

# NEWS AT FIRST

Our Mission: *To make known the love of God through Jesus Christ.*  
Our Vision: *We are empowered to live out our faith in daily life.*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER**

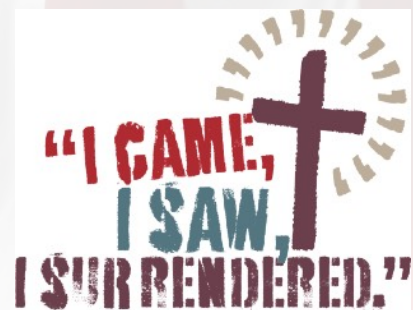
## LIBERTY THROUGH SURRENDER

To non-believers, talk of finding freedom through complete dependence on Jesus must sound foolish. How can surrendering your desires, time, heart — indeed, your entire life — lead to anything but bondage?

The answer is evident in Jesus' own life and ministry, writes Michael Card in *Immanuel*:

*Reflections on the Life of Christ.* In a twist on Julius Caesar's motto "Veni, vidi, vici" ("I came, I saw, I conquered"), "Jesus lived by the motto, 'I came, I saw, I surrendered,'" Card notes. "By living out this unorthodox pronouncement, Jesus demonstrated that what the world regards as power is really impotence. True victory is only through surrender."

During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, St. Ignatius of Loyola wrote this prayer of surrender that's still relevant today: "Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess, Thou hast given me: I surrender it all to Thee to be disposed of according to Thy will. Give me only Thy love and Thy grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen."



# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

In July, the Session will discuss the final lesson in the Ruling Elders Workbook. It is titled "Transformational Leaders Commit to Self-Awareness." What is involved in this commitment to self-awareness?

"Self-awareness requires knowing our strengths but also knowing our limitations. It means having confidence that comes from reliance on God. Self-aware leaders connect with others while maintaining appropriate boundaries. Self-aware elders are able to lead well because they know themselves as fallible human beings called and led by God."

The call of God is a life-long journey of spiritual and personal growth. It involves an authentic faith in God and a desire to follow Christ as our leader, model, teacher, mentor and savior. This desire raises two important questions for leaders who are self-aware:

1. What is your greatest desire for yourself as a ruling elder?
2. What is your greatest desire for the congregation you lead?

We do not answer these questions on the basis of our own egos. Rather, we are at our best when our desires align with God's. This requires that we distinguish between the little voice of our own egos and the voice of Christ. Transformational leaders put their own egos aside for the sake of Christ and his church.

In sum, to be self-aware is to be mindful of self as a fallible human being with limitations, but also mindful of self as a confident servant leader whose desire is to follow Christ. Such self-awareness gives us the courage to cross boundaries that are uncomfortable or challenging, and to maintain boundaries that keep us healthy, authentic, and grounded. Elders who commit to self-awareness are used by God to lead the church into the future.



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Worship  
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# Synod School 2022

Last call to sign up for Synod School 2022.

**JULY 24-29, 2022**

Synod School offers week-long classes in personal and professional development and is open to everyone. Our 67th year brought 440 people from 22 states in 2021 — an amazing group in this COVID age. Ordinarily Synod School annually draws more than 600 people of all ages from 27 states.



For more information on Synod School 2022, stop in to the church office to view this year's program book, or visit: **[lakesandprairies.org](https://lakesandprairies.org)**

## PASTOR LEAVE

Pastor Randy will be on vacation **July 14 - 20**. Please call the church office in the event of a pastoral emergency.

Each week during worship, we'd like to include a couple of church families on our Family Prayer list. For the month of June, please remember to include in your prayers each week our July families:

June 26: **Allison, Josh, Owen, Madalyn & Olivia Kelchen, and April Keltner**

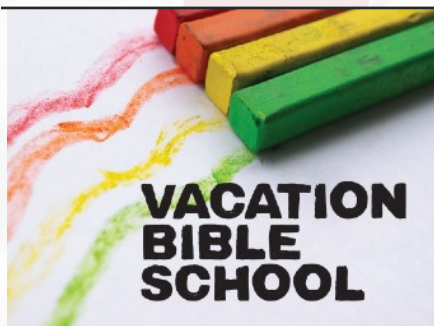
July 3: **Brien & Lisa Keltner and Keith, Amy, Brooklyn & Dylan Keltner**

July 10: **Glen King and Janean King**

July 17: **Jean Krueger and Robyn, Tyler & Kinley LaFave**

July 24: **Tom Lambert and Brad Lamont**

July 31: **Larry & Kathy Lamont and Evalena Lang**



Join us for 2022 VBS "Fishers of Men"

August 2-4, 6:00-7:30 pm

## Oxygen for Ministry

Flight attendants instruct airplane passengers that if oxygen masks are needed, we should secure our own before assisting someone else. Why? If we aren't getting enough oxygen ourselves, we can't help another person for long.

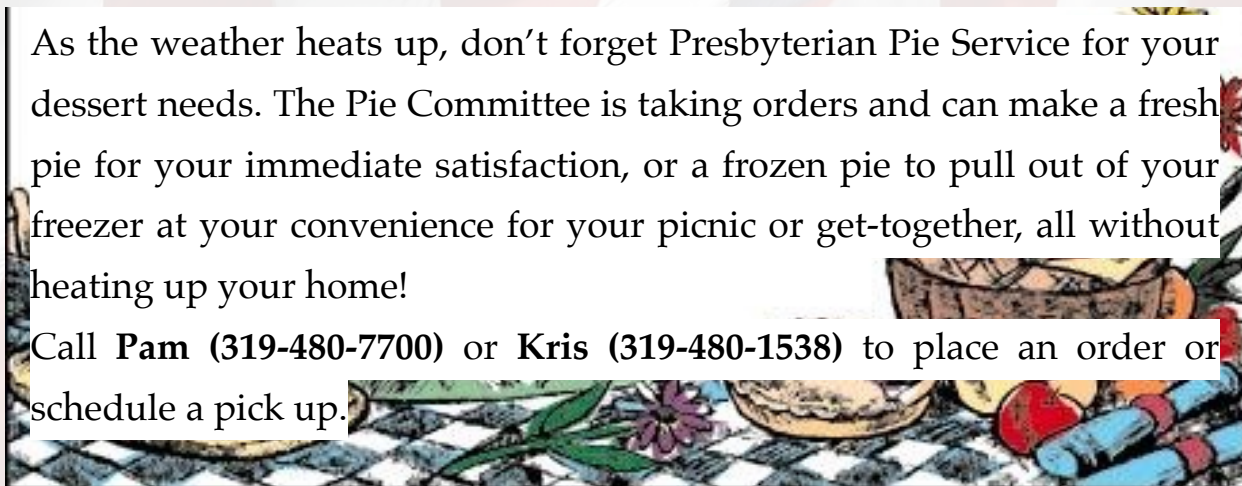
The Holy Spirit empowers Christians for ministry — the work of loving and caring for our neighbors and God's creation. But if we aren't Spirit-fueled on an ongoing basis, we will soon lack capacity to serve. This may manifest as burnout, cynicism, exhaustion or even lack of faith. So how to ensure we're breathing in the Spirit's energy and guidance instead of poor-quality "air"?

By taking part in corporate worship regularly, immersing ourselves in the Scriptures (devotional reading and Bible study), praying "continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17, NIV) and spending time with Christian friends and mentors. Opening ourselves to the Spirit in these ways allows the Breath of God to flow into us, which in turn empowers us to reach out to others in love.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

As the weather heats up, don't forget Presbyterian Pie Service for your dessert needs. The Pie Committee is taking orders and can make a fresh pie for your immediate satisfaction, or a frozen pie to pull out of your freezer at your convenience for your picnic or get-together, all without heating up your home!

Call **Pam (319-480-7700)** or **Kris (319-480-1538)** to place an order or schedule a pick up.







## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Current needs for those wishing to make a donation to the food pantry are:

- **Cake mixes & frosting**
- **Shampoo**
- **Toothbrushes**
- **Toilet paper**
- **Cold cereals**

Gift cards to our local grocers are always a tremendous help as we received bulk pricing.

**Items can be dropped off during food pantry hours, Mondays from 5 pm-7 pm, and Fridays from 2 pm-4 pm, or 30 minutes prior to opening.**

THANK YOU to all of our generous neighbors that make this service a possibility!

### Win a Week!

Camp Wyoming is running a fundraiser this summer from May 15<sup>th</sup> through August 31st. For \$25 you can purchase a square on a 50 square grid. If your square number is drawn on Sept 1st you win a free week of summer camp during the 2023 summer camp season. If you win and are not a camp goer yourself, you have options:

1. Gift your free week to a family member
2. Gift your free week to another person who would like to attend camp
3. Gift your free week to your church so they can send someone to camp

If you are interested in supporting camp through this fundraiser, here are your two options:

1. Send a check to camp for the amount of squares you would like to buy, put

“Fundraiser” on the memo line.

2. Go to the camp website and purchase the amount of squares you would like there.



Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Marge Stubbe MNRC

Lorraine Haag Pennington

Marj Lubben Pennington

Frank Smith Pennington

Barb Null Pennington

Don Duncan Mt Vernon

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS - JUNE 8, 2022

Discussed chapter 5 in the Ruling Elders Workbook: "Transformational Leaders Practice and Promote Spiritual Disciplines."

The Pentecost Offering was \$200. Forty per cent (\$80) was retained to be used for supporting children and youth in our community.

The Building Committee is inspecting some light fixtures in the sanctuary. Window screens in the Sunday School wing that were not replaced last year will be replaced.

Agreed to put together a team of volunteers to come up with ideas for arranging and updating the pastor's office space. This includes location, furnishings and décor.

Christian Education Committee members are responding to a letter from Lisa Keltner our youth Sunday School Superintendent. Letter is compiled info and suggestions from the Sunday School teachers. Session is grateful for her leadership.

Thanked the Nominating Committee for its work on the PNC. Jim Anderson gave the report on June 5: Suzy Gilkerson (chair), Roger Benedict, Carrie Fellingner, Aaron Orcutt, Alexis Corbin.

Continued work on a "Policy Book." Received suggested updates on the Kitchen Policy from the Pie Ladies, to be discussed at the next meeting. Approved a Child and Youth Protection Policy, a Sexual Harassment Policy, and an Equal Opportunity Employment Policy. Emended the Building Use Policy to clarify when session approval is required.

Approved pastoral search expenses for the PNC in the amount of \$1,500, with an openness to a future request for more if needed. Also approved a "Pastor Job Description" to be used by the PNC.

Will seek to hire a half-time pastor supply until a pastor is called. This person would preach every Sunday and be present two days a week, one of which would be Wednesday in order to teach the confirmation class. Pastor Randy's last Sunday as the full-time intentional interim is July 31.



### Attendance

	Worship
May 29	18
June 5	37
June 12	27
June 19	25

## OFFERING & FINANCES

We appreciate your continued financial support. If you'd like to learn more about your contribution options, please contact Dan Saunders, Treasurer, or the church office.

May Contributions: **\$6,966.00**  
(May 2021 \$12,160.50)

May Expenditures: **\$8,624.87**  
(May 2020 \$5,810.03)

