



The Salt Shaker

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

BUILDING DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE

The construction is nearly complete of the LIFE Center at First Presbyterian Church near Ely (Living in Faith Everyday). And it is time to pause and say,

Praise God!

We will have the dedication worship service of the LIFE Center on **April 6, at 9:30 a.m.** in the church sanctuary.

Our guest speaker during worship will be the Rev. Tony Larson, Co-Moderator of the 226th General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). His biography is on listed in this edition of the Salt Shaker.

Afterwards, we will celebrate with a **ribbon cutting at 10:45 a.m.**

We will conclude the morning with **lunch together at 11:15 a.m.** Please RSVP for the lunch by April 1 at office@elypres.org.

To launch the recreational ministries at First Presbyterian is something to celebrate.

We pray that all we do in the decades ahead glorifies God and brings our neighbors, family, and friends in greater relationship with God and each other.

Blessings to you in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Julie A. Schuett

P.S. If you are interested in making a financial donation for purchase of additional items needed, please let Judy Serbousek know.



Gravel, handicap parking, and sidewalk installed.



Sports Tech Flooring installed, March 4-7. Lines just painted!

REVERAND TONY LARSON

Rev. Tony Larson is a Co-Moderator of the 226th General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Anthony "Tony" Larson was born in Minneapolis and raised in North Carolina in a Presbyterian family. His father was a minister too.

Tony graduated University of North Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Public Policy Analysis and Religious Studies. He received his Master of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.



Tony has served in a number of capacities, including co-leader of the Synod Youth Council for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, which planned the Synod Youth Leadership Development Event, an annual gathering to equip youth to be leaders in the church, as well as skill development for youth ministry professionals. He has also served as a planning team member for Montreat Youth Conference.

Tony's first pastorate was with Springs Community Presbyterian Church in East Hampton, New York. He is currently serving as pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Surfside, South Carolina.

He has been married for 16 years to wife Heather, father by adoption to her son, Stephen Larson, and recently became grandfather to Nora James Larson. Tony describes himself as a "semi-professional nerd" and backs that up as a Level 50 Pokémon Go Trainer, captain of the RogueRev Trivia Team and is officially sorted into House Ravenclaw. He loves to cook, listen to jazz, and spoil his cat and dog.

"The story of my life and faith is one of being called by God through the voices of others," Tony said. "In each chapter of my life story, there have been people who sensed a place where my gifts and the needs of community overlapped, and they named my gifts and challenged me to develop and use them as a disciple of Jesus Christ."



Our thanks to our general contractor Foreman Construction and their conscientious owner, Darin Foreman.



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

MULTI-GENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Come one, come all, come join in the fun and learning. Our multi-generational learning events for this year will continue in the Fellowship Hall after worship around 10:45 with:

April 13: "Lenten Pretzel Making" - Do you know why Pretzels have a special meaning during Lent? Come join in the fun of making and eating

fresh baked pretzels and learn why we associate pretzels with Lent.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday's Bible study is finishing the book of James during April, then will look at the tiny book of Jude. Please join in! 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays.

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 6, 5th Sunday of Lent, Guest preacher Co-Moderator of Presbyterian Church USA, Rev. Tony Larson

Liturgist: Dan Chadima
Ushers: Jeff & Diane Reist
Greeters: Phil & Misti Huedepohl
10:45 a.m. Ribbon cutting for LIFE Center
11:15 a.m. Lunch

April 13, Palm Sunday, Luke 19:28-40

Liturgist: Theresa Harder
Ushers: Rob & Julie Kilberger
Greeters: Madison & Sam Ziebol
10:45 a.m. Multi-generational Sunday Sschool: Pretzel Making

April 17, Maundy Thursday, 6:00 p.m. Supper, 7:00 p.m. Worship and Holy Communion

April 20, Sunrise

7:00 a.m. John 20:1-18
Ushers: Handbell Ringers
Greeters: Handbell Ringers

April 20, Easter

9:30 a.m. Luke 24:1-12, Holy Communion
Liturgist: Glenn Modracek
Ushers: Ted & Becky Grenis
Greeters: Nora Fetter

April 27, Holy Humor Sunday, John 20:19-31

Liturgist: Janet Holland
Ushers: Fred & Sarah Harris
Greeters: Bob & Carol Andrie

May 4, Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman guest preacher

Liturgist: Sarah Harris
Ushers: Markam & Karasel Harris
Greeters: Janelle Benish

10:45 a.m. Monica Bailey's presentation on her trip to Czech Republic, either in the church living room or the sanctuary

May 11, Mothers' Day, Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman
guest preacher

Liturgist: Barb Horak

Ushers: Ted & Becky Grenis

Greeters: Darla & Alivia Meyer

10:45 a.m. Randall Reyman reading of his new book,
either in the church living room or the sanctuary.

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

Be sure to sign up for worship assignments on the clipboard being circulated in church or through the link located at elypres.org.

CHURCH BUSINESS

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Did you know you can make donations to the church online through Give+? Use the QR code or click on the "Give Now" button at elypres.org.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of 28-Feb-2025 (17% of the way through the year)

For the first two months of 2025, the expenses are about balanced with the income and appear to be on track for the 2025 budget.

The utilities for the new LIFE Center have started hitting the general budget. It appears that the electrical budget will not cover the actual costs.

Our church has 183 members

Account and Comments

1105 · General Fund - ending month balance of \$2,262.11

4110 · Regular Offering - Pledged 23.9% of budget (YTD actuals of \$20,896.03 on a budget of \$87,380.00)

4116 · Regular Offering - Non-Pledged 10.5% of budget (YTD actuals of \$8,058.17 on a budget of \$76,509.00)

Total Income - 15.5% of budget (YTD actuals of \$31,903.62 on a budget of \$205,836.00)

Total Expense - 15.7% of budget (YTD actuals of \$32,238.15 on a budget of \$205,836.00)

SALT SHAKER UPDATE

The monthly Salt Shaker is now digital! The monthly newsletter is now distributed primarily by email and available on the church website. Paper copies are available at church. PLEASE NOTE: If you need to continue receiving the Salt Shaker by mail, please contact the church office.

PROPERTY UPDATE

The new LIFE Center is nearing completion. It passed inspection, gym floor is installed, ceiling acoustic tiles are in place, water and heat are on, software is in place to reserve the building, and ground work grading has been done. A few things are left to do include sealing the remainder of the floor, tilling and seeding the outside with grass, removing the dirt pile at the west end, installing rock around the outside heating units, and hard surfacing our parking lot. The stained glass window frames of the church are also scheduled to be scraped and painted when weather permits. These are all projects that are on schedule to be accomplished this spring.

The parking lot project will be a major one as it will be expanded to about twice the current size. Parking will be limited during construction and all will need to be careful where you drive.

Two more dead trees north of the church were removed recently, and all the left over stumps are scheduled to be removed soon. The south driveway (not used much now) will probably be the new spot where the dumpsters are located; and probably be used as another exit driveway for leaving the parking lot.

It seems after time has passed and projects are working out as they are, things are turning out just the way they are supposed to be. Come out, look around, and imagine what things will look like in a month or two. Also, bring a friend along as a visitor and a possible new member.

Additionally, Spring Cleaning Day is scheduled for April 12. There is plenty to accomplish, and lists of things to do are posted in the church basement.

Larry Krohn

SPRING CLEANUP

2025 Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 12, with a rain date of April 19. Flyers are posted around the church basement listing tasks that need to be completed. I will be there that day to organize and assist in any way I can.

Larry Krohn

FELLOWSHIP

LMNOP (LADIES' AND MEN'S NIGHT OUT for PRESBYTERIANS)

Our April LMNOP will be held Tuesday, April 22 at 6:00 at Bluebird Cafe, 112 E. Main, Solon. As the time gets closer, you can let Dawn Zacek know if you're able to attend. See you there!

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

CPR / AED Training

Date: Thursday, April 10

Location: LIFE Center

Time 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost \$50 for nonmember \$25 for member

Lead by Think Safe which has a comprehensive program approach in emergency response



SCHOLARSHIP FORMS

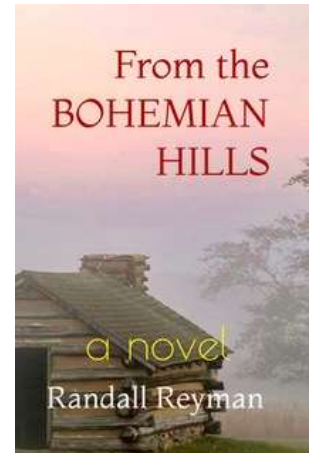
Scholarship forms are available starting April 1st for members of our congregation seeking to continue their education. There are three Scholarship Funds. Each fund has separate guidelines and application forms. All applications are due June 1st, whether for summer 2025 session, fall semester 2025 or spring semester 2026. Scholarship information and forms are available at church through any Scholarship Committee member (Phil Huedepohl, Pat Kilberger, Jeff Reist or Penny Serbousek) or you can email pat.kilberger@gmail.com.

FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS

Randy Reyman has written a novel with our church as the setting.

Author Randall

Reyman's new historical fiction novel *FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS* offers a fresh take on early Czech immigration, depicting the journey of two desperate families seeking a better life as they settle near Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS will be released for purchase on March 1st and be available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other retailers including your local bookstore.

The book launch event for *FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS* will offer an opportunity to meet the author and hear him speak about his book. A book signing opportunity will follow. This will all take place on Saturday, May 10th at 1:00 p.m. in the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, 1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Check elypres.org for the full press release.

Women's Mission Project

We are collecting costume jewelry
for Iowa women's organizations
*Dress for Success & *WayPoint

Do you have a jewelry box filled with
"dusty" costume jewelry?



Give your jewelry new life!
Drop off your jewelry in the basket found in
the church basement.

Items collected will be given to Dress for Success
dedicated to supporting women's financial independence
and WayPoint to support women and families

Please place your individual jewelry item(s)
in sandwich bags to avoid tangles

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

How do you show love?

One way Presbyterians show love is One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Received during the season of Lent (February 26 – April 12), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Fish banks will be shared with children (of all ages) to collect coins for One Great Hour of Sharing. The coins

collected will show our love and support through disaster response and hope to people in need.

Again this year, we will see just **how big our fish can grow**. What will be the weight of the heaviest fish? And for anyone feeling creative, **decorate your fish in a joyful way**.

JOIN US FOR THE ABSOLUTELY AMAZING APRIL ACTIVITIES!

April 5 – help bake kolaches – let Fellowship Elder, Dawn Zacek, know if you can come

April 6 - celebrate and dedicate the L.I.F.E. Center with worship and lunch. Make your reservation for lunch with Pastor Julie by April 1

April 6 – deadline to order Easter lilies, contact Youth Director, Angie Ehle

April 6 – deadline to sign up for CPR/AED training, contact Pastor Julie

April 10 - attend CPR/AED Training, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

April 12 – support Property Elder, Larry Krohn, attend Church Work Day

April 13 – wave a Palm for Palm Sunday, support our Christian Education Elder, Diane Reist, attend the Intergenerational Lenten Pretzel Making

April 17 – bring beef stew to share for the Maundy Thursday meal at 6 p.m.

April 19 – Rain date for Church Work Day

April 20 – worship early on Easter morning, enjoy a breakfast casserole, let Fellowship Elder, Dawn Zacek know if you can bring a casserole

April 20 – take home an Inspirational Easter handout.

April 20 – celebrate Easter, shout Jesus Is Risen! Share Holy Communion

April 27 – bring a joke for Holy Humor Sunday



Hello from Youth Group!

In March, Youth provided a yummy pancake breakfast for all before Jazz Sunday Services on 3/2. BIG THANK YOU to Darla, Becky, Craig, Ava and Ella for helping guide the youth for this event! Also in March, youth had lunch and went bowling together. Finally, many Youth who are members of scout troops participated in Worship for Scout Sunday on 3/30.

Happy Spring! Quick reminders:

- **Easter Lily orders are due on April 6th.** You may take your lilies home after worship on Easter Sunday, or leave them to be delivered to a church friend who may not be able to attend worship on Sundays.
- On April 5th, starting at 8:00 a.m., there is a kolach baking event in preparation for dedication on the following day. All youth are encouraged to participate in kolach baking, to learn this important and delicious Czech tradition.
- On April 6th after worship, youth will join in the Dedication of the new building, including lunch served after. Be sure to sign up for the lunch to Office@elypres.org by April 1. We will also have an Easter scavenger hunt that day!
- On April 12, there is a church cleanup day and all youth are encouraged to come help! There is much to do on the inside and the outside of the building!
- On Palm Sunday is everyone's favorite Sunday School - Pretzel Making Day!
- There will be no Sunday School or Youth Group on Easter Sunday.
- We will continue local Mission Projects, helping at Green Square Meals on May 1st.

Coming in Summer: the revival of the **Helping Hands Projects**. Youth are pursuing community service/mission projects for Spring and Summer; perhaps we can help you, our church friends, with a chore or project that you need a little help completing? Start thinking about projects for our youth group to assist with. After Easter, there will

be information and sign-up sheets on the youth bulletin board.

Thanks to all who donate the redeemable cans and bottles to Youth Group! We will continue to collect these throughout the year. So far in 2025, we have collected and redeemed over \$100.00, including some donations from a couple local businesses that now save cans for us! Donations can be brought to church and left in the Youth Room, or call Angie for pick up or delivery.

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

Blessings~

Angie Zahradnik Ehle

Youth Schedule: April

Saturday April 5th: Kolach baking day, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday April 6th: EASTER LILY ORDERS DUE!

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. LIFE Center Dedication
Celebration and lunch

12:30 p.m. Easter scavenger hunt

Saturday April 12th: Church Clean Up Day (Rain Date 4/19)

Sunday, April 13th: Palm Sunday.

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Multi-Generational Sunday
School - Lenten Pretzel Making Day

Sunday, April 20th: EASTER!

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service, egg casserole
breakfast after

9:30 a.m. Worship

No Sunday School or Youth Group this day

Sunday, April 27th: Holy Humor Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship - bring your best joke!

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Thursday, May 1st:

3:50-5:30 p.m. GreenSquare Meals-LOCAL
MISSION PROJECT

Sunday, May 4th: Star Wars Day

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Youth Group

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	2 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 5:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	3 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	4 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	5 8:00 Kolach Bake
6 5th Sunday of Lent Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Building Dedication 11:15 Lunch 12:30 YG Scavenger Hunt Deadline for CPR/AED	7 10:00 Chair Yoga	8 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	9 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 5:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	10 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 CPR/AED Training	11 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	12 Spring Cleanup
13 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Multi-generational SS, Pretzel Making	14 10:00 Chair Yoga	15 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	16 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 5:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	17 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:00 Maundy Thursday Meal and Service	18 Good Friday 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	19 Spring Cleanup Rain Date
20 Easter 7:00 Sunrise Service, followed by breakfast 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour	21 10:00 Chair Yoga	22 Earth Day 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:00 LMNOP	23 11:30 Chair Yoga 5:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	24 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	25 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	26
27 Holy Humor Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Youth Group SS 10:45 Sunday School	28 10:00 Chair Yoga	29 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	30 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 5:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir			



11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa 52227



Easter Word Search



N L T U L I P S M O R E S W E
 H I A B M E L E S C E R W D G
 T O B M A R C H K P L A E S G
 R M L A Y D T E K S A B R M H
 O E I I C R R G Q L I B I K U
 U A R E D O O D S T O I F C N
 T G O O F A I A S D G T R E T
 V W C A P E Y J T W N E E X L
 E A P A L M S U N D A Y S P E
 R L M E A B O A T I S O U T E
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 A C A N T E N O T R E R R I
 Y A D I R F D O O G I A E N R
 U Y S W L I V E R W N P C E E
 C H R I S T I A N O G E T E T
 X J R O V Z I C O J B A I N S
 F P B U N N Y P O L E P O E A
 A J D O F Z I C B J T N N T E

- EASTER
- HOLIDAY
- BUNNY
- RABBIT
- BASKET
- EGGS
- EGG HUNT
- SPRING
- MARCH
- APRIL
- TULIP
- CHRISTIAN
- GOOD FRIDAY
- PALM SUNDAY
- RESURRECTION