

The Covenant Chronicle

Annual Meeting Part 2

A publication of The Evangelical Covenant Church of Paxton

Annual Meeting Part 2 will be held on Sunday, January 8 at 1pm. There will a lunch served in the Fellowship Hall before the meeting, immediately following the worship service.

Mission Statement:

We, the Evangelical Covenant Church of Paxton, Illinois, will seek to bring the people of our community and throughout the world to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ because God calls us to do so. In all we do we will serve Christ through individual talents working together to nurture each other in the faith and in Christian love.

Pastor Transition Update

by Rick Nelson, Church Chairman

We continue to be blessed by God’s timing. When Pastor Dave Parker resigned effective at the end of September, God freed up the schedule of Kevin Heiser to be able to provide Sunday sermons to us through the end of the year. And now God has brought Pastor Tom Ek to our church family to serve as Interim Pastor. He served the Galesburg Covenant Church for 26 years, retiring in September of 2021. Pastor Tom will serve us as Interim Pastor on a part-time basis beginning on Sunday, January 15. He will usually be with us 2 ½ days each week to lead worship and provide other pastoral services such as counseling and visitation. Kevin Heiser will provide our sermons on January 1 & 8. Our thanks to Kevin for his ministry to our congregation during this time of transition. He has indeed been a blessing.

The Pastoral Search Committee has been continuing its work during the month of December. We developed and distributed a survey to the congregation regarding skills and attributes deemed important for a new pastor to possess, as well as the priorities of four different aspects of pastoral ministry. We also asked what the congregation sees as the strengths and weaknesses of our church body. We received 42 surveys in response and we tabulated and summarized the results. Thank you to all who completed the survey.

As anticipated, all eighteen pastoral skills and attributes were collectively considered “somewhat important” to “very important.” But they did sort out with preaching, working with church leadership, leading worship, youth ministry, and pastoral care floating to the top. A sense of humor and teaching ability also finished strong.

The four priorities of ministry were ranked Worship Services as the highest, then Spiritual Growth, followed by Children and Youth Ministry. Community Outreach ranked fourth behind the other three.

The congregation ranked Member Care, Local Missions, Financial Giving, and Doctrinal Teaching as strengths of our church family. Readily Volunteering, Openness to Change, and Support of Global Missions were ranked as weaknesses.

The Search Committee is taking all the information provided by the survey and is using it for the basis of discussion to develop our Church Profile for distribution to the Central Conference and potential pastor candidates. Our goal is to have our Church Profile ready by the end of January. Please keep the Search Committee, potential candidates, and our congregation in your prayers.

January Ministry Volunteers

Ushers

- 1 Mike Nelson, Diane Gustafson, Matt & Amy Jones
8 Roger Gustafson, Kurt Edwards, Lynette Reppert
15 Glen Foss, Melanie Harms, Myndie Glazik
22 Jeff Shaffer, Ahlden Harms, Jesse Balk
29 Mike Nelson, Diane Gustafson, Matt & Amy Jones

Scripture Readers

- 1 Tonya Durham
8 Clarissa Mennenga
15 Diane Gustafson
22 Alaina Kief
29 Beau Glazik

Nursery

- 1 Shari Burklund
8 Myndie Glazik & Nautica
15 Clarissa Mennenga
22 Janet Loschen & Nautica
29 Amy Jones

JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 Janet Thompson
6 Alex Jones
7 Trevor Masterson
Mason Stone
9 Myndie Glazik
13 Roger Gustafson
18 Travis Glazik
20 Torrie Jones
23 Jason Mills
24 Kameron Kief
26 Owen Nelson
30 Melanie Harms
Ron Hillgoss



We had another successful Christmas Dinner in 2022! We were able to serve close to 70 people and even had some join us for our worship service. We delivered meals to around 40 homes and had a handful of people from the community come in and join us for the meal. A special thank you to Amanda Nelson for planning and organizing this event as well as all those who helped out with the setup, cooking, serving and delivering.



Remember Our Shut-ins

Gibson City Annex: Lavonne Burklund

Fairfield Aperiaon: Pat Nelson

Evangelical Covenant Church

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