Nicholas

Sheila Mathews

Steve Mathews

Donna Rusco

Norm Rusco

Jay Tomlinson

Jeanne Tomlinson

WHAT

A

GREAT

CREW !!!

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

Yes, we have begun the process of developing a new Photo Phone Directory for our Church Family and extended Church Family.

Our first two sessions of photo shoots were on Friday July 31 and Saturday August 1. Truth be told, we still needed more photo shoot sessions in order to get everyone in the directory.

EVERYONE IN IS IMPORTANT !!!

Announcing **TWO NEW** opportunities to participate in our Ely U.M.C. Family Photo Directory, these **TWO NEW** opportunities are coming in **OCTOBER**, Monday October 5, and Monday October 12.

EVERYONE IN IS IMPORTANT !!!

You may wonder why, "everyone in is important"? The answer to that question is because **YOU** are an important and precious part of our Church Family!!!

Yes, we want **YOU** to be known by all your brothers and sisters in the Family of God here in the Ely U.M.C. and we want **YOU** to know all your brothers and sisters here in the Ely U.M.C. Family!!!

REMEMBERING NAMES is not always easy for some of us and some of us, includes me. However, a photo directory is a **VALUABLE TOOL** to remembering names and knowing names is valuable for developing relationships, even among brothers and sisters---no longer who is that---but I know you!!!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN:

Yes, it is time to start Confirmation Classes for 2015-16 with the expectation of a **SPRING** celebration of the completion of all course work and a **SPECIAL** Sunday on which we celebrate Confirmation as a Church Family.

We will hold only one session in September, on Wednesday September 9 from 6:15-6:55 P.M.

Following this class we will hold classes the **FIRST TWO WEDNESDAYS** of October, November, December, January, February, March, April, and possibly May for a total of 15 or 17 class periods depending on need in May and beyond.

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS:

2:00 P.M. Thursdays

Thursday September 10- Exodus 3:1 – 4:17 (Moses)

Thursday September 17- I Samuel 3: 1 – 21 (Samuel)

Thursday September 24- I Kings 19: 4 – 18 (Elijah)

Bible Study is open to all who would like to share in a discussion of the Scriptures with a focused emphasis on a particular text week by week.

WELCOME !!!

REACH, RENEW, REJOICE:

“Reach, Renew, Rejoice” is a special campaign by the Minnesota Annual Conference to help fund the start of new churches in our Conference.

We have committed to raising \$2,020.00 towards this project in 2015.

With two donations totaling \$1000.00 in eight months we have raised \$1,309.00. We have a total need towards this special campaign of roughly \$711.00 to meet our 2015 commitment. Please look for the **DONATION BASKET** located under the light switches in the sanctuary of the church.

This special campaign runs for five years, so as 2016 rolls around we will again be looking at what our commitment to “Reach, Renew, Rejoice” will be for next year.

BAZAAR:

Yes, the Bazaar for the Ely U.M.C. is **COMING**, but when is it coming? Well, it will be in **NOVEMBER**, but we are waiting to hear from the U.M.W. the specifics on date and time---

However, all of us can begin thinking, crafts, baked goods, and coffee ands...

Yes, think Bazaar, think helping the Church Family, think creating possibilities for being in Ministry with God---

POSSIBILITIES !!!