

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Well, that season of the year is closing in on us again; soon we will be seeing those all so familiar Christmas Trees popping up in all kinds of places.

Yes, Christmas Trees in homes, in offices, in stores, and maybe even out of doors, will be seen as we go about our many daily activities!!!

Christmas Trees from real to fake, popping up here, and there and everywhere!!!

Christmas Trees with lights that glow or lights that blink; lights with reds, yellows, blues, and greens intermixed or possibly all one color in white, or red, or blue, glowing or blinking lights!!!

Christmas Trees with shimmering Tinsel wrapped around from top to bottom or is it bottom to top just seems to add a bit of sparkle and dazzle to each Christmas Tree!!!

Christmas Trees with all those different decorations, from store bought to home crafted and handmade, from theme oriented to no theme, from variety pack to all one style, just hanging there on each and every Christmas Tree!!!

Christmas Trees, look see up at the top, at the very height, there just may be a star or an angel looking down from above!!!

So, the Christmas Tree with lights, tinsel, decorations, and the topper, it all pales as the eye drifts down to all those beautifully wrapped Christmas Packages at the base of the Christmas Tree. Ah those wondering eyes which if any of those precious Christmas

Packages are meant for me??? What **GIFT** might I expect to find under the **CHRIST**mas Tree???

Well, the clue for **ONE** and for **ALL**, is found not so much by reading the nametags on the Christmas Packages under the tree but by looking to the topper on the tree when the topper on the tree is a **STAR** or an **ANGEL**!!!

What??? What do you mean??? Well, it was the Angel with a Heavenly Host who announced to the shepherds who were out in the fields watching their flocks by night where to go to see the **GIFT** wrapped and ready for the celebration!!! Well, it was the star, the Bethlehem Star that led the three Wiseman to the place and to the **GIFT** wrapped and ready for the celebration!!!

The **CELEBRATION** of **CHRIST**mas, with the **CHRIST**mas Tree, and the **CHRIST**mas gifts for **ONE** and for **ALL** is found in that little baby boy wrapped not in **CHRIST**mas Wrapping Paper or with **CHRIST**mas Bow, but wrapped in as the angel did say "in Swaddling Cloths and lying in a **MANGER**"!!!

Indeed, Christmas Trees, will soon be popping up all over the place, here, there, and everywhere!!! There will be Christmas Trees topped with Stars, and Angels, and other such things totally unrelated. It really does not matter what is at the top of the Christmas Tree or that which lies under the Christmas Tree, what matters is that which is within our **HEARTS**!!! Yes, what matters is the **CHRIST**mas **GIFT** and **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE** revealed in the **CHRIST** child's birth in Bethlehem, not for **ONE** but rather for **ALL**!!!

May our **CELEBRATION** of **CHRIST**mas at this time, truly be rooted and grounded the birth of the **CHRIST** Child, and the wonder of **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE** for us!!!

Love in Christ,
Dana

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

November 14, 2012

Ely United Methodist Church

Number Present: 10

Chairman Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

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

The Minutes of the October 17, 2012 Ad Council meeting were approved as printed.

The **Treasurer’s Report** for October, 2012 were presented by Treasurer Mark Olson. The report for each month was highlighted. The October end of the month account balances - General Fund: \$3,827.25; Building Fund: \$4,692.44; Memorial Fund: \$10,894.22, Reserve Fund: \$5,000.89.

The **Memorial Committee** met November 6. The committee approved the funding for the purchase of two sets of anthem booklets, at a cost of about \$600.

The **Outreach Committee** is now being chaired by Toni Floyd. Toni Floyd has also agreed to be the committee chairperson for 2013.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Church Website Update** – The Church Website is operating and available at <http://elymethodist.org>. Church Members and friends are invited to log onto the website. Please share your comments and suggestions with Jay Tomlinson (tomlinsonjay@gmail.com).
2. **Church Building Use Policy - Grinnell Mutual Insurance.** Jay Tomlinson asked those present for those present to give feedback on the draft of the policy that was received at the September meeting. Jay will modify the Building Use Policy to show the input received at this meeting and will share the revision with Ad Council members – to review and provide further revisions or approval at the December Ad Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Approval of Nominees for 2012-2013** – Pastor Thompson requested the approval of those volunteers nominated for Church

leadership and decision-making councils and committees, prior to the Church Conference on November 17, 2012. Those present unanimously approved those nominated.

2. **Approval of the Pastor’s Salary for 2013.** The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee recommended the Pastor’s Salary for 2013 be \$43,221. Those present unanimously approved the Pastoral’s Salary, as recommended by the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee.
3. **Approval of the 2013 Church Budget.** The Church Finance Committee recommended a 2013 Church Budget of \$100,784.94. Those present unanimously approved the 2013 Church Budget as recommended.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **Pasty Making** will be **November 19-20, 2012.**
2. **Intergenerational Sunday School – 9 AM, Sundays of December, Fellowship Hall.** Pastor Dana Thompson will lead a 30-40 minute discussion of the Scripture Reading for the morning’s worship service.

ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Ely All Night Graduation Party 2013 Funding Request.** The Ad Council approved a \$50 support donation.
2. **Children’s International** – Christmas Gift Request. The Ad Council approved \$25 for our sponsored child’s Christmas gift.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. The meeting was closed by those attending reciting “*The Lords Prayer*”.

Respectfully Submitted, Blaine “Butch” Diesslin

INSPIRATION: Luke 2: 1-20

“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying’

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those who he favors!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

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 !!!

CONFIRMATION

DECEMBER

6:15 – 7:00 pm

Class: Wednesday, December 5

Class: Wednesday, December 12

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!!!

BIBLE STUDY

**December
2:00 pm**

Thursday, December 6

Romans 10

Thursday, December 13

Romans 11

Thursday, December 20

Romans 12

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 !!!

**YOUTH GROUP
FOR DECEMBER:**

5:30-6:15 P.M. Confirmation Weeks
5:30-7:00 P.M. No Confirmation Weeks

Wednesday, December 5:
5:30-6:15 P.M. Confirmation class follows

Wednesday, December 12:
5:30-6:15 P.M. Confirmation class follows

Wednesday, December 19:
5:30-7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 26:
NO YOUTH GROUP-CHRISTMAS

PASTY REPORT:

October 2012-

Total Number of Pasties Made

---722

Total Income Deposited

---\$4,331.00

Total Cost of Product

---\$1,306.46

Net Income (Profit):

--- \$3,024.54 --- (2011 profit---\$3,016.33)

PARTICIPATING-GIVING-OFFERINGS:

December is upon us and we are coming to the close of 2012 while looking forward to **2013!!!** As we come to the close of 2012, in preparation for **2013** we give **THANKS** for the thoughtful and **GRACIOUS** giving of our Ely U.M.C. Family!!!

As in years past, it looks like we will come to the close of 2012 meeting all of our Financial Responsibilities as we seek to be the People of God here in the Ely U.M.C. sharing in God's Ministries with God!!!

Well, the Finance Committee has prepared the **2013 Budget**, it has been brought before the Administrative Council and **approved**, and it has been brought before our 2012 Church Conference held in Virginia.

On the next page you will find our **2013 Budget**, it represents a \$2,823.48 increase over our **2012 Budget!!!** This is that time of year when we provide the opportunity to make pledges to the **2013** Ely United Methodist Church Budget. You may send pledges into the Church Office or place them in the offering plate on Sunday morning. (Ely U.M.C. 305 E. Camp St. Ely, MN. 55731)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEDGE FOR 2013:

BY WEEK _____ **BY MONTH** _____

BY YEAR _____ **OTHER** _____

CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE:

7:00 P.M.

Monday December 24, 2012

EVERYONE WELCOME !!!

“COME & WORSHIP”

“THE NEW BORN KING” !!!

***“ELY CAREFREE LIVING”
WORSHIP SERVICE:***

Wednesday December 5, 1:00 P.M.

***“BOUNDARY WATERS CARE CENTER”
WORSHIP SERVICE***

Sunday December 16, 2:30 P.M.
