



# e-News

May 11th, 2022

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## TIME TO THINK VBS!

Save the Date: June 20th through 24th!

**VBS 2022 IS GOING TO BE MONUMENTAL!**

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

*We have many volunteer spots left to fill!*

It is so incredibly important to be able to host this Children's Ministry event in person once again!

Call the office to let us know that you're interested in helping us make this 2022 VBS amazing!

## SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Our Summer Lunch Program will be in-house again. We are hoping to add some new activities as well.

The program will operate

from 11:30 am to 1pm

from June 7th through August 16th  
(Monday—Friday).

## CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES!

Do you have a graduate? We would love to celebrate their achievement! We will have our Graduate Board in the Narthex, with photos and little bios for our graduates! If you have a graduate you'd like to celebrate you can fill out our Graduates Form available in building and online.

**Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting May 22** at the worship service for the purpose of approving the Terms of Call and for electing the Pastor Nominating Committee.

## St John Food Pantry—Volunteer Opportunity

St. John Lutheran Church Food Pantry is asking for volunteers to help in the distribution process for their supply bags, or "Blessed Bags" to those in need. More information can be found at [stjohnfood.org](http://stjohnfood.org).

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers of health for Pastor Jen's close friend Cindy who lives in Florida.

Prayers of strength for Bradley (age 7) who is struggling with depression.

Prayers of good health and recovery for Mary Lou with her upcoming surgery.

Prayers of good health to those who may be experiencing health-related uncertainties.

## An Annual Report Working Meeting

will be held in Hoffman Hall on Wednesday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to review the Annual Report in detail and discuss the ministry and mission of the prior year.

## Ukraine Update Prayer Meeting

Join Pastor Bo Saturday 5/21 at 9 am to hear some insights on the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. After the discussion there will be time dedicated to prayers for those impacted by the crisis.

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### Stewardship Report

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 2022-2023 Budget      | \$772,600 |
| Year to Date Income   | \$73,791  |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$59,688  |

Per Capita: \$40.00

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go online to use a credit card. You can give by mail, by online giving through our website using the "Give" tab, and through electronic giving.

**Thank you** for your generosity.

Happy Warm Weather Beloved of God!

The Lord continues to bless us with every good thing. Wonderful weather, wonderful faith family, and wonderful worship! This Sunday I will be preaching on the walk to Emmaus. It is one of my favorite accounts of Jesus' post Resurrection appearances to His followers. This story teaches us what is needed to go forth, boldly, in this life. And through it we learn not only how to survive this journey but how to thrive as we walk the way of Christ!

On top of that blessing, the music is going to be out of this world! Those of you who know me have learned that music is one of my greatest passions. I love to hear and give a good Holy Spirit led sermon but I have often found that a God-filled hymn or song can touch people's souls in a way no spoken word can. For me worship without the Word, music and heart felt prayer is no worship at all.

Worshipping is such a joy engaging, life strengthening thing. Whether you are a member of First or not we are all part of this family of faith. The reason to become a member of First is a voice and a vote, to be called into ordained (elder and deacon) ministry, and claim for yourself the care and use of this amazing structure built for the exhibition and mission of God's Kingdom.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, I will be teaching a new member class for all those who are interested in joining First's fellowship and for those members who want to be reminded what it means to be Presbyterian. There will be snicky-snacks, laughter, and fun as well as learning.

It would be wonderful if you would give me a heads up so I know how much food to prepare for the feast – but, if you decide to come last minute, don't let a missing RSVP stop you. Come one, Come All – there is always room at God's table!

Last, but certainly not least, the faithful Nominating Committee has put together the PNC slate! The committed who have come forward to answer the call of the Holy Spirit are...

Jen Gabl, Helen Steinberg, Mary Lynn Keir, Lisa Halderson-Diaz, Jill Strimel, Bernie Blaser, Pat Costion, Clarence Red, Craig Randolph, Dave Church and Ed Schultz.

What a wonderful group! Led by the will of the Lord, and your direction, they will search for the person God is preparing for this incredible church. We will be electing the PNC at our congregational meeting during worship on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Praise be to God!!!

I look forward to seeing you all this Sunday!

In God's Love,  
Dr. Jen:)

Hi all,

It was so good to be back in worship on Sunday, and celebrate baptism and the heart of this church for mission. If you missed this past Sunday I would encourage you to take a look at the online service and hear more about Angel House and Helping Hands. First Pres. is a church of commitment and sharing the Love of God in each ministry we are involved in. Our commitment to Angel House in Tanzania spans over ten years. Ten Years of faithful and steadfast giving, caring, and nurturing three young ladies, that will soon graduate their studies. Every year our church sends close to \$5,000 to Angel House. During this month and the beginning of next month, I would like to encourage you to look over the brochure and pray for Lucia, Rhobi, and Rebecca. As well, I ask you to consider being an adoptive parent to them this year by helping us raise the funds necessary for this ministry.

With summer weather comes summer ministry opportunities, and The Vacation Bible School and The Summer Lunch program do need your help. Sometimes it is helping read or with an activity and sometimes is about preparing and serving snacks. But at the end of the day it is about serving the kids of our congregation and community. VBS will be June 20th-24th and Summer Lunch program June 7th through August 16th.

As you know I got to spent two weeks in Romania with my parents, and I want to thank you for your prayers and well wishes to them. Mom and Dad are well, and as Dad is continuing to recovePhotor from his bout with COVID we ask for your continued blessings. During my trip I had a chance to preach at Canaan Church and to visit one of the Ukrainian refugee camps. As I said before, I continue to be impressed by the response of the Romanian churches to this event that has displaced so many people. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in hearing more about this ministry for the Ukrainian refugees to join me on Saturday May 21st at 9 am in Hoffman Hall, for a time of sharing, questions and prayer. I will also send a bigger update in the coming days.

Hope to see you on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bo



Photos from Pastor Bo's trip to Romania