



The Salt Shaker

AUGUST 2014

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR ELY
11100 Spanish Road, Ely, Iowa 52227

From the Pastor's Keyboard

I was writing in cursive the other day (which is becoming something that I do less and less.) I looked at the swirls of the "r"s and thought about when I was a kid I would get a note from Mabel Mason—a lady of my great-grandmother's generation. She wrote funny "r"s. Not really funny, but different than I learned in third grade. Sometimes I had trouble reading what she wrote. Mabel did have immaculately precise penmanship. Well, after all, she was a school teacher and then an elementary school principal.

On the opposite end of thinking about penmanship, my young son is starting to recognize the alphabet and likes when I spell his name on my keyboard to see the letters on the computer screen. He can pick out more and more letters on the keyboard. I, on the other hand, did not learn to type (yes, I learned typing not keyboarding) until I was in eighth grade. We did have computers at school when I was in high school and no one I knew owned a computer at home.

So, what is obsolete? Cursive? Typewriters? Hand writing?

In each of our lives we can look back and see that things have changed. Not just the days and the seasons, but how we lived when we were younger compared to contemporary times. Many of us long for something long gone. A new Miranda Lambert song bemoans that nothing is hand-made anymore. But, in our faith we see that our lives continue moving on a path and while our faith is always grounded in a strong and steady God, it is personalized for the times, for our personalities, for our circumstances. Our faith is individual. Our community of faith is formed by the individuals within while at the same time our individual faith is informed by our community.

Whenever I think that folks had it better 50 or 100 years ago, I remind myself that I like my clothes washer and dryer; that I am glad that the church opened itself to ordaining women; that my mother was able to have a hip replaced twice; and, that my son will be able to communicate with technology not even created yet—even though he may or may not be able to read cursive.

So, at church --whether PowerPoint presentations during worship is your thing, or all you would like to hear is Bach on the organ, there is room for you seeking the one true God manifested in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Whether you like kolaches or danishes, there is room for you in the pews—the fellowship of the saints. Whether your penmanship is perfect or pathetic, there is room for you at the table of our Lord.

August is one of those months that folks like to skip church. Please don't. We start with communion on August 3. On August 17 we will have outdoor worship (bring a lawn chair) and have Backpack Dedication for all students. And the Sundays in between will be great too.

*Blessing to you as you walk in your faith.
May you discover the passionate heartbeat
of God in the intensity of the summer days.*
In Christ, Pastor Julie

Worship Schedule

August 3: Communion. Matt. 14:13-21: Jesus' Bread

August 10: Guest preacher Rev. Jim Bonewald

August 17: Worship Outdoors, bring a lawn chair!
Also, Backpack dedication Sunday: all students bring your backpack

August 24: Matthew 16:13-20

August 31: Noisy Can Sunday, Matthew 16:21-28:
Minutia

Property Committee Update

The Property Committee has had an active summer: Thanks to Jim Serbousek, Bill Serbousek, George Chadima, and Norm Zahradnik for working on updates made to concrete at the church and manse. Special thanks to Chuck Stockdale and Croell Redi-Mix for donating concrete and supplies. Updates and maintenance were made to the church bell. (See back page photo) Thanks to Everett Williams, Bryan Bailey, Bob Zvacek, Steve Schuett and Luke Huedepohl for their help. Hard rains (See June 30, 2014, photo below) influenced the cleaning of church culverts and thanks to George Chadima and Norm Zahradnik for working on those. Bob Zvacek reworked the front church doors so they work properly. Many thanks to all who pitch in with storm damage clean up and weed pulling; and thanks to Bob Zvacek and Jim Serbousek for maintenance of the church water system. These busy folks donate their time and resources to make our properties functional, beautiful, and safe. Thank you!

Phil Huedepohl, Elder, Property Committee



Camp Wyoming

If you sent someone to a Camp Wyoming camp this summer, you are eligible for some financial assistance from the Ann and Bill Biderman Christian Life Scholarship Fund. Details about your fees or questions can be directed to Tom Vavra.

Chicken Noodle Soup & Kolach Supper

It is not too early to be thinking about our Annual Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Supper, Saturday, **October 18** (our main fund-raiser).

Please consider saying “yes” when called to help out – and be thinking if you can support the Supper by making kolaches, chicken noodle soup, items for the Country Store, or donating cans or funds for purchase of kolach fillings and other expenses. Pickles, carrots and celery are other items needed. Watch for announcements concerning the help list.

We will have some training for those handling the food. We have become aware of some procedures we could implement to improve our attention to food safety. Voice any concerns/suggestions to Becky Grenis or Joanne Chadima.

The **Ely Fall Festival** will be held Saturday, Sept. 27. We would like to have a presence at the event. We will bake kolaches, distribute Save the Date cards for the Soup Supper along with a free kolach. The change will be that we will not sell kolaches for ourselves. Instead we will sell plates of 6 for a suggested donation of at least \$5 to help fund the Ely Senior Meals, which our church is helping sponsor along with St. John Lutheran. That way it is not counted as a fundraiser for us. Barb Horak has graciously offered to help organize this event. We will still have a group of kolach bakers that morning. So, you may volunteer to help man the booth (let Barb know), or help bake the kolaches (let Joanne know).

The Annual Tractor Ride

The Tractor Ride is planned for **Saturday, August 9**. The event is held rain or shine. The tractor ride begins at 7:30 a.m. at our church and ends there, too. Musical entertainment will be provided by “The Accordion Guys” at mealtime. For more information and applications, contact Norm or Terry Zahradnik or visit www.elypres.org/outreach.html.



Expressions of Thanks

My family would like to thank Pastor Julie for Carolyn's wonderful memorial service. It was very special to us all. We would also like to thank everyone else for the prayers, concerns & love these last few months. And everything else people have helped us with. I have said many times, "I am so thankful I came back to Church & have so many wonderful friends & family that have helped me through Carolyn's illness & death." And have always been there for me with whatever I have faced. And I thank God that he has helped me be strong & carried me through also. ~ Bonnie Fencil

A special thank you to Pastor Julie and my church friends for your presence at my 90th birthday celebration and for the gifts and cards. Your thoughtfulness, kindness and love was appreciated. ~ Arlene Reyman

Thank you for all the cards, flowers, phone calls and expressions of sympathy, after Mom's death. They were appreciated so much. Also, thank you to those who came to the services. It meant so much to see you there. And thank you to Pastor Julie for her words at the service. They were beautiful and very comforting. ~ Everett & Linda Williams

I wish to thank my church family for their thoughts, prayers and cards at the sudden death of my brother, Bob. He had commented several times that he could feel the prayers of the Ely church, and they were very comforting to him. My sincere thanks, Tom Vavra

From Matthew 25: "The gifts given at the Ely Good Friday service of the three churches totaling \$499 are an investment in what Matthew 25 is doing in 2014. Thank you for helping make the decision to send those offerings to Matthew 25. We envision a thriving, connected, community where people are valued and talents are multiplied; where neighborhood families have access to safe, affordable housing and healthy food, and where youth are empowered through reading and the creative arts. How exciting it is to see the difference your gifts make each day. We see children who are happier, families that are more stable and neighborhoods that are making positive strides because you chose to give. What an impact you are making!"

The next Johannas meeting will be Monday, August 18 at 10:30 a.m.

The first day of school is nearing! On Sunday, August 17, all students are encouraged to bring their backpacks to church for a special blessing to start the beginning of the academic year. God bless our students and our educators as they prepare for this important time.

Solon	August 14	College Community	August 20
Linn-Mar	August 18	Cedar Rapids	August 26
Iowa City	August 19		

SUMMER YOUNG FAMILY GROUP

Christal Bressler and Pastor Julie are organizing a young family group with kids in preschool/lower elementary for the summer. So far we have met three times: once at the manse for morning activities, once at the Bresslers for backyard fun and a BBQ, and third at the Meyers for a water party. Our next time to hang out will be at the campout on August 16. Even if you don't want to stay overnight, plan to come for the potluck and programming that evening starting at 6:00 p.m. at the church. Bring something to share at supper and children's programming will follow.

Volunteer Online for Ely Senior Food Program

We are working together with the St. John Lutheran Church to continue Ely Senior Dining.

For more information and volunteer sign up, go to:

volunteerspot.com/login/entry/1128860140098

or

[facebook.com/FromOurTableToYours](https://www.facebook.com/FromOurTableToYours)

June, 2014 Session Meeting Notes

- The church bell will be repaired later this summer through a contract with Churches Alive.
- Air Conditioning bids for the sanctuary will be sought by the Session.
- Academic scholarships were approved based on the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee.
- An update of the investment and endowment funds was given by Funds Treasurer.
- Sunday School teachers are being recruited for fall semester.
- Average Sunday worship attendance in May: 80.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The youth had a very busy summer, and at the writing of this report, we are gearing up for our mission trip to Colorado. This summer we:



- ♦ Worked several fundraisers to reduce the cost of our mission trip and other mission efforts we plan to do
- ♦ Participated in a Mobile Pack event for Feed My Starving Children
- ♦ Shared special summer music during service and at the church talent show
- ♦ Enjoyed a retreat to Wisconsin Dells
- ♦ Decorated a float for Ely's July 4 parade
- ♦ Assisted with VBS
- ♦ Worked Helping Hands projects

Our summer began with the mobile pack event where nine youth/four adults gathered with many others at the Johnson County Fairgrounds to bag food packages for distribution in a land where food is scarce. Everyone was given a cool hairnet and instructions on portions of each type of food (rice, protein, dried vegetables, etc.) to pack into bags which were sealed and packed into boxes. Before we adjourned for the night, we prayed over the boxes to be used to feed hungry children and share God's love. Thank you to Misti, Brian and Theresa for participating at this great event! In Wisconsin Dells, ten youth had an opportunity to splash and play at waterparks! Thank you to Jodie and Brian for driving. In the evening, we studied the Parable of the Sower, and talked about believer's faith, and how different people react to hearing God's Word.

On July 4, Carl & Barb Zahradnik allowed us to use their wagon to decorate for the church float, and they pulled the wagon with Carl's antique John Deere tractor in the

Ely parade. It was fun for youth to share God's Love (and toss some candy) to parade-goers. Thank you, Carl & Barb!



In June and July, youth weeded gardens, cleaned houses, mowed, dug, mulched, trimmed trees, carried boxes, and babysat for Helping Hands projects. These projects have been one way the youth are giving back to those who so generously support us. Thank you to all those who provided opportunities for Helping Hands!

On July 26, we travel to our summer mission trip to work in the Big Thompson Canyon in Colorado. We will work in conjunction with Serve 6.8 Ministry that has been on the ground since the flooding occurred and they are a long term recovery organization in northern Colorado connected to the local church. We will be housed at a church in Loveland, and will have the opportunity to help others with cleanup and rebuilding. Seven youth, Bill Serbousek, and I have the opportunity to give hope and serve another community. We return on August 2, and will report our experiences on an upcoming Sunday. BIG Thank you to all who have attended a fundraising event, supported our bake sale, or otherwise assisted us with donations. We also appreciate your prayers for safe travel and that God will provide great opportunities for us to shine His light.

Blessings, Angie

Youth Schedule August 2014

Sun, Aug 3: 9:30 am Help with VBS; NO YG.

Sun, Aug 10: 6 pm 2nd Sunday Supper; 6:30 Youth Group

Sat, Aug 16: VBS Campout with 6 pm potluck

Sun, Aug 17: 9:30 am Help with VBS;

6:30-8:30 pm Youth Group

Sun, Aug 24: 6:30-8:30 pm Youth Group

Sun, Aug 31: 6:30-8:30 pm youth Group

Summer 2014
Photo Album



Top Left: Youth members help prepare meals for global distribution. **Top Right:** A smiling congregation captures its first group “selfie” during worship. **Lower right:** Our church hosted a visiting quilt created by Rev. Susan Barnes from Lone Tree Presbyterian Church. Pastor Julie and children take a closer look at the story of the Peacemaking Quilt. **Lower left:** Jean & Rev. Jim De Smidt lead us in music during a “Cowboy Church” service in July. **Center left:** Church Talent Show 2014 where Steve Schuett & George Chadima perform “Who’s On First.”



AUGUST 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Hours	2
3 Food Pantry Sunday Communion	4	5 Office Hours	6	7	8 Office Hours	9 Tractor Ride
10	11	12 Office Hours	13	14 Solon first day of school	15 Office Hours	16 VBS Day #4 with 6:00 potluck & campout
17 Outdoor worship VBS Day #5 Backpack Blessing; bring backpacks to worship	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 Office Hours Iowa City first day of school	20 College Community first day of school	21 Session Meeting 6:30 pm	22 Office Hours	23
24	25 Ladies Night Out 6:30 p.m.	26 Office Hours Cedar Rapids first day of school	27 6:15 pm bell choir 7:30 pm adult choir	28	29 Office Hours	30
31 Noisy Can						