
First Congregational UCC "AT FIRST"

1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

Church phone: 864-3855

Pastor Michael Fritz, Interim Minister

Cell #612-481-4891

Pastor' E-mail:MFritz@ants.edu

December 2017

On

Sunday, December
24th

You Are Invited to
attend

Our 9:15 am Christmas
Eve Day Service

& our

7:00 pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship
Service

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend, please call the church office at 864-3855 by Tuesday, December 12th. You have a choice of red, pink or white.

Cost is \$9.50. You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.



Children's Christmas Program

Our Sunday School children will be performing their Christmas program on Sunday, December 17th during our Worship Service. Please have your children to church by 9:00 am that day. Thank you!

Sunday School Schedule:

December 3rd, 10th & 17th.

No Sunday School - December 24th & 31st

Sunday school resumes January 7th.

"Veterans of the Cross"

They work throughout the year to help Pastors and their families. Dollars given to the fund go directly to those who serve or have served the church in their moments of need. Gifts have been provided to seminarians who have had a life crisis creating a financial hardship; to active clergy and lay employees whose financial situations have been compromised by tragedy or illness. **We will be receiving "Veteran of the Cross" offering on Sunday, December 24th.**



Come & Help us celebrate!

Mickey Beltz's 99th Birthday

on Sunday, December 10th, following Worship



Happy Birthday!!

- 4. Jill Alsleben,
Miriam Jungclaus
- 7. Lily Ann Kottke
- 10. Margabelle Beltz
- 11. Janet Popelka
- 13. Howard Bulau, Lisa Raiter
- 15. Desiree Richardson
- 16. Erin McNellis
- 18. Mara Gould
- 19. Peyton Gould, Wyatt Sullivan
Teal Johnson
- 20. Tom Winn
- 26. Sawyer Guerrero
- 27. Amanda Stai
- 28. Kyle Robb, Cameron Olson,
Grant Olson
- 30. McKenzie Patnaude, Sharla Defoe
- 31. Brenda Benson, Dylan Dahlke

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A Special Thank You!!

A very sincere Thank You to family, friends and congregation members who once again this year supported the Thanksgiving pie fundraiser, you are so appreciated! The kids made 91 pies (!) and raised \$1052 towards their mission trip to Michigan in June, 2018! Amazing! Adding Mabel Stockdill funds of \$263 brought the total to \$1,315!

A special Thank you to Pam Gould for her tireless efforts with confirmation kids and expecting the best from them, they step up for you!

Community Christmas Caroling

All community members are invited to come "A-Caroling" and share joy, merriment and the good news of Jesus' birth!

On **Sunday, December 10th**, they will be gathering at **First Lutheran Church at (1:00 pm)**, before heading out to bring holiday cheer to Long-Term Care/Orchard Estates, Millie Beneke Manor, Community Shut-Ins and Grand Meadows.

After caroling, there will be treats and fellowship. **Feel free to bring colorful hats, long scarves, kazoos, bells and tambourines.** Sponsored by First Lutheran & Trivent

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On The Job in December

Deacon of the Month: Dan Kottke

Acolytes:

Dec. 3rd – Nathan Warner/Jacob Paul

Dec. 10th – McKenzie & Grace Patnaude

Dec. 17th – Ona Olson'Neeley/Emily Jungclaus

Dec 24th & 31st – No Acolytes

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Deaconess in charge of Communion at

Long Term Care on

December 6th: Jan Willand

@ Church on December 3rd: Pam Gould & Maren Warner

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In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin

From Your Pastor

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Advent. Once again we will walk the road to Bethlehem together, preparing ourselves to welcome the light of Jesus that he may be born into our lives and into our hearts anew. We do this by recognizing four of God's most important gifts to us, Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, celebrating them, and letting them make us ready. In all the business, errands, and planning that these weeks may come with, my hope is that we will remember that this is what it is all about. Let's let peace, hope, joy, and love into all of the work and fun of the season. Especially peace. This is the time of year when nature forces us to slow down a little bit. So we take advantage and remember the things that are important, not just the things that are urgent, as well as the people that are also among God's greatest gifts to us.

We'll get even more in the Spirit of the holidays on December 2nd, the date of FCUCC's 60th annual Christmas Bazaar, led by Women's Fellowship. This year's bazaar benefits the Operating Fund, so even more than usual, all of us have a good reason to help out if we can. This FCUCC tradition is only possible because so many church members offer their time and effort. It's also an opportunity for festive fellowship. Please plan to support this event by showing up and having fun.

Finally, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. This means that we get two chances this year to experience one of our favorite holiday traditions, the candles and carols at the Christmas Eve Service. The morning service will be at 9:15 am and the evening service will be at 7:00 pm. Hopefully this means that even more folks will get to join us for a service on Christmas Eve. We'll gather, during the darkest time of the year, to celebrate God's light breaking forth into our world.

To each of you I wish that your preparations will be full of hope and love and your celebrations will be experiences of peace and joy. And to each of you, a very Merry Christmas.

With you on the Journey, Pastor Michael

Christmas

Christmas is the LIGHT that burns eternally. It is a glow that warms the hearts of people wherever the message of "peace on earth to those of good will" is believed.

Christmas is PEACE in a world where people have been alienated from each other by hatred and jealousy.

Christmas is JOY of fellowship, of giving, of sharing, of lifting, of caring and of being what Christ wants us to be.

Christmas is FORGIVENESS, the time for fresh beginnings, a time to right the wrongs of yesterday.

Christmas is GIVING to those who cannot give to us. It is visiting the neglected, lifting the fallen, giving hope to the hopeless, assuring victory to the defeated, living the spirit of good will to all human-kind.

Christmas is SURRENDER of one's life to Christ in renewed dedication, which makes Christ the Lord of our lives.

The Trustee's Report October 2017

The following business was addressed at the October 25th meeting of the Board of Trustees: Total deposits for September were \$5,322.65. Of that, \$5,014.49 was for operating expenses; the remainder was for repairs, maintenance, missions and special offerings. Average monthly expenses paid by the operating fund are \$8,343. There were four Sundays in September 2017. Operating income for the 2016-17 fiscal year was \$100,392; operating expenses for the 2016-17 fiscal year were \$100,118. August 30th was the end of the fiscal year; final numbers were also provided in the annual report.

Other Business:

* Voted to approve the September financial report and minutes; mileage reimbursement to Pastor Michael for September; and one outstanding invoice from Roger Landon for air vent materials.

* Bat problem is being addressed; Roger Landon is contacting a professional company; cost up to \$1,000 was approved last month.

* Heard the pledge count is at 30 pledges for \$64,952, of which about \$62,448 is for operating expenses.

* Finalized budget for 2017-18 o Discussed 160th celebration – Deacons have contributed \$250 toward cost of the meal; also received a Thrivent grant for \$250. Any additional costs will be paid from the Operating Fund. May call 150th CDs/DVDs to help offset cost.

* Voted to renew the Organ Fund CD (#1333) at Security Bank for another 12 months, also to reduce the Miska (#1339) and Keasling (#1340) CDs at Ameriprise Financial to 12 month CDs so they can be laddered next year upon maturity into 5-year CDs.

* Reviewed need for a narrative balance sheet to better explain church investments; will add it to the Annual Meeting presentation and pass out there as well.

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Rach, Secretary

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Abundant Table Community Meal

The Abundant Table Community Meal is **FREE** and open to everyone -families and children, elderly and all seeking fellowship or in need of a helping hand.

When: **December 6th** (the first Wednesday of every Month)

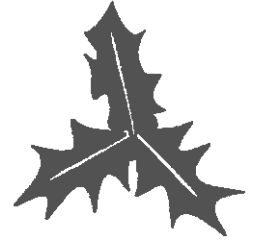
Where: Christ Lutheran Church Basement Fellowship Hall, 1820 Knight Avenue

Time: Doors open at 4:30 PM for Fellowship; Meal served at 5:00 PM.

Notification: Let us know to prepare for you by calling Christ Lutheran Church at 320-864-4549.



**First Congregational Church's
Christmas Bazaar
December 2, 2017 10-1pm**



Mark your calendar!

It's time for the annual Christmas Bazaar!

This activity is our church's largest fundraiser. The bazaar opens at 10 am with sales of lefse, rosettes, krumkake, Christmas cookies, candy, baked goods and crafts made by our members. There is a second-hand area and a luncheon until 1 pm along with live Christmas music to get everyone in the holiday spirit!

Have you thought about what you can do? We need volunteers to help arrange donations, set up and package on Friday and staff the different areas on Saturday. Can you help? If you would like to enjoy fellowship, laughs and fun together with your church family, please volunteer! If you get a call to help, please say "YES!" Your help is much appreciated!

- **Cookies:** Bring your bulk Christmas cookies **to the church by 9 a.m. Friday, December 1** for special packaging. In addition, Paula Bulau (864-6510) will need people to help with packaging the cookies at 9:30 a.m. that morning.
- **Baked goods, crafts:** These items need be delivered to the church by Friday, December 1 so that they can be displayed and arranged. **Please mark the price on your own items.** We will need people to help check out, take money, bag and carry out.
- **Candy:** Bring homemade candy to the church on Friday, December 1. **Please label the type of candy and any pricing guidelines you have.** The candy will be packaged in clear containers for sale.
- **Santa's Attic:** This is an area for gently used items. Do you have items you don't need any longer but are still in great condition? Please take the time to look about and see what you might find. Bring Items to the music room for marking. Ann Wangerin (864-6379)
- **Rosettes:** Made at the church as a group project. Come join us for fun! The scheduled dates and times are: Sunday, November 26 from 1 to 4, Monday, November 27 from 8:30-11:30 and Tuesday, November 28, 8:30-11:30. Questions? Call Linda Landon (864-5384) or Chris Marsh (864-3577).
- **Luncheon:** The luncheon is prepared in our church kitchen. We use donations of food items including pies and volunteers to help prepare, serve and clean up. Watch for food donation requests! **Please come and eat with us!** Cash donations are always welcome!

Questions? Ask Chris Marsh (864-3577 or Linda Landon (864-5384).

**Merry
Christmas**

From: First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
1400 Elliott Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336

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Glencoe, MN 55336

Our Website: firstcongochurch.org
Office Fax# 864-3660
Newsletter Deadline – Third Monday of the Month

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Merry Christmas!!



A Very Special Christmas

This time of the year should be a time of peace and joy,
as we recall that special night and that baby boy who was born in a manger on that starry night.

For the shepherds and wise men, can you imagine that sight!

The love they shared could surely be felt.

As one by one they came to the manger and knelt beside the babe all wrapped and quiet
on that very, very, special Christmas night!

By his birth we are given a special love, sent from the Father who reigns above.

So enjoy the festivities, food and gifts, too.

But remember his birth was meant especially for you.

Make this Christmas special and share that peace and joy.

That came about by the birth of that baby boy.

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Please remember our Shut-In's this holiday season.

December 2017

Keep in Christ Christmas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Deadline for Bazaar Items	2 10:00 am -2:00 pm Christmas Bazaar w/ Luncheon
3 9:15 am Communion Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School Acolytes: Nathan Warner/Jacob Paul	4	5 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Christian Ed Board Meeting	6 10:15 am Communion @ GRHS Long Term Care 6:30 pm Confirmation	7 8:00 pm A.A.	8	9
10 9:15 am Worship Service Mickey Beltz's 99th Birthday Celebration during coffee 10:30 am Sunday School Acolytes: Mickenzie & Grace Patraude	11	12 10:00 am Bible Study	13 Circle Meets Noon - Trustee's Meeting @ Gert & Erma's 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm W.F. Executive Board Meeting	14 8:00 pm A.A.	15	16
17 9:15 am Worship Service w/Children's Program 10:30 am Sunday School Acolytes: Ona Neely Olson/Emily Junglaus	18	19 10:00 am Bible Study Wee Friends Set-Up for Christmas Party	20 Wee Friends Christmas Party 6:30 pm Confirmation	21 Wee Friends Christmas Party 8:00 pm A.A.	22	23
24 9:15 am Worship Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service No Sunday School	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26 10:00 am Bible Study	27 No Confirmation	28 8:00 pm A.A.	29	30
31 9:15 am Worship Service No Sunday School Deacon's Meeting Deaconesses Meeting Happy New Year!		Deacon of the Month: Dan Kotke In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin	Deaconesses In Charge of Communion @ Church on Dec 3rd: Pam Gould & Maren Warner @ Long Term Care: Jan Willand	Coffee Hosts: Dec 3rd: Charl Grewé Dec 10th: Mickey Beltz 99th Birthday Dec 17th: Robbie Narraro/ Scott Telthoester/ Bruce Magnuson	Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Day Dec 31st: Roger & Linda Landon	