

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

8 DECEMBER 2024

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

*We are a home away-from-home,
with people from different places becoming sisters and brothers in Christ.
Our members come from 40 countries and six continents. Some are in Geneva for
decades, others for only a few months. All help the parish to be a community of
shared beliefs, experiences and concerns. Opportunities for fellowship, spiritual
growth and recreation bring families, friends and acquaintances together. Such
bonds are precious in a city of so many welcomes and farewells.
Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church*

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



We are glad you are here—welcome!

Thank you to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

Reader: Clare Duran

Prayer leader: Faith Fookes

Altar care: Hiromi Yano

Assisting ministers: Margaret Kehoe-Winkler, Kristen Namigai,
Nyambura Njoroge, Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi

Ushers: Dorine Van Teeseling, Jaap Schep

Offering counters: Ngoni Hove

Flowers: German-Speaking Congregation

Coffee hour: Neighborhood Group D

Videographers: Breanna Ndwiga, Ray Woodcock

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and in compliance with Swiss law. You'll find our Data Privacy Notice at:
<https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/>*

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English-Speaking Congregation
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pastor@genevalutheran.ch office@genevalutheran.ch www.genevalutheran.ch

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

The Second Sunday of Advent + 8 December 2024, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam*

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

The tender mercies of God,
shining like stars in the night,
lead us through the darkness,
toward the sharing of the gospel that brightens our journeys,
toward holding each other dear to lighten the load,
toward the harvest of righteousness in which love overflows.
As we remember we give thanks for the bounty of grace,
awaiting the dawn yet to be,
when in Christ Jesus tender mercy will shine through all humanity,
like a guiding star glowing golden with peace.

Hymn

Now bless the God of Israel

This is a paraphrase of the Benedictus, Luke 1:68-79

Ruth Duck

Swedish folk melody



1. Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power,
 2. Re-mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear,
 3. In ten - der mer - cy God will send the day-spring from on high,

who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv - erance in this hour.
 that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year;
 our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.

Through ho - ly proph - ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm,
 and you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy,
 God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.

to save us from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.
 that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.
 Sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

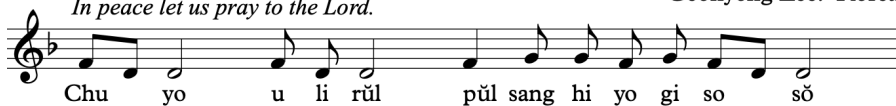
English © 1992 G.I.A Publications, Inc.

Invitation to Prayers of Thanksgiving

Litany

Geonyong Lee: Korea

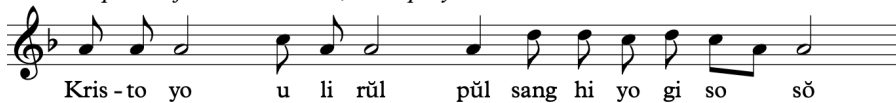
In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, let us pray to the Lord.



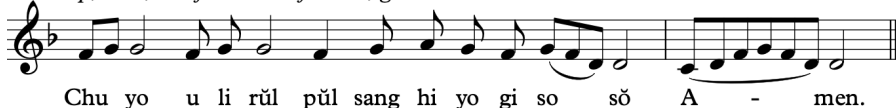
For the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



© Geonyong Lee, Daewoo Apt. 104-303, Bangbae 3, Seocho-ku, Seoul, Korea.

Hymn of Praise **Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn** vs. 4

Marty Haugen: USA



Re - joyce, re - joyce, take heart in the night, though dark the win - ter and
cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with light, be
strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill ev - ery
day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

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Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more, with knowledge and full insight, to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Alleluia

Ms. Hlar Hay, Myanmar



Ha - le - lu, Ha-le - lu - ja, Ha - le - lu, Ha - le - lu - ja, Ha - le - lu, Ha - le - lu - ja!

© 2004 Hlar Hay. The Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music, P.O Box 10533 Broadway Centrum, Quezon City 1112 Philippines.
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Gospel

Luke 3:1-18

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 3.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Sermon

Andy Willis

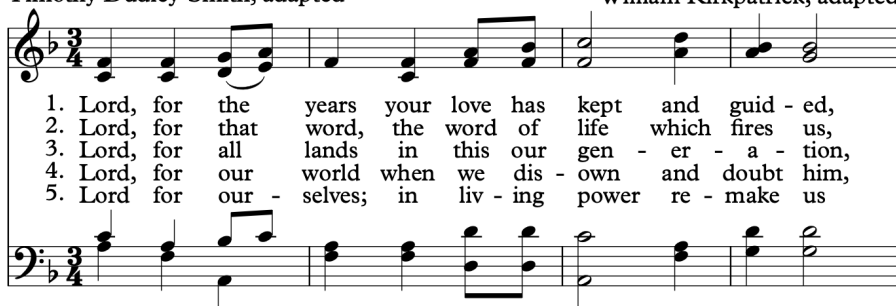
Offering of Stars

Hymn

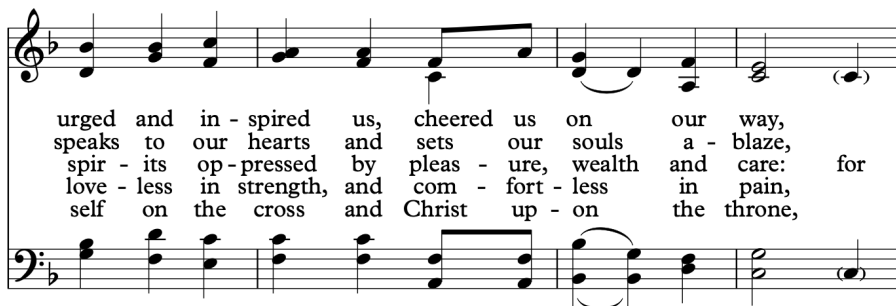
Lord, for the years

Timothy Dudley-Smith, adapted

William Kirkpatrick, adapted



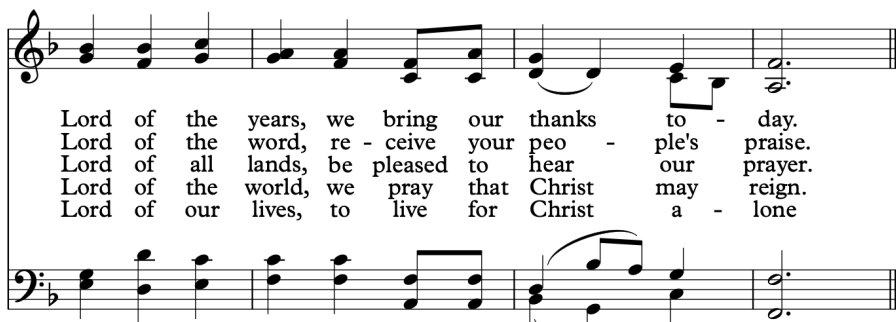
1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guid - ed,
2. Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
3. Lord, for all lands in this our gen - er - a - tion,
4. Lord, for our world when we dis - own and doubt him,
5. Lord for our - selves; in liv - ing power re - make us



urged and in - spired us, cheered us on our way,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls a - blaze,
spir - its op - pressed by pleas - ure, wealth and care: for
love - less in strength, and com - fort - less in pain,
self on the cross and Christ up - on the throne,



sought us and saved us, par - doned and pro - vid - ed:
teach - es and trains, re - bukes us and in - spires us:
young and old, for can - ton and na - tion,
hun - gry and help - less, lost in - deed with - out him:
past put be - hind us, for the fut - ure take us:



Lord of the years, we bring our thanks to - day.
Lord of the word, re - ceive your peo - ple's praise.
Lord of all lands, be pleased to hear our prayer.
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ a - lone

English, Timothy Dudley-Smith © Hope Publishing Co. Harmonization, Eric H. Thiman © Oxford University Press.

Blessing the Stars

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Prayers of Intercession

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Gathering of Gifts

*Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry.
You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag,
by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.*

**Donate now with
TWINT!**



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TWINT app



Confirm amount and
donation



Anthem

Creator of the stars of night

Choir

Words, 9th century Advent hymn

Verses 1 and 3 arranged by Johann Stadlmayr (1570-1648)

Second verse, 13th century Spain

*1. Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light;
O Christ, Redeemer, of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.*

*2. The bride-chamber of chastity, the virginal womb,
the Father has given his Son a special valley.
Who could find such a one in the world, that she might bear the Son,
co-equal to the Father?*

*3. At your great name, O Jesus now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven shall call you Lord.*

Offertory

Of the Father's love begotten

Latin, Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; English, John Mason Neale

Twelfth century plainsong



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts his prais - es sing,



Christ, the Al - pha and O - me - ga,
all earth bow to Christ, our Sov - ereign,



Christ, the source, the end will be. of the things that are, that have been,
and our joy - ful tri - bute bring, let no tongue on earth be si - lent,



and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,

Prayer over the Gifts

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor *People* Sursum corda

The Lord be with you. *And al - so with you.*

Pastor *People*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Pastor *People*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Preface

Sanctus

Sarin Sam. English S T Kimbrough Jr.

Sarin Sam: Cambodia

C Am

Ho - ly ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, the

Em Dm C

Guard - i - an of my life. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

Am Em

Lord God of hosts, the u - ni - verse sings your

Dm Am Em

praise. O Cre - a - tor who all things has

Dm Em Dm C

made. You are wor - thy to be a - dored and praised.

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Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

We remember Jesus, his coming in our midst.
This bread, his body, this wine his blood.
We proclaim the mystery of our faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Lord's Prayer

in our many languages

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.***

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God

Mabel Wu: Hong Kong



O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us.



O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us.



O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

Melody, Mabel Wu © 1994 Taosheng Publishing House, Hong Kong.

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome for communion.

Come and take any empty space around the altar. You will receive the bread.

Then choose a cup: a dark cup for wine, a lighter cup for grape juice.

Place the used cup on the next tray before returning to your seat.

Songs during Communion

Wait for the Lord

Jacques Bertier: Taizé Community

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord be strong, take heart!

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France.

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum 1710

based on 15th-century French processional

Based on antiphons from Advent Vespers

English John Mason Neale 1852

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free
Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer

and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
thine own from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny.
our spir - its by your ad - vent here;

that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
From depths of hell thy peo - ple save
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

O-so-so

Geonyong Lee: Korea

1. O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyŏng - hwa ũi - im - gŭm
 1. Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sa - vior.
 4. Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile all na - tions.

2. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ, sa-rang ũi-im-gŭm,
 u-ri-ga han-mom i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.

3. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ, cha-yu ũi-im-gŭm,
 u-ri-ga han-mom i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.

4. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ, tong-il ũi-im-gŭm,
 u-ri-ga han-mom i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.

Sending forth

Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stars Singing Thanksgiving: An Advent-Christmas for troubled times

The epistle readings for the season of Advent insist that we prepare for the coming of Christ with thanks for the gift of God. So we will be using the image of stars, which might help make our gratitude visible and vital.

Second Sunday of Advent, 8 December, 11h00

As giving thanks becomes our pattern, more stars surround us.

Third Sunday of Advent, 15 December 11h00

The Sunday School pageant becomes our rejoicing.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 22 December 11h00

Mary's Magnificat leads us into praise.

Christmas Eve, 24 December, 17h30

Candlelight with an abundance of stars will shine over the carols. Bring star-shaped Christmas cookies to share.

Christmas Day, 25 December 11h00

Communion and carols celebrate the presence of Christ.

Advent Bible Study – Sundays at 10h00

On Sunday mornings during Advent (December 8, 15, and 22), Andy Willis will be offering a Bible study at 10h00. All are welcome to come dig into the texts for the season and share conversation and coffee together.

Serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, 21 December

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, 21 December 2024. It takes place from 8h30 until about 13h00 at Le Jardin de Montbrillant (Rue de Montbrillant 3) just behind Geneva Cornavin train station. All are welcome to sign up and help prepare and serve a warm meal. Contact the church office or Elisabeth Benn (chriselis_benn@bluewin.ch) for more information.

Christmas Carol Singalong

On Sunday, 22 December at 17h00, the English- and German-Speaking Congregations will hold a Christmas carol singalong at the church. And on Friday, 20 December at 19h00, there will be a practice for those playing instruments to accompany the singing (open to everyone – no prior skills required). Weather permitting, we'll be in the church garden, singing for one another and for our neighbors in the Old Town--and if the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll be in the sanctuary. Refreshments will be provided afterward; all are warmly welcome.

Choir Rehearsals - Thursday Evenings

The choir of the English-Speaking Congregation is open to anyone—we meet on Thursday evenings from 19h30 until 21h00 to learn the music for the upcoming Sunday worship service and work on additional pieces. Come and sing!

An Update from the Treasurer

Dear congregation members,

It was a very engaging Congregational Assembly in November, especially with regards to our finances. At the time of the Assembly, we were at the lowest pro-rata income in almost 8 years. However, after the Assembly, when we now have the figures as of 30 November, we see very encouraging numbers.

Our average monthly income in the congregation has been about 25,000.- . However, in November, thanks to the generosity of many, we raised approximately 40,000.- . Thus we are now about 5,000.- ahead of where we were last year at this time. We still have a ways to go to make our goal of 321,000.- , but we are much closer than before.

At a glance:

Income as of 30 November: CHF 258,344.-

Expenditures: CHF 260,701.- (after deducting dissolution of reserve)

Target to raise in December: 60,000.-

Thank you all once again for your great generosity to sustain our congregation. We further encourage you to send in your estimates for 2025, as it is still not too late.

Warm regards,

Dinesh Suna

Treasurer, ELCG-ESC

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday.

Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

15 December – Group E

22 December – Group A

29 December – Group B

5 January – Group C

*If you can help on a week when your group is assigned,
please let your group's coordinator know.*

Cover Image:
JESUS MAFA. John the Baptist preaching in the desert,
from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48386>

This Week's Schedule:

Thurs, 12 Dec	19h30	Choir rehearsal
Sun, 15 Dec	10h00	Church School
	10h00	Bible study
	11h00	Worship on the Third Sunday of Advent
<i>Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30</i>		

Our church is entirely self-supporting. Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. There are three ways you can donate today:

By bank transfer: Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



Banque Cantonale de Genève
CH26 0078 8000 0510 7337 8



Post Finance
CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6

- By cash:** Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship.
- By U.S. dollar check:** Make the check payable to “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” and on the memo portion, write “GMG 0858”.

Thank you for your support of our ministry together!

If you are a guest in our congregation today, *please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We would love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about our congregation.*

ELCG Connection Card

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Comments _____

New to Geneva? Y/N _____ Date _____