

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Whoa, whoa, whoa, how about putting the “**breaks on**”!  
First, it was right after Thanksgiving Day and what the shopping malls might call “**Black Friday**” and the shopping malls became full of “**Christmas Items**”! Second, it was right after the joyful celebration of Halloween by the children in our society and the shopping malls became full of “**Christmas Items**”! Third, it has become obvious that the shopping malls are now even beginning the on slot, before Thanksgiving Day, before Halloween, yes even earlier than Halloween, and the shopping malls have become full of “**Christmas Items**”!

Yes, there they are in plain view, Christmas Cards, Christmas Decorations, Christmas Lights, and even some forms of Christmas Deals to encourage those entering a shopping mall to **begin thinking Christmas**, and all of this occurring long before---what month is it that we celebrate Christmas---o yes, **December!**

Whoa, whoa, whoa, how about putting the “**breaks on**”!  
Yes, it makes a person want to say “**what gives**”?

Well, here is a thought the “**motivation**” for these early Christmas yearnings by the shopping malls may be “**just a tad**” off the “**mark**”!!!

However, the results which seem to be moving us closer and closer to an “**every day**” is “**Christmas Day**” kind of a mentality at least at the shopping mall might be “**right on target**”!!!

Yes indeed, “**CHRISTMAS DAY**” “**every day**” does “**hit the mark**” not so much from a secular point of view but from a “**SPIRITUAL**” point of view!!!

First, **CHRISTMAS** is really about the amazing wonder of **GOD’S GRACIOUS LOVE** for us as children in the Family of God!!!

Second, **CHRISTMAS** is really about how **GOD** has revealed **GOD’S GRACIOUS LOVE** to us through the very special **GIFT** of baby **JESUS** born in Bethlehem, announced by angels and found lying in a manger by shepherds!!!

Third, **CHRISTMAS** is inseparably link to **EASTER!!!** **EASTER** is highlighted by the earthly death of **JESUS** on what we have called **GOOD FRIDAY** and the **CRUCIFIXION** followed three days later by the **EMPTY TOMB** and the **RESURRECTION** of **JESUS!!!**

Here is the thing; the shopping malls may be closer than we think, not so much from a secular point of view, but from a “**SPIRITUAL**” point of view!!!

**GOD’S GRACIOUS LOVE** is available to each and every one of us and **GOD’S GRACIOUS LOVE** is available to each and every one of us each and every day!!!

Yes indeed, we as children in the Family of God have every reason to carry **CHRISTMAS** in our **HEARTS** each and every day!!!

Clearly, we are not talking Christmas Cards, Christmas Decorations, Christmas Lights, or some form of Christmas Deal; we are talking here about **CHRISTMAS LOVE**, which is a precious gift from **GOD** offered and available to each and every one of us each and every day!!!

Love in Christ,

pastor Dana

***CHRISTMAS EVE:***

**December 24, 2017**

**10:00 A.M.**

First, Sunday morning we will be celebrating, in worship, the fourth Sunday of Advent at our regularly scheduled time for worship. This will bring the Advent Season to a close.

We welcome everyone to this worship service and time of fellowship following worship with our regularly scheduled coffee and... time.

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***CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLE SERVICE:***

**December 24, 2017**

**7:00 P.M.**

Second, Sunday night we will be holding our traditional Christmas Eve Service with the candle lighting service and the singing of "Silent Night".

Again, we welcome everyone to return for this service as we celebrate not the close of the Advent Season but the birth of God's Son into the world and God's gracious Christmas Gift to us:

***BABY JESUS !!!***

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***"BOUNDARY WATERS CARE CENTER":***

**Worship Service  
Sunday December 10, 2017  
2:30 P.M.**

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***"CARE FREE LIVING":***

**Worship Service  
Wednesday December 6, 2017  
1:15 P.M.**

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***ADVENT STUDY:***

**Returns for December**

**Sunday December 3,  
Chapter 3 "Raising a Child Not Your Own"**

**Sunday December 10,  
Chapter 4 "The Journey to Bethlehem" and a bit of  
"The Rest of the Story"**

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## UMW Christmas Luncheon

Calling all Methodist Women! Take a little break from the busy holiday preparations and join us for a relaxing Christmas lunch at the Grand Ely Lodge on Wednesday, Dec 20 at 12 noon. We'll each be ordering our own meal from the menu so there is no advance payment needed. But we will need to let the GEL know ahead of time for how many places to set up, so please sign up at church, or call 235-8470, by Sunday, Dec 17 if you will be able to come.

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### ***ALL CHURCH TREE TRIMMING PARTY:***

4:00 P.M. Saturday December 2, 2017

Yes, it is once again time to get our sanctuary trimmed out for our upcoming celebration of Christmas and the "Christ Child's" birthday celebration! All those who enjoy "Trimming the Tree" and enjoy fellowshiping with each other should plan to come and participate in this joyful activity. Even if you don't like the actual "trimming" part – we can always use a "peanut gallery" to help critique and point out needed changes – and add to the fellowship - so please come!

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### ***ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER:***

6:00 P.M. Saturday December 2, 2017

And yes, we are once again going to have an "All Church Christmas Dinner Potluck" right after the trimming is done. Families – here's an easy way to feed the crew and share in yet another special Christmas celebration. Please bring something edible (homemade or purchased) and join us for great food and wonderful fellowship.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

November 15, 2017

Ely United Methodist Church

**Call To Order:** Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Attendees (8):** Dana Thompson, Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Linda Hane, Mark & Marge Olson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

**Opening:** Dana provided the "Opening Thought" from *The Upper Room* (December 15, 2017 entry) followed by prayer.

**Minutes:** The October 25, 2017 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the November 2017 *FISH*. Motion to approve/Lucy Diesslin; Second/Linda Hane. Approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark Olson presented the October 2017 treasurer's report. Receipts & disbursements were \$10,995.33 & \$9,863.48. End of month balances: Building Fund \$19,867.85 (with \$13,000 Undesignated); Memorial Fund \$10,887.65; Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project 2018 \$16, Safe Gathering \$387, available General Fund \$5,637.31. Motion to approve/Jeanne Tomlinson; Second/Lucy Diesslin. Approved unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Board of Trustees:** Marge Olson update on parsonage work was covered under Old Business.

**Finance:** Butch Diesslin reported the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, November 14 to prepare the 2018 budget which was discussed under New Business.

**Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that the committee met on November 6 to set Pastor Dana's 2018 salary and to finalize the Church Profile. The profile was sent into the District office on Friday, November 10.

**Worship:** Linda Hane reported that the church choir will be participating in the Nov 19 Thanksgathering at the

Ledgerock Church. She also reported that Sharon Luthens is working on something for the children to do for Christmas.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Parsonage Projects - Updates:** Marge Olson reported that the garage doors have been replaced. Brett Porthan has been paid \$4,264 to secure his painting services. Marge has contacted Serena's and Floor to Ceiling to come and do measuring and prepare estimates for the carpeting.
- **Kid's Club:** Dana reported that it's been going well. They had 12 kids and 7 adults participating today. He re-iterated the need for at least 5 adults each week

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2018 Church Budget:** Butch Diesslin presented the Proposed 2018 Budget prepared by the Finance Committee. Some minor changes were made to Connectional Ministries to add figures which had been omitted. The total Proposed 2018 Budget comes to \$105,319.37. Motion to approve/Butch Diesslin. Second/Jeanne Tomlinson. Approved unanimously.
2. **Moving \$1,000 Undesignated Funds:** Jay stated a recommendation to move \$1,000 from the Undesignated Funds being held in the Building Fund to the 2018 Educational Council Budget to cover the significant increase in that budget item. Mark requested that the funds be moved into the General Fund rather than creating yet another special line item to track. Motion to do so/Butch Diesslin. Second/Mark Olson. Approved unanimously.
3. **Move \$12,000 Undesignated Funds:** Jay stated another recommendation to move the remaining \$12,000 Undesignated Funds to the Building Fund to help cover

the costs of the parsonage projects. Motion to do so/Marge Olson. Second by Butch Diesslin. Approved unanimously.

4. **Renewal of Sam's Club Membership:** Jay brought up the renewal notice received from Sam's Club. Since it was primarily obtained in order to purchase the tables and chairs which we now have, it was thought we might not need to retain that membership and just get another membership if we need it again in the future. Jeanne moved we not renew the membership. Second by Lucy Diesslin. During the discussion it was determined that we should do some further research on this before voting. Butch moved that we table the motion. Second by Linda Hane. Motion to table the vote passed unanimously.
5. **Potluck Supplies:** Jeanne Tomlinson asked that the church stock the supplies needed for our pot luck dinners (paper plates & bowls, plastic tablewear, etc.) instead of relying on a church member to supply them. It was decided we would approach the UMW to cover the cost for these.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Mark Olson shared a thank you for the monetary gift we'd sent for our sponsored child.

### **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

1. Pasties coming November 20 & 21.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

The **Guild/UMW** on Wednesday October 25, 2017 1-3 pm

The Guild/UMW met at the Church with 7 people in attendance. President Bonnie Berglund opened the meeting at 1:10 pm with a prayer by Pastor Dana and unison reading of the UMW Purpose.

The minutes from our September 27, 2017 meeting were read and approved as read.  
Bonnie Berglund gave the Treasurer's Report: checking \$1,241; savings \$7,522.22, CD \$10,765.31.

**Old Business**

- **Parsonage Inspection:** Marge Olson stopped in to report that she's getting a quote for the window washing from Ann Spangler since the UMW is responsible for that task in the parsonage preparations. She's also getting quotes for the carpeting and window coverings that we'll be replacing. The painting and garage door replacement has already been approved by the Ad Council.
- **2017 Bazaar on Nov 4:** Marge also reported that she's taking care of the decorations for the tables but will be dropping them off on Thursday since she'll be out of town for the weekend. Lucy will be announcing at church that crafts & baked goods for the bazaar will need to be dropped off between 9 & 11 am. Lucy & Toni will be handling the craft sales and Donna Rusco is in charge of the bake sale. Bonnie Berglund, Linda Williams, LaVerne Lindholm and Carol Laine will be helping.

**New Business**

- **Festival of Trees Wreath:** Lucy reported that Northwoods Partners had contacted Jan Rue directly and she agreed to decorate a wreath again so we

needed to approve the purchase. Jeanne Tomlinson moved we purchase a wreath again, second by Janice Tessier. Motion approved.

- **North Star member registry:** Jeanne reported that she'd completed our online unit registration on the North Star UMW website with help from Bonnie Berglund.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

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The **Guild/UMW** on Wednesday November 15, 2017 1-3 pm

The Guild/UMW met at the Church with 5 people in attendance. Vice-President Lucy Diesslin opened the meeting at 1:05 pm with a prayer by Pastor Dana and unison reading of the UMW Purpose.

The minutes from our October 25, 2017 meeting were read and approved as read.  
There was no treasurer's report.

**Old Business**

- **2017 Bazaar on Nov 4:** The bazaar was deemed a success. We brought in \$2,380. There was some brief discussion about how much of that money would be paid to the general fund but Tootsie Loe reminded us that the UMW covered the costs of the event but that the gross income went to the church's General Fund. Jeanne had taken care of the funds this year and had deposited it in the UMW account so she will contact Sharon to have a check for the full amount written to the church.
- **Festival of Trees Wreath:** We briefly discussed how the payment to Northwoods Partners for the wreath will be handled since normally it is paid with

the order form. Since they handled it differently this year by simply contacting Jan Rue directly, we're assuming they'll send a bill. Lucy will contact Jan Rue to let her know the UMW will cover the cost in case she gets the bill.

**New Business**

- **UMW Christmas Luncheon:** Jeanne Tomlinson brought up the idea of once again having our UMW Christmas Luncheon at the GEL in December. We decided to hold the luncheon at 12 noon on Wednesday, December 20. Jeanne offered to contact the GEL to confirm they'll be open and will take care of having a sign-up sheet at the church in order to get a count ahead of time for the GEL. Jeanne will also do a short article about it for the December FISH.
- **Giving Tree:** Pastor Dana reported that there were tags that had not been picked up and wanted to know if the UMW would cover the cost of the gifts with Toni Floyd offering to take care of getting them. Instead, Lucy and Tootsie will pay Toni directly for two of the gifts (Henley shirt and a motorized truck), and Jeanne will purchase a Lego set for a 10 yr old and have it to the church by the Nov 19 deadline.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 1:30 pm.  
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***BIBLE STUDY:***

December 2017  
Thursday 2:00 P.M.

Thursday December 7- Luke 1: 1-56

Thursday December 14- Luke 2: 1-38

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***2017  
CHURCH CONFERENCE:***

***Wednesday December 20, 2017  
7:00 P.M.***

***Approve Budget with Pastor Salary  
Year End Review  
Nominations for the year 2018***

We will hold our Annual year ending Church Conference immediately prior to our monthly scheduled Administrative Council Meeting.

The Church Conference will be led by pastor Dana Thompson, upon completion of our Church Conference work we will end the Church Conference Meeting.

Everyone is welcome to the Annual Church Conference. Actually, it is an All-Church Meeting.

\*\*\*Our regularly scheduled Ad. Council Meeting for the month of December will follow the Church Conference and will be led by our Chairperson Jay Tomlinson.

Please feel welcomed to stay for this meeting as well, or you may leave during the time we take to transition from one meeting into the next meeting.

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