
“At First”
First Congregational UCC
1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336
Church phone: 864-3855

Adam Thompson; Pastor

Church Website: firstcongochurch.org
Facebook Page: First Congregational Church, Glencoe

December 2021

“Veterans of the Cross”

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

You have blessed the Christmas Fund with your generosity for many years. Your compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

We will be receiving “Veteran of the Cross” offering on Sunday, December 19th.



Please Join Us!

For A Candlelight Christmas Eve

Service of Hymns

December 24th @ 7:00 pm

Save The Date!

The 2021 Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday, December 19th during our Worship Service. See Page 3 for more details

Christmas Rosette Making

All are welcome (but no young children - due to risk of burns).

Where: Church Kitchen

**When: December 1st & 2nd - Making Rosette's
December 3 - Packaging Rosette's**

Time: 8:30 am to 2:00 pm each day

Rosette's To Go

Pick up your Rosette Orders at church's west door (Elliott Avenue Side) on Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Please bring correct change or check.

We Extend Our Sympathy and Prayers

... to the family of **Rolf Marsh**. Rolf passed away on November 16th and his Memorial Service was held at First Congregational on **Saturday, November 20th at 11:00 am.**

... to the family of **Mitch Steele**. Mitch passed away on November 24th. His Funeral Service is pending.

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On The Job in December

Deacon of the Month: Dan Kottke

In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin

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A Thankful Thanksgiving

Our second Take-out Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration was successfully concluded last week with the assistance of many hands. Including the event day workers, over 170 people received a tasty turkey dinner, with sides, and a slice of homemade pumpkin pie. Donations received from churches (Christ Lutheran, Good Shepherd, First Congo), businesses (Michaels Foods, Priority One, Thrivent) and countless individuals providing funds and "behind the scenes" labor brought this dinner to fruition. Let's do it again next year - but let's try for indoors in 2022!

Thank-you for your support!



4. Jill Alsleben,
Miriam Jungclaus
7. Lily Ann Kottke
11. Janet Popelka
13. Howard Bulau
15. Desiree Richardson
Riva Schwarzrock
Remy Schwarzrock
16. Erin McNellis
18. Mara Gould
19. Peyton Gould, Wyatt Sullivan
Teal Johnson
20. Tom Winn
28. Kyle Robb
29. Adam Thompson
30. McKenzie Patnaude, Sharla Defoe
31. Brenda Benson, Dylan Dahlke



White Christmas

Thank-You!!

A big thank you to all those who gave several wonderful gifts and money to the residents at St. Peter Treatment Center.

Gifts and checks were delivered by Ken and Karen Stenzel.

For many of the residents, your gifts are the only gifts they receive at Christmas - picture there happy faces.

Benevolence/Mission Committee

The 2021 Christmas Pageant - Live - December 19

Our numbers may be small but our hearts are big and a BIG program is being planned to include present, past and future youth! The Christmas story's the same but the number of participants will vary, depending on your enthusiasm.

The story begins as Mary and Joseph enter the scene. At this point, a Narrator will invite all guests who have always wanted to be one of these characters to come forward, receive their special costume trinket and take part as the story begins. This call for "extra wanna-be's" will be repeated for Animals, Shepards, Wisemen, and Angels - the more the merrier! There will be special props for these folks, too!

We're reaching out to past Sunday School "kids" of all ages, their parents and grandparents to make this a family affair. Please attend and support our church family as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

Program Date: Sunday, December 19, during church

ONE Practice: Saturday, December 18, TBD (10AM?) (Practice only for certain parts and current Sunday School and Confirmation kids)

Speaking Positions Needed

Two Narrators, who introduce the pageant, give instructions to the audience and read the Story. The story is in rhyme form.

One or Two Vocalists to Sing "Mary Had a Baby" and/or "The Friendly Beasts"

A small choir to lead the congregation in 4 songs from the hymnal - Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "Go Tell it on the Mountain", "We Three Kings", and Joy to the World"

Action Positions Needed / NOT Speaking parts

Animals - cows, camels, lambs, Angels, Shepherds, Wise people - the more the merrier!

NEXT STEP? Contact Karl W (224-554-9492) or Bridget K. (320- 864-5651) by December 10 to be included.

Pastors' Page:

What's with the wreath?

Advent blessings to all,

As a kid, our church had a tradition of a family wreath making party. I suppose it was kind of like getting together a carving pumpkins, it was a time to get creative with the whole family and then we got to take home our creation. Each week we lit a new candle, marking the progression of Advent. It felt like a special thing to be doing, but while this was a church and family activity I look back on fondly, I am curious about why this is even a thing and when did it start.

Most of us know why we have a wreath and light candles, but in case you don't, I'll tell you. But let's not put the cart before the horse, especially if the cart doesn't have a wheel because back in 1839, there was a cart missing a wheel. As the story goes, a minister in Germany made the first wreath out of a cartwheel for the kids of a mission. Placing twenty-four candles on the wheel, they lit the candles to mark the days leading to Christmas. There must have been a shortage of wheels because the wreaths were eventually made of evergreens as most are today.

Expanding on the utilitarian purposes of a countdown tool, the wreaths move towards using evergreens symbolized God's unending love and the promise of everlasting life. Embellishments of holly to represent Jesus' crown of thorns, berries for His sacrifice and death, and pine-cones for new life through His resurrection. The candles provide more meaning and like the minister's wooden wheel, mark a passage of time. With five candles in all, we move around the perimeter celebrating themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love culminating with the center candle for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

As we move through the Advent season, I would like to offer this prayer to you: We have prepared our homes, and our gifts, Lord, but we need help in preparing our spirits to receive your message of Peace. Free us from the stresses and strains of this time and place your peace which passes all our understanding in our hearts. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Peace, Pastor Adam



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.

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

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr I	Sat
<p>5 9:15 am Communion Worship Service 9:30 am-11:00 am Sunday School Confirmation Deaconesses Meeting</p>						
<p>6</p>			1 8:30 am - 2:00 pm Rosette Making	2 8:30 am - 2:00 pm Rosette Making 11:00am-Noon Bible Study	3 Rosette Packaging	4 9:00-11:00 am Rosetta Pick-Up
<p>7</p>			8	9 11:00am-Noon Bible Study	10	11
<p>12 9:15 am Worship Service Confirmation</p>			15 Noon-Trustee's Meeting	16 11:00am-Noon Bible Study	17	18
<p>19 9:15 am Worship Service w/Sunday School Pageant Confirmation Deacon's Meeting</p>			22	23 11:00am-Noon Bible Study	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Services of Hymns	25 Merry Christmas!
<p>26 9:15 am Worship Service No confirmation</p>			29	30 No Bible Study	31	



MOBILE OUTREACH

Driving Away Hunger

Monday

Dec. 13, Jan 10, Feb 7, Mar 7, & Apr 11
Park Towers, Hutchinson-2:00 PM

Tuesday

Dec. 14, Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8, & Apr 12
Stewart Community Center 11:00 AM
Parkview Apartments, Brownton 2:00 PM

Wednesday

Dec. 15, Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, & Apr 13
Lindenwood Apartments, Winsted 11:00 AM
Plato City Park Shelter, 2:00PM

Thursday

Dec. 16, Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10, & Apr 14
Uptown Apartments, Silver Lake 11:00 AM
Bethel Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie 1:30 PM

Driving Away Hunger is designed to reduce transportation and mobility issues associated with food access in our community.

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DISTRIBUTION IS
PRE-ORDER ONLY.**



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Glencoe -719 13th St E or
Hutchinson—498 Hwy 7 E

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www.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org and on Facebook!

320-864-2088



**McLEOD
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FOOD
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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church presents...

HOEDOWN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Featuring Jack Noennig and

The
Community
Strings

Free will offering.
Bring a non-perishable
food item to support the
local food shelf.

Sunday, December 12th, 2021
3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-1407 Cedar Avenue North-Glencoe