



The Salt Shaker

NOVEMBER 2015

First Presbyterian Church Near Ely, 11100 Spanish Road, Ely, Iowa 52227

From the Pastor

Reverend Jan Hus lived in the 1300-1400's in Bohemia and he spoke most compellingly about the importance of reading and following the Bible. He wrote, "By the fruits which it bears is the tree known."



This past month has been one of picking the fruits of the spiritual tree at church. In mid-October we served 450 meals to guests and volunteers at our annual Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Supper (\$4250). We additionally prepared and sold 153 dozen of kolaches (\$1564). The Country Store netted \$1359 (which will be divided between the youth group and mission projects under the direction of Session.) And the richer, tastier fruits were the fellowship, fun, and faith sharing that we savored from the tree that bears good fruit.

Secondly, the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International brought two days of tour buses to our church in order to hear some of the testimony of our history as well as experience our contemporary expressions of faith. They were greeted and treated to kolaches and our country-style hospitality. Those gifts are our fruits to share.

Third, our youth group organized a Halloween costume party for younger children. In the past, this event has been a rite of passage—from attending the party to hosting the party. It has been a gift to the children (and to the parents as the party was inside and the weather was particularly gloomy.) Fruit. The teenagers shared the produce of their faith and fun with the next ones.

So it is. We want to pass the most valuable and important things from one generation to another. That is the basic reason why we are here as a church family. There must be fruit that is bore and

then shared with others. That is the heart of generosity. Generosity from those who came before us. Generosity of ourselves. Teaching generosity to the new believers—young and not so young.

In the Old Testament writings of Jeremiah, he records:

Thus says the Lord: "Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; but let those who boast in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord; I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight."

Jeremiah 9:23-24

In the autumn we gather in the harvest and take stock of what we have, who we are, and where we are going. This fall, let us boast not in our might or wealth, but, in our growing understanding and growing relationship we have with God. This is the abundance we have at church—our richness in faith, service, love, talent, and caring. Generosity of our abundance is part of our witness to the grace of our loving God and our blessed lives.

We will celebrate God's generosity and our response to it in our lives on November 8. Please prayerfully consider your stewardship commitment for 2016 and bring/send the card in this newsletter—or pick one up at church.

Thank you for sharing in the legacy and the continued fruitfulness of First Presbyterian Church near Ely. You are valued and treasured here.

In Christ,
Pastor Julie



2015 Soup Supper Review

Throughout the whole process of planning, setting up, baking, cooking, cleaning up, and the event itself, two actions were taken by our whole membership that were unselfishly given.

Volunteering and Donating

Volunteer – one who offers services with free will. **Donation** – gifts offered with free will.

Our church family, young and old, volunteered in all aspects of our soup supper. The donations of food for the supper and of items for the Country Store were above and beyond usual participation.

The Annual Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Supper depends entirely on volunteers and donations. It simply would not happen otherwise.

Thank you to everyone for your support!!! And thanks be to our God who graciously allowed perfect weather and a wonderful attendance.

Blessings to all of you,

Joanne K. Chadima and Matt Zacek, co-chairs

Preliminary results from the 2015 Soup Supper (As of October 27)

Ticket sales	\$4250
Kolach sales	\$1564
Country Store	\$1359
Frozen soup	\$ 525
Donations	\$ 220
Surplus grocery sales	\$ 53
 Total	 \$7971

Ladies Night Out will be Monday, Nov. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Outback Steakhouse, 3939 1st Ave SE in CR. All ladies of the church, and their friends, are welcome.

Kolach Count

Dorothy Ditch took the orders from the Kolach Sales Room the night of the soup supper and she tallied the flavor totals: 153 dozen sold!

Cherry – 647 kolaches
 Apricot – 289
 Poppy seed – 205
 Raspberry – 171
 Peach – 149
 Strawberry – 74
 Prune – 68
 Apple – 21
 Grape – 18
 Other – 7
 Blueberry – 4



Replenishing Kolach Fillings

All of you have been so generous with supplying fillings for our kolach baking. We have depleted our supply with all the baking lately. If you see some great deals on fruit fillings, please consider buying a few cans, and leaving them in the kitchen. The First Pres cupboard is almost bare.

Thanks all, Joanne Chadima

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is called for November 1 following worship for the primary purpose of electing officers for the class of 2018.

Worship Schedule

Nov. 1: All Saints Sunday. Message: Ruth—What does she have to say? Choir Singing.

Nov. 8: Stewardship Sunday. Jeremiah 9:23-24. Choir singing.

Nov. 15: Children's Choir singing. Message: Hannah—What does she have to say?

Nov. 22: Bells playing. Message: Pilate—What does he have to say?

Evening: ecumenical Thanksgiving worship hosted by St John Lutheran Church of Ely at 4:30 p.m. with supper following. Pastor Julie preaching. Ecumenical choir singing.

Nov. 29: First Sunday of Advent. Holy Communion. After worship: Advent Festival, Decorate church, Soup and Bread Potluck

SENIOR HOLIDAY MEAL
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14 at 4:00 pm.



The Youth Group invites all *Senior* members of the church to a Thanksgiving meal. We will prepare a traditional holiday dinner and share in fellowship with you. There is no cost, but donations are greatly appreciated. Direct questions to Angie Ehle or call the church office at 848-4624.

Please RSVP by SUNDAY, NOV. 8.

NAME: _____

PHONE # _____ # OF GUESTS ATTENIDNG _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

FAVORITE PIE FLAVOR _____

___ YES - I would like home delivery. # OF HOME DELIVERY MEALS _____

Please deliver to this address: _____

Place your RSVP in offering plate or phone the church office at 848-4624, where you can leave your RSVP by Sunday, November 8. Thank you and see you there!



Sunday School Schedule

Date	Ages 2 -3	PreK - K	Grades 1-4	Grades 5-7
Nov. 1	Angels Visit Luke 1:26-38	Angels Visit Luke 1:26-38	Angels Visit Luke 1:26-38	Jesus: If Jesus was God why did he have to die?
Nov. 8	Mary Visits Elizabeth Luke 1:39-58	Mary Visits Elizabeth Luke 1:39-58	Mary Visits Elizabeth Luke 1:39-58	Jesus: Do I have to believe Jesus performed miracles in order to be a Christian?
Nov. 15	Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-20	Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-20	Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-20	Jesus: Why did Jesus get baptized?
Nov. 22	Simeon and Anna Luke 2:22-40	Simeon and Anna Luke 2:22-40	Simeon and Anna Luke 2:22-40	Jesus: Is believing in Jesus really the only way to get to heaven?
Nov. 29	Advent Festival	Advent Festival	Advent Festival	Advent Festival

Adult Education

Adult Sunday School meets in the church living room facilitated by Jodie Chadima. The study this year will be on the Book of Revelation. Class begins at 11:00 a.m. (Not on November 29 due to the Soup and Bread Potluck, decorating of the church, and the Advent Festival.)



Youth Group News

Thank you to all who continue to support and pray for our youth program! We welcome you any Sunday during Sunday School (we are studying Revelation), or see our schedule for opportunities to join us!

October was a wonderful busy month for the Youth Group. Youth began the month preparing food for an “Our Table to Yours” meal at the Ely Community Center. Many youth walked in the Especially for You Breast Cancer race and the CROP Walk. (See photo on p. 7) Youth served in many capacities before, during, and after the Soup Supper, and provided a “Cold Weather Fun” themed basket for the Country Store. Youth Helping Hands worked in a church member’s garage this month. (See photo below and on back cover.) At the writing of this report, Youth are preparing to host our young friends at a Halloween party.

In November, Youth focus on two great opportunities to serve: We are hosting the Senior Thanksgiving meal on Saturday, November 14, and we invite all seniors from our congregation to attend! Please RSVP on the form found on page 3, so we can plan to see you there. Our second focus will be Operation Christmas Child, and we will be encouraging the congregation to participate.

In Fundraising news, the Potty has been retired for the cold weather months, but may make a re-appearance in the spring. Youth have a number of Hy-Vee Coupon Books still available for those interested; the cost is \$10 per book (consider purchasing one or more for holiday grocery shopping / baking.) Finally, if you have suggestions for Helping Hands projects, please let Angie know.

If there are any questions or comments about the youth programs, please feel free to contact me at church.

Blessings, Angie

NOVEMBER YOUTH SCHEDULE

Sunday, Nov 1: 10:45 start - All day prepare and
 Sunday School; 6:30-8:30 serve Senior Meal
 pm Youth Group

Sunday, Nov 8: 10:45
 Sunday School; 6:00 2nd
 Sunday Supper at Angie’s;
 6:30-8:30 pm Youth Group

Sunday, Nov 22: 10:45
 Sunday School; 6:30-8:30:
 Youth Group

Friday, Nov 13: TBA for
 making pies and rohlicky at
 church

Sunday, Nov 29: 10:45
 Sunday School / Advent
 festival; 6:30-8:30 pm YG

Saturday, Nov 14: 8:00
Save the dates:



July 18-24, 2016 Triennium



From Christal Bressler: I have a student in need of jeans/pants size 42x32, shirts that are XX-XXXL and shoes sized 14.5. We are having a tough time finding the sizes at clothing closets or Goodwill. If you can help, contact me at CBressler@cr.k12.ia.us. Thank you!

Cultural Learning Trip



Join Sharing the Dream founder, Diane Neselhof, January 25 to February 3, 2016, for a learning trip to Guatemala.

What is a “learning trip”? Sharing the Dream’s philosophy is that we travel to Guatemala to “be” with people instead of to “do” for people. We believe that this is important because we don’t have all the answers and we want the Guatemalan people to understand we are on equal terms with them.

The Guatemalan people are very kind, respectful people who have built a relationship with the Sharing the Dream staff and have taught us a lot over the years. Throughout the trip you will have the opportunity to listen to their hopes and dreams and learn about their vibrant culture. We will be welcomed into their homes to learn how they make their beautiful crafts and about their work with Sharing the Dream.

Our hope is that you will return home with a new appreciation for our neighbors here and abroad. Service is a lifelong way of living our lives and a commitment to sustainable fair trade is only one of many ways to see a difference in a person’s life. The itinerary will include visiting several of the co-operatives, working with the staff to serve the elders in our elder project, taking a cayuca ride on beautiful Lake Atitlan, visiting a school in a small village, and exploring some of the beautiful areas around Guatemala.

This is much more than a “tour.” This is an amazing way to learn about a country and its people with Diane who has worked with the people of Guatemala for over 29 years. The trip is limited to 8 people so sign up soon.

Contact Diane at diane@sharingthedream.org.

Design Trip

Diane will be taking a group of people to Guatemala for a design trip on May 30 to June. The people on this trip will spend a day in Antigua looking at ideas in the different shops. The rest of the trip will be spent working with the different groups on design, colors and getting to know the people who make the beautiful Sharing the Dream products. The people in the group can learn how to do beading, back strap weaving, foot loom weaving and can work with the group on carving spoons. Hopefully the people in this group will bring new ideas for the groups in Guatemala. The group is limited to eight participants.

Contact Diane at diane@sharingthedream.org if you would like more information.

CROP Walk Results

Thank you to all who walked or donated to end hunger at the CROP Walk.

Year	2015	2014
Total # Walked	17	9
Total Collected	\$355	\$444
Total Lenore Biderman	\$290	\$334



Above: Jodie and Dan Chadima, Frankie Uthe and Daniel Shuett, Bob Zvacek and Makenna Eadie posed for fun photos at the CROP Walk held on October 4 on the Ely Walking Trail.

On page 4: Ashleigh Manders and Luke Huedepohl working at a Helping Hands project for the Youth Group.

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Church Visit



The Czechoslovak Genealogy Society International (CGSI) hosted a Genealogical and Cultural Conference in Cedar Rapids October 21-24. The conference brought a tour bus to our church on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in recognition of its founding by early Bohemian and Moravian immigrants. Rev. Dr. Julie Shuett and Ed Vavra welcomed the groups with a brief church history and an explanation of the missionary efforts of our first minister, Rev. Frantisek Kun, who helped found ten Bohemian/Moravian protestant churches in surrounding states.

Attendees visited our cemetery, explored church grounds including the Jan Hus Memorial stone, viewed historic displays along the north wall of the lower level, enjoyed coffee and fresh-made kolaches, and observed or joined in the kolach baking in progress in the church kitchen.

Thank you to the Church History Committee (Tom Vavra, Pat Kilberger, Karen Zacek, Barb Horak, Joanne Chadima, and Ed Vavra) for their months-long preparation and planning for this visit.

An even bigger thank you goes to men and women of our church who baked kolaches for two mornings in a row, (especially after all that baking for the soup supper the weekend before the tours). It was a monumental effort, led by Joanne Chadima. The people on the tour loved eating and observing how we bake them!



History Books/Notecards Available In preparation for the CGSI tour the history committee reprinted the first two of our church history booklets, making a total of three booklets available:

- 1) Our First 50 Years Serving Our Lord, by Ed Vavra detailing the life of Rev. Kun
- 2) Our First 100 Years Serving Our Lord (published for the church centennial in 1958)
- 3) 150 Years Serving Our Lord, compiled for our Sesquicentennial in 2008, spanning 1958-2008

They will be available after worship on Sunday, November 1, or from the history committee. Cost is \$3.00 each, two for \$5.00, or three for \$8.00 (to help defray printing costs). Karen Zacek has also created packets of note cards with historic photos that will be available to the congregation.

SESSION NOTES from September 24, 2015

1. August worship attendance averaged 89. Active membership roll includes 218 members.
2. Contributions are approximately \$1,850 behind on regular offering compared to last year at this time, and \$230 ahead on per capita at this time.
3. A motion approved the soup supper proceeds from 2014 be transferred into the general fund for this year's budgeted income.
4. Christian Education: The church campout was cancelled due to low interest as the Iowa/Iowa State game was scheduled. The Sunday School classes are using Spark curriculum this year. And there will be occasional "club" activity Sundays for elementary students.
5. Mission: The CROP Walk is scheduled for October 4 at 1:00. The Linn Community Food Bank sent a letter outlining our donation of 103 pounds of food and \$20 the 2nd quarter of 2015. Sunday School classes are collecting money for Bibles for children in Thailand.
6. Fellowship and Outreach: Soup Supper 2015 plans are proceeding well.
7. Youth: The youth group attended Montreat Conference in Montreat, North Carolina this summer. The traveling toilet fund raiser has resulted in \$1,200 so far. The youth have also participated in several Helping Hands projects.



November 2015

November 1: Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m.
Set clocks back one hour.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Food Pantry Sunday Congregation Mtg.	2	3 Election Day Office Hours 9-12	4 Bell Choir 6 pm Chancel Choir	5 Office Hours 9-12	6 Office Hours 9-12	7
8 Stewardship Sunday Worship Planning meeting at noon	9	10 Office Hours 9-12	11 Bell Choir 6 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Veteran's Day	12 Office Hours 9-12	13 Office Hours 9-12 Youth kitchen preparation for Senior Meal	14 4:00 pm Holiday Senior Meal
15	16 Newsletter Deadline	17 Office Hours 9-12	18 Bell Choir 6 pm Combined Choir practice 7:30	19 Office Hours 9-12 Session Meeting 6:30 pm	20 Office Hours 9-12	21
22 4:30 Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship at St John Lutheran	23 Ladies Night Out 6:30 p.m.	24 Office Hours 9-12	25	26 Thanksgiving Day Office closed	27	28
29 First Sunday of Advent Soup & Bread Potluck lunch	30			Many Youth Group members and their families participated in the Especially For You Cancer Walk in October, 2015. Pictured left: Rene Tedrow, Moriah Tedrow, Brian Thompson, Cole Huedepohl, Faith Ehle, Makenna Eadie, Calvin Chadima, Grace Ehle, Nathan Harder, Morgan Eadie, Todd Eadie and Alyson Eadie.		

Check KCRG.com for weather-related announcements regarding church service and church activities.