



The Salt Shaker

April 2018

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR ELY
11100 Spanish Road, Ely, Iowa 52227
www.elypres.org and on Facebook
319-848-4624 office@elypres.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Happy Easter! 60 years ago, Easter was on April Fool's Day too. Strange irony for us this year to have the most important day of the church calendar land on the cultural silly day of jokes, pranks, and gags.

Many times in recent years on April Fool's Day, there is a "news" story that goes around or a promotion of a rumor as factually accurate on the internet. As the day wears on, the story is shown to be an April Fool's joke.

Maybe this year the news article will read something like this:

Nearly unbelievably, but true: millions around the world gathered at the crack of dawn (or nearly after) for empty celebrations.

That is, events noting nothing.

That is, gatherings of people rejoicing about something missing.

That is, sunrise worship services praising God for an empty grave from thousands of years ago.

Sunday, April 1 is Easter.

May you find that April 1 Easter is full of surprises and that the April Fool is death, destruction, and brokenness in the world. For God is perhaps the greatest jokester in the universe.

In Christ,
Pastor Julie



FELLOWSHIP

UPCOMING EVENT

Saturday, May 12 in the morning at our church: Ladies Brunch with speaker in cooperation with St John Lutheran Church Women. More details upcoming.

In 2016, Marengo resident and Jesup-native Jen Loeb became Iowa's only female mountaineer to reach the summit of the world's highest peak: Mount Everest. She is also one of 22 women in the United States to be close to achieving the "7 Summits" challenge—summitting six of the seven highest peaks on each continent. In this brunch and presentation, Jen will share about her Everest expedition—for those of us adventurers and for those of us who love a great adventure story. Plan to attend and invite a family member or friend for a special brunch together.



BOOK EXCHANGE

It was fun to look at all the books brought to the church – a worthwhile exchange. The books that were left were taken to Half Price Books, and the proceeds received, plus free will donations equaled about \$30.00 which was applied to the general funds.

Thanks, Joanne Chadima



FEBRUARY SESSION NOTES

1. Average Sunday worship attendance in February: 83
2. Membership as of February 28, 2018: 197
3. Communion served on January 7. 84 served.
4. Christian Education: parent meeting scheduled on February 25. Stacie Hoppman, Director of Program and Marketing from Camp Wyoming will attend that morning.
5. Confirmation class will meet with Session on May 17 and join as members on June 3.
6. Fellowship – Breakfast will be served between 7:30 a.m. Sunrise service and 9:30 a.m. regular services.
7. Mission – One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be during Lent and information will be in the newsletter.
8. Property concern—boiler system log.
9. Discussion concerning seminar sponsored by church insurance company that several members attended titled “Active Threat Training”. A safety task force will be organized to continue work.

CAMP EL GUACIO

Donations are needed for Camp El Guacio to purchase cots for families who are currently without beds due to hurricane damage. Donations can be made out to “Campamiento El Guacio.” Contact Jodie Chadima for more information.

LETTER FROM REV. FRANCIS LAREW

Karen Zacek received a thank you letter from Rev. Francis Larew in response to the birthday card he received from our congregation. A copy of the letter can be found on the back cover of this month’s newsletter and on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. The congregation is encouraged to continue to reach out to Rev. Larew via mail at 5231 Hunters Ridge Drive, New Port Richey, Florida, 34655.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 1, 6:30 a.m. SonRise Service,
(no: actually 7:30 a.m.)
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Ushers: Ted & Becky Grenis
Greeters: Brad & Cheri Buresh Family
Liturgist: Jodie Chadima

April 8: Holy Humor Sunday. Bring a joke or story to share.

Ushers: Bryan & Elaine Bailey
Greeters: Bob & Jean Koleik
Liturgist: Angie Ehle

April 15: Cantata with St John Lutheran Choir.
Prayers and Hymns from around the world:
Europe

Ushers: Larry Harder Family
Greeters: Rachelle Mineck
Liturgist: Larry Modracek

April 22: Children’s Choir sing today. Prayers and Hymns from around the world: South America

Ushers: Brad & Cheri Buresh Family
Greeters: Casey & Jeri Holst Family
Liturgist: Jeff Reist

April 29, Rev. Leigh Benish sharing in worship leadership this morning. Prayers and Hymns from around the world: Asia

Ushers: Larry & Deb Krohn
Greeters: Donna Reihman
Liturgist: Matt Zacek

May 6: Sunday School Recognition Sunday.
Graduating High School Seniors Recognition.
Children’s Choir sing. Prayers and Hymns from around the world: North America

Ushers: Jim & Judy Serbousek
Greeters: Glenn & Sharon Modracek
Liturgist: Dan Manders

SOUP SUPPER SAVE THE DATE



The Annual Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Supper will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2018.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

April 1 (Easter): No Sunday School

April 8 Lesson: He is Risen

April 15 Lesson: Their Eyes Were Opened

April 22 Special Earth Day Lesson:

Join us Sunday, April 22nd as we learn how God made everything during Sunday School. We will also be planting sunflower seeds, so wear clothes that can get dirty.

April 29 Read to Feed Presentation and Book

Exchange:

Help others while reading this summer! We will kick off our summer reading program, Read to Feed through Heifer International, Sunday, April 29th. Bring a book from your bookshelf at home to exchange for another.

May 6 Sunday School Celebration

We will be celebrating the end of the 2017-2018 Sunday School Year Sunday, May 6th. During worship, we will be honoring families that attended Sunday School this year and presenting our 3rd graders with Bibles. After worship, we will have an ice cream social with a bike parade and outdoor games.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18 Church Family Event:



Bring your lawn chairs or blankets Friday, May 18th for our first church family event of the summer! We will be showing the movie, Wonder, outside behind the church at 7p. Church family events are open to all.

Vacation Bible School:

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Monday, July 9th- Thursday, July 12th from 6-8p. We are still in need of activity leaders. Please e-mail or call Christal Bressler if you are interested in helping this year.

Camp Wyoming:

Is your child attending Camp Wyoming this summer? Church Elders would like to send your child mail at camp. Email Christal Bressler (csfbressler@gmail.com) with your child's name, session name, and dates.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Scholarship forms are available for members of the congregation seeking to continue their education. All applications are due June 1st whether for the fall semester 2017, spring semester 2018 or summer semester 2018. See one of the committee members to get an application - Alyson Eadie, Pat Kilberger, Penny Serbousek, Tom Vavra

YOUTH GROUP

Hello from the Youth Group!

In Sunday School in March, we reviewed the events of Holy Week and what that means to us today. Some Youth provided special music for Worship. In Youth group, we tie-dyed some shirts and made plan for Spring and Summer events. A BIG thank you to all of those who ordered Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary! Also, Thank you to Becky Grenis, who donated the proceeds of her delicious and abundant canning to Youth Group!

In April, youth plan to host the Youth from First Pres in CR for a combined event – Please watch your email for the exact date of this event! Coffee Talk for Senior High Youth will be held, and we are scheduling a high school age youth lock-in. We will also be planning local mission projects, including helping make another meal for Ronald McDonald room at St. Luke’s Hospital.

In May, youth will be cleaning up the stadium at the Kernels for fundraising. May 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5th, we clean up at 9pm. May 6th, we clean up at 3pm.

Also in May, we invite all GRANDPARENTS to a fun game night during Youth Group on May 6th! We will have some fellowship, snacks, and fun! Come join us!

Please let me know if there are any questions about youth programming, and thank you for your support!

Blessings,
Angie



YOUTH SCHEDULE: April 2018

Sunday, April 1: Easter – No Sunday School or Youth Group

Sunday, April 8th:

10:45 a.m.: Sunday School

6:00 p.m.: Second Sunday Supper and Youth Group

Sunday, April 15th:

10:45 a.m.: Sunday School

6:30 p.m.: Youth Group

Sunday, April 22nd:

10:45 a.m.: Sunday School

6:30 p.m.: Youth Group

Saturday, April 28th:

7:00 p.m.: High school(only) Lock-in

Sunday, April 29th:

10:45 a.m.: Sunday School

6:30 p.m.: Youth Group

May 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th: 9:00 p.m. – Clean up at the Kernels

Sunday, May 6th:

10:45 a.m.: Sunday School

3:00 p.m.: clean up at the Kernels


6:30 p.m.: Multi-age event - Youth Group Game Night!

SAVE THE DATES:

Urban Immersion June 6 - 10

Montreat Youth Conference July 13 - 22

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER 7:30 SonRise Service 8:00-9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Easter Worship	2	3 9—Noon Office Hours	4 9:30 Bible Study @ Manse NO Handbell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir practice at St. John	5 9—Noon Office Hours	6 9—Noon Office Hours	7
8 Holy Humor Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 SSS & Youth Group	9	10 9—Noon Office Hours	11 9:30 Bible Study @ Manse 6:15 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	12 9—Noon Office Hours	13 9—Noon Office Hours	14 Church Clean-Up 
15 Cantata 9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:30 Youth Group	16 Newsletter deadline	17 9—Noon Office Hours	18 9:30 Bible Study @ Manse 6:15 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	19 9—Noon Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	20 9—Noon Office Hours	21
22 Children's Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:30 Youth Group	23 6:30 Ladies' Night Out	24 9—Noon Office Hours 6:30 Men's Night Out	25 9:30 Bible Study @ Manse 6:15 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	26 9—Noon Office Hours	27 9—Noon Office Hours	28 7:00 – High School Lock-in
29 Rev. Benish Visiting 9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:30 Youth Group	30					

Save
the
Date

May 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th: 9:00 p.m. – Youth Group clean up at the Kernels
 May 6: Sunday School Recognition
 May 12: Ladies Brunch
 May 18: Church Family Event
 July 9 – 12: Vacation Bible School
 May 6th: 3:00 p.m.: clean up at the Kernels; 6:30 p.m.: Multi-age event - Youth Group Game Night!
 June 6 – 10: Youth Group Urban Immersion
 July 13 – 22: Montreat Youth Conference
 October 20: The Annual Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Supper



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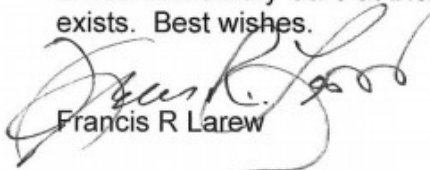
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Thank you for the Birthday Card for which you gathered so many signatures of friends in the Ely Church. It is appreciated!

I hope things are going well with you as you recover from the fire. When I was perhaps about eight years old, on a farm west of North Liberty on Road F28, we lost all the farm buildings except the house when a baler machine ignited the hay they were baling from inside the barn.

Would you believe that the baler belonged to the Ely Lumir Biderman family whom my Dad had hired to bale some hay to sell during the Depression?

I enjoy getting the Saltshaker and following Church postings on Facebook. You probably know that my brother Jim, from Oxford who used to visit Ely services with Cousin Ray Hruby is now in Memory Care at Bickford Home in Iowa City so that source of information no longer exists. Best wishes.


Francis R Larew