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## **“At First”**

**First Congregational UCC**  
**1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336**

**Church phone: 864-3855**  
**email: [office@firstcongochurch.org](mailto:office@firstcongochurch.org)**

***Rev. Adam Thompson; Pastor***  
***Cole Marshall; Youth Leader***

***Church Website: [firstcongochurch.org](http://firstcongochurch.org)***  
***Facebook Page: First Congregational Church, Glencoe***

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**December 2025**

### **Poinsettia Order**

If you would like to order a poinsettia for **\$15.00** in memory or in honor of someone for our altar, **please call the church office at 864-3855 by Dec 16th.**

Wendy is in the office on Tuesday or Wednesday. You may take the poinsettia home after our Christmas Eve Service.



**Please Join Us!**

**For A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**December 24th @ 7:00 pm**

### **Winter Weather Closing Notice**

When winter weather makes travel unsafe, our services and activities may be delayed or canceled. Before heading out, please call the church office at 320-864-3855 for the latest update. You can also check our Facebook page at [facebook.com/FirstCongoGlencoe](https://facebook.com/FirstCongoGlencoe) or visit our website @ [firstcongochurch.org](http://firstcongochurch.org) for any schedule changes. Your safety matters, please use caution and stay warm.

### **For Annual Meeting**

In preparation for our upcoming Annual Meeting, please review your personal information in the 2024 Annual Report and let me know if you've had any changes (i.e. address, phone, email, etc.). If any changes are needed, please call **Wendy on Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm with your changes!!**

**Please let us know if you or a family member chooses to be removed from our membership list.** Also, let us know if your birthday dates are being listed incorrectly. Your help is greatly appreciated!

**Our Annual Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, January 25th following worship**, so that means I will need your reports for the **Annual Report ASAP or no later than the 3rd of December.** Thank You! Wendy

## On The Job in December

Deacon of the Month: All Deacon's

In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin

\* \* \* \* \*



- 4. Miriam Jungclaus
- 7. Lily Ann Kottke
- 15. Desiree Richardson
- 16. Erin McNellis  
Riva Schwarzrock  
Remy Schwarzrock
- 20. Tom Winn
- 29. Adam Thompson
- 30. McKenzie Patnaude  
Sharla Defoe
- 31. Brenda Schultz

**Please remember  
our Shut-In's  
this  
Holiday Season.**



## 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 named Jesus.

## White Christmas

### Thank-You!

Thanks to all who gave so many wonderful gifts and \$262.00 for the 374 residents at the St Peter Treatment Center. Gifts were delivered by **Ken and Karen Stenzel**. You will make the residents Christmas a little extra special this year, for some of the residents, this is their only gifts they will receive.

Mission/Stewardship Committee

**Pastor's Page:****The Gifts Advent Brings**

Dear Church Family,

As we enter December, we step into the rhythm of Advent. It is a season that calls us to wait with purpose and look toward Christ with open hearts. Each week we light a candle that points us to a gift God offers freely. Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. These words are simple, but they carry the weight of what our world aches for.

**Hope**

Hope is not wishful thinking. It is confidence that God is at work even when we cannot see the full picture. Hope whispers that the story is not finished, and that God keeps His promises. When we light the candle of hope, we are choosing to lift our eyes above the noise and trust that Christ still shines in the darkest places.

**Peace**

Peace does not mean life suddenly becomes calm. It is the steady assurance that Christ stands with us in every storm. We live in a world full of conflict, pressure, and fear. Advent reminds us that Jesus came to bring a peace the world cannot manufacture. A peace that guards our hearts and settles our minds. A peace strong enough to carry us through December and beyond.

**Joy**

Joy is more than a mood. It is the deep sense that God's presence changes everything. It shows up in ordinary moments: a shared meal, a quiet prayer, a laugh that lifts the room. Advent joy grows when we pay attention to the ways God moves in our daily lives. It is rooted in Christ, which means it does not depend on perfect circumstances.

**Love**

Love is the heartbeat of Advent. God stepped into our world because His love is not distant or conditional. It is personal, steady, and willing to pursue us. When we light the candle of love, we remember that the birth of Jesus is not just a story from long ago. It is a reminder that God's love reaches us right where we are and invites us to share that same love with others.

As we travel through this season together, I encourage you to set aside moments to reflect on each of these gifts. Let them shape your conversations, your decisions, and your celebrations. Advent is more than counting down to Christmas, it is preparing our hearts so that Christ finds room in our lives.

Grace and peace to you this Advent season.

*Pastor Adam*

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## Count Down to the Christmas Market

Calling all Christmas Market Elves! Here's the schedule to bring in all your projects. The church will be open w/helpers the following dates/times:

**Dec 3rd, 10am – 4pm** for Jams, Jellies, Crafts and Santa's Attic Items

**Dec. 4th, 12pm – 6pm** for cookies, bars, caramels, fudge & other

### Sweets

Call Paula Bulau if this time frame will not work for you and she'll make alternate plans. (home 864-6510, cell 320 296-5084)

Be sure to mark your containers if you want them back!

### What's Next:

**Dec. 5th** Cookie and Rosettes packaging takes place

**Dec. 6th** All Elf volunteers ready to go by 8 AM!

**First Congregational**  
**Christmas**  
**Market**

**Saturday, December 6th**  
**10am-2pm**

**Lefsa**

**Luncheon**

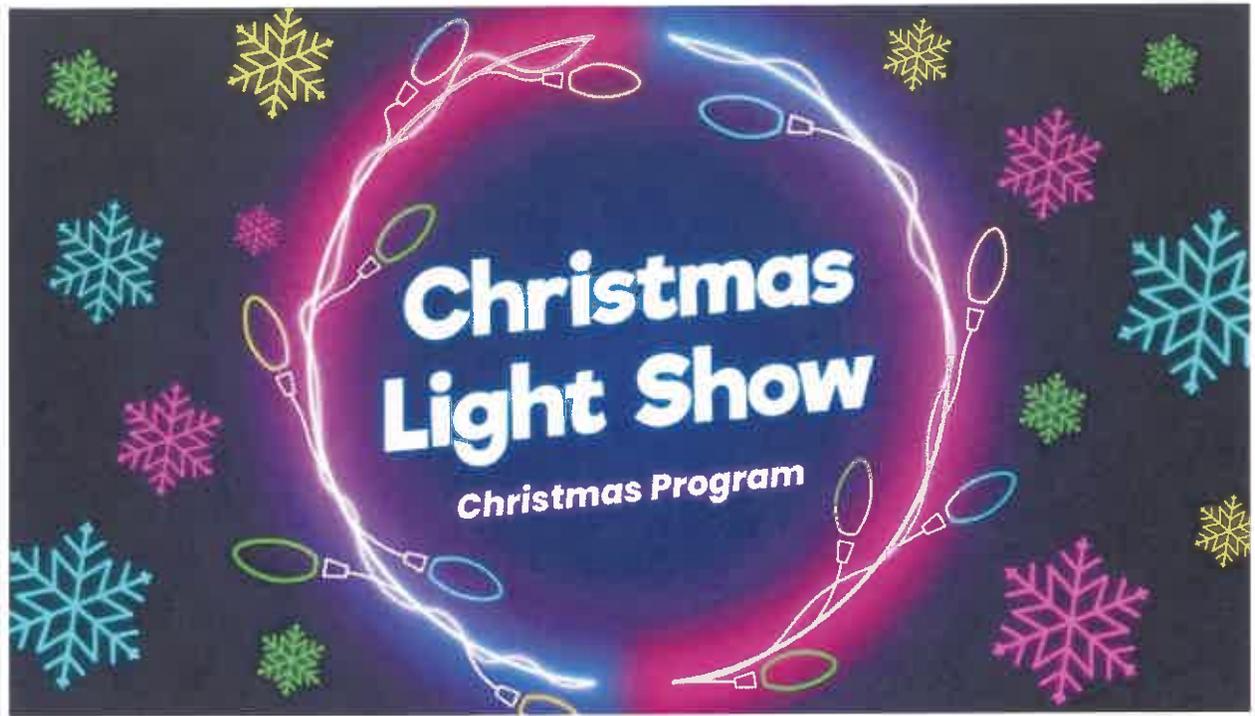
**Cookies**

**Baked Goods**

**Rosettes**

**Crafts**

**1400 Elliott Ave North**  
**Glencoe**



## **Children's Christmas Program**

**December 14th, during worship**

Are you the family Christmas lighting pro? Have you always wanted to be a Christmas Tree? Maybe an angel or a shepherd is more your style? Are you wise?

We are seeking a few brave individuals to join in the fun. All parts are non-speaking roles so there's no need to practice, just show up to church!

*If you are interested, or at least willing, talk to Pastor Adam, Barb M, or Vicki S*

# 2nd WEDNESDAY'S

## Dinner & Game Night

**2nd Wednesday of each month · 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**  
*Let's gather together for good food, warm community, and a little fun!*

### **Come As You Are**

Everyone is invited and welcome to join us for an evening of food and fellowship!  
Each month we will be seeking volunteers to help with set-up, food, clean-up and games.  
There is **no need to sign up or bring anything to come**, but you are more than welcome to bring a dish to share even if you're not signed up.

### **Volunteer Sign Up**

A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be available each month, you can find it in the:  
**Sanctuary** – before worship  
**Fellowship Hall** – during coffee hour

### **Each Month We're Looking For**

**Hospitality & Set-Up** - 2–3 people to arrive early, set up, and welcome folks

**Menu Contributors** - 2 people to bring main dishes

- 2 people to bring salads

- 2 people to bring desserts

**Clean-Up Crew** - 2–3 people to wash, wipe, and tidy up

**Game Host** - 1 person to lead an after-dinner game of their choice

*Never hosted or brought a dish before? No problem—pair up with a friend.*

### **Quick Details**

**When** - 2nd Wednesday of each month

**Time** - 6:00 pm (Dinner) · Game to follow

**Where** - Church Fellowship Hall

**Who** - Everyone—friends, family, neighbors!

*"They broke bread and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." - Acts 2:46*

**Our next Dinner & Game Night is**

**December 10th @ 6pm!**

# December Youth Group!!

**December 3rd & 17th @ 7-8:30pm**

All youth 6th grade - 12th grade are invited to attend!

Friends of families who are not actively involved with our church or the UCC are also invited as long as they agree to the guidelines and rules of the Youth Group, as well as the church itself as a means of respecting the space in which we use during our meetings.

**The Youth Group will be a safe space for all and one in which everyone can be their true authentic self without judgment.**

If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Adam at [pastor@firstcongochurch.org](mailto:pastor@firstcongochurch.org) or the Youth Leader Cole Marshall at [cole@firstcomngochurch.org](mailto:cole@firstcomngochurch.org)

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## **Monday Morning Bible Study**

Let's get together and explore God's Word!

**Join Pastor Adam and others in the connecting room  
(just outside of the sanctuary)**

**Monday's @ 11am**

Everyone is welcome to this low stress, conversational gathering where we are interested in learning how God is speaking to us today!

**Not Meeting December 29th**



# December Mission of the Month

**2B CONTINUED** provides the HIGHEST LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT IN THE REGION, primarily serving the Minnesota counties of Brown, Carver, McLeod, Meeker, Nicollet, Renville, Sibley and Wright Counties.

Teuby Continued (DBA 2B CONTINUED), is a MN based 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in memory of Shelly "Teuby" Teubert, who died by suicide in 2017.

Donations are used to carry out the organization's mission to increase awareness of suicide prevention, mental health & wellness through advocacy, education and outreach.

Program offerings include:

- Continuing education for professional development
- Evidence based training for community members across the lifespan
  - Partnerships with local schools to bring education to students
  - Activities and outreach that promote community engagement
  - Suicide Loss Bereavement Support Group and resources

**To learn more about 2B CONTINUED**, visit: [www.2BCONTINUED.org](http://www.2BCONTINUED.org)

Follow us on social media: Facebook and Instagram



# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Making Rosette's  11:00 am Bible Study  Christmas Market Prep	<b>2</b> Making Rosette's  Christmas Market Prep	<b>3</b> Christmas Market Prep 7:00 pm Youth Group	<b>4</b> Christmas Market Prep  8:00 pm A.A.	<b>5</b> Christmas Market Prep	<b>6</b> 10:00 am - 2:00pm Christmas Market
<b>7</b> 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Sunday School Discipleship Meeting	<b>8</b> 11:00 am Bible Study Noon - Resource/Trustee's Meeting 2:00pm Leadership Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 pm Dinner and Game Night	<b>11</b> 8:00 pm A.A.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Children's Christmas Program	<b>15</b> 11:00 am Bible Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Youth Group	<b>18</b> 8:00 pm A.A.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:15 am Worship Service Alyson (Winn) Lagergren on Piano	<b>22</b> 11:00 am Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! 8:00 pm A.A.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:15 am Worship Service Worship/Welcome/ Deacon's Meeting	<b>29</b> No Bible Study Pastor Out Of The Office	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Happy New Year!  Pastor & Wendy Out Of The Office			

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Leadership Team Minutes for October 14, 2025

DRAFT

**Attending:** Stan Hoof, Carmen Kienenberger, Bridget Kienenberger, Jim Cox

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 2:05 p.m.
2. **Opening Prayer** – Stan opened our meeting with prayer.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Carmen motioned to approve the minutes of the September 17th. Stan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
4. **Pastor Adam's Report/Update**
  - Pastor Adam thanked the congregation for stepping up during the death of his father, David, for his family and himself. A cold/flu illness has been circulating through the family making events more challenging, He is very grateful for the support the church has shown his family and himself during this time of loss.
  - Youth Group – the Youth Room has been updated with new carpet tiles and additional games. Thanks to Ann for clearing the space and Cole, Dan and Eldon for helping with the carpet. Furniture has been re-purposed from the Confirmation Room to create a lounge space. Thanks to Nathan's help. Sodas, snacks and food are available for the youth to enjoy. Although attendance is currently low both Cole and Pastor Adam are hopeful more will come.
  - Alyson (Winn) Lagergren played piano for the September 21st service and is scheduled to play again on the 3rd Sunday of each month. All positive comments were received about her music in the service. One hymn received less than stellar reviews and we may need to consult past choir folks for recommendations
  - Stewardship – Pastor was able to follow our Stewardship messages from Kari W. and Dan K. via TV. He would appreciate feedback from folks at some point about how the stewardship message resonated with them.
  - Our monthly Wednesday night went well, reported Kari W. With 21 people attending and ample and delicious food. She felt people enjoyed it and are looking forward to November's Meal with games this time. A sign-up sheet for November will be available pm October 19th.
  - Cole Marshall has been doing a good job not only reaching out to youth and families but engaging them during the Youth Group. Pastor Adam was particularly thankful for Cole's willingness to lead worship on 10/12. He did a good job for his first time. Cole has a few sermons/presentations he would like to share that will help the congregation get to know him better.
  - Bible Study – Attendance has been between 3 and 5 people and the conversation has been very good with different perspectives and insights, especially on some of the difficult texts we had in September. Thanks to Stan and Barb for continuing Bible Study in his absence.

## Upcoming Calendar

**Trunk or Treat** – 10/31 5-7pm

**Sunday School** – 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16

**Youth Group** – 10/22, 11/5, 11/9 7-9:30PM

**GlenFields** – 11/9

**Wednesday Night Dinner** – 11/12 6PM

## 5. TEAM LEADER REPORTS:

### Resource Team

Pledges for	<u>September, 2025</u>	\$4,088	<u>Year to Date 2025</u>	\$51,253
Pledges for	<u>September, 2024</u>	\$7,496	<u>Year to Date 2024</u>	\$55,821

1. A housing CD for approximately \$18,000 was cashed in to backfill dollars taken from operating funds.
2. Landscape clean-up work was completed on Oct. 11th - \$262.50

## **Discipleship Team**

### **Missions of the Month**

- July - School Supply Drive – An additional \$200 was received in August bringing our donations total to \$580.00. Expenditures were \$443.00.
  - August – Safe Avenues (replaces McLeod Alliance) – Donations received totaled \$420.00.
  - September – Warm Coats – We received more than a dozen coats, snow boots and \$94.00 in cash donations. Approximately 8 volunteers sorted and distributed the coats over Tuesday & Wednesday, October 14-15 at the Glencoe City Center.
  - October – Warm Christmas – This event culminates October 26th with the blessing of the gifts for the St. Peter Treatment Center.
- November – Community Thanksgiving Dinner – Two local churches have joined First Congo in this project. Advertising to the community is out and local vendors have been approached for food contributions.

**Memorials** – We have a donation pending the improvement of the church grounds.

**Christian Ed** - Our three teachers (Barb M., Amy S. and Amanda T.) are finding conflicts between their schedules and are looking for more church members to sign up as subs for these dates. Pastor Adam has found materials appropriate for each Sunday and all supplies are prepared for the sub to step in without hesitation. He will be addressing this call for subs in the upcoming Sundays.

**Stewardship** – Two final Stewardship messages were held October 12th by Kari W, and October 19th. Pledge cards are still available at the back of the church.

**Trunk or Treat** – The church is hosting a Trunk or Treat event October 31st from 5 – 7p for community kids. Contact Pastor Adam for more details.

**September Birthday Cards** - Barb and Bridget set 9 birthday cards to church members and Barb sent Well Wishes to those she heard about.

**2026 Missions** – The Team will be reviewing the past year's programs and making recommendations for the new year at the November 2nd meeting.

## **Deacons**

- Mike Muer was welcomed into the Deacons group.

## **Worship and Welcome Team**

This group is supported by the many helpers moving supplies to and from the kitchen to the altar.

### **6. Old Business**

1. No business

### **7. New Business**

1. Hanging the Greens will take place on Sunday, November 23rd.
2. Personnel Evaluations will be held in late October.

8. **Motion to Adjourn** – Carmen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bridget seconded the motion and we were adjourned at 3:00pm.

**Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 25, 2025**

Respectfully submitted, Bridget Kienenberger



# Safe Avenues

PO Box 568 • Willmar, MN 56201

Crisis: 320.235.0962 Toll Free: 800.792.4210 Business: 320.235.0475 Fax: 320.235.1376

October 12, 2025

First Congregational Church  
1400 Elliott Ave N  
Glencoe, MN 55336-1328

Dear, First Congregational Church,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation of \$420.00 to Safe Avenues.

For the past 47 years, Safe Avenues has lifted the cloud of fear, restored safety, provided hope, value and dignity to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Our services include emergency shelter, safety planning, safe supervised parenting time, legal and medical advocacy, support groups and assistance to victims in their search for jobs, housing, childcare and more.

By supporting the work of Safe Avenues, you are ensuring that victims and families are able to regain the confidence, skills and resources necessary to move forward in a positive way.

Thank you for your support,

Safe Avenues

*We wish to acknowledge that no goods, services or benefits were exchanged for this contribution. Safe Avenues: a Minnesota Registered Corporation and IRS 501(c)(3).*

Emergency Safe Shelter 320.235.0962	Criminal Justice Intervention 320.222.4030	Harmony Visitation Center 320.214.0799	Swift Outreach 320.842.3206	McLeod Outreach 320.587.7981	Renville Outreach 320.523.1015	Sexual Assault Victims Services 320.262.3829	Meeker Outreach 320.593.0876
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Funding Partners:



Office of Justice Programs





Greetings,

The FRIENDS of the Glencoe Public Library is celebrating Christmas 2025 by decorating the library Christmas trees with Glencoe community businesses.

The Christmas trees will promote the Glencoe businesses by displaying the "swag" and information of each business. This Christmas season endeavor is a community opportunity to advertise your business free of charge and spread holiday cheer. If your business is interested, please put some "swag" and items which could decorate a Christmas into a box or container and drop it off at the Glencoe Library. Each Christmas tree will display several businesses. Please note if you need items returned to you. If you would like to have the Christmas tree items picked up send an email to the Friends of the Library. Swag should be at the library by Friday, November 21, 2025.

Thank you for considering this advertising opportunity. Glencoe is an awesome community and is always open to share the spirit of the holidays.

Help celebrate Glencoe in the 2025 Glencoe community Christmas Tree Extravaganza.

Happy 2025 Holidays,

FRIENDS OF THE GLENCOE PUBLIC LIBRARY

[Friendsglencoepl@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsglencoepl@gmail.com)

320.864.3919

Jackee Fountain and Gabby Fountain (co-ordinators)

JACK NOENNIG  
AND THE COMMUNITY STRINGS  
PRESENTS:

# *Angels Among Us*

SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 21ST  
3PM & 7PM



**FEATURING:  
LOCAL MUSICIANS  
& SPECIAL GUESTS  
HIS BY GRACE**

**COME EARLY AS  
SEATS WILL FILL  
FAST!**

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE  
DOOR; \$10 FOR ADULTS, FREE  
FOR 10 & UNDER  
(CASH, CHECK, OR VENMO)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1407 Cedar Ave N Glencoe MN 55336

# December

COMMON CUP & COMMUNITY OFFERINGS CALENDAR

Office: 320-587-2213 / Website: [common-cup.org](http://common-cup.org)

2025

IN PERSON DONATION HOURS:

MONDAYS 10:00am-2:00pm

THURSDAYS 1:00-3:00pm

405 CALIFORNIA ST NW

\*HUTCHINSON\* Diaper Distributions: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue 4-6pm & Last Tue 11a-12:30p  
 CCM office: 405 California St NW door marked Diaper Distributions

\*GLENCOE\* Diaper Distributions: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue 4-6pm Glencoe Laundry Ctr 707 13<sup>th</sup> St W &  
 Last Tue 11a-12:30p Glencoe City Center 1022 12<sup>th</sup> St E, north side of building

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**418 For All 11:00-12:00**  
 Oak Heights  
 1398 Southgrade Rd  
 \*cash, card, EBT\*

**Welcome Table Lunch**  
 New Journey UCC  
 31 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
 11:30am \*FREE\*

**9-10am NAPS pick-up**  
**Diaper Distributions**  
 Hutch 4-6

**Emergency Lane Hutch**  
 9a-6p/Glencoe 9a-12p  
 & 4:30p-7p  
**Diaper Distributions**  
 Hutch 4-6p

**CCM Community Meal**  
 by American Legion  
 Auxiliary  
 New Journey UCC  
 11:30am \*FREE\*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Breakfast**  
 Christ the King  
 1040 S. Grade Rd  
 8:30-10a \*FREE\*

**CHRISTMAS**  
**Day!**

**CHRISTMAS**  
**eve**

**NEW YEARS**  
**EVE**

**Diaper Distributions**  
**Hutch & Hutch**  
 11:00am-12:30pm