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**“At First”**  
**First Congregational UCC**  
**1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336**  
**Church phone: 864-3855**  
**Adam Thompson; Pastor**  
**Church Website: [firstcongochurch.org](http://firstcongochurch.org)**  
**Facebook Page: First Congregational Church, Glencoe**

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**August 2021**

## **First Congregational - UCC Moderator Report**

August 2021

As we get close to flipping the calendar to August, we realize the hot days of summer will soon, hopefully, come to an end. The brisk fall mornings will be refreshing.

September 1st also brings the start of the new church year. The Church Council and Personnel Committee have been discussing how to accommodate church committee membership. For the past 3 years, we have asked members to remain on the committees they have been on. If, for any reason, you wish to be removed from a committee, or wish to serve on a different committee, we are asking you to find a replacement for the committee you wish to exit. Please report the change to Wendy, so the committee can be updated for the annual report.

The Church Council wishes to thank everyone involved in a Church Committee. It was with everyone's help that we were able to make it through the past two years of pandemic and minister changes successfully!!

Merlin Mackenthun, Moderator

## **Stewardship Message**

The end of the church's fiscal year is coming up in a few months and it will be time to recommit our time, talents, energy and financial blessings to God and our local church. Pastor Adam has indicated that he would like to have us participate in a time/talents/treasure survey so that we can approach stewardship from several points of view. We are also looking at approaching some of the needs of the church with shorter term work groups, committees or projects. Just like at home or work, it is easier to complete larger jobs by breaking them down and completing smaller tasks that lead to the completion of a bigger job. We are anticipating that members will consider accepting roles for these shorter-term commitments than some of the major boards.

Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved in keeping our church moving forward both with your financial support and your time, talents, energy, and ideas. We need everyone to be the best that we can be, and to serve God and others fully! Watch for the survey coming out soon and return yours to church by mail or in person.

Stewardship Committee 2021; Jan Mackenthun

## We Extend Our Sympathy And Prayers

...to the family of **Erwin Picha**. Erin passed away on July 4, 2021. His funeral was held at the First Congregational on July 9, 2021.

... to the family of **Mickey Beltz**. Mickey passed away Nov 21, 2020. Her Memorial Service will be held at First Congregational on August 20, 2021 at 11:00 am.



Aug 5-Jeanette Miller  
Sandy Bargmann  
Aug 7-Sherri Geise  
Jan Mackenthun  
Aug 10-Kelsey Dahlke  
Aug 12-Mike Dahlke  
Aug 14-Stevieona  
Olson'Neely  
Aug 15-Anthony Hanson  
Aug 19-Brian Nagel  
Aug 22-Daniel Maguire  
Erica McClaskey  
Aug 24-Sue Bacon  
Travis Sullivan  
Aug 25-Annika  
Richardson  
Caleb Richardson  
Aug 30-Ed Patnaude

## From Our Pastor:

### Gifts, Abilities, and Talents...

As I begin to settle into this new role of Pastor at the wonderfully historic and richly blessed 1st Congregational Church, I have been blessed to meet and get to know many of the dedicated and Christ loving members and you have begun to get to know me and my family. However, Covid concerns remain, and busy summer schedules keep many from joining or re-joining in-person services, which, even in non-Covid times is the typical scenario for the summer months in virtually all churches. Being the curious and people loving kind, I'd love to get to know each one of you and vice a versa. What makes you tick? What are you passionate about? Do you have gifts, talents, and abilities that you feel called to share with our faith community?

Church is a community, and a community is stronger when we know one another, hear one another, listen to one another, and love one another. This reminds me of 1 Corinthians 12:12, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. I am continually amazed at the unique way God has made us. We each have been blessed with gifts, abilities, and talents to use to become one body in Christ.

In the coming weeks, we'll will be sending out a questionnaire so that I can learn more about you and you can learn more about me. I am excited to learn more about the members of this body and so you can learn more about me, I will share my answers to the very same questions with you.

I pray this final month of summer finds you happy and healthy.

Peace, *Pastor Adam*

## On the Job in August

Deacon:

**Robert Navarro**



**Thursday, August 26th from Noon-7:00 pm**  
**Friday, August 27th from 9:00-7:00pm**  
**Saturday, August 28th from 9:00 am -Noon**

**Come and check out all the Treasures!!**

# August 2021

| Sun   | Mon | Tue                                    | Wed   | Thu                                       | Fri   | Sat                                       |
|---|-----|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1<br>9:15 am Communion<br>Worship Service         | 2   | 3                                      | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8<br>9:15 am Worship Service                      | 9   | 10                                     | 11<br>7:00 pm Church Council<br>Meeting     | 12  | 13  | 14<br>1:00 pm<br>Avarae Blessing Service  |
| 15<br>9:15 am Worship Service                     | 16  | 17                                     | 18  | 19  | 20<br>11:00 am Mickey Baltz's<br>Memorial Service | 21  |
| 22<br>8:15 am Worship Service                     | 23  | 24                                     | 25<br>Noon - Trustee's Meeting<br>@ Maria's | 26<br>Church Rummage Sale<br>Noon-7:00 pm | 27<br>Church Rummage Sale<br>8:00 am-7:00 pm      | 28<br>Church Rummage Sale<br>9:00 am-Noon |
| 29<br>9:15 am Worship Service<br>Deacon's Meeting | 30  | 31                                     |   |   |   |   |
|   |     | Deacon of the Month:<br>Robbie Navarro |   |   |   |   |

**First Congregational UCC  
Church Council Meeting  
Wed., July 14, 2021**

**1. Members Present:** Jan Mackenthun, Merlin Mackenthun, Karl Warner, Jim Cox, Carmen Kiennenberger, Bridget Kiennenberger Pastor Adam Thompson attending

**2. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:05P.M with a prayer by Pastor Adam,

**3. Motion to approve June meeting minutes:** Carmen motioned and Jan seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 9. Motion passed unanimously. Merlin asked that Wendy receive the Minutes along with Board members.

**4. Pastor's Report** - Pastor Adam reported that he had worked 3 of the last Wednesdays in the office from 12 - 8 PM. He has used some of this time to acquaint himself with the building itself and learning of the history of our church and congregation. His other "firsts" this past month have been the serving of the Sacraments of Communion (July 11) and the funeral of Erwin Picha (July 9). He has also been participating in the UCC Conference hosted by MN this year via Zoom. He asked for more details and the church's membership participation in the Common Cup program, funeral attendance, identifying the congregation's Gifts and Talents to utilize more participation with Gospel Readings as an example. He also noted that the west window on the nave was in need of repair. (Roger is aware of this problem.) The need for a Church Mechanicals "How To" book from the Buildings & Grounds Committee was also addressed.

**5. Committee Reports**

**A. Trustees** - Carmen - Pledges Received in May, 2021 - \$ 9,675 May 2020 - \$ 4,063  
Pledges received through the year, 2021 - \$93,365 thru 2020 - \$80,394

Carmen commented that Trustee Secretary, Randy Warner, believes that much of the revenue coming in is from deferred compensation plans throughout the year as opposed to a monthly contribution, with the total for the year being comparable to the year before.

**B. Christian Ed** - Bridget reported that the Board is down to three members - Miriam Jungclaus, Karl Warner and herself. Pam Gould has stepped down due to family health issues. The Board set a meeting for July 21st (5PM) to meet with Pastor Adam at the church to discuss plans for Sunday School.

**C. Other Committee Reports** - See Old Business

**6. Old Business**

**A. Volunteerism & Committee Assignments** - Merlin began the conversation talking about the upcoming Annual Meeting and finding volunteers to work on the many committees. A lively conversation ensued around ways to make participation not feel so burdensome. Ideas included Pastor Adam circulating a questionnaire asking congregants to identify their "Gifts and Talents" to be shared in the church. Jan suggested combining committees that would provide more members to share the duties required i.e. Deacons and deaconesses). Jim suggested reducing the number of members required for Boards and Committee as there are more needed than attend church on a weekly basis. Merlin recommended that those currently on Boards/Committees retain their positions for the next year unless they can secure their own replacements. Merlin will make an announcement about participation needs at a future July meeting and Pastor Adam will circulate the Gifts and Talents questionnaire as well as the Gospel Reading sign-up sheet. Jan noted that many individuals came forward to help the Sunday School Bible Story program last year. Bridget reinforced Kari's suggestion from last month to find different and more creative ways to solicit help for short-term assignments vs. 3 year terms.

## **7. New Business**

A. Use of Church for Quinceanera - After a lively and creative pronunciation/description of "Quinceanera" by Pastor Adam, he asked about our church's past history with this hispanic custom to celebrate the "coming of age" of young girls turning 15 years of age. He was aware that this had taken place at First Congo several times in the past. Without a standing clergy, Pastor Penny has stepped in for the religious ceremony (prayers) of the event. The service takes approximately 15 minutes and is followed by a large celebration at a venue other than our church. Approximately 30 people generally attend the church service.

Pastor Adam questioned why these families weren't using their home churches and it was suggested that, perhaps they weren't church members. An increase change to the rental cost was approved to cover the non-member rental fee (\$100) and the cost for Pastor Adam's service and mileage to/from the service. The services generally take place on a Saturday afternoon. Pastor Adam would need to review and confirm if he was available on the requested date. A church member (Deacon?) should be available to open the church about 15-30 minutes in advance of the service. It was suggested, if the situation allowed, that Pastor Adam could stay at the church and use this time for clerical work, with the hours being traded for a different day. In this case the church would pay his mileage home, as a usual assignment.

B. Rental Agreement - The Rental Agreement needs updating. Kari told of a group who rented the Fellowship Hall for a Baptism Celebration Party, in June. The rental fee was for one event/day. The group came to the church on Saturday and decorated from 4:30 - 12AM (7hrs). The event on Sunday ran from 10:15 AM to 11:00 PM. Kari, as church custodian was required to be available to service and close the building. Our Fee Structure Contract needs to specify a standard time the building is available vs. the number of hours of rental. Carmen will contact the City Center for a copy of their contract.

C. West Door Security System & Code - Part of the problem with the rental for the Baptism Celebration Party was that members of the group used the code to enter the building even earlier to access the refrigerators. It was agreed that the current code number needs to be changed immediately and the unit needs to be replaced so that a more secure code can be used. The current unit is broken, allowing a limited number of digits to be used. Jim suggested this should be handled by Buildings and Grounds and Roger should take care of it immediately.

D. Upcoming Quinceanera Event - July 24th - The next scheduled event is on Sat., July 24 from 3-4PM. In Kari's absence, Jim will check and take care of any clean-up necessary prior to church on Sunday. Kari noted that the current fee is \$100 for the Church use and \$25 for clean-up. It requires little prep or post cleaning. If Pastor Adam is available and willing, this rental can be a good revenue producer.

E. Micki Beltz Funeral - The service for Micki Beltz will take place Friday, August 20th. Pastor Adam will officiate... The family has hired a caterer to provide, serve and clean-up the meal. Wm's Fellowship will not be involved.

F. Filming for Facebook - Adam's son, Aiden, will step in to run the filming of the church service on July 24th, in Nathan's absence. The Board discussed that this should be a paid position similar to the needs when an organist is needed. The Trustees will discuss the funding before our next Council meeting.

**8. Motion to Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm with motions from Kari and Jan.

**Next Meeting - Wed., August 11, 7PM Fellowship Hall**

Respectfully submitted, Bridget Kienenberger

(Church Council July 14, 2021)

\*This information is appropriate for your newsletter or bulletin.

## BREAKFAST WITH OUR MISSIONARIES

August 14, 2021

9:00 a.m.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
925 13<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Glencoe, Minnesota

First Evangelical Lutheran Church is pleased to count THREE of our very own as current LCMS missionaries! Please join us as we hear from our THREE missionaries on Saturday, August 14, in the church Fellowship Center. We'll begin with breakfast and Christian fellowship at 9:00 a.m., followed by an opening devotion. Then we will hear from ALL THREE of our missionaries.

**SAMANTHA WELCH** is currently serving with LCMS "Mission of Christ Network" as a full-time professional missionary at the Stronghold Mission in Kampot, Cambodia. In a part of the world where only a small percentage of the population knows Jesus as Savior, she and her co-workers bring the light of His salvation to children and their families through English and Bible classes at Lutheran Stronghold Mission and the after-school program there. Samantha has served as a missionary in Cambodia for two years and has learned the local language. She will return to Cambodia this fall. You can read more about her at [missionofchrist.org/samanthawelch/](http://missionofchrist.org/samanthawelch/). She will be **speaking to us in person** on August 14. You will get a chance to visit with her personally.

**Rev. and Mrs. Vance Becker** are Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) missionaries at Matongo Lutheran Theological College in Africa. The Beckers lived and raised their family in Glencoe from 1988-2003 where Pastor Becker served at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Upon retirement from full-time pastoring, he accepted a call to Matongo Lutheran Theological College in Kenya. He teaches preaching and Bible classes to Kenyan men studying to be pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. Mrs. Linda Becker works with both children and adults and helps with deaconess training. They have both learned the local language. You can read more about the Beckers at [lcms.org/becker](http://lcms.org/becker). They will be **speaking to us electronically** on August 14.

The entire "Breakfast with Our Missionaries" event will be livestreamed on First Evangelical Lutheran Facebook. You may watch it live or anytime. You don't have to be a Facebook member to watch it.

THERE IS NO CHARGE for this mission event or for the breakfast. An offering will be received for Stronghold Mission and Matongo Lutheran Seminary. You will be encouraged to give generously.

Replies to "Breakfast with Our Missionaries" are appreciated.

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