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The Holy Spirit
Pentecost

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:15-17)

At Pentecost we remember and celebrate that special event when the heavenly Father sent the Holy Spirit into this world through His Son Jesus Christ. The apostles were the first who received the gift of the Lord’s Spirit. Right after that blessing, they boldly went out to the streets and squares of Jerusalem and preached the good news of Jesus Christ. When the apostle Peter preached, three thousand people accepted the message of the Lord and were baptized. That became the birthday of the Christian Church. Therefore the feast of Pentecost is just as important as Christmas and Easter.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit shook the entire nation of Israel and brought with it great changes. However, the outpouring of the Spirit had a great influence not just on Israel, but on the whole world.

During His earthly life and ministry Jesus Christ has promised that He would send the Holy Spirit who would guide us into all the truth. In connection with this, let us turn our attention to two important questions here. The first is, how can a person receive the Holy Spirit? The second is, why is the presence of the Holy Spirit so important in our lives?

In order to give an appropriate answer to the first question, we need to know that there are some prerequisites if someone wants to receive the Holy Spirit. The prerequisites for receiving the Spirit, according to Jesus’ words, are:

1. “If you love me.”
2. “Obey what I command.”

We just need to do these two simple things, loving Jesus, and obeying His teachings, and we can therefore receive the Holy Spirit. Simple things? These are not that simple to do, aren’t these?

Loving Jesus and obeying His commandments are not easy. We have troubles especially with keeping the Lord’s teachings. We are individual persons with free will. God created us as human beings and not as robots. We can choose to accept or deny things, to do things or not doing them.
We need to be aware of the fact that if someone wants to receive the Holy Spirit, that person has to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. So the first step, the starting point to receive the Holy Spirit is to accept Christ into our lives. There are those who have decided to accept Jesus when they were little children. They received a religious upbringing from their parents, grandparents or godparents and later on, they decided to follow Jesus. There are also those who made the decision for Jesus in an evangelism event or through a personal conversation with a Christian family member or friend. The story of conversion is different for all of us. But if someone accepts Christ as his or her personal Savior and Lord, then that person also receives the Holy Spirit.

But why is the Holy Spirit’s presence important in our lives? we may ask. The Spirit is the one who continues the works of Jesus Christ in us. Jesus called the Spirit: parakletos. This is a Greek word and it means Counselor or Comforter.

Jesus says, “I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever” (v.16.). We definitely need someone in our lives who counsels and comforts us. We especially need comfort and encouragement when we have difficulties and trials. Just remember when God comforted you when everything seemed hopeless or when you lost someone whom you dearly loved.

It is also good to know that the Holy Spirit prays and intercedes for us. What a great encouragement it is to know that God’s Spirit prays for you and me. Additionally, the Spirit of truth will guide us into all truth (Jn 16:13). He teaches you and me to walk in the truth and reminds us of everything that Jesus said and taught (Jn 14:26). In addition to this, the Holy Spirit gives gifts for us to enrich and build others and ourselves up in love and faith. So we may see how important the presence of the Holy Spirit is in our lives and in our congregations’ life.

Pentecost is about God’s presence and work in our lives through His Spirit. The Holy Spirit came to give us strength and guidance to live our lives and grow in our faith in Jesus Christ. Praise and thanks be to our Savior who sent us His Spirit. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai
Bishop

The Ascension of Jesus

In the life of our Savior there came a time when after He accomplished His work on this earth He was summoned back to God and the event is associated with His Ascension. We are all familiar with the scripture as the Gospel writers relate to us Jesus saying farewell/ goodbyes to His disciples. Goodbyes aren’t easy. Especially if we or someone we love will be gone for a long time.

In this article we are going to talk about Jesus’ goodbye to His disciples – we know it as the Ascension.

The most important events in Jesus’ life certainly include His birth, baptism, temptation, transfiguration, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

It is interesting to me that not all of the Gospels record this event.

The Gospel of John says nothing about the ascension of Jesus. He ended his Gospel, saying, “Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.”

The Gospel of Matthew ended his Gospel with Jesus gathering with His disciples on a mountain in Galilee. He issued the Great Commission and then promised, “And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Mt. 28:20)

The Gospel of Mark ended his Gospel with a speech similar to the Great Commission in Matthew, and then he wrote, “After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.” (Mk. 16:19)

The Gospel of Luke the careful historian who gives the most ink to the ascension of Jesus.

Luke ended his Gospel, written especially for the most excellent Theophilus, “When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.” (Lk. 24:50-52)

Then Luke opened volume two, saying, “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.” (Acts 1:1-3)

Luke recorded Jesus’ instructions that they should not leave Jerusalem, but should wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, and then they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
There had to be a final moment when Jesus left the earth. The ascension was an absolute necessity, is the fact that Jesus’ going allowed for the Spirit’s coming.

Jesus told them in John 16, “Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” (Jn. 16:5-7)

Jesus continued in verse 12, “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.” (Jn. 16:12-14)

So the going of Jesus allowed for the coming of the Spirit, and the coming of the Spirit ushered in the beginning of the church. It is hard to imagine life in the church without the Spirit. It is an impossibility. It is hard to imagine our lives today in the church without the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings me such hope, peace and power, while at the same time convicting me of my sin when I get off course.

The third reason the ascension was an absolute necessity, is the fact that it allowed Him to begin His permanent, heavenly ministry.

It has been well said that: “At the ascension Jesus left the here for the everywhere. He left the now for the eternal. He left the First Century to fill all the centuries.”

Just as the grave could not hold Him when His Father raised Him from the dead, so the earth could not hold Him when the time came for Him to return to His Father.

And as the Gospel of Mark says, “he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.” (Mk. 16:19)

Similarly, the Apostle Peter wrote, “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit… this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also…It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.” (1 Pt. 3:18,21,22)

In heaven, at God’s right hand, Jesus is our interceding High Priest, giving us the grace we need for life and service (Heb. 4:14-16). He is also our Advocate before the Father, forgiving us when we confess our sins (1 Jn. 1:9-2:2)

The exalted and glorified Head of the church is now working with His people on earth and helping them accomplish His purposes. (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:20)

We have proof that Jesus ascended and is now...
The ascension was an absolute necessity for the Lord’s return. Jesus could not return if He never left. Before their very eyes that day, Jesus began lifting into heaven in a way that may be described as dignified and majestic. No whirlwind came along and swept Him away like happened with Elijah. Rather, as He ascended, a cloud appeared and hid Jesus from their gaze. That cloud might well have reminded them of the cloud that enveloped them during the transfiguration, or the cloud that led the nation of Israel in the wilderness in the OT, or the cloud of God’s glory that filled the temple (1 Kgs. 8). But unlike the transformation, where Jesus remained after the cloud disappeared, in the ascension, Jesus did not remain after the cloud hid Him. There the disciples stood intently gazing into the sky, when they were interrupted by two men standing beside them. It was obvious they were angels because of their white garments, and their knowledge. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

The rebuke of the angels is a bit humorous – “Why are you standing around staring into the sky?” In so many words, they said, “Yes, Jesus is going to come back the same way you saw him go, but not right now, not today, so get to work.”

So the ascension testifies to the fact of our Lord’s return. “He will come back.” The disciples were not told that they themselves would see the coming again of Christ. The time is left open and it is futile and foolish to speculate as to when it will come. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us and He will come back to take us to be with Him. That is His promise to us in John 14:1-3.

Conclusion:
So here we find ourselves some 2000 years after the promises of Jesus and His ascension to heaven, and we are still waiting for His return. But unlike those early disciples, we are not just standing idly gazing into the sky, we are busy at work for our Lord. Several of the parables of Jesus point out the importance of carrying out the will of our Master in His absence. We must not be caught by surprise when He returns. The Gospel of Matthew 24:46 says, “It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing when He returns.”

Jesus will say, “Well done my good and faithful servant...come and share in your master’s happiness.” (Mt. 25:21)

The key here is not perfection, but faithfulness; good stewardship. God is pleased when we are busy employing our gifts and talents in the administration of His grace. God is pleased when we make good choices as we invest our time and our finances for kingdom purposes. And God is pleased when we love one another as He loved us, and as we love our neighbor as ourselves. But I know it is not easy. I know that we love our neighbor as ourselves. But I know it is not easy. I know that the battle is tough. I know that overcoming temptation is difficult – I give into it far too often myself. I know that many are facing the weariness of all kinds of troubles – disease and death, conflict and strife, layoffs and mounting bills.

Let’s pay close attention to those around us who might be struggling this holiday season.
So, I know that life can be hard, and that many of us are hurting and struggling. Although I can’t take away our troubles, I know, that God is there for us and that He loves us. And a word of encouragement that I can give all of us today is this – someday soon that trumpet is going to sound. As Paul has told us in 1 Thessalonians 4: The Lord himself will come down from heaven. There will be the loud command in the voice of an archangel. There will be the trumpet call of God. The dead in Christ will rise first. Then those of us who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds. We will meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever.

Some day the Lord will return and we will never have to say goodbye to Him ever again. That is a promise we can count on – day in and day out; when things are good and when they are bad. I can’t wait for that day—how about you? But a critical question to answer is this: Are you Ready? If the Lord comes today, are you ready to meet Him? The answer to those questions is a matter of spiritual life or spiritual death – it is just that serious! Jesus said, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (Jn. 3:16)

Jesus said, “I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” (Lk. 13:3)

Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mk. 16:16)

Let me end with the question that Ananias asked Saul of Tarsus, “And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.” (Acts 22:16)

Rev. Stefan M. Torok

Opening Worship Service in Commemoration of the Protestant Reformation’s 500th Anniversary at the First Hungarian Reformed Church of Walton Hills, OH

The year of 2017 is a special one for our Protestant Reformed churches worldwide. We will commemorate and celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. It is a great milestone in our Christian life and Reformed heritage.

The members of Calvin Synod’s Conference Council invited all local churches of Calvin Synod Conference to dedicate a special Sunday, on March 12, 2017, for the Opening Worship Service in Commemoration of the Protestant Reformation.

On March 12th the Opening Worship Service was held at the First Hungarian Reformed Church in Walton Hills, Ohio. Our Sunday School children read stories from the time of Reformation. These important stories showed how difficult it was for the reformers to proclaim, spread, and defend the teachings based on the Bible. The sermon was about one of the core doctrines of Reformation, Solus Christus, Through Christ Alone. The participating members of our congregation enjoyed the children’s program and this special event at both worship services. Soli Deo Gloria! To God alone be glory!

Beata Krasznai

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Special Sunday Worship Service at the Beaver Falls Church

On Sunday, March 19, 2017 a special Worship Service was held at the Third Avenue Calvin Reformed Church of Beaver Falls, PA. Mrs. Arlene Csoman Chief Elder greeted everybody at the beginning of the service. Rev. Viktor Toth Synod Treasurer and Bishop Csaba Krasznai served with Mr. Wilburn Roby Licensed Lay Minister with other church members.

At the end of the sermons, the two pastors blessed the members of the congregation by laying their hands on them, and then prayed for the participants. After the worship service a delicious lunch was prepared by Mr. Endre Csoman.

To God be the glory for this blessed church event. May the Lord Jesus continue to bless the life, ministry, and work of the Third Avenue Calvin Reformed Church of Beaver Falls, PA.

*Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai
Bishop*

The pictures were taken by Alexander Patho Photography.

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Rev. Toth, Dr. Krasznai and Mr. Roby

*Walton Hills, OH photos*

Mrs. Emily Moran, church organist, shares her testimony with the congregation

The participating church members
Today we glance back at one person who lived the words he confessed as his faith – John Calvin. His motto is reminiscent of the first words of the 25th Psalm – “To thee, O LORD, I lift up my soul.” For Calvin it was much more than just a motto – these words were his life! As they say in English: “He didn’t just talk the talk, He walked the walk!”

He lived his faith every day of his life, and this is something we have as our heritage as Reformed, Calvinist Christians.

The concept that religion and God are not confined either to Sunday worship or to the church building came to life anew with John Calvin after being dormant for over a thousand years. This had been one of Christ’s central messages – our faith and relationship to God is not a real faith if we do not hold it central to everything we do, every moment of our lives.

This is what Jesus had taught; this is what John Calvin taught. This concept was so foreign to medieval Christianity that, in fact, a new Church had to be created – the medieval Roman Church could not contain it! It is reminiscent of the scripture in Matthew 9:16, where we read that “new wine” must go in a “new wine skin.”

Remember, Luther merely wanted to reform the practices and theology of the Roman Church. Luther was a Catholic Priest who remained a Catholic Priest; it was the Roman Church that kicked him out, so that a new church was begun by his followers.

Not so with Calvin.

Who was this man who changed the very essence of Christianity, not only that, but changed the course and direction of the history of the Western World?

Calvin was born a Frenchman, studied there, and in the end was claimed by both France and Switzerland. He studied to become a priest, and by the age of 18 was a priest in a small village.

At the age of 20 he was as student at the University of Orleans in France, and was so learned that he was offered the title of “Doctor,” given to teachers at the University.

At the age of 23 he wrote his first book; at the age of 24 he wrote a speech for the president of Paris University for Reformation Day, suggesting the reformation of the church; both he and the president of the University had to flee the city in fear of their lives!

At the age of 25 he wrote his first draft of the Institutes of the Christian Religion which was approximately 230 pages. He revised and expanded this book over the course of the next 20 years, it now fills two large volumes, and is considered the most comprehensive work, ranking with Augustine and other most respected writers of all of Christianity. One theologian remarked that “since the sa-
cred books, written by the great apostles, no one has written a better book than this”. It is the Institutes upon which our Reformed Faith is based, based on the Bible, bringing to life the teachings of Christ in a clear and systematic way.

Calvin prepared the very first hymnbook: remember, in the medieval Roman church, they did not sing Hymns. Calvin rediscovered the Psalms as “Hymns” with which to praise God!

His tremendous changes were reflected not only in “religion”, but in all of life, which, as was mentioned earlier, he emphasized is where we must live out our faith.

What did he do to this end? His teachings – and examples – changed political and social life for all of Europe.

While he was pastor in Geneva, Switzerland, plagues swept all of Europe.

In Geneva there was a hospital – but only for citizens of the City. He established a hospital for non-citizens: This in itself was a first.

Due to the plague, there was a depression, and the resultant unemployment. Under his leadership, a weaving industry was begun to employ unemployed persons. It was also at this time that he help to establish a watch-making industry in Geneva: Imagine – watches made in Switzerland – Swiss Time-pieces – a result of the Calvinist Reformation.

And also, a gold-smith industry was begun at this time. And he encouraged trade – merchants, businessmen, commerce. And these all became profitable due to his showing, in the Bible, that these are all honorable professions.

Big deal, you think. Well, it really was a big deal!

It was Calvin and his Calvinist theology that first proclaimed what Jesus had taught and shown in his life – which had been reiterated by the Apostle Paul: ALL work is honorable, all people are honorable, there are no stations in life that are not honorable in God’s eyes. The fact is that peasants were regarded not to be equal to other person in that time: people could not be businessmen or merchants because they were excluded from, excommunicated by, the Roman Catholic church. Calvin showed in the Bible that it is morally acceptable to charge interest when loaning money – but he also declared that if a person could not afford it, interest may NOT be charged!

Geneva became the most successful city in Europe, both economically and as a Christian center.

Calvin established a University in Geneva, paid for by the citizens of the city, and almost immediately there were 900 students enrolled!

People from all the over the world flocked to Geneva. One of them, John Knox, the man who was the founder of the Scottish Reformed Church – which today we call the Presbyterian Church – went to Geneva and wrote:

“Here can be found Christ’s most perfect school, something which has not existed on earth since the Apostles”.

Dutch scholar Abraham Kuyper had this observation about Calvin:

"Just ask yourselves: what would have become of Europe and America, if the reformation would have not started in the Sixteenth Century? Spain would have broken in pieces the German(s) and Swiss, in England and Scotland the Stuarts would have succeeded with their fatal plans. The whole American continent would have remained Spanish possessions."

I mentioned that Calvin established a University in Geneva. This too is a tremendously important moment in history. The University taught not only religion and philosophy, but also the natural sciences, which Calvin insisted be about the scriptures.

It is important because here, for the first time, the study of natural sciences was encouraged, for Calvin a means of understanding the world which God made for us. The medieval Church considered the natural sciences as evil and rejected them. The best example of this is that 100 years after Calvin, when Galileo declared the world to be round, he was condemned by the Roman church. If we were to read the Bible literally, the world is flat, with 4 corners. Creation is a 3-story universe, with the heavens above, a flat earth in the center, and “the deep” under the earth. Calvin is the first major theologian to categorically state that the scriptures are not to be understood strictly literally, but are descriptive of something which God is attempting to reveal to us – and we must use all our facilities to understand His creation.

The spirit of Geneva created disciples, heroes, martyrs everywhere where it reached worldwide. Following the example of Geneva, schools were established, libraries created, books were printed, often funded by tradesmen, merchants, citizens and peasants.

The Scriptures remained fully authoritative for Calvin – not as a scientific description, but for revelation of creation for the good of mankind.

He rejected the Catholic church’s – and Martin Luther’s stance – that the Scriptures should be taken literally, verbatim. But, said Calvin, ALL knowledge must be approached and understood in the context of the entire Scriptures.

Calvin has been described as “the most Christian man amongst the Reformers”. Reinhold Niebuhr, one of America’s greatest theologians, pointed out that “more books have been written about Calvin and Calvinism than any other man in the history of the world”.

Our very government in the United States is based on Calvinistic principles: Geneva had an elected town council – our form of government is an elected government.
Mother's Day

Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-6:3

On the second Sunday of each year we gather to worship the Lord and honor our mothers. Not only are we commanded to honor our mothers; it’s also the sensible and loving thing to do. Many of us here today wish we still had our mothers living so we could honor them, remember them and love them.

A six-year-old boy, separated from his mother in a supermarket, began to call frantically for “Martha! Martha! Martha!”

That was his mother’s name and she came running to him quickly. “But, honey,” she admonished, “you shouldn’t call me ‘Martha’, I’m ‘Mother’ to you.” “Yes, I know,” he answered, “but this store is full of mothers.”

Our world is full of mothers, but we have only one mother who is special. Should be. Must always be. There is no one like our mothers. And no one can take the place of our mothers.

Someone wrote: You’ve turned in to a Mom when:
• You automatically double-knot everything you tie.

His interpretation of God’s will have freed mankind to live a life in “abundance”, as Jesus says in John 10:10.

Calvin’s first Hungarian disciple was Gergely Bele-nyesi, a young scholar from Nagyvarad, and he was followed by many others.

On the heels of the Lutheran Reformation sweeping all of Western Europe, the Calvinist followed close behind, and much of Hungary became Reformed (only to be affected by the military might of the Hapsburgs in the “Counter Reformation”). In Hungary, the teachings of Calvin were felt so close to the people’s souls that the Reformed Church was called the Hungarian Church and Hungarian Faith. Calvin’s influence did not mean that much just for our church, but also for our nation. The persecution by the Habsburgs against the protestants was directed mainly against the reformers. The intention was for Hungary to become a German land. This was best expressed by the poet Gyula Illyes:

“Do you believe, that there would be some kind of Hungarians, if there is no Calvin? I do not think so.”

This year, in 2017, we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, when on October 31 Martin Luther posted the “Ninety-Five Thesis” on the door of the Wittenberg Church. John Calvin’s reformation clarified and furthered this reformation in Europe.

We in our church have a proud legacy — Christ’s will was renewed and revealed and brought to life again by our Reformed Church.

Rt. Rev. Koloman Karl Ludwig

find yourself humming the Barney song as you do the dishes. • You hear a baby cry in the grocery store, and you start to gently sway back and forth, back and forth. However, your children are either at school or long gone!

• You actually start to like the smell of strained carrots mixed with applesauce. • You spend a half hour searching for your sunglasses only to have your teenager say, "Mom, why don’t you wear the ones you pushed up on your head?"

• You are out for a nice romantic meal with your husband, enjoying some real adult conversation, when suddenly you realize that you’ve reached over and started to cut up his steak!

Things Our Mothers Taught Us:

• My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. "If you’re going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning." • My mother taught me about RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet." • My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL. "If you don’t straighten up, I’m going to knock you into the middle of next week!" • My mother taught me LOGIC. "Because I said so, that’s why." • My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you’re in an accident." • "Keep crying, and I’ll give you something to cry about." • My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper." • My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You’ll sit there until all that spinach is gone." • My mother taught me about WEATHER. "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it." • My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE. "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out." • My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION. "Stop acting like your father!" • My mother taught me about ENVY. "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don’t have wonderful parents like you do." • My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION. "Just wait until we get home!" • My mother taught me about RECEIVING. "You are going to get it when you get home!" • My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE. "If you don’t stop crossing your eyes, the wind will change and you will stay like that." • My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT. "If you don’t eat your vegetables, you’ll never grow up.

• My mother taught me ABOUT GENETICS. "You act just like your father." • My mother taught me about my ROOTS. "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?" • My mother taught me WISDOM. "When you get to be my age, you’ll understand." • My mother taught me about JUSTICE. "One day you’ll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

On Mother’s Day we can’t say enough good things about our mothers, but we’ll try. And God help us if we don’t!
I want to share briefly three thoughts:

1- Her hands work
2- Her mouth speaks
3- Her heart loves

HER HANDS WORK

A boy got his first job. As he was boasting about the amount of work he did, he said, "I get up at 5 a.m. and have my breakfast." He was asked, "Does anyone else get up too?" He replied, "Oh yes, mother gets up and fixes my breakfast and then fixes dad's breakfast."

"And what about your dinner?" The boy said, "Oh, mother, fixes that too."

"Does your mother have the afternoon to herself?"
The boy replied, "No, mama cleans the house, looks after the other children, and then gets supper for me and dad when we come home. Then we watch TV before we go to bed."

"What about your mother? What does she do?" The boy replied, "Mama washes some clothes and irons the rest of the evening."

"Do you get paid?" "Of course, Dad and I get paid."

"And what about your mother, does she get paid too?"

The boy replied, "MOTHER, GET PAID?! MOTHER DON'T GET PAID. SHE DON'T DO NO WORK."

If anyone here today believes that moms don't work, I would suggest that you'd better keep your mouth shut. Our text also says that mothers v. 15 "get up while it is still dark" to prepare food. And v. 18 "her lamp does not go out at night."

WHAT’S THAT OLD SAYING? "Man works from sun to sun, but woman’s work is never done."

v. 27 "She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread idleness." She isn’t lazy.

THANK YOU, MOM, FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

II. HER MOUTH SPEAKS

Prov. 31:26 "She speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue."

A London editor submitted to Winston Churchill for his approval a list of all those who had been Churchill’s teachers. Churchill returned the list with this comment: "You have omitted to mention the greatest of my teachers—my Mother."

I don’t remember much of what mom said to me when I was a kid, sad to say. But I’m sure mom said plenty to me! Because I remember that she washed my mouth out with soap a time or two, which meant I said something wrong. And I’m sure she said something to me about it too! I’ve told you before that I used to tease her in front of people by saying, “Oh, mom, you know I was the best kid you ever had.” And she would say, “No, you weren’t.”

Which meant she lectured me many times about what to do and what not to do. THANK YOU, MOM, FOR CARING ENOUGH TO TELL ME WHAT WAS WHAT.

III. HER HEART LOVES

Prov. 31:11-12 "Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life."

If a husband has full or complete confidence in his wife, then you know that she is a woman who loves her man.

A grandmother was telling her granddaughter goodnight when the little girl said, "Mommy and daddy are entertaining some very important people downstairs."

"You’re right," grandma agreed, "BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?" "JUST LISTEN," the little granddaughter said, "MOMMY IS LAUGHING AT ALL OF DADDY’S JOKES."

My friends, where there is a lot of laughter in a home, you just know that something good is happening in that home! AND, OF COURSE, THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE LAUGHTER IN THE HOME. Prov. 17:22 "A cheerful heart is good medicine..." When there is a lot of laughter in a home, someone is putting out some good medicine. AND IT ALSO SHOWS A LOT OF LOVE.

A teacher at school put this question to little James in math class, "James, suppose your mother made a cherry pie, and there were ten of you at the table: your mother and father and eight children. How much of the pie would you get?"

"A ninth," was his answer. "No, no, James. Now pay attention. There are ten of you in the home. “Don’t you know your fractions?” "Yes, ma’am," he replied, "I know my fractions, but I know my mother even better, AND SHE’D SAY THAT SHE DIDN’T WANT ANY PIE."

The unselfishness of a mother shows a heart of love for her family. And all of us can remember many unselfish acts of devotion our mamas made to our homes.

Some years ago while I was going through a rough patch of my life and I started crying over some heavy burden in my life. The tears poured and I glanced over to look at mother and she was trying hard to get out of her chair. I said, “Mother, what are you doing?” She said, “I’m coming over there to love you.”

Thank you, mom, for loving your grown son who was burdened. Thank you, mom, for loving me more than I loved you.

What a loving tribute to a blessed mother. Prov. 31:28 “Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."
After the Ascension

In our country, and really all over the world, sports are a big thing. People like to be on teams – baseball teams, basketball teams. And if you’re on a team that’s winning, it’s even better. As your team heads for the championship, and you’re a part of it, you feel a sense of purpose – there’s a goal you’re striving for. And if you achieve that goal and win, you feel a sense of joy.

But, there’s a letdown after everything is over. The celebrating is over, the season is over, and that’s it. That sense of purpose and joy you had before – it’s gone. Now you’re going to have to find something else to do, something else that gives you a sense of purpose and joy.

That’s true not just in sports, but in just about everything we do in this world. We all want to have a sense of purpose in our lives. And we all want to have something that gives us joy. Sports can provide that, but only for a little while. Some people like to dive into home improvement projects, and that works too, but only for awhile. Hobbies are good, but the purpose and the joy they bring to us lasts only a little while too.

Today, I want to show you where you can find a sense of purpose in your life, and a sense of joy, that can last a long time. On Ascension Sunday, we remembered how our Lord spoke one last time to his disciples and then ascended into heaven. Today we’re going to look at Jesus’ words, and Jesus’ actions, and as we do, we’re going to discover something. We’re going to discover that if we really want to have a sense of purpose in our lives, we don’t need to look down into this world for that. Instead, we can look up, at our ascending Lord, and there we will find a permanent sense of purpose. And if you’re looking for joy in your life, you don’t need to look down at this world where everything is so temporary. Look up, and you’ll find a deeper and longer lasting kind of joy in Christ.

After the Ascension we find Jesus and his disciples together in Luke 24. It was a little over five and a half weeks after his resurrection from the dead. Jesus gathered with his followers on the Mount of Olives, the same general area where he had been arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. Not too far away from that mountain was the hill where he was crucified. Today, the resurrected Jesus gathered his disciples together because he had a few more things he wanted to say to them.

And as you watch those disciples there, you can see that they are still confused about why Jesus had come. They asked him if he was now going to restore Israel to the grandeur it had enjoyed in the past. Jesus told them not to think about those sorts of things. What he really wanted them to think about was their purpose in life, now that he was about to leave them. Over the last 3 years, their purpose had been to follow him, and to watch him fulfill every single Messianic prophecy that was ever written about him in the Old Testament. Their purpose was to watch him suffer and die and rise from the dead. Very soon, with the Holy Spirit’s help, they would come to understand what all these things meant. For now, they were done. Done following. Done learning. Now, Jesus was going to give them a new job, a new purpose for their lives.

Look at what Jesus tells them in verse 48 in Luke: “You are witnesses of these things.” The same thing is repeated in Acts, 1:8: “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” That’s what Jesus wanted those disciples to do – that was their new purpose in life - to be witnesses to other people. They had seen all these things happen. Soon they would understand why they happened. Their purpose now, was to witness the things they have seen and learned to other people.

As a Christian today, that’s our purpose too. We just celebrated Easter not too long ago. Through God’s Word, you watched Jesus as he suffered, died, but then rose again. Even though you didn’t see those things with your eyes, we heard about it and believed it with our hearts. And God the Holy Spirit has led us to understand why Jesus died, and why he rose from the dead. He was our sacrifice. He is the reason you are forgiven of your sins and have the sure hope of eternal life. Today, our purpose is to be a witness of these things to others. That’s why you’re here, why God has put you here on this planet – to be a witness.

Sometimes, I think we get confused about the purpose of our lives – why God has placed us on this planet. We do have lots of temporary, earthly purposes – to earn a living, to be a good son or daughter, to be a good mother or father or spouse – those are all good purposes. To look for ways to help other people, to make this world a better place – those are good purposes too. But there’s something deeper. Something more spiritual that is keeping you here on this planet. If you want to know what it is, don’t look at this world. Look up, at the ascended Christ. Those other purposes are good, and may God bless you as you seek to fulfill them. But your deeper, more spiritual purpose can be found in verse 48: “You are witnesses of these things.”

In other words, God has put us on this planet to witness what Christ has done to others. Last week we talked about witnessing Christ by doing what? By showing love. Remember that special, agape kind of love? That’s part of witnessing. And the other part is talking about what Jesus has done. Having conversations with people about the deeper things of life. It is a fact – Jesus Christ has come. He has died on a cross. He has taken away your sins and the sins of all mankind. Someday he is coming back. That’s amazing stuff that you know. God wants you to be a witness of those things to others.

After talking with his disciples, Jesus performed one last visible miracle for them. He lifted his hands to bless them, just as we do at the end of the service. And then he ascended into the sky, right before their eyes, and eventually, he was hidden by a cloud. As the disciples were staring up at the sky, two angels appeared to them, and told them that someday, Jesus would come back, in the same way that they saw him go into heaven.

And so what did those disciples do? We are told in verse 52 that they worshipped Christ on that mountain. And then they returned to Jerusalem, filled with a sense of great joy. They met with each other in the temple courts, praising God for the things they had heard and seen. Think about that. Before, the disciples would hide in their houses, afraid of the Jewish leaders. Now, we see them out in public, worshiping Jesus, filled with joy. Why the big change? They had just seen Jesus victoriously ascend to his heavenly throne. There was no doubt in their minds anymore that he was the God of the universe, the King of heaven and earth. They had just heard two angels tell them that someday, Jesus would return in the clouds, just as they had seen him go. That’s what filled them with joy. The angry, growling Jewish leaders couldn’t keep those disciples from publicly displaying their joy in the temple courts.

If you’re looking for a sense of joy in your life, a deeper, longer-lasting sense of joy, look where the disciples looked. Look to Jesus. Sure, there will be times in your life when you are upset. Things will happen that will anger you, sadden you, depress you. But for a Christian, underneath that anger or sadness, you will find a layer of joy that the world can’t take away. “I know God’s not punishing me,” a Christian can say. “All my sins have been taken away by Jesus. I know I’m forgiven. I know that God will work this problem out. I know that God will give me the strength I need. This world isn’t perfect, but I’m OK. There’s a better world coming anyway.” That’s Christian joy. The disciples had it after they saw Jesus ascend. May God give that same kind of joy to you.

We have watched Jesus ascend. Today, he has reminded you of your purpose. And today, he has given you a kind of joy that you can’t find anywhere else. Don’t hesitate to witness that to others.
A Szentlélek
Pünkös ünnepe

„Ha szerettek engem, megartjátok az én parancsolataimat, én pedig kérni fogom az Atyát, és másik Pártfogót ad nektek, hogy veletek legyen mindörökké: az igazság Lelkét, akit a világ nem kaphat meg, mert nem látja őt, nem is ismeri; ti azonban ismeritek őt, mert nálatok lakik, sőt bennetek lesz.”

(János 14:15-17)

Kedves Kálvin Zsinat Gyülekezetei, Kedves Testvéreim,
Pünkös ünnepe arra az időre és fontos eseményre emlékezünk, amikor a mennyei Atya Jézus Krisztus által elköltözte a megígért Szentlelket. Az apostolok voltak az elsők, akik a Lelket megkapták és az Ő ereje által mentek ki Jeruzsálem utcáira és tereire, hogy hirdessék Jézus Krisztus evangéliumát. Péter apostol pünkösdi igehirdetése alkalmával 3000 ember adta át életét Jézusnak és keresztekedett meg. Ez a nap a keresztények születésnapja. Éppen ezért a Pünkös nap is igen fontos ünnep a karácsony és a húsvét ünnepei mellett.

Valami olyasmi történt 2000 évvel ezelőtt Izraelben, ami az egész nemzetet megrázta. A Szentlélek kitöltetésének és az egyház megalakulásának azonban nemcsak Izraelre volt nagy hatása, hanem az egész világra is. Jézus Krisztus még földi élete és szolgálat során megígérte, hogy elküldi a Szentlelket, aki elvezet a teljes igazságra. Ezzel kapcsolatban két fontos kérdésre irányítanám rá a figyelmet: Az első, hogy hogyan kaphatja meg valaki a Szentléket? A második, hogy miért fontos a Szentlélek jelenléte az életünkben?

Ezt a két nagyon „egyszerű” dolgot kell megtennünk: szeretni Jéust és megartani a parancsolatait, és megkapjuk a Szentléket. Egyszerű dolgot? Hát, nem igazán olyan egyszerű, ugye?

Szeretni Krisztust és mindenben megartani a parancsolatait, nem könnyű. Válljuk be, nem mindenki tudja ezt megtenni. Különösen az Úr parancsolatainak megartattásával van probléma. Az ember önálló, szabad akaratával rendelkező lény. Isten nem robotokat teremtett és éppen ezért szabad válaszításunk van. Elődöntjük, hogy valamit elfogadjunk vagy elutasítsunk, megteszünk vagy nem teszünk meg.

Itt fontos tisztában lennünk azzal, hogy ha valaki meg akarja kapni a Szentléket, először el kell fogadnia Jézus Krisztust személyesen, hogy be hallja az Úr parancsait. Ez az első lépés, a kiindulópont. Ezt a döntést valaki már kisgyermek korában megmozgotta, a szülők, keresztszülők, nagyszülők vallásos neveléséből kifolyólag. Vannak viszont, akik felnőtt korukban, akár egy evangélikus közösségben vagy egy baráti beszélgetésen keresztül hozták meg a döntést Jézus Krisztus és az Úr ügye mellett. Az életben mindenki más és más. De miután valaki elfogadta Jézus Krisztust az Úrnak és Megváltójának, akkor megkapja a Szentléket.


A Szentlélek imádkozik és közbenjár értünk az Atyánál. Mennyire bátorító és erős adó, amikor valaki imádkozik értünk. A Szentlélek továbbá az igazság Lelke, aki elvezet minket a teljes igazságra (Jn.16:13). A Szentlélek arra...
A Reformáció 500 éves emlékünnepének nyitó istentisztelete a Walton Hills-i Első Magyar Református Egyháznál

A 2017-es év egy hatalmas mérföldkő keresztyén életükben és református hagyományaink megtartásában. Ebben az évben a Protestáns Egyházak különböző alkalmakon és ünnepségeken keresztül emlékeznek meg a Reformáció 500 éves évfordulójáról.

A Kálvin Zsinat Egyházkerületi tanácsának tagjai a zsinatunk minden egyes helyi gyülekezetét arra hívta, hogy 2017. március 12-én tartsák meg a Reformáció emlékünnepének nyitó istentiszteletét.

Március 12-én a Walton Hills-i Első Magyar Református Egyház egy különleges istentisztelettel nyitotta meg ezt a jeles eseményt. A vasárnap iskolás gyerekek történeteket olvastak fel a Reformáció idejéből. Ezek a rövid igaz történetek, az egyes emberek életén keresztül szemléltették, hogy mennyire nehéz is volt a reformátorknak hirdetni, terjeszteni és megvédeni a Biblián alapuló tanításokat.

Az igeheirdetés a Reformáció egyik alap tanáról szólt: Solus Christus, egyedül Krisztus által. A résztvevő gyülekezeti tagjaink nagyon élvezték a gyerekek előadását és ezt a különleges alkalmat, mindkét istentiszteletünkön.

Soli Deo Gloria! Egyedül Istené a dicsőség!

Krasznai Beáta

tanít, hogy az igazságban járjunk, hogy ne legyen bennünket semmiféle hamisság vagy hazugság. Emellett Ő tanít meg mindenre és eszünkbe juttat mindent, amit az Úr Jézus mondott és tanított (Jn 14:26). A Lélek továbbá ajándékokat osztogat azért, hogy önmagunkat és másokat is építsünk és meggazdagítsunk a hitben és a szeretetben. Láthatjuk tehát mindebből, hogy mennyire fontos a Szentlélek jelenléte minden egyes helyi gyülekezetünk életében.


Szeretettel Krisztusban:

Ft. dr. Krasznai Csaba
püspök
Pünkösd

A pünkösd jelentősége az, hogy Jézus mennybemenetelét követően a tanítványok immáron nem rejtozkoztak tovább, hanem elkezdtek terjeszteni a Krisztus által való tanítást az emberek között.

Az Újszövetség az Apostolok cselekedetei első két részében számos be a kereszteny pünkösd, vagyis a „tüzes nyelvek ünnepének” lényegét jelentő eseményekről.

Jézus mennybemenetelét követően a tanítványok és Mária (Krisztus édesanyja) visszatértek Jeruzsálembe, és abban a „felső szobában” szálltak meg, ami a hagymány szerint az utolsó vacsora, a lábmosás és más fontos események helyszíne is volt. Ezen alkalommal az apos-

tolok maguk közé fogadták Júdás helyére tizenkettedik apostolként Mátyást.

A zsidó pünkösd, a sávot napján ismét együtt voltak a „felső szobában” az apostolok, Szűz Mária és Jézus további 120 követője. Az összegyűlték előtt ekkor az Apostolok cselekedetei szerint csoda történt: nagy zúgást hallottak az égből, és lángnyelvek jelentek meg előttük, amelyek minden jelenlévre leszálltak.

A pünkösdi történéseket sokan a keresztény egyház Apostolok Cselekedetei, 2,1-4.

Mit ír az Újszövetség Pünkösd Ünnepéről?

„Amikor pedig eljött a pünkösd napja, és mindnyáj

a tanítás, az evangélium a Szentlélek segítségével bárki számára átadható, megérthető. A kereszteny tanítás tehát az egész emberiség számára elérhetővé válik, ezért tekintik az első kereszteny pünkösdöt az egyház születésnapjának.

Mikor van pünkösd?

A pünkösd eredete – sok más ünnephez hasonlóan – a zsidó hagymányokban gyökerezik. A zsidóság a pészách alkalmával arra emlékezik, hogy nyerték el a szabadságot, amikor Mózes vezetésével kivonultak Egyiptóból. A Tóra előírása szerint a Pészach második napjától a zsidók kötelesek számolni a napokat és a heteket. A hetedik hét lejártát követő napon, vagyis az 50. napon kötelesek ünnepet tartani. Ennek az ünnepnek a héber elnevezése a „hetek” jelentésű sávot, míg görögül a magyar pünkösd szó eredetéül is szolgáló, „ötven” jelentésű pünköszi elnevezést kaptat. Ez utóbbi a pészach és a sávot között eltelt ötven napra utal. A zsidó hagymányában a sávot alkalmával több dologról is megemlékeznek: egyrészt ez az első új termésből készült kenyer ünnepe, másrész pedig – noha erről a Tóra nem tesz említést – ekkor emlékeznek meg arról is, amikor a Sinai-hegy lábánál az Úr átadta a tiszparancsolatot és a többi törvényt Izrael népének.


A kereszteny pünkösd népe is megfigyelhető, és ez az ünnep is a húsvét időpontjához van köthető. A húsvéttől számítják még a Jézus mennybemenetelére emlékező áldozócsütörtököt. Az elnevezést a pészach előtti napon történt, a korai kereszteny időkben sokáig a pészach előtti napon ünnepelték a húsvétet. A niceai zsinaton azonban úgy döntöttek, hogy a keresztenyek másképp számolják majd a húsvétot. Az akkor elhatározott számitás szerint a húsvétot – vagyis a feladatadás ünnepet – a tavaszi napéjegyenlőséget követő első holdtöltést utáni elválasztják. A kereszteny szokások szerint pedig pünkösd vasárnapja az első holdtöltést utáni első vasárnapra esik. Mivel Krisztus megfeszítése az Újszövetség szerint a pészach kezdete előtti napon történt, a korai kereszteny időkben sokáig a pészach előtti napon ünnepelték a húsvétet. A niceai zsinaton azonban úgy döntöttek, hogy a keresztenyek másképp számolják majd a húsvétot. Az akkor elhatározott számitás szerint a húsvétot – vagyis a feladatadás ünnepet – a tavaszi napéjegyenlőséget követő első holdtöltést utáni elválasztják. A kereszteny szokások szerint pedig pünkösd vasárnapja az első holdtöltést utáni első vasárnapra esik.
enkelmeskednie kellett a pünkösdről, ít a liturgikus szín jellemezően a vörös, ami a Szentlélek lángját és örömet jelképezi. A papok, a kórus és olykor a hívők is vörösbe öltöznek, a templomokat vörös dekorációval ékesítik, gyakran még vörös virágokat is kiraknak a templomban. Sok helyen a nyelvcsoda emlékére különböző nyelveken olvassák fel a Biblia egyes részeit. A protestánsok gyakran pünkösdkor tartják a konfirmáció ünnepét, amikor a konfirmációs vizsgát követően a fiatalok a templomban istentiszteleten vallják meg hitüket.

A magyar nyelvertületen a legjelentősebb pünkösdhöz kapcsolódó szokás a csíksomlyói búcsú. Csíksomlyó már a 15. századtól fogva jelentős bűcsújáró hely volt, Mária kultusza virágzott a székelyek körében. Igazi jelentőségét azonban akkor nyerte el, amikor János Zsigmond erdélyi fejedelem 1567-ben haddal támadt a katolikus székelyekre, és arra akarta kényszeríteni őket, hogy vegyék föl az unitárius hitet. A Csíksomlyón összegyűlt katolikus széke- leyek a pünkősd előtti szombatot Szűz Mária segítségéért imádkoztak, és leghíresebbet a fejezettendő templomban hálát adni a győzelmét. Megfogadták, hogy ezt követően minden évben hálát adná a győzelemért, és a pünkősd előtti szombaton elzarándokolnak Csíksomlyóra. Ezt a szokást ma is tartják, évente több százezer hívő tesz zarándokút.

Az egyházi szokások mellett a pünkösdhöz számos népszokás is kötődik. Mágusan például sok helyen pünkösi királyt választottak, a szokásra már a 17. századtól fogva vannak adataink. A pünkösi királyt jellemzően ügyességi játékok során választották ki a fiatal legények közül. A feladatok között egyebek mellett előfordulhatott a fir mációs vizsgát követően a fiatalok a templomban a konfirmáció ünnepét, amikor a konfirmácios vizsgát követően a fiatalok a templomban istentiszteleten vallják meg hitüket.

A Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church
of Woodbridge, NJ

As we entered the new year, it was time to give an account of our stewardship at our Annual Congregational Meeting. Our meeting was held on February 12th after the regular worship service. The yearbook was prepared with reports of the Pastor, Lorantffy Gulid, Chief Elder, Woodbridge Township People of Faith as well as an itemized treasurer’s report.

The major project last year was the repainting of the sanctuary. New business included renaming the fellowship Hall to the Rev. Kovacs Fellowship Hall to honor our late pastor, Rev. Albert W. Kovacs. A memorial plaque was also placed in the church vestibule in memory of Rev. Kovacs, alongside plaques of the late Rev. Dr. Francis Vitez and Rev. Laszlo Egri.

Church officers and Consistory members were also elected. Elected were Ernest Balogh, Chief Elder, Richard Pastor, Richard Rebnicky, Vice Presidents, William Toth, Secretary, Barbara Drotar-Bosques, Treasurer, Barbara Sipos Haliko, Assistant Treasurer. Arthur Notchey, who had served as Vice President for many years, was unable to continue his duties as he is the primary caregiver of his wife. The congregation voted to honor him for his long-standing service by naming him Honorary Vice President. Consistory Members elected: Daniel Bartus, Lester Bartus, John Foldi, Audrey Marciniak, Florette Pastor, Stephen Silagy, and Andrew Stanislawski. Charles Quinn, Esq. was elected to fill one seat due to the passing this past year of consistory members, Imre “Jimmy” Gorcz and Alexander Toth. They will be greatly missed.

UKRAINE

A Request for financial help is being made by Rev. Takaro (Tamásné) on behalf of a young family in Csetefalva, Ukraine for the renovation of an old home.

Viktoria Markus (now 28 years old) was one of the young girls who was left homeless after the 2001 flood that devastated that part of the world. During the flood she was moved to Hungary, where she adjusted well to her new surroundings.

Her father moved to Hungary for a better paying job so that he could support his large family. Her mother took care of the everyday living and worked whenever she had the opportunity to find a job. While she worked, Viktoria looked after her siblings and because of this great responsibility, she could not attend school regularly. She married at a very young age and she was blessed with many children.

She was left alone with her children after her husband left the family.

Viktoria is raising her children alone. She and her family are very active in church life through which she has received assistance. She was able to purchase an old home, made out of mud brick, without a bathroom or running water. She is determined to make the best of a very bad situation. Upon the request of her pastor, Rev. Takaro, a request was received by the Calvin Synod for financial assistance.

If you are moved by the sad story of this family and would like to help, please send your donation to our Synod Treasurer: Rev. Viktor Toth, 6310 Green Valley Cir. #217 • Culver City, CA 90230.

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Church officers and Consistory members were also elected. Elected were Ernest Balogh, Chief Elder, Richard Pastor, Richard Rebnicky, Vice Presidents, William Toth, Secretary, Barbara Drotar-Bosques, Treasurer, Barbara Sipos Haliko, Assistant Treasurer. Arthur Notchey, who had served as Vice President for many years, was unable to continue his duties as he is the primary caregiver of his wife. The congregation voted to honor him for his long-standing service by naming him Honorary Vice President. Consistory Members elected: Daniel Bartus, Lester Bartus, John Foldi, Audrey Marciniak, Florette Pastor, Stephen Silagy, and Andrew Stanislawski. Charles Quinn, Esq. was elected to fill one seat due to the passing this past year of consistory members, Imre “Jimmy” Gorcz and Alexander Toth. They will be greatly missed.

UKRAINE

A Request for financial help is being made by Rev. Takaro (Tamásné) on behalf of a young family in Csetefalva, Ukraine for the renovation of an old home.

Viktoria Markus (now 28 years old) was one of the young girls who was left homeless after the 2001 flood that devastated that part of the world. During the flood she was moved to Hungary, where she adjusted well to her new surroundings.

Her father moved to Hungary for a better paying job so that he could support his large family. Her mother took care of the everyday living and worked whenever she had the opportunity to find a job. While she worked, Viktoria looked after her siblings and because of this great responsibility, she could not attend school regularly. She married at a very young age and she was blessed with many children.

She was left alone with her children after her husband left the family.

Viktoria is raising her children alone. She and her family are very active in church life through which she has received assistance. She was able to purchase an old home, made out of mud brick, without a bathroom or running water. She is determined to make the best of a very bad situation. Upon the request of her pastor, Rev. Takaro, a request was received by the Calvin Synod for financial assistance.

If you are moved by the sad story of this family and would like to help, please send your donation to our Synod Treasurer: Rev. Viktor Toth, 6310 Green Valley Cir. #217 • Culver City, CA 90230.
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