

CALVIN SYNOD HERALD

Official Organ of The Calvin Synod – United Church of Christ Founded in 1900



AMERIKAI MAGYAR REFORMÁTUSOK LAPJA

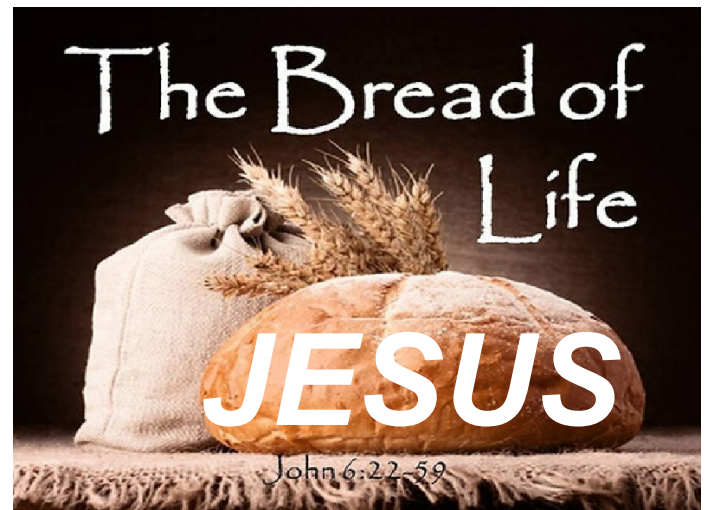
VOL.CXXIV.

JULY – AUGUST 2023

NO. 7-8

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Jesus says, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35 NIV)



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The Bread of Life

Scripture reading: John 6:35-40

Text: *“Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty’” (John 6:35 NIV).*

Dear Calvin Synod Congregations,
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



body for energy.

Bread is an important food and source of nutrients in our lives. It satisfies the need for energy. Additionally, it contains essential nutrients that are needed in order to keep the whole human body functioning properly. Hunger is the call of the Jesus, however, points beyond this cycle of the body to a deeper hunger. He points to something that physical bread will never be able to satisfy. Bread cannot fulfill the emptiness of a human spirit and soul. Bread cannot satisfy our inner need to be filled; in a sense of meaning and purpose. We may try to fill our lives with work, hoping that achievement and success will make that inner restlessness, that inner hunger, go away. However, the harder we work, the hungrier we get. Additionally, none of the recreational therapy, or gold medal sports or exotic cruises will be able to fill the hole in our hearts. It does not matter how many friends or relationships we have, and how hard we try to find in the other person what we are lacking in ourselves, the spiritual hole in the soul will still be there.

How is it possible then that nothing seems to work? There is no food that fills that inner, spiritual hunger. Neither drugs nor alcohol takes the nagging hunger away for something more, something real, something permanent.

Human beings are essentially spiritual creatures. We are all eternal beings. God has given our lives, a life that carries on long after the body has died. As eternal, spiritual beings we must have a connection, a relationship with the Lord. Without that connection to the *Holy Source* there will never be a true sense of peace, of well-being, of purpose, and security.

That is exactly what Jesus was talking about:

“My father...gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world...I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and

he who believes in me will never be thirsty...I am the bread of life...here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world... This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever” (6:32b-33, 35, 48, 50-51, 58).

Those people around Jesus, who heard His teachings, recalled the manna from the wilderness. However, what they did not understand was that the *bread from heaven* was a symbol that pointed to Jesus.

Let us compare manna and Christ with each other, based on Jesus’ teaching. What are the similarities between manna, which was given by God, while the Israelites were in the wilderness, and the Lord Jesus, our source of life?

1. Manna came from heaven; Christ came from heaven.
2. Manna had to be taken and eaten; Christ must be received and also His body, as a piece of bread in the Lord’s Supper, has to be eaten.
3. Manna came as a free gift; Christ is the free gift of God to the world.
4. There was sufficient manna for all; Christ’s sacrifice is sufficient for all.
5. If the Israelites did not pick the manna up, they walked on it; if Christ is not received into our hearts, then we reject Him and “walk on Him”.
6. Manna was wilderness food; Christ is our food for our pilgrim journey to heaven.

Jesus is the Bread with a capital “B” that gives Life. He gives energy for our inner lives. He is an endless source of energy that streams from heaven, through Him to us. Christ fills our lives with holy vitality and power.

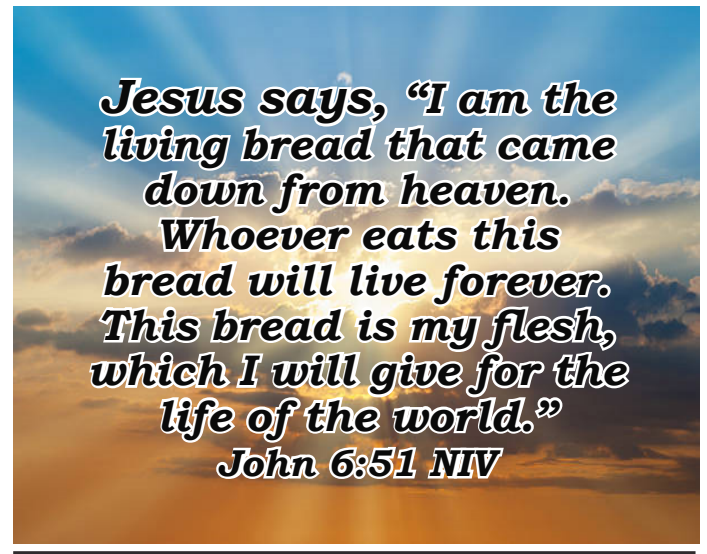
Our bodies get fed with the bread of the earth, the bread that is earned by the sweat of our brows and the strain and stress of everyday work. It all lasts about as long as a week’s paycheck. Christ, however, is the *Manna* of the end times, however, we are still in the time of God’s grace. The Lord’s Bread comes down from Heaven to feed His people, His Church, as she wanders in the wilderness between Baptism and the Promised Land of the resurrection. Jesus is the unleavened Bread of the end times Passover. The sinless Bread of Life that was broken on the cross..., broken to begin a Feast that has no end. He is the living Bread from Heaven, born in Bethlehem, which means “House of Bread”, a Bread that feeds us with

the eternal abundance of His Life.

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, purchased our freedom by giving His body and blood on the cross because He loves you and me so much. He hears your prayers and cares about you and me. “*I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty*”, He said. It is a wonderful and an incredible offer and promise from Him. Those who accept Christ and believe and trust in Him, discover new ways in and by Him every day.

Jesus is our living Bread. He wants to feed us for eternal life. His heart desire is to give you and me full life, everlasting life, meaningful life, and purposeful life. Will you accept Him as the source of your life? Amen.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai



The Living Bread

Scripture reading: John 6:41-51

The text of today’s meditation is taken from the gospel of John ch. 6, v. 51 as follows: “I am the living bread which comes down out of heaven; if anyone eats of the bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I give for the life of this world is My body.” (NASB)

From the moment of birth, we human beings long for the satisfaction of needs. The most basic of these is a need for food and affection; for both physical and spiritual gratification. In fact, we can’t live for long with-out these basic essentials. We need food for nourishment and the affectionate company of others for mental and spiritual health. Yet, the quality of food and personal relationships are very important as well in order to make a difference between mere survival

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and true living.

A person can live only-so-long on a steady diet of substandard food without feeling its ill-effects. Similarly, a person can exist only-so-long in a poor environment filled with bickering, prejudice, and hate. Such a setting is not conducive for satisfaction and happiness in life. Sooner or later the unregenerate -“natural-man” – is confronted by the sham of his/her vanities. His/her conscience chaffs his soul for the truth to be exposed; that sin dwells within.

The late John Stott, one of the well-known evangelical Christian leaders of the 20-th century wrote, that “for all his intelligence, natural man can only identify the cause of his problems but falls short of its remedies. Form predicting the weather to charting the socio-political future of the nation, and even in running a simple household budget, the best he can do is to identify the problems, suggest solutions, and see if it will all work out. Only God is clear in all His purposes, all His commandments, all His instructions. And to understand everything He has to say to us, we need faith.”

This faith, then, is a gift of God to those who have come to repentance and accept the Lordship of Jesus the Christ in their life. It is for Jesus and His teachings that we hunger and thirst and are completely satisfied.

Jesus the Christ is for the benefit of the whole person; body, soul, and mind. He satisfies us by giving Himself on the cross for the remission of sins, takes the burden of guilt away, and sets us in a new relationship with God as children to their Father. We maintain our connection to God through faith as we partake of Christ as the living bread. Jesus uses the analogy of the bread as a metaphor to Himself. We may remember that a metaphor “is a figure of speech in which a word or a phrase that ordinarily means one thing is used of another thing in order to suggest a likeness between the two.” (Thorndike-Barnhart Dictionary, p. 419)

The reference to bread “lays down what is precisely and exactly the plain truth. Really to receive Christ and what He has given us, really to have experience of His saving power, we must feed on Him...We must absorb His teachings, His character, His mind, His ways; we must appropriate the virtue that is in Him, till His mind becomes our mind and His ways become our ways; till we think somewhat as He would do if He were in our place...All this being possible because His power has passed into us and becomes our power.”(*Interpreter’s Bible*, v. 7 p. 574)

When we first came to this church in 1983, the

outdoor bulletin board message read, “Seven days without God makes one weak.” Indeed, people can’t survive for long without food. As our current event indicate, the shipment of grains from war-torn Ukraine is essential for survival of millions of people in Asia and Africa. But it’s not only physical food that is necessary for life. Because Jesus said that “man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” That outdoor sign referred to the fact that there is no greater satisfaction in life or in death than to be Christlike in every way. Jesus’ assertion of Him being the bread of life brings life-giving properties of nourishment and growth to anyone who accepts Him as their personal Savior. Thus, let us partake of Christ not only in the Sacrament of the Holy Supper but also cherish our relationship with Him and each other. Amen

The sermon was delivered on August 7, 2022 by the late Rt. Rev. Louis Medgyesi at the Hungarian Reformed Church of Fairport Harbor, Ohio

OBITUARY

Rt. Rev. Louis Medgyesi
October 26, 1946 – June 1, 2023



The Rt. Rev. Louis Medgyesi, B.E. (76) passed peacefully away surrounded by family and friends on June 1, 2023. Born Lajos József Bertalan Megyesi in Nyírbátor, Hungary on October 26, 1946, to Lajos and Julia (neé Lukács), the family came to America as refugees of the 1956 Revolution. Louis was a Bethel University (TN) graduate and a veteran of the U.S. Army. He earned his Master of Theology degree at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, NJ and became an ordained minister, student pastoring at the Magyar Reformed Church in Perth Amboy, NJ. In late 1983, Louis was called to serve the Hungarian Reformed Church in Fairport Harbor, OH where he has been the pastor ever since. He was elected Bishop of the Calvin Synod (UCC), served on the Board of Directors at Bethlen Home in Ligonier, PA, served on the Fairport Public Library Board, and was instrumental in running the Good Samaritan project in Fairport Harbor.

Louis enjoyed fishing and gardening, and his grandsons were the pride of his life. He always put others before himself and he will be sorely missed by everyone whose life he touched. Preceded in death by his parents, Louis is survived by his wife of almost 50 years, Elizabeth (néé Garasos); sister Mária Fish (James) of Chelmsford, MA; son Louis J. (Angela) of Mentor, OH; daughter Maryann Parsons (Timothy) of Yardville, NJ; son István of Painesville, OH; nephew Vincent Fish of Haverhill, MA; grandsons Béla and Louis; and his faithful congregation.

Viewing will be at Potti & Marc F. Burr Funeral Home, 1009 Mentor Ave., Painesville, OH 44077 Tuesday, June 6, 2023, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the Hungarian Reformed Church, 601 Plum Street, Fairport Harbor, OH, 44077 on Wednesday June 7, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. with burial to follow at Riverside Cemetery in Painesville.

Source:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/news-herald/name/louis-medgyesi-obituary?pid=204633407>

**Funeral Service of
Rt. Rev. Louis Medgyesi
Bishop Emeritus of the
Calvin Synod Conference, UCC**

On June 7, the family members, friends, church members, and pastors gathered for the funeral service at the Hungarian Reformed Church of Fairport Harbor, OH to pay our final respects to a beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother, uncle, a friend, and a great servant of God, church leader, pastor colleague, and a prominent member of the American and Hungarian Communities Rt. Rev. Louis Medgyesi. He passed away on June 1 at the age of 76.

The Funeral Service was conducted by Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai, Bishop of Calvin Synod. The sermon was delivered by Rt. Rev. Koloman K. Ludwig, Bishop Emeritus. Rt. Rev. Zoltán Lizik, Bishop of the Hungarian Reformed Church in America comforted the mourning family members and congregation with the word of God.

The participating pastors were: Rev. Zoltán Süttő, Rev. Tamás Burian, Rev. Gábor G. Nitsch, Rev. Dr. Emery László, Rev. Stefan M. Török, and Rev. Péter L. Tóth. At the end of the service the pastors gathered in a circle around the casket and sang the traditional ministerial farewell in Hungarian: “Térj magadhoz, drága Sion”.

After the funeral service we said our final farewell to Rt. Rev. Louis Medgyesi at the Riverside Cemetery in Painesville where Rt. Rev. Koloman K. Ludwig conducted the graveside service. After the service in the cemetery we were invited by the family and the Fairport Harbor congregation to a reception in the church’s hall.

We are thankful for the life of Rt. Rev. Louis Medgyesi and we all will remember him with gratitude and honor for the many years of his love, dedication, work, and ministry to his family members and the American and American Hungarian people and churches, and our Calvin Synod. May he rest in peace.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai



*Bishop Krasznai conducts the funeral service.
In the back are: Rev. Stefan M. Török and
Rt. Rev. Koloman K. Ludwig, Bishop Emeritus*



Rev. Zoltán Süttő leads the congregation in prayer



*Rev. Tamás Burian reads the word of God
from Psalm 42
Continued on Page 6*

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Rev. Gábor G. Nitsch reads the word of God from the selected verses of Psalm 90, and Rev. Dr. Emery László reads the word of God from Revelation 21:2-7



Rev. Stefan M. Török leads the congregation in prayer and the Lord's Prayer



Rt. Rev. Koloman K. Ludwig delivers the message of comfort to the family, friends, and church



Rt. Rev. Zoltán Lizik delivers words of comfort



The pastors sing the Ministerial Farewell around the casket: "Térj magadhoz, drága Sion"



Rev. Péter L. Tóth shares the benediction



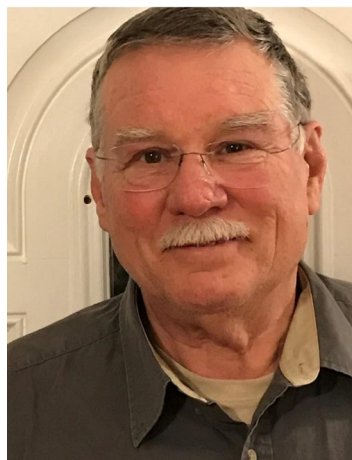
*Participating pastors:
Rev. Péter L. Tóth, Rev. Tamás Burian, Rt. Rev. Zoltán Lizik, Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai, Rt. Rev. Koloman K. Ludwig, Rev. Stefan M. Török, Rev. Gábor G. Nitsch, Rev. Dr. Emery László (left to right)*



Graveside service at Riverside Cemetery, Painesville

OBITUARY

**Rev. James Frederick Offrink
March 3, 1946 ~ May 2, 2023**



James Frederick Offrink, born to Frederick “Fred” Offrink and Bonnie Juanita Offrink, truly embraced the walk of Jesus and always demonstrated a servant’s heart. Throughout his life Jim shared compassion with others and never judged another based on race, gender, status, or education. Jim was,

in addition to being a Presbyterian Church (USA) Minister and Pastor, a volunteer Police Officer, Fire Fighter, Paramedic, Juvenile Officer, hazmat coordinator, deputy chief of the Elwood Fire Dept., Flint Police and Fire Chaplain, Stress Management Debriefing Specialist, and McLaren - Flint Staff Chaplain. Jim was proud of being part of the DMORT FEMA Team that served following Hurricane Katrina. Over the years, he served in a variety of areas and was especially good at providing loving care to those in difficult times. He was a gifted funeral officiant, overseeing a plethora of funerals in his 53 years of ordained ministry. He cared and showed God’s love continually throughout his life. Jim was raised in Linden and was the oldest of five which included Geraldine (Greg) Stubb, Mark Offrink, Susan (Loren) Kelsey and Matthew (Dawn) Offrink. Jim played in the Linden High School marching band. He loved riding his horse and excelled in 4-H, where he met the love of his life, Sally Faussett, at that same 4-H fair. It was truly love at first sight. Jim professed his love on that first meeting and looked forward to their first date, their high school proms, coming back to see his dear Sally on breaks from Warren Wilson Junior College, and finally his daily Sally sightings while at Michigan State University where he received a BA in Religion and Sociology. After college Jim finally married Sally at First Presbyterian Church of Howell and together they set off on their way to San Anselmo Theological Seminary where Jim began his Master of Divinity degree. Every day together Jim and Sally were a forever team and each day of their 54-year marriage was a blessing from the Lord. Fixing their car across the country, Sally teaching while Jim received his education, and their own special life-

excelling moments as they shared their interests and love on many adventures throughout their ministry career in Iowa, Colorado, Illinois, and Michigan. Jim served Plymouth Presbyterian Church, Iowa; First Presbyterian Church of Canon City, Colorado; Elwood Community Church, Illinois; Bethany Presbyterian Church of Flint, MI; Trinity United Presbyterian Church of Flint, MI; Yale Presbyterian Church, MI; and Heritage UCC Church of Davison, MI. Jim, an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament, served as a hospital chaplain throughout his ministerial career, seeking to bring peace and hope to those on their most difficult days. While traversing five states, these newlyweds raised three wonderful children together: Laura Christine (Jeremy) Kelsey, Andy James Offrink, and Benjamin Thomas (Shelby) Offrink. Life was filled with new experiences, amazing love, and experiencing new grandchildren. Aaron Walker Kelsey, Walker Owen Offrink, Maeve Ann Offrink, and Hazel Jean Offrink all have a special bond with their Grandpa Jim. Throughout the years, Laura, Andy and Ben, enjoyed learning many life lessons from their father. From hunting and fishing, to woodworking and automotive skills, Jim shared his best knowledge with his children and grandchildren. Jim would drop everything for his children and always put himself out if someone needed him. This was experienced in every community he lived in, and his loving care was felt by all. Rev. Jim made a huge impact in the life of others and our world thanks him for serving well. We can hear God speaking to him now, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.”

Source:

<https://obits.mlive.com/us/obituaries/flint/name/james-offrink-obituary?id=51802567>

In Memory of Rev. James Offrink

How does one even begin to capture the spirit of Rev. James Frederick Offrink? I had only just begun to get to know Jim before he passed into the life eternal on May 2nd, 2023. And yet, I feel like I owe him so very much.

You see, it is because of Jim and his ability to bring people together from all walks of life, that I am now serving the congregation that I do - a congregation that James, along with his friend Rev. Annie Duncan, helped to form back in 2007. Three congregations belonging to the Presbyterian Church (USA) merged together to become Trinity United Presbyterian Church, and it was with the guidance, prayer, and care of Rev. Offrink and Rev. Duncan, that started the

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church on the multicultural path that the congregation has been forging for over 15 years now.

After stepping away from Trinity United, Rev. Offrink's love of the Lord, and ultimate call to serve and live out his faith through ministry, led him to Heritage Church of Christ in Davison. Although ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church USA, the denominational ties between the United Church of Christ and the PC (USA) made this an excellent fit. Jim faithfully served at Heritage until his passing.

It was a humbling experience to gather on May 8th, 2023 to celebrate and remember Jim. Members from multiple churches, and pastors from at least three different denominations, including Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznaï and Rev. Zoltan Sutto, gathered together at Trinity United, where we mourned the loss of a great man, but also celebrated his life and witness. Even though I did not know him very long, I wholeheartedly believe that it was Jim's ability to first and foremost proclaim that we are all beloved children of God, that helped him to reach across the racial, ethnic, and denominational lines that he did. People from all walks of life will long remember with fondness how Jim loved people as he sought to live out his calling to serve God, and to love one another. It was a beautiful tribute to his life to see so many of those people show up to support the Offrink family and to celebrate Jim's life that day.

There is so much more that could be said, and the obituary that his family put together is much more comprehensive - you can find that at this link: <https://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com/obituary/RevJames-Offrink>. But mostly, we remember with gratitude the gift of the Rev. James Offrink, and all that he did to leave this world a better, more compassionate and loving place. May he rest well in his eternal home.

*Rev. Kate Morritauk, Pastor
Trinity United Presbyterian Church*



The service of the Church Choir



Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznaï delivers the message of comfort to the family, friends, and church



Rev. Zoltan Sutto shares the message of comfort with the family, friends, and congregation



Lef to right: Rev. Zoltan Sutto, Rev. Kate Morritauk, and Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznaï after the Memorial Service at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church

OBITUARY

Mr. József Daróczy
February 20, 1929 – May 13, 2023



He was born in Nagyrozvagy, Zemplén County, near Sárospatak, on February 20, 1929, the 6th child of middle-class landowners, and a deeply religious family.

From an early age, he loved to go to church, where he was enchanted by the congregation's singing and the sound of the organ and the church bells. He couldn't wait until he was tall enough and strong enough to ring the bells.

His elementary school years were spent at the village school. Then he moved to Királyhelmec to continue his studies. There he had the opportunity to see László Mécs, Catholic priest and poet, several times taking his walks around town. He continued his studies at the Sarospatak Reformed College, where he studied to become a cantor and teacher. On church holidays, senior students were required to serve in church. He went to his parents' village as a legate, where he conducted church services and visited families. This brought great joy for his mother because she wanted her son to become a pastor.

When he finished his studies, the government decided that he wouldn't get his diploma to be a teacher because the People's Republic did not need clerical teachers. For the same reason, he was not allowed to go to university. In fact, they were surprised that he applied when he knew that, in addition to his clerical orientation, he was also considered a kulak which meant he was the son of a landowner. He had no choice but to go to Miskolc, where he was welcomed as a laborer in heavy industry. He attended the Kossuth Street Reformed church where he participated in church activities. Of course, this was not looked upon favorably either. Instead of being drafted into compulsory military service he was sentenced to labor service, where he had to work under armed guards for 27 months in various parts of the country. Returning to Miskolc, he worked for a few more years. There he met his future wife, and they left the country as a result of the events of the 1956 revolution. Once in Vienna, they were in contact with the Reformed

Church there. On Sunday mornings he helped the pastor with church services in the nearby refugee camps. Ford scholarships gave them the opportunity to study at university. As students they were able to participate in all cultural events for 1 schilling using their student ID cards.

He and his wife moved to Cleveland in 1958, where they became members of the West Side Ref Church within a few days. They were welcomed by the then pastor, Matthias Daróczy. He became a member of the choir, then led the Hungarian Sunday school for many decades and became a presbyter. He participated in all church activities. During the time when Rev. Kálmán Szabolcs was the pastor he was twice elected as the Chief Elder. With the help of the Kalvin Brotherhood, much exterior and interior renovation work was done. There was a vibrant cultural and social life at the church, luncheons, dances, hosting choirs from Hungary, which required a lot of time and work. Pastors and bishops visiting the church, whether from Hungary or the Carpathian basin, were welcomed guests in his family's home.

During all these active years at the church he worked at Lincoln Electric until his retirement.

In the meantime, he raised his children Peter and Zsuzsi, with whom he spent much of his free time. He took them biking, swimming, kayaking, to play tennis, and in the winter, ice skating and sledding. On Sunday afternoons he would read Hungarian folk stories and sang folk songs with them. In the summer, the family spent a lot of time at Lake Chautauqua.

He supported the many Hungarian associations financially. He was always present at their events and commemorations of national holidays. At that time there were still many balls where he loved to dance.

In his retirement, he was happy to be involved in raising his grandchildren. With whom he did the same activities that he did with his children. Meanwhile, he did all the outside work around the family home. He also enjoyed gardening.

The years flew by, and he was happy to have lived to see his grandchildren get married. He still dreamed that he would help raise his great grandchildren. Sadly, he did not live to see that day. He spent the last year and a half of his life in a nursing home because he needed 24-hour care, where the staff lovingly cared for him, and the family was by his side daily until the Good Lord took him on May 13.

Memorial Service

On June 3, we held a Memorial Service in memory of Joseph Daroczy, former Chief Elder,
Continued on Page 10

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Presbyter and Sunday School Director, at the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church. He passed away on May 13 at the age of 94. The Memorial Service was conducted by Rev. Dr. Imre László and Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai delivered the sermon.



Rev. Dr. Emery László conducts the Memorial Service



Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai delivers God's comforting message

The church was filled to capacity for the service, which began with the ringing of the bells of his native village, Nagyrozvágy. The readings were from the Book of John 14:1-6, and the text was from the Book of Psalm 68:5-6. Together we sang three popular hymns in English and Hungarian.



The mourning family members, friends, and church

Several people commemorated the life of Joseph. His two grandchildren read his biography in Hungarian and English and then shared their personal memories. Then the English president of the congregation and a former Sunday School student recalled their shared experiences. Their dear neighbor also shared her memories. Finally, the former pastor of the congregation, Rev. Dr. Szabolcs Kálmán farewell letter was read.



Tamás Szélpál, grandson of Mr. József Daróczy, reads the eulogy in Hungarian



Zsófia Szélpál, granddaughter of Mr. József Daróczy, reads the eulogy in English



Károly Szélpál, son-in-law of Mr. József Daróczy, reads the Words of Remembrance from Rev. Dr. Szabolcs Kálmán

Then the members of the Regös group from Cleveland sang the first hymn of the Hungarians, *Boldogasszony Anyánk*, dressed in Kalotaszegi folk costume. Finally, we proceeded out to the bell ringing of the Reformed Church on Kossuth Square in Miskolc, where the family welcomed the assembled guests and invited everyone to a reception in the Calvin Hall.

Zsuzsa Daróczy



The mourning family members and pastors after the Memorial Service

OBITUARY

Mr. Joseph Charles Poruban
March 19, 1934 – May 19, 2023



Joseph Charles Poruban, age 89 of Fairfield, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on Friday, May 19, 2023. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and was retired from Handy & Harman, where he worked as a Quality Control Engineer for 45 years. Joe’s true loves were his wife Barbara, his family, and his Church.

Joe devoted his life to helping others, and his family was the most important thing in his life. He was predeceased by siblings Elizabeth Poruban, Alexander Poruban, Barbara Friedman, Ann Brelsford, and Helen Sanville. He is survived by Barbara his loving wife of 45 years, brother Bill, daughter and son-in-law Shelley and Richard Visinski, and four grandchildren Richard Visinski, Jr., Dr. Jacquelyn and husband Dalton Daniel, Victoria Stark, and Nicholas and wife Alicia Visinski, and several nieces and nephews – each of

whom he cherished.

The family would like to express sincere appreciation to caregivers Trish, Maggie, Ryan, and Ruth and the Hospice staff members who cared for Joe. He served as the Chief Elder of the United Church of Christ, Bridgeport for 45 years, where he, wife Barbara and their second family, the congregation, created countless hours of service to others and wonderful memories together.

A service of remembrance will be held on Wednesday, May 24. Family and friends may gather in the Church, at 2180 North Avenue, Bridgeport, at 10 a.m. until the Church service at 11 a.m.

The family would also like to thank Lesko & Polke Funeral Home for their services. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the United Church of Christ, Bridgeport. For travel directions or to sign his guest registry, please visit www.LeskoPolkeFuneralHome.com

Source:

<https://leskopolkefuneralhome.com/tribute/details/3545/Joseph-Poruban/obituary.html>

**CONGREGATIONAL SHARING
 FROM THE HUNGARIAN REFORMED
 CHURCH OF LORAIN, OHIO UCC**

THE BUSY MARTHA GUILD IS ON THE GO!

“The purpose of the Busy Martha Guild is to cultivate and preserve Christian principles, to work together in harmony and friendship, and with Divine help and guidance, deepen spiritual giving, and promote Christian services in the home, the community, the nation and the world.”

It was a very busy spring for the members of the Busy Martha Guild! True to our Mission Statement, we participated in activities that had local, national, and global influences. On April 18th, we traveled to Severance Hall and attended Peter Boyer’s Grammy-nominated multimedia work for orchestra, *Ellis Island: The Dream of America* that honored the immigrant experience with a compelling combination of music, narration, and historic images. It traces the experiences of seven immigrants from seven countries (including Hungary) on their way to America, beginning in the early parts of the past century.

On April 24th, members of the Guild attended a program at the Lorain Palace Theatre to hear a presentation by Trudie Strobel, a Holocaust survivor.

Continued on Page 12

Continued from Page 11

The first weekend in May, we held a Rummage Sale; this project benefits our members by giving them an opportunity to share the fruits of spring cleaning! It benefits our church, the community and non-profit organizations as well. We use the proceeds to fund our mission giving and the left-over treasures are donated to non-profit organizations.

On May 9th, we were given a tour of the Carnegie Library, home of the Lorain Historical Society. This is the place where Toni Morrison worked when she was a student at Lorain High. She became the first black woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature and she received the Medal of Freedom from President Obama in 2012. There were many beautiful displays featuring famous citizens of Lorain and industries that thrived in the past.

We celebrated a successful 91st year of existence with a meeting at the lovely home of Susie Fortner on June 6th with plans for our future! May God continue to bless us with good health and love in our hearts to fulfill our lofty mission.

Jill Pongracz-Murrell



Members of the Busy Martha Guild at the Lorain Historical Society



Members of the Busy Martha Guild at the home of Susie Fortner



Members of the Busy Martha Guild at the Severance Hall



100th Birthday of Irén Murányi

We wish a dear member of the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church, our sister Irén Murányi, a very happy 100th birthday! Back in February, after our worship service, members of the congregation celebrated with dear Irén on this, her **very special day** with a small reception.

May God continue to bless Irén with good health!



Irén Murányi and Judit Szabo-Stull



Irén Murányi and Éva Csia

Happy 4th of July!

The Fourth of July –also known as Independence Day or July 4th– has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July 2023 is on Tuesday, July 4.

Source:

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/july-4th>

INVITATION TO THE EIGHTY-FIRST SYNOD MEETING

*Calvin Synod Conference of the United Church of Christ
Kálvin Egyházkerület Krisztus Egyesült Egyháza*



CALL TO MEETING

THE EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING of the CALVIN SYNOD CONFERENCE of the UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**will be held from Tuesday, AUGUST 29th through Thursday, AUGUST 31st, 2023
at the FIRST HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH
14530 ALEXANDER ROAD, WALTON HILLS, OHIO**

**The Meeting will open with a
Service of Worship and Holy Communion
on August 29th at 10:00 a.m.
at the Sanctuary of the
First Hungarian Reformed Church in Walton Hills**

Subsequent sessions will be held at the Bethlen Hall of the
First Hungarian Reformed Church in Walton Hills.

The attendance of every elected pastor serving a Calvin Synod congregation
is expected, unless excused.

Each member congregation is expected to send an official Lay Delegate,
and may also send an Alternate Delegate.

The attendance of every Ordained Minister with Standing in Calvin Synod is also expected.

AMERIKAI MAGYAR REFORMÁTUSOK LAPJA

A Kálvin Egyházkerület
hivatalos lapja

CALVIN
SYNOD HERALD

Alapítva
1900-ban



124. évfolyam

2023. JÚLIUS – AUGUSZTUS

7–8. szám

Az Élet Kenyere

Lekció: János 6:35-40

Textus: „Jézus azt mondta nekik: *Én vagyok az élet kenyere: aki énhozzám jön, nem éhezik meg, és aki énbennem hisz, nem szomjazik meg soha.*” (János 6:35)

Kedves Kálvin Zsinat Gyülekezetei!
Kedves Testvéreim az Úr Krisztusban!



A kenyér életünk egyik legfontosabb tápanyagforrása és alapja az étkezéseinknek. Megadja a szükséges energiát, amire egy szervezetnek szüksége van ahhoz, hogy jól működjön. Az éhség a test jelzése arra, hogy szüksége van energiára.

Jézus azonban túlmutat a testnek e folyamatos, mindennapi szükségletén egy mélyebb éhségre. Egy olyan dologra mutat, amit semmilyen földi kenyér sem tud kielégíteni. A kenyér nem tudja betölteni az emberi szellem és lélek ürességét. A kenyér nem tudja kielégíteni a belső szükségleteket, abban az értelemben, hogy célt és értelmet adjon az életnek. Törekedhetünk arra, hogy például a munka töltsen be az életünket, remélve azt, hogy mindaz, amit elérünk, a sikereink kielégítik a belső nyugtalanságunkat és éhségünket, de előbb utóbb rájövünk, hogy ez nem így van, mert minél keményebben dolgozunk, annál éhesebbek leszünk. Emellett semmilyen nagy kikapcsolódás, sport, egzotikus utazás sem segíthet ennek a lelki éhségnek a kielégítésén. Az sem számít, hogy milyen sok barátunk vagy kapcsolataink vannak, hogy milyen elszántan keressük azt a másikban, ami bennünk nincs meg, mert az a lelki úr még mindig ott tátong az életünkben, a lelkünkben.

Hogy lehet hát ez, hogy semmi sem működik? Nincs olyan étel, ami betöltené ezt az éhséget. Nincs

olyan kábítószer és alkohol, ami csökkenthetné azt a vágyat és éhséget a valami több után, valami valóságosabb után, valami állandó után.

Az ember alapjában véve szellemi teremtmény. Mindannyian örökkévaló életre lettünk teremtve. Istentől egy olyan életet kaptunk, amely tovább él, miután a test meghal. Éppen ezért, mert örökkévaló életre lettünk teremtve fontos, hogy kapcsolatot tartsunk Istennel, a Teremtőnkkel. A *Szent Forrással* való kapcsolat nélkül soha nem találunk igazi békességet, megnyugvást, célt, szabadságot és biztonságot.

Pontosan ez az, amiről Jézus is beszélt:

„...az én Atyám adja nektek az igazi mennyei kenyeret. Mert az Isten kenyere a mennyből száll le, és életet ad a világnak...Én vagyok az élet kenyere: aki énhozzám jön, nem éhezik meg, és aki énbennem hisz, nem szomjazik meg soha.... Én vagyok az élet kenyere... ez az a kenyér, amely a mennyből szállt le, hogy aki eszik belőle, meg ne haljon. Én vagyok az az élő kenyér, amely a mennyből szállt le: ha valaki eszik ebből a kenyérből, élni fog örökké, mert az a kenyér, amelyet én adok oda a világ életéért, az az én testem... Ez az a kenyér, amely a mennyből szállt le; ez nem olyan, mint amelyet atyáitok ettek, és mégis meghaltak: aki ezt a kenyeret eszi, élni fog örökké.” (Jn.6:32b-33, 35, 48, 50-51, 58)

Akik Jézus körül voltak visszaemlékeztek a pusztai manna történetére. Azt viszont nem értették, hogy az a *mennyei kenyér* csak egy jelkép volt, amely Jézusra mutatott.

Hasonlítsuk össze a manna-t és Krisztust egymással, Jézus tanítása alapján. Mik a hasonlóságok a manna –ami Isten által adatott, amíg Izrael népe a pusztában vándorolt–, és az Úr Jézus, életünk forrása között?

1. A manna az égből jött; Krisztus a mennyből jött.

2. Össze kellett szedni, el kellett venni és megenni; Krisztust is el kell fogadni és az úrvacsora közösségben pedig a darab kenyeret megenni.

3. A manna ingyen, ajándékként jött; Krisztus Isten ingyen ajándéka a világ számára.

4. A manna mindenki számára elegendő volt; Krisztus áldozata mindenre elég.

5. Ha nem szedte valaki össze a mannát, akkor azt eltaposták; ha valaki nem fogadja be Krisztust, akkor az elutasítja Őt és „eltapossa”.

6. A manna pusztai eledel volt; Krisztus a mi eledelünk a mennyi út felé.

Jézus a *Kenyér*, aki az egyedüli Élet. Ő ad erőt és energiát belső életünknek az Ő kifogyhatatlan erő forrásából, a mennyi honból. Jézus hozza le a mennyet ide közénk a földre. Krisztus tölti be az életünket szent életerővel.

A testünket földi kenyérral tápláljuk, a kenyeret a munkánk verejtékéből vehetjük meg, a mindennapi munkahelyi erőfeszítés, stressz által. Ez a kenyér azonban nem tart tovább, mint egy heti fizetés. Krisztus azonban örökkévaló „mannával” akar táplálni bennünket, Isten kenyérével. Ő lejött hozzánk ide a földre, hogy táplálja népét, az Ő Egyházát. Ő a kovásztalan, büntelen *Élet Kenyere*, aki megtörtetett bűneinkért a golgotai keresztfán azért, hogy nekünk örök időig szóló ünneplésben legyen részünk egy nap a mennyi honban. Az Isten Fia, az Élő Kenyér megszületett Betlehemben –ami azt jelenti: a „kenyér háza” – azért, hogy bennünket az örök életre tápláljon.

Jézus Krisztus, a mi Urunk és Megváltónk Isten ajándékként jött el a világba. Ő tette meg az első lépést felénk. Ő vásárolta meg a szabadságot számunkra a kereszten megtört teste és kiontott vére által, mert nagyon szeret téged és engem. Meghallja az imádságainkat, gondot visel ránk, vezet minket az élet útján. Azt mondja: „*Én vagyok az élet kenyere: aki énhozzám jön, nem éhez meg, és aki énbennem hisz, nem szomjazik meg soha...*” Ez egy csodás és elképesztő kijelentés, ajánlat és ígéret Jézus részéről. Mindazok, akik elfogadják Őt, akik hisznek és bíznak benne, azok megtapasztalják e kijelentés igazságát és valóságát életük minden napján.

Jézus az Élet Kenyere! Krisztus örök életre akar táplálni minket. Az a vágya, hogy teljes életet adjon neked és nekem, hogy tartalommal teli, örök és céltudatos életet éljünk. Elfogadod Őt, mint az életed forrását? Ámen.

Ft. dr. Krasznai Csaba



Jézus azt mondta nekik:
Én vagyok az élet kenyere:
aki énhozzám jön, nem éhez meg,
és aki énbennem hisz,
nem szomjazik meg soha.
(Jn 6,35)

GYÁSZJELENTÉS

Daróczy József

1929. február 20 – 2023. május 13.



Nagyrozságyon, Zemplén megyében, Sárospatakhoz közel, született 1929. február 20-án, középbirtokos hívő református család 6-ik gyermekeként.

Kisgyermek korától szívesen járt a templomba, ahol elvarázsolta a gyülekezet éneke és az orgona hangja és a templom harangja. Alig várta, hogy elég magas és

erős legyen, hogy ő tudja megszólaltatni a harangot.

Elemi iskolás éveit a falusi iskolában töltötte majd elkerült Királyhelmece. Ott néhány évet tanult, ahol alkalma volt többször látni Mécs László katolikus pap költöt rendszeres sétáin. Tanulmányait a Református Kollégiumban folytatta a kántor és tanítói képző szakon. Egyházi ünnepek alkalmával felsősöknek kötelező volt templomi szolgálatot vállalni. Ő szülőfalujába ment, mint legátus, ahol Istentiszteleteket tartott és családokat látogatott. Édesanyának ez nagy örömet jelentett, mert az volt a vágya, hogy a fiából lelkész legyen.

Tanulmányai végeztével a kormány úgy határozott, hogy nem kaphatnak diplomát, mert a népköztársaságnak nincs szüksége klerikális pedagógusokra. Ugyan ezen az ok miatt egyetemi felvételre sem volt lehetősége. Sőt csodálták, hogy jelentkezett, amikor tudta, hogy klerikális beállítottsága mellett még kulák ivadék is volt. Más választása nem volt, mint hogy Miskolcra ment, ahol a nehéziparban szívesen fogadták, mint segéd munkást. A Kossuth utcai Református Templomban kapcsolódott be az egyházi életbe. Persze ezt sem nézték jó szemmel. A kötelező katonai szolgálat helyett munkaszolgálatra ítélték, ahol 27 hónapot kellett dolgoznia őrizet mellett az ország különböző részeiben. Visszatérve Miskolcra még egy néhány évet dolgozott. Ott ismerte meg a jövődöbéli feleségét, és a forradalmi események következtében hagyták el az országot. Bécsbe kerülve, kapcsolatba kerültek az ottani Református Egyházzal. Vasárnap délelőttként a környékbeli menekült táborokban tartottak Istentiszteletet a lelkéssel. A Ford ösztöndíjakkal alkalmuk volt egyetemi

Folytatás a 16. oldalon

Folytatás a 15. oldalról

tanulmányokra. A diák igazolvánnyal részt vettek minden kulturális eseményen.

Feleségével 1958-ba kerültek Cleveland városába, ahol néhány napon belül tagjai lettek a Nyugat oldali Református templomnak. Az akkori lelkész Daróczy Mátyás szeretettel fogata őket. Tagja lett az énekkarnak, majd vezette a magyar vasárnapi iskolát, és presbiter lett. Minden egyházi munkában részt vett. Amikor Nt. Kálmán Szabolcs volt a lelkész, az idő alatt kétszer megválasztották főgondnoknak. A férfikör segítségével sok külső és belső felújítási munkát is végeztek. Pezsgő kulturális és társadalmi élet volt az egyháznál, ebédek, táncos vacsorák, magyarországi énekkarok fogadása, ami sok munkával járt. Az egyházhoz látogató lelkészek és püspökök, akár Magyarországról vagy az elszakított területekről érkeztek, szívesen látott vendégei voltak otthonukban.

Mindezen évek alatt a Lincoln Electric vállalatnál dolgozott nyugdíjas koráig.

Közben nagy szeretettel nevelte gyermekeit, Pétert és Zsuzsit, akikkel szabad ideje alatt sokat foglalkozott. Járt velük biciklizni, úszni, kajakozni, teniszezni, télen meg korcsolyázni és szánkózni. Vasárnap délutánonként népmese olvasás és népdal éneklés volt. Nyaranta sok időt töltött a család Chautauquan.

A város magyar egyesületeit anyagilag támogatta. Rendezvényeiken és a nemzeti ünnepek megemlékezésein mindig jelen volt. Abban az időben még sok bál volt, ahol szívesen táncolt.

Nyugdíjas korát boldoggá tette, hogy unokáinak nevelésében részt vett, akikkel mindent végig csinált, mint annak idején a gyermekeivel. Közben a ház minden kinti-benti munkáját ő végezte. Emellett élvezett kertészkedni.

Az évek elszaladtak és boldog volt, hogy megélte az unokák esküvőit. És minden álma az volt, hogy a dédunokákat is segítse majd felnevelni. Sajnos ezt már nem élte meg. Életének utolsó másfél évét otthonba töltötte, mert 24 órás ellátást igényelt, ahol az ott dolgozók szeretettel voltak segítségére, és a család rendszeres látogatással mellette volt, míg a Jó Isten magához vette május 13-án.

Emlékistentisztelet

Június 3-án Emlékistentiszteletet tartottunk Daróczy József emlékére a Nyugat Oldali Református Templomban, volt Főgondnok, presbiter és Vasárnapi Iskola igazgató. Május 13-án hunyt el 94 éves korában. Az Istentiszteletet Ft. Dr. Krasznai Csaba tartotta, Nt. Dr. László Imre közreműködésével.

A templom megtelt az Istentiszteletre, ami a szülő faluja, nagyrosványi harangszóval kezdődött. Az igeolvasás a János könyvből a 14:1-6, és az alapige a Zsoltárok könyvből 68:6-7 volt. Közösen angolul és magyarul énekeltek három közkedvelt éneket. Többen megemlékeztek József életéről. A két unokája felolvasta életrajzát magyarul és angolul majd személyes emlékeiket is elmondták. Majd a gyülekezet angol elnöke és volt vasárnapi iskolás tanítványa emlékeztek vissza közös élményeikre. Kedves szomszédjuk is megosztotta emlékeit. Végül felolvasták a gyülekezet volt lelkésze, Nt. Dr. Kálmán Szabolcs búcsúztató levelét. Majd a clevelandi Regös csoport tagjai Kalotaszegi népviseletben elénekelték a magyarok első himnuszát, Boldogasszony Anyánk-at. Végül a Miskolci Kossuth téri Református Templom harangszóval vonultunk ki, ahol a család fogadta az összegyűlteket és a Kálvin teremben közös fogadásra hívtak mindenkit.

Daróczy Zsuzsa



Murányi Irén 100-ik születésnapja

A Nyugat Oldali Református Egyház egyik kedves egyház tagjának, nőtestvérünknek Murányi Irénnek kívánunk áldott 100-ik születésnapot! Még februárban, istentiszteletünk után, a gyülekezet tagjai felköszöntötték drága Irénkét és kis fogadás keretében ünnepeltünk együtt Vele ezen a **jeles napon**.

Isten áldja meg továbbra is Irénkét egészségben!



Balról-jobbra: Nt. Dr. László Imre, Murányi Irén, és Daróczy Zsuzsa

Calvin Synod Homeland and Overseas Mission

Mission Coordinator:

Rt. Rev. Peter Pal Bodor, Auxiliary Bishop
19157 NW 23rd Place Pembroke Pines, FL 33029
Tel: (954) 614-4524

TRANSYLVANIA

Support the following schools and needy.

- a. The School Fund is coordinated by Ms. Gabriella Nadas
- b. Sepsiszentgyorgy: Szekely Miko Reformed High School
- c. Szekelyudrahely: Backarmadasi Kis Gergely Reformed High School and Roof Fund.
- d. Nagyvarad: Charitable and Mission Fund
- e. Nagykaroly-Kertvaros; Construction project of a new church building and parsonage
- f. Nagyenyed: Bethlen Gabor Kollegium
- g. Marosvasarhely: Reformed Kollegium
- h. Csiha Kalman Church and School Fund
- i. Fund Reformed Schools and help poor people in Transylvania Reformed Assistance Committee (TRAC)
- j. Fületelke: Financial assistance for Enikő Rózsa who provides meals for 24 small children. Please write on the check, in the memo section: Rózsa Enikő.

UKRAINE

- a. Support the refugees from Ukraine, and our fellow Hungarians and Reformed churches in Karpatalja.
- b. Support the Good Samaritan Orphanage and School in Nagydobrony in their mission work.
- c. Support the food pantry named "Crumbs for Lazarus" to feed the hungry in Csap.
- d. Center for children's Evangelism Center burned down in Carpatho-Ukraine. The Bereg Camp workers voluntarily offer their services. The request is made to help rebuild this Center.

SLOVAKIA

Rozsnyo: Support request for the roof expenses of the Reformed Church's Elementary School.

*Please send your donations to the
Calvin Synod Treasurer.*

*Kérjük, hogy adományait az Egyházkerületi
pénztárhoz küldjék:*

Rev. Tibor Kiraly, Synod Treasurer
79 Birchwood Drive, Fairfield, CT 06824
Tel: (973) 653-7052



LELKIPÁSZTOROK JELENTKEZÉSE:

Érdeklődő lelkipásztorok vegyék fel a kapcsolatot a püspöki irodával:

Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba G. Krasznai
14530 Alexander Road • Walton Hills, OH
calvinsynod1939@gmail.com
440-786-7272 ext. 13

Kálvin Egyházkerület bel- és külmisszió

MISSZIÓI KOORDINÁTOR:

Ft. Bodor Péter Pál
19157 NW 23rd Place Pembroke Pines, FL 33029
Tel: (954) 614-4524

ERDÉLY

Segítséget kérnek a következő templomok és iskolák:

- a. Az Erdélyi Iskola Alap koordinátora Nadas Gabriella.

- b. Sepsiszentgyörgy: Székely Mikó Református Kollégium
- c. Székelyudrahely: Backamadarasi Kis Gergely Református Kollégium és tetőjavítási akció.
- d. Nagyvárad: Szeretetszolgálat és Missziói Alap.
- e. Kolozsvár: Református Iskola.
- f. Nagykaroly-Kertváros: új templom és parókia felépítésére alap.
- g. Nagyenyed: Bethlen Gábor Kollégium.
- h. Marosvásárhely: Református Kollégium.
- i. Csiha Kálmán Templom és Iskola Alap.
- j. Fületelke: Rózsa Enikő megsegítésére, aki 24 fiatal gyermekről gondoskodik minden segítség nélkül. A csekk memo részébe kérjük írják rá Rózsa Enikő nevét.

KÁRPÁTALJA:

- a. Segítsük a menekülteket Ukrajnából és a kárpátaljai magyar barátainkat és honfitársainkat.
- b. Nagydobrony: Az "Irgalmas Samaritanus" árvaház és iskola folyamatos segítséget kér.
- c. Csap: "Morzsákat Lázárnak" ingyenesen támogatására segítséget kér Balogh János lelkipásztor.
- d. Leégett a Kárpátaljai Bereg Camp gyermek és evangélizációs központ fő épülete. A Bereg Camp évente több mint 100 rászoruló gyermeknek biztosít üdültetést. A központ munkásai önkéntesen dolgoznak. Elvesztése a református egyház lelki tragédiája. Előre is köszönik a segítséget.

SZLOVÁKIA:

Rozsnyó: A Református Egyházközség Alapiskola támogatást kér a tetőszerkezet költségeinek fedezésére.



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