



The Salt Shaker

October 2023

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

AMAZING GRACE HYMN AND SERIES

John Newton composed the words to the poem "Amazing Grace" 250 years ago. This fall we will examine what is so amazing about grace in a sermon series started at the end of September and continuing through October.

Hymnary.org says this about "Amazing Grace."

If America had a national folk hymn, this would probably be it. This well-loved and oft-sung hymn, written by John Newton in the late eighteenth century, is a powerful assurance and declaration of the grace of God working in all our lives. When Newton was just eleven, he joined his father at sea and began a tumultuous life in the Navy, eventually becoming captain of a slave ship. In a period of four years, however, his life was drastically turned around: he nearly drowned, he married a very pious Mary Catlett, and he read through Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*. In 1754 he gave up the slave trade and joined forces with the great abolitionist, William Wilberforce. A number of years later, he was ordained for ministry, and soon after wrote this great text, declaring that we are saved only by the grace of God. Newton wrote, "I can see no reason why the Lord singled me out for mercy...unless it was to show, by one astonishing instance, that with him 'nothing is impossible'" (Newton, *The Life of John Newton*). As we sing the very familiar words of this hymn, how powerful it is to think of

ourselves as an "astonishing instance" of God's grace and mercy.

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.*

*2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!*

*3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

*4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.*

*5 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.*

*6 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.*

What do you see in the verses that is missing? What is amazing about grace to you? Let's explore it together.

In Christ,
Pastor Julie

CHURCH BUSINESS

EXPANSION PROJECT

The Session is pleased to announce that a groundbreaking date has been set for April 7 at 11:00 a.m. Plans are being finalized and what remains to construct and equip the ministry L.I.F.E. Center is \$92,000 (out of the \$900,000 budget).

Plan to \$92,000

- Final pledge and donation raising by mid-year 2024
- Application for grant through Presbytery (up to \$20,000)
- Reapplication for Linn County Bioretention project (granted in 2019 for \$9,000 and expired.)

And then?

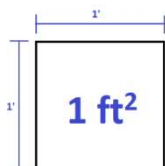
- o Groundbreaking in early 2024
- o Preliminary groundwork
- o Final construction fundraising
- o Opening—fall 2024

Finally, from dedicated prayer, discussion, and effort, we are at this watershed moment to progress. We give thanks to those who have come before launching us forward. We give thanks to those around us who have donated and worked so diligently. We give thanks for those in the days ahead who will step up with time, skills, and other gifts as we work toward opening the doors to a new chapter in the L.I.F.E. of our church.

So, if you have been on the fence about your financial and prayer commitment to this future direction of First Presbyterian Church near Ely, please decide to join in. You can make a gift in memory or honor. You can make a gift anonymously.

Your gift and support will make a great difference. Consider a gift of a square foot (\$180) or more. Together we can raise the remaining 512 square feet for construction (\$92,000.)

Thank you.



SESSION NOTES FROM JULY 20, 2023

1. Worship attendance in person/live streaming: June 4: 42/5; June 11: 47/3; June 18: 48/5; June 25: 42/4
2. Church Membership: 177
3. Presentation by Darin Foreman of Foreman Construction regarding the building expansion. His presentation consisted of pricing based on subcontractor input, current similar projects, and floor plan. Also included was a rendering of the proposed facility. Darin was recommended by Randy Zbanek from Harger Acoustics. Estimated pricing \$900,000 (\$180.20 per square foot.)
4. Treasurer's Report: General Fund ending month balance of \$(3,624.48)
Per Capita 40.3% of budget (YTD Actual of \$1,008.10 on budget of \$2,500.00)
Regular Offering-Pledged 39.1% of budget (YTD actual of \$39,759.36 on budget of \$101,718.00)
Regular Offering-non-pledged 23.2% of budget (YTD actual of \$15,383.46 on budget of \$66,311.00)
5. Funds Report: Phil Huedepohl presented Vanguard Process to make securities and stock gifts to the church. Motion approved.
6. There are several CD's that are maturing in August. Motion approved to roll over CD's.
7. Mission-\$2,300.00 was electronically transferred for Camino Mission in Czech Republic to Ukraine (\$500.00 from Budget, \$350.00 from March donations & \$1,450.00 collected in May). Linn Food Bank had 73 items donated.
8. Property- Church west wing air conditioner replaced with a price reduction of \$600.00.
The elevator final payment (\$12,855) has not been made yet as a gasket needs to be installed.

CONGREGATION MEETING

The Session is calling a Congregation Meeting on October 29 after worship for the purpose of electing church officers.

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 1: Worldwide Communion Sunday. Amazing Grace series: Isaiah

Liturgist: Theresa Harder
Ushers: Kevin & Shirley Bailey
Greeters: Dorothy Ditch

October 8: Amazing Grace series: Blind Man. Cedar Rapids Area Czech Choir performing

Liturgist: Jeff Reist
Ushers: Phil & Misti Huedepohl
Greeters: Sue Feyereabend

October 15: Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Seth Normington, Transitional Executive Presbyter

Liturgist: Becky Grenis
Ushers: Harder Family
Greeters: Dave & Chris Faltis

October 22: Amazing Grace series: Prodigal Son

Liturgist: Joanne Chadima
Ushers: Jeff & Diane Reist
Greeters: Marlene Tiernan

October 29: Amazing Grace series: Penitent Thief

Liturgist: Angie Ehle
Ushers: Bob & Jean Kolek
Greeters: Virginia Svec

CEDAR RAPIDS AREA CZECH CHOIR

On October 8 the Cedar Rapids Area Czech Choir will be performing during worship. They will be presenting:

Pisnicka Ceska Valcik (Song of Bohemia Waltz)
Blue Skirt Waltz (Crvena Sukyhanka)
Svestkova Alej (The Prune Song)

The congregation will be invited to sing along on the last verse of Svestkova Alej. A handout with the Czech and English words will be distributed.

JOIN CHOIR AND HANDBELLS

Did you know we have a third octave of handbells? With two to three more ringers we could expand our offerings to include 3 octave arrangements, which would dramatically increase the library of music available to us.

Additionally, the choir is always in need of more voices. We would love to have you join us this fall.

Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays, Handbells at 6:15 p.m. and Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP

CHAIR YOGA

The Chair Yoga program is off to a beautiful start. The connection we make with others makes the yoga class unique. Even though each person concentrates on oneself, we still make ourselves vulnerable by working through our physical limitations in each session. What makes that possible is the mutual respect shown to each other as we confront and work through our physical issues, knowing we are engaging in a growth and healing process. The joy comes from recognizing that working through the process means we have room for the new movement, which releases a joyful sense of accomplishment. Going through this process in our sacred church space is comforting. It's nice to take this healing journey in an area we trust.

While performing yoga exercises, we sometimes breathe into an area of our body where unpleasant emotions and feelings get lodged and held. Working through the uncomfortable feelings and releasing them may be momentarily difficult, but with the release comes room for more joy and movement. We all know from the scripture that we must let go of the old to receive the new.

During the past several weeks, our instructor, Julie has concentrated on our upper bodies: arms, wrists, fingers, neck, and head. We've done exercises to create more room in the chest to breathe better. For all the musicians who attend, it's been great. With improved muscle tone and flexibility, it makes it easier to manage our instruments.

Please join us for one or more of the classes. Come start experiencing the many benefits for yourself.

SNACKS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Please consider donating snacks for fellowship time. Donations can be made in bulk and frozen for use throughout the year. Contact Bonnie Fencil with any questions.

THANK YOU!

Betty Buresh would like to thank everyone who helped make kolaches for Makayla's wedding.



Adult Education

Sundays: A new study has begun at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays in the church living room centering on the TV series "The Chosen".



Wednesdays in September at 9:30 a.m. in the church basement a study of the "Words in Red" looking at Jesus' recorded words in the Gospel of John. It opens the discussion with the beauty of Jesus' expressions and teachings. John 10 and following. You do not need a Bible that shows Jesus' words in red, we start with a printout of the verses for the day, afterward we open our own Bible versions for a deeper contextual conversation.

TRUNK AND TREAT



All families with children are invited to participate in a Costume Party on October 29 at 11:00 a.m.

Church members are invited to park on the west side of the church to have a vehicle trunk decorated and candy to pass out to kids.

Please invite neighbor kids, friends, and family to this event.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

LIFE! Living In Faith Everyday

L.I.F.E. (Living in Faith Everyday) Opportunities



Sunday School for children: Children's Sunday School is moving.

All children grade 5 and younger are invited downstairs after the children's time during

worship to participate in hands-on Sunday School learning. The nursery will be open with supervision too. Ask Diane Reist for details. Sunday School will meet every Sunday in October and culminate in the Trunk and Treat Party on October 29.

COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

CROP WALK

The CROP WALK will be held Sunday, October 1 at 1:00 p.m. starting at the east end of the ELY City Park parking lot. We will be joining efforts with Shueyville UMC and St. John Lutheran.

To contribute, speak to any member of youth group, Bill Serbousek or visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023>. Search for Ely, and you will find the link to register and make donations on line.

At 12:00 p.m. there will be a group picnic at the Ely Ball Park Pavillion. Come and enjoy, even if you cannot participate in the CROP WALK.



IT'S SOUP SUPPER TIME!

The Annual Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Supper pick up will be held October 6 and 7 as a drive through.

We are pleased to report that 407+ quarts of soup have been made at the church; all are frozen and ready for our orders.

Please thank all those who have worked in the kitchen, provided broth and chicken, and given freezer space.

The "Big Bake" is about to happen October 6 and 7. All are needed to help, whether during full days or part of the time. The sign up poster is in the basement. Please sign up.

Distribution will happen 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. on both October 6 and October 7. Help is needed then, too. Please sign up.

Every individual can help by letting people know about our soup and kolaches!!!!" Personal advertisement is the best!! Remember orders must be called in by September 30!!!!



COUNTRY STORE 2023

We are going to run the Country Store during the Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Supper again this year! October 6th & 7th, the Country Store will be up and running in the church living room during soup and kolach pick-up times.

A Facebook event is up and running to advertise items for sale at the Country Store. Check the page for photos of available items and to see what to expect at our store this year. Please note that we are NOT selling items through Facebook, only advertising the Country Store.

What are some ways that you can help?

1. Donate items to sell at the Country Store. The earlier you donate, the more we can advertise your items!
2. Bake items to sell at the Country Store (Yes, **we are doing the bake sale portion again!**). If you plan to donate baked goods, please let me know what you will bring so that I can advertise it.
3. Share, share, share! Once the Facebook event page is up and running, share the event to your personal Facebook pages, as well as any local group pages that you can think of (i.e., neighborhood pages, city pages, school pages).
4. Help set up the Country Store on Friday, October 6th so that it is up and running and ready to start selling at 3:00 PM.

****Please make sure to price any donated items and/or baked goods. I will add a price to anything not priced, but we run the risk of the item being undervalued.**

If you are willing and able to help in any way, please reach out to Rachel Manders. Thank you!
Rachel Manders



Hello from Youth Group!

Sunday School started in September, and Youth are sharing this experience with Adult Sunday School. We are studying the first season of "The Chosen", viewing an episode then having discussion on it. Also in September, students participated in See You at The Pole individually at their school flagpoles on the 27th.

October has so many great events! Starting the month out is the CROP walk on 10/1. We will have a picnic lunch at Ely Park then do our walking! Students are collecting funds for the event - please see the Youth Bulletin Board, Angie, or any youth to donate to CROP walk!

October 5th is "Bring Your Bible to School Day". This is an individual opportunity to literally carry God's Word with you that day! Adults, perhaps you can mirror these efforts with a Bring your Bible to Work Day"?!? I'll look forward to hearing how it goes for everyone!

On 10/6 and 10/7, students will be helping in many ways with the Soup and Kolache fundraiser. They may be baking, or running, or even making crafts and baked goods for the country store.

Calling all Trunk or Treaters! We will hold this event after Sunday School on the 29th. You are all so creative - Cannot wait to see how you decorate your trunks this year! Come dressed for the weather and take a hayride, too!

10/8, 10/15 and 10/22 we will have Youth Group at 6pm at Church to prepare for November's Operation Christmas Child packing event. ALL CONGREGATION MEMBERS are invited to participate in gathering items for OCC, and the packing event on 11/5/23.

Youth Group works on **Operation Christmas Child** boxes year-round and November is getting closer and closer. If you have shoe boxes or leftover Christmas wrapping paper you no longer want to keep, we can use it to wrap boxes! If you have new school supplies, toys, sunglasses, bars of soap, toothbrushes and other items (see Youth Bulletin Board for ideas) feel free to drop all of these in the youth room, and THANK YOU for helping out with OCC! **One Special need for our OCC Boxes is soccer balls (not inflated) and pumps to inflate them!** Likewise, if you want to pack a box to include in the delivery from our church, please have them packed and at church by 11/5.

Please see the calendar above for other important dates in 2023, and MARK YOUR CALENDARS to secure these times for Youth Group!

We will continue accepting redeemable cans and bottles from our church friends willing to donate; these funds help with activity costs. Thanks to everyone who helped in that effort! Your donated cans and bottles can be set inside the youth room door anytime, or call Angie for a pickup / drop off at my home.

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

Blessings~
Angie Zahradnik Ehle



Youth Schedule: October 2023

Sunday, October 1st: Hope for the Hungry

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

12:00 p.m. Tailgate Lunch, CROP Walk at Ely Park

NO 6:00 p.m. Youth Group

October 5th: Bring Your Bible to School Day

October 6th -7th: Soup Supper and Country Store

Sunday, October 8th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, October 15th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, October 22nd:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, October 29th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:30 a.m. Halloween HayRide, Party, Trunk-and-Treat

NO 6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, November 5th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

6:00 p.m. Youth Group - OCC Box Packing Day!

Please mark your calendars for:


11/10/23: Rohlicky and Pie making

11/11/23: Senior Harvest Dinner/Thanksgiving Meal

12/3/23 (?) Advent Festival and Soup Potluck

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World Wide Comm. Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:00 Adult SS 12:00 Picnic 1:00 CROP Walk	2	3 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	4 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	5 Bring Your Bible To School Day 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	6 6:30 a.m. Kolache Baking 3:00 Soup & Kolache P/U, Country Store	7 6:30 a.m. Kolache Baking 3:00 Soup & Kolache P/U, Country Store
8 Czech Choir Performing 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:00 Adult SS 6:00 Youth Group	9	10 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	11 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	12 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	13 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	14
15 Dr. Seth Normington visiting 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 11:00 Adult SS 6:00 Youth Group	16 10:00 Chair Yoga	17 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	18 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 7:30 Choir Practice	19 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	20 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	21
22 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:00 Adult SS 6:00 Youth Group	23 10:00 Chair Yoga	24 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:00 Ladies' Night Out	25 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	26 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	27 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	28
29 Reformation Sunday Noisy Can Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 11:00 Cong. Meeting 11:30 Hayride, Party 12:00 Trunk-and-Treat	30 10:00 Chair Yoga	31 Halloween 9:00-12:00 Office Hours		November 5: OCC Donations Due November 11: Senior Harvest Dinner December 3: Advent Festival and Soup Potluck December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service		



11100 Spanish Road
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Soup Supper Prep!

