



July 2025

# The Salt Shaker

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR ELY  
11100 Spanish Road, Ely, Iowa 52227  
[www.elypres.org](http://www.elypres.org) and on Facebook  
319-848-4624 [office@elypres.org](mailto:office@elypres.org)

## PROPERTY UPDATE

Just a note to let everyone know that the parking lot is open to drive and park on. Lines have been added. Gravel has been moved from the south driveway and trash dumpsters are in place there. People can park on the cement parking lot and also on the grass south of the parking lot. Cars can drive off the parking lot onto the grass and also come into the grass from the south driveway to park on the grass. If needed, parking in the grass west of the church can also be available, except do not drive through the depression next to the LIFE center where water drains away from the building.



New pavement next to the church and LIFE Center



New pavement next to the church and LIFE Center

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

We have an additional graduate who was not recognized in the June Salt Shaker. Congratulations to Makenna Eadie who graduated from the University of Iowa with her Bachelor of Science in neuroscience.

## SABBATICAL COVERAGE

Sabbatical 2025	Notes
July 6	RE Paul Penn July 9 Bible study: Paul Office/visit: Paul: July 3-19
July 13	RE Paul Penn July 16 Bible study: Paul
July 20	Rev. Melody Oltmann Jul 23 Bible study: Melody Office/visit: July 20-Aug 2
July 27	Holy Communion Rev. Melody Oltmann July 30 Bible study

## 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](http://elypres.org).



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of 31-May-2025 (42% of the way through the year)

In May, the cash flow was significantly positive and has largely corrected the negative April General Fund balance.

The Non-Pledged offering (although improved) continues to lag; which is normal for this time of year.

The LIFE Center is at 20% of budget despite the electrical being over budget. Session has approved the work to correct the electrical issue.

The LIFE Center was rented 2 times in May generating \$42 of net proceeds (after removal of processing fees).

### Account and Comments

1105 · General Fund ending month balance of \$(1,323.15)

4110 · Regular Offering - Pledged 55.7% of budget (YTD actuals of \$48,627.40 on a budget of \$87,380.00)

4116 · Regular Offering - Non-Pledged 32.3% of budget (YTD actuals of \$24,695.10 on a budget of \$76,509.00)

Total Income 40.9% of budget (YTD actuals of \$84,272.19 on a budget of \$205,836.00)

Total Expense 43% of budget (YTD actuals of \$88,518.26 on a budget of \$205,836.00)

## WORSHIP & PROGRAM

### JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **July 6, RE Paul Penn**

Liturgist: Dan Chadima

Ushers: Larry & Debra Krohn

Greeters: Les & Sue Feyerabend

#### **July 13, RE Paul Penn**

Liturgist: Janet Holland

Ushers: Ava & Ella Andrie

Greeters: Ted & Becky Grenis

#### **July 20, Rev. Melody Oltmann**

Liturgist: Jim Serbousek

Ushers: Larry & Becky Modracek

Greeters: Larry & Theresa Harder

#### **July 27, Holy Communion, Melody Oltmann**

Liturgist: Theresa Harder

Ushers: Ted & Becky Grenis

Greeters: Eleanor Burke

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SOUP SUPPER

What: Annual Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Drive Through Supper

When: Pick up dates Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Where: First Presbyterian Church near Ely

How: By the grace of God

Who: All of Us

A few of us got together to discuss the Soup and Kolach Event! Here are some of our thoughts – please feel free to add to the list

1. The soup needs to have more broth in it
2. Everyone will be needed to help with baking on Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4 in the mornings. Help will be needed in the afternoons and during pick-up times, also.
3. Pricing to be determined
4. If someone will volunteer to work with the Country Store – we can set it up in the L.I.F.E. Center!! Please don't be afraid to help out – and please start thinking about preparation for donations.
5. Many comments have been made to have a sit down dinner – probably not this year.

These are preliminary ideas – feel free to send comments to Joanne Chadima



Youth pose for a picture while traveling for their mission trip.



## COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

### JEWELRY DONATION A SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who supported the spring women's mission project!

We collected 594 amazing pieces of jewelry and donated it to WayPoint in Cedar Rapids and Dress for Success in the Quad Cities.

Here's the breakdown:

- 175 earring pairs
- 246 necklaces
- 74 bracelets
- 22 rings
- 74 pins
- 3 miscellaneous items

Thank you for all who generously donated to these meaningful organizations through this project!

### SUMMER MISSION

A big thank you to these church members for volunteering to serve at the Green Square Meals program in June.





## CAMINO UPDATE FROM JAN DUS

Dear friends,

Thank you for continuing to walk this journey of compassion with us. Your support made it possible for us to bring real help to families in Zambia—and to continue standing with civilians affected by the war in Ukraine.

### Zambia: Simple Tools, Lasting Impact



In April, a group of our volunteers – Ivka, Johanka, Lena, Zdena, and Jan – set out on a humanitarian and travel mission to Zambia. After arriving safely, we

celebrated Easter with the local community and immediately began our work.

Every day, we met with families of children with disabilities – mostly those affected by cerebral palsy. We taught mothers and fathers how to use basic stimulation



techniques for limbs, chest, and face – simple enough to be used at home, but powerful enough to help ease discomfort, support mobility, and deepen parent-child connections. By the end of our stay, we had worked with 43 children and their families. The interest and dedication from the parents exceeded our expectations.

### Ukraine: Supporting the Survivors of War

Even as part of our team was helping in Africa, our work in Ukraine continued. Thanks to your ongoing support, we are, in cooperation with local partner organizations, providing direct aid to civilians living with the physical and psychological wounds of war.

Let us introduce you to three brave people whose lives your generosity is helping to rebuild:



**Jevhenij**, from the village of Lyptsi in eastern Ukraine, was gravely injured by a Russian missile that struck his home. Shrapnel lodged in his head, and he was evacuated for emergency

surgery abroad. Today, Jevhenij lives in temporary housing in Kharkiv. He suffers from memory loss, headaches, and limited mobility in his right limbs. We help cover the cost of his rehabilitation, medications, and daily needs like food and hygiene materials.

**Veronika** was simply walking her dog when a bomb exploded nearby. The blast sent shards of metal tearing through her head, chest, abdomen, and legs. She has undergone multiple surgeries. Some fragments remain in her body. Camino is funding her ongoing medical treatment as well as psychological support to help her deal with the trauma.



**Volodymyr**, who is just 35 years old, lost his right arm in a rocket attack on his home in Kupiansk. The injury shattered his upper arm so badly that doctors had no choice but to amputate. He now lives with his elderly mother in a rented apartment in Kharkiv, their home having

been completely destroyed. Thanks to you, we are providing essential aid: medication, food, hygiene products, and emotional support.

These are just three names from many. Each one has a story marked by unimaginable loss, but also resilience. Your support is part of that resilience. You help these people survive—and begin again.



Hello from Youth Group!

Summer is here! Youth just returned from a mission trip overnight to participate in the Feed My Starving Children initiative in Minneapolis. Five youth from Ely and three adults traveled to MN, and for the Packing Mission, and we were joined by MN residents Lucas W (Laura Bailey's son) and Jessie S (Jaydon Serbousek's daughter).

We visited a "fixed site" of FMSC, packed meals for those who are hungry, and prayed over the boxes of nutritious meals headed to Peru. Our group, along with the other participants that session, packed 68 boxes of meals, totaling 14,688 total meals - enough meals to feed 40 children a daily nutritious meal for A YEAR!

Later, Jessie and Jaydon joined us for a trip to the Minnesota Zoo before returning home Saturday night. BIGGEST THANK YOUS to Judy S for driving and providing our lunch on Saturday, to Darla M who also drove, provided snacks and helped with all of the activities! Also, thanks to Jaydon who gives a great walking tour of the Zoo!

In July and August, we plan to continue our Mission work locally for those who are hungry. We will be working through HACAP and helping to gather food from local farms when crops are ready.

**Thanks to all who donate the redeemable cans and bottles** to Youth Group! We will continue to collect these throughout the year. 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: JULY 2025

### Sunday, July 6th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

No Youth Group

### Sunday, July 13th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Youth Group Boating Experience

### Sunday July 20th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Youth Group

### Sunday, July 27th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Youth Group

### Sunday, August 3rd:

9:30 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Youth Group



Youth prepare to depart for their mission trip.



Youth pose for a picture during their mission trip.

## First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Office Hours 11:30 Chair Yoga	3	4 Independence Day	5
6 Food Bank Sunday RE Paul Penn 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour	7 10:00 Chair Yoga	8	9 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Office Hours 11:30 Chair Yoga	10	11	12
13 RE Paul Penn 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour	14 10:00 Chair Yoga	15	16 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Office Hours 11:30 Chair Yoga	17	18	19
20 Rev. Melody Oltmann 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour	21 10:00 Chair Yoga	22 6:00 LMNOP	23 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Office Hours 11:30 Chair Yoga	24	25	26
27 Rev. Melody Oltmann 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour	28 10:00 Chair Yoga	29	30 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Office Hours 11:30 Chair Yoga	31		

**Mark your calendars:** Sunday, August 17, Pastor Julie returns from sabbatical



11100 Spanish Road  
Ely, Iowa 52227

# FOURTH OF JULY



## Word Search

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

ADAMS	FAMILY	HOLIDAY	PARADE
AMERICA	FIREWORKS	HOT DOGS	PARTY
BARBECUE	FLAG	INDEPENDENCE	PATRIOTIC
COLONIES	FREEDOM	JEFFERSON	PICNIC
CONGRESS	FRIENDS	JULY	STATES
DECLARATION	GAMES	LIBERTY	SUMMER

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