

First Lutheran Church



I am a child of God - John 1:12

February 2021

1212 Minneapolis Ave.

Gladstone, MI 49837

906-428-4565

www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

or check us out on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Worship – Sunday – 8:00 AM
In Person Worship and Livestream

Office Hours – Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Rev. Dennis Meyette, Administrative Interim Pastor
revdenniso621@gmail.com

February 2021

What's Inside ...

From the Pastor	Page 2
Worship Schedule	Page 4
Upcoming Scriptures	Page 5
Circle News/Call Committee	Page 5
Special Announcements	Page 6
Salvation Army	Page 7
Sewing Circle	Page 7
Lutheran World Relief	Page 7
Fortune Lake	Page 7
ELCA/NGLS Events	Page 8
Special Giving Envelope	Page 9
Faithful Stewardship	Page 9
Stewardship	Page 9
Hospital Ministry/Thrivent Choice Dollars	Page 11
Hope at the Inn	Page 12
Thank You	Page 12
Gifts to the Congregation	Page 12
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Page 13
Homebound Members	Page 14
From the Bishop	Page 15
Council Highlights	Page 17
Serving Us	Page 17
Contact Us	Page 18
Congregational Council	Page 18

Our Mission Statement ...

First Lutheran Church is God's people inviting, involving equipping and empowering to serve, that all may know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

The Journey @ First Lutheran...



“Casting their nets into the lake... Jesus says to them, “Come with Me” I will teach you how to bring in people...” Mark 1:16-17 (CEV)

Jesus’ words here in Mark have always fascinated me. Jesus is walking the beach when he comes upon Simon... aka Peter, and his brother Andrew who are fishermen. Jesus says, “Come with Me” and these two guys “Immediately” go with him. Jesus walks a little further, sees James and John says the same thing... “Come with Me” and “Immediately” they get up and go with him too. Furthermore... their hired workers go with Jesus too... Like right now!

I can tell you back in the early 1990’s when I was discerning whether or not to go into the pastoral ministry and when I heard that call from Jesus... “Come with Me” I didn’t go “Immediately” ... it took some three years to work that all out. Likewise... when asked about coming up to the UP to serve... I wasn’t all that enthused, and it took two to three weeks to come to that decision. So... for these 4+ guys to leave like they did is fascinating and intriguing to me on how they were able to do this.

While it took some discernment time on my part to leave what I was doing to venture into what God was inviting me to do, I can tell you that what God invited me to do was quite immediate. I did say yes to a new venture... the discernment was how I would go about doing it. This immediate feeling that came over me was just as urgent as for Peter and Andrew and James and John. There was really no saying no to the invitation. Jesus had filled my life enough that I couldn’t say no to the invitation but had to discern how to do it. Though... it still has me wondering how these four guys just got up and left it all behind “Immediately.”

So... friends... what about you? What about First Lutheran? Jesus is calling "Come with Me" can we go "Immediately"? John's version of this story comes with a different invitation. Perhaps it's a bit more suitable... "Come and See" maybe we're more comfortable with this kind of invitation. It seems to me both of these invitations are a challenge for us.

Author Stephen Covey who writes about business leadership once wrote, *"You can spend your life climbing the ladder of success, only to discover it's leaning against the wrong wall."* I often wonder if the church ladder is leaning against the wrong wall. We say with good intention I will invite someone to come to church, only to procrastinate, then not.

What are you excited about at First Lutheran? How has God impacted your life while at First Lutheran? When you are excited about something... you generally tell people about it... Don't You? Your favorite restaurant... for me it is the Sunset Café' in Florida... they had to die for crab legs... I think you get the point. When were excited about something we share it boldly... are we excited about what God is doing here at First? Then... we should be shouting it out ... "COME AND SEE" COME WITH ME"

Jesus doesn't seem to be to be interested in solo spirituality... it's about being community and needing one another. When Phillip invites Nathanael... when Andrew invites Peter... they both grab them by the hand and say, "Let's Go See." When we ponder from a distance or hang with the same crowd, we simply are living in an echo chamber with no expectations of ever seeing what God might have for us on the other side.

There is a story of a rich donor was visiting Calcutta and met Mother Teresa. She pulled out her checkbook and said, "How can I help you in your work?" Mother Teresa pressed the checkbook back into the woman's purse, took her by the hand and said, "Come and see." She led the woman into an impoverished barrio, and found a hungry, frail child. "Care for her." The woman took the child in her lap, wiped her brow, and fed her.

Transformative... you bet. Mother Teresa was right when she said "When we care for a child, we are caring for Jesus. When we love the unloved, we are loving Jesus."

Come and See... Come with Me....

Blessings to you and your family in this season of change.

Pastor Dawn



"I am creating something new, there it is! Do You See It?" Isa. 43:19



Worship Schedule

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 am – Worship is Open!

February 7th

“Trust Your Power”

February 14th

“Buzzed on the Mountain”

February 17th Ash Wednesday

“The Making of a Covenant”

February 21st

“The Covenant of Baptism”

February 28th

“The Covenant of Descendants”

Worship is open to those who feel safe attending. The livestream will continue for those who wish to attend from home. The council is assessing the pandemic and the safety of gathering each month during their monthly meetings.



Upcoming Scripture Readings



February 7 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c, Mark 1:29-39

February 14th- Transfiguration of Our Lord
2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Psalm 50:1-6, Mark 9:2-9

February 17th – Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21 - First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9-15

February 28 – Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Mark 8:31-38

Grace Circle

Grace Circle will not be meeting until the COVID restrictions are lifted.

Love Circle

Pending MIOSHA orders, Love circle will meet on the third Thursday of each month, 9:30am at First Lutheran Church. Study material will be in the narthex. Every woman is invited. Please call 428-1696 for more information.

Faith Circle

Pending MIOSHA orders, Faith circle will meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm.

Call Committee

The call committee is currently waiting for new candidates from the Bishop.

GIVING STATEMENTS

2020 giving statements have been mailed or dropped at your residence.

Offering Envelopes



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2021 have been hand delivered to your residence. Please check your front doors for your offering envelopes and giving statements. Some envelopes remain at church. Mainly our snowbirds and those we were unable to locate or connect with. These remain in the Narthex.

Annual Meeting

Due to the uncertainty of safely gathering at the church for our annual meeting, the church council has decided to postpone our yearly meeting until we can gather as a congregation. We are asking all individuals who were elected to offices last year to continue their duties until such time we can reconvene an annual meeting.



The budget will remain as approved last winter. When a new budget is approved, any changes in budget intensive will be honored retrospectively.

We thank you all for your patience and look forward to the time when we can gather again as the body of Christ.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Ford
Council President

Salvation Army

There will be no churches helping with Saturday Salvation Army lunches until further notice. Thank you to all who continue to support the ministry of the Salvation Army.

Sewing Circle

We hope to be able to gather soon. Thank you so much for the many who have been working at home. We can always use gently used sheets, pillow cases, towels, t-shirts and material. Yarn is used for making baby sweaters and hats. If you have any of the above-mentioned items, please drop them at church. Also keep watch for a startup date.



**Lutheran
World
Relief**

Since we had so many generous people, both those who donated handmade items and those who purchased them, we were able to send a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Lutheran World Relief to help with shipping costs. So grateful to all who continue to support this ministry!



Fortune Lake News

Fortune Lake is so excited to welcome back both our campers and staff for Summer 2021! We're seeking enthusiastic, creative young leaders who are looking for the experience of a lifetime! Online applications are available now through June 1, or until all positions are filled. Many positions are open. Visit

www.fortunelake.org to find out more and to apply

ELCA/NGLS EVENTS

Leaving a Legacy Workshop

Plan now to make a future gift from your estate to support the work of Christ

ELCA Regional Gift Planner, Cindy Halverson will be hosting this ELCA/NGLS sponsored event.

Via Zoom
Thursday, February 11th
7-8:30 pm

Or
Saturday, February 13th
10-11:30 am

If you are planning an estate plan, reviewing/updating a plan, or would simply like to know more about thoughtful estate planning that will consider your heirs and your church, this event is important for you!

To register, go to www.nglsynod.org

Racial Equity Challenge

February 18 and runs through March 29.

Participating in the Racial Equity Challenge is a personal commitment to devote time during Lent to engage in provided resources. Each day of the challenge will be a new opportunity to consider different voices and perspectives—a time to read, watch, listen, and learn. It is time for self-examination and honesty. It is time to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, to be remade as vessels for God's love and reconciliation.

To register, go to www.nglsynod.org

Special Giving Envelope

**This month's Special Giving will go towards
Fortune Lake Camperships**

Please help provide for our campers to attend FLLC summer camp.



~ Faithful Stewardship ~

Last Month's Giving	Year-to-Date Giving	Year-to-Date Budget	Year-to-Date Over/(Under)
22,184.19	264,703.80	283,400.00	(18,696.20)
December: In house	8:00 am = 23	10:30 am = no service	
On Line Views	8:00 am = 489	10:30 am = no service	

As of December 31st, 2020

Stewardship

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS.....

“When life gives you lemons, make lemonade”. This is a familiar proverbial phrase that encourages us to turn a bad situation into a good one. We have been given tons of lemons with this pandemic for almost a year now and turning these lemons into anything positive is not easy.

Our lives have been turned upside down with most of our pre-Covid activities and routines put on hold. Our lives are now dominated by isolation, social distancing, masking up and we constantly worry about

getting the virus and, even, dying. The ripple effect compounds our stress as we become anxious and fearful over the health of those we love.

All in all, we are peppered with lemons and we are more than ready for some lemonade. It's all very depressing.

The recipes I have seen transform lemons into lemonade by adding sugar (water, too). This turns sourness into sweetness. It's no accident that a slang word for something really good is "sweet". So, where's the sweetness in this miserable pandemic?

I have found that the isolation gives me a lot of time with not much to do. It's given me time for quiet reflection and prayer-time that I probably would not have taken and used this way before. This time alone with my thoughts has given me a long overdue appreciation for the front-line heroes among us and the many blessings that God has given our family. It's also given me time, without a lot of ambient noise, to pray more than I would otherwise (pretty sad admission!). I spend a lot more time thinking about people in need, praying for them and pondering how I can help.

I realize, now more than ever, how much I have taken for granted. The gifts God has entrusted to me now seem to have multiplied and have become more precious. Unhurried contemplation has become a gift, in and of itself, and spawned recognition of and appreciation for God's unconditional grace.

Unfettered by all the "stuff" that clutters our lives, we are freer to count our blessings, thank God for them and pray for ways to be good stewards of these abundant gifts. Now that's "sweet"! Pass the lemonade!

In Christ,
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

Hospital Ministry

Whether it's an emergency, outpatient surgery, a hospital stay, or a move to a care facility; please remember to contact the church office (428-4565, office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org) or Pastor Dennis (586-854-5660, revdennis0621@gmail.com). Federal HIPAA guidelines do NOT allow hospitals, nursing homes, or other care facilities to contact the church or pastor or give out any information. That means that **unless you call or e-mail us, we do not know that you or a loved one are hospitalized.**

We are eager to extend a ministry of healing in Jesus Christ to those in need; please call the office, Pastor Dennis, or send us an e-mail. Thank you for your assistance!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Each year, eligible Thrivent benefit members are designated Choice Dollars based on qualifying insurance premiums, contract values, and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. When eligible members direct Choice Dollars, they make a request as to where they wish to have Thrivent distribute a portion of its charitable grand funds.

Are you an eligible benefit member of Thrivent Financial? Have you been told you have Choice Dollars available to direct? If so, directing those Choice Dollars to First Lutheran can be a meaningful way to help our congregation. The Choice Dollars for **2021** need to be directed by March 31, 2021. It can be done by phone (1-800-847-4836) and saying "Thrivent Choice" when your call is answered. You can direct Choice Dollars online by going to www.thrivent.com and accessing your account information.

Not eligible or not a Thrivent member yet? Contact a Thrivent Financial Representative at (641-251-1320) to learn how you can become eligible.

Hope at The Inn

Hope and the Inn continues to provide a safe and healthy environment for Delta County homeless community. It has been a strange season, with zero to six guests attending sporadically throughout the season. If you know of someone needing shelter assistance, please direct them to the Salvation Army at 786-0590.

Grace and Peace, Rhonda Husbye and Pat Casteel

Thank You

Thank you to Pete Swanson for your time and talent in making a new top for the Altar.

Thank you to those who helped hand deliver offering envelopes and giving statements:

Charlie and Geri George, Lynn Thomas,
Dirk and Sue Manson, Cindy Sjoquist,
Dotti and Tom Ford, Pam and Joe Durbin

Gifts to our congregation have been given ...

In Memory of *Jeannie Spaulding*
For Technology Development
Dirk and Sue Manson

Happy Birthday to ...

Week 1:

Sarah Soderman	Jesse Olsick	Joe Durbin
Violet Smith	Amy Miron	

Week 2:

Jack Soderman	Steven Chouinard	Deegan Miron
David Nivison	Sophia Smith	Reyna Rose
Gabrielle Movalson		

Week 3:

Fred Sundstrom	Violet Christiansen	Ken Groh
Lori Marmalick	Finlee Carter	Dylan Gilbert
Braidyn Miron	Andrew Hanson	Michael Coyne

Week 4:

Wanda Kloet	Alyssa Ellison	Emma Verbeek
Gayle Sigán	Kayla Martinucci	Betty Setter
Ed Walker	Donald Erickson	William Olsick



Happy Anniversary to ...

Ray & Maggie Miller	6 years
David & Dianne Lahtinen	35 years
Gary & Mary Bjorkquist	51 years
Dennis & Barb Filizetti	52 years

(If we've missed your birthday or anniversary please let us know)



Homebound Members



Christian Park

Ruth Johnson
Helen Ruth Seppala
Marilyn Stade

Bishop Noa

Betty Erickson
Lillian Strom
Joyce Creten

Pinecrest, Powers

Jeannie Kenney
Jean Schmidt
Yvonne Sepic

Cedar Hill

Millie Thomas

Lakeview

Laila Whitfield

Murray's Country View (formerly Pine Haven)

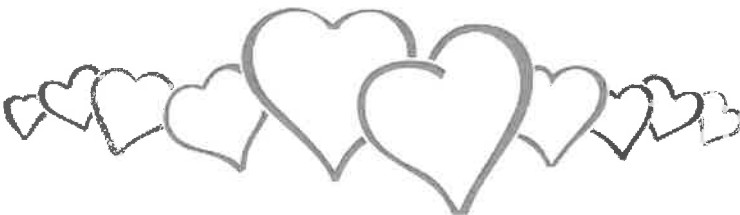
Pat Shampo
Carroll Wedell

Northwoods, Escanaba

Marv Kaski

At Home

Arla Pearson
Marie Hirn
Mary Kossow
Lorraine Moreau



From the Bishop

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." -Romans 15:13

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

There is a scene from the movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*, where the protagonist, Andy, is convicted of a crime he did not commit. He spends some 30 years in a dreadful prison until finally he escapes to begin a new life in a little oceanside village in Mexico. He sends a letter to his inmate friend, Red, and invites him to join him after Red is paroled from his own lifetime sentence for a regrettable crime he committed in his youth.

As we watch Red ride a bus towards Mexico, we hear his voice say, "I find I am so excited I can hardly keep a thought in my head. I hope I can make it across the border. I hope to see my friend and shake his hand. I hope the Pacific is as blue as it has been in my dreams. I hope."

Hope is a powerful force. It pulls us forward through the present as we reach for a different future. It was hope that made Andy's and Red's prison time more bearable. And it is hope for so much that pulls us forward from our present circumstances toward a future that promises:

- an end to the pandemic.
- gathering around tables with coffee-filled cups and bakery in hand.
- laughter and conversation once again filling fellowship halls, restaurants, and living rooms.
- voices raised in songs of praise, in harmony, with great gusto.
- ministry without masks.

I can hardly wait!

I Corinthians 13:13 proclaims, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." The greatest of these IS love. But this year, in the year of our Lord 2021, our theme will focus on HOPE. Make no mistake, we need love and faith, too. But right now, we really need HOPE.

As I write this, the inauguration looms large. Plans for armed and potentially violent demonstrations outside each state's capitol building are being reported, and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff has issued a public reminder to all military branches of their oath to defend the Constitution. It is more than a little unsettling that they felt such a reminder was necessary.

By the time you read this, whatever happens next week and before the end of January will be in the past. We all will have watched the news, heard the reports, and prayed over what right now has not happened yet.

And still, whatever is going to happen, does not change what we have always proclaimed to be true, that our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ. What that means for our present circumstances has taken on more urgency. The more we feel the chaos and uncertainty of our present, the more we reach for that which is true and solid and constant.

I hope we find a way towards healing, in our congregations and in our nation. I hope as people of faith we have a witness that is authentic to the gospel message of Jesus. I hope our congregations and pastoral leaders can hold on a little longer. I hope. I hope.

*O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Council Highlights

The Congregation Council met on January 14th with Dotti Ford presiding. At this meeting the council: Decided to re-work the budget for 2021. Is encouraging Christian Ed to have a team member present at the council meetings. Were encouraged to watch the Thrivent "Grace and Gigabytes" event. Gave altar guild the okay to donated the old Christmas tree. Discussed new 2021 nominations for council. Decided to open the 8am worship service to in-person and to continue online streaming. The building remains closed. Offering envelopes and giving statements will be hand delivered.



The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on Thursday, February 18th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Serving Us in December

Readers

8:00 am

10:30 am

	8:00 am	10:30 am
February 7	Doris Sundstrum	No service
February 14	Pam Durbin	No service
February 21	Judy Hammond	No service
February 28	Chris Mineau	No service

Thank you for volunteering to read. We understand if you do not wish to read during the pandemic. If you are unable to read, please contact the office at 428-4565. Worship will be at 8:00 am only. The live stream will be available at that time and will remain online for later viewing.

Altar Guild

Judy Hammond
Pam Durbin

Contact Us:

First Lutheran Church

1212 Minneapolis Ave.

Gladstone, MI 49837

906-428-4565

www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org or find us on facebook.com

Rev. Dennis Meyette, Pastor

pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Office: 428-4565

Cell Phone: 586-854-5660

Office Manager: Rhonda Husbye

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Secretary: Reyna Rose

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Director of Music: Ray Miller (temporary volunteer)

Musicians: Ray Miller, Paul Rajala

Christian Ed Coordinators: Cindy Sjoquist (temporary volunteer)

Custodian: Warren Eichner

Congregation Council:

Dotti Ford, President

Lynn Thomas, Vice President

Kathy Gobert, Secretary

Bill Ehrhardt, Treasurer

Steve Bolek

Kathy Gobert

Ken Groh

Jeff Gudwer

Howard Haulotte

Dirk Manson

Ray Miller

Mary Herro

Ellen Swensen



A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Lenten Services

First Lutheran
Ash Wednesday
February 17th at 3:00pm

In Person
(live stream may not be available for this service)

Immanuel Lutheran Church has invited our
congregation to their Lenten services.

Ash Wednesday
February 17th at 6:00pm

Holden Evening Prayer Worship
Wednesday's at 6:00pm

(Facebook live stream may not be available for
these services)

