

*Pastor's Ponderings* – November 2012

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