

# First Lutheran Church



*I am a child of God - John 1:12*

## March 2021

1212 Minneapolis Ave.  
Gladstone, MI 49837  
906-428-4565

[www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org](http://www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org)  
[office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)  
or check us out on 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 Meyeette, Administrative Interim Pastor**  
[revdenniso621@gmail.com](mailto:revdenniso621@gmail.com)

February 2021

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### **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...



*"If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself.*

*You must take up your cross and follow me." Mark 8:34 (CEV)*



As I sit in Immanuel's conference room contemplating this note to you as your Interim pastor. I'm in the conference room because the week before our office suite was flooded by a broken water pipe from our heating radiators flooding my office. Two of the rooms are still not dry... one being my office. This has made working a bit inconvenient to say the least. It has become a cross I must carry... so I do. We will get through it and it will be okay.

We are in the throes of Lent which lends itself to walking in the wilderness or to carrying one cross. Lent offers us an opportunity to self-reflect on priorities and to cleansing one's self of all the foolish things we do to humor ourselves into thinking we've got it all made. This is much more than giving up some vice or habit we've grown into. I've always struggled with giving something up... not because it is a bad habit... but because it is often something good that I don't follow through with. So... I often don't reflect deep enough at giving it up... not because it's neither good nor bad, but because I don't really change anything. I often drop the cross... or don't wander long enough to get anything meaningful out of the Lenten experience. The truth be told... I just have not disciplined myself enough to follow through. I think a lot of us are like that.

One thing that has occupied much of my reflection in recent weeks... really more like the past several months... is the advent of entering retirement. Some of you know I am planning to retire this summer. A year ago, I was dismayed when my retirement savings plummeted putting me in a rather depressed funk. I could not see how my savings

was going to recover. Friends said it will come back and my response was, *"Yeh I know... but things never come back as fast as they fall."* I could only see myself having to work at least one more year. That was something I didn't want to do. Well... praise God... my savings have come back and then some. Let me tell you... that was a very heavy cross to carry.

Fast forward to today... So... I am announcing I will retire at the end of May. May 31 will be my last official day of serving the church in the capacity of a full time Interim/Transition Pastor. I have spent the past 30 years as a lay person and ordained pastor serving the church of Jesus Christ. I believe I have been faithful to my calling and faithful to serving the people in the various churches I have served.

Serving the church as a pastor is an awesome opportunity, but also bittersweet. There have been great experiences where people have grown in faith and also frustrations where things haven't gone as hoped for. It has been a privilege to be with people in the good times as well as with the not so good. The privilege of walking with people in the baptisms, first communions, confirmations, graduations, weddings, and some of the more meaningful times at funerals. All of these experiences have left an imprint on me that I will always remember with joy. It is truly one of the great blessings of my life.

Though I've only been with you for the past 8 months, it has been one of the great privileges to serve you at First Lutheran, Gladstone. To reflect on all the positive attributes of your ministry would take several pages. I am excited for what God has instore for this congregation for the future. I look forward to what God is putting before you for the future. God isn't done with you folks... you have much more to do in this community. You are at the starting line of a new chapter in your history as a people of faith. You are well prepared with a solid foundation to move mountains in Gladstone and with God's help you will do even greater things into the future.

So... in the time remaining... we will continue to carry our crosses. It is a must do thing during Lent. Out of the cross comes renewal, restoration, and new life. First Lutheran... there is new life breathing through her lungs. It is time to now change the world. A world where we share the Good News of Jesus and how Jesus... by the cross has changed us and the world.

*Pastor Nemo* 😊

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

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## Upcoming Scripture Readings

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** – Third Sunday in Lent  
Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, John 2:13-22



**March 14<sup>th</sup>** – Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, John 3:13-21

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** – Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12, John 12:20-33

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** - Palm Sunday  
Isaiah 50:4-9, Psalm 31:9-16, Mark 11:1-11

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## Worship Schedule

Sun.	March 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	"The Covenant of the Law"
Wed.	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Holden Evening Pray @ Immanuel Lutheran
Sun.	March 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	"The Covenant of the Cross"
Wed.	March 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Holden Evening Pray @ Immanuel Lutheran
Sun.	March 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:00 am	"The Covenant of Christ"
Wed.	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Holden Evening Pray @ Immanuel Lutheran
Sun.	March 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Palm Sunday "The Walk of the Covent"
Fri.	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:00 pm	Good Friday A service you will never forget @ Immanuel Lutheran
Sun.	April 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Easter Sunday "The Redemption of the Covenant"
		10:30 am	"To be announced"

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.

## *Lenten Services*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church** has invited First Lutheran to their Lenten services.

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

(Facebook live will be available for these services)



## *Good Friday*

You are invited to attend **Immanuel Lutheran Church** in Escanaba for an experience like no other. You will be moved to tears by this interesting and captivating worship service on

April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Come and see what it is all about.



"He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:6-7:

Come, Celebrate with First Lutheran as we  
celebrate our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>  
at  
8:00 am & 10:30 am

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### **Worship Notes**

March worship services will be at 8:00 AM  
April worship services (after Easter) will be at 10:30 AM



## **Altar Guild**

There is a scheduled meeting for everyone to attend on Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Please join us as we prepare for Holy Week.



## **Bible Study**

We were abruptly stopped in 2020 with our Bible Study. It is uncertain when we can resume, but we will wait out the pandemic as best we can. In the meantime, may we continue the kind of Bible study at home that you have always done. Your enthusiasm and faithful love of reading scripture keeps us connected.

Thank you, God for this Faithful Group,  
Ellen Swenson

## **Grace Circle**

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

## **Love Circle**

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**

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

## **Senior Ministry**

Are you asking, "When will we meet again?" We have now been absent for a whole year and will wait a while longer. During this interlude, continue to keep in touch with family, friends, and neighbors. The power of showing love to others is God's gift to you, also. A short

prayer for today: *Lord, you are my strength; lead me today to serve in love and kindness to someone. Amen*

Trusting in Jesus, Ellen Swenson

## **Sewing Circle**

Thank you so much for the many who have been working at home helping contribute to Lutheran World Relief projects.



Special appreciation goes out to Bishop Dale Skogman as he has completed his sweater #4000! Babies and little ones around the world can be warm and cared for by a garment made with love.

The sewing circle ministry can always use gently used sheets, pillow cases, towel, t-shirts, sweat shirts and material and thread. Yarn is used for making baby sweaters and hats. If you have any of these items, please drop them at church.

## **Christian Ed**

The Sunday School classes hosted "Souper" Bowl Sunday again this year. Their kettles were out in the narthex with signs for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers – Kansas City Chief – and our beloved Green Bay Packers. The congregation voted for their favorite team by placing a monetary donation in the corresponding team kettle.



Once again, the Green Bay Packers won. They seem to be the reigning "Souper" Bowl Champs here at First Lutheran. The monies collected will be going to the ELCA Good Gifts project for the purchase of a goat and a flock of chicks.

## **Annual Meeting**



The Annual meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am following the 8:00 am worship service. Items that will be voted on include: elections of congregational council members, Mission

Endowment Fund Committee, Synod Assembly voting members, Tri-County (formerly Delta) Conference representatives, Fortune Lake Camp representatives, nominating committee, the MEF Grant recipients, and the 2021 Budget. If you have concerns about attending, please contact the church office.

## **Call Committee**

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

## **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.



### **Word of the Day**

"Faith cannot be taught by any method of instruction; we can only teach religion...Faith, therefore, and not religion, must become the concern of Christian education...experienced faith, therefore, results from our interactions with other faithing selves."

~ John Westerhoff, from "Will Our Children Have Faith?" 1976

## **S.O.N (Serving Our Neighbor)**

Asante Sana! Thank you so very much! 2020 was a most challenging year for all of us. We are praising God and feeling very blessed the COVID 19 did not affect Tanzania as it has other countries. Because of you and your generosity children, individuals and families in Tanzania are receiving clean water, needed education and experiencing the love and hope of Jesus Christ, the Living Water in a practical way. Here are some highlights of what your generosity has accomplished in the past year.

- ❖ A record number of bio-and filters, 1038, were made and installed in Tanzanian homes.
- ❖ SON-TZ conducted over 170 seminars and training sessions resulting in the education of more than 2100 children and adults in WASH related topics.
- ❖ Todd's Birthday celebration resulted in two SON-TZ team members receiving newly constructed soak pits for their toilets with some additional funds reserved for toilet construction in 2021.
- ❖ Mkoko Village outreach continued at the primary school and the village. A huge answer to years of prayer has resulted in a proper church building as well as a dedicated pastor and his wife to serve in Mkoko. SON is supporting Pastor John in many ways, but the building of the church was funded and built by Tanzanians wanting to help the people of this village.

In 2021, with your support we will continue to focus on building capacity, processes and leadership skills with SON-TZ staff and volunteers. We will continue to install as many filters in Tanzanian homes, follow-up on filters already installed, work on Mkoko Village and to expand the WASH & Puberty Program as resources allow. We expect to expand the ministry of the Dodoma & Bukoba Workshops. Please visit the SON website at [www.son-international.org](http://www.son-international.org) or follow us on Facebook to see current updates and to know how you can pray for the SON team and ministry in Tanzania.....

With very grateful hearts, *Todd & Ann Ziems*

## **Walk for Warmth**

**Warm A Heart      Heat a Home**

The Community Action Agency in Escanaba is again asking for our help for those in our community who are struggling to pay for heating their home. Because of COVID-19 there will not be an actual walk this year. First Lutheran Church has supported this event for many years and it is my hope that we will do that again this year.

In the past few years, Jack Soderman has raised lots of dollars. With donations from family, friends and First Lutheran Church family, the contribution last year was \$2510.00. Together we may not do as well but no amount given is too small and every dollar raised for Walk for Warmth will be used for heating assistance in Delta County.

Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board and leave your donation with the girls in the office. Checks can be made payable to MDSCAA Walk for Warmth - Delta. I will see that all our contributions will be dropped off at Community Action Agency. Thank you for touching a heart and a home in this way. Nora





## **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. Positions are filling up quickly. Visit

[www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org) to find out more and to apply

### **\*\*First Lutheran has Camp Scholarships!!!\*\***

Scholarship applications are on the Sunday School and Narthex bulletin boards. Pick one up before it is too late.

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### **New Canteen Item**

For those Fortune Lake Lovers, the camp is now carrying these wonderful 5x7 notecards, painted originally by Paul Ohman. The beautiful summer



and fall designs showcase the allure of Fortune Lake at it's finest. They are now available online at the Fortune Lake store.

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## **New Camp Intern: Charlotte Strom**

**(a First Lutheran member)**

**Charlotte brings a wealth of experience from her days as a camper, summer staffer, and retreat leader. She will be with Fortune Lake at least through Summer 2021**

### **A Message from Charlotte:**

*"I am so honored to working here at camp throughout the year. Fortune Lake and the community here have been an integral part of my faith journey, and it is a privilege to now lend a hand behind the scenes. Blessing to all of you and I hope to see you this summer".*

***Congratulations Charlotte! We are so Proud of You!!***

## **ELCA/NGLS EVENTS**

### **Racial Equity Challenge**

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.

**\*\*Please see the Racial Equity Challenge flyer insert\*\***

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### **Faithful Innovations**

The NGLS invites congregational lay leaders, pastors, and licensed lay leaders to take a journey with us as we reimagine church in light of today's changing culture. This is a Spirit-led journey in which we are invited to engage the spiritual practices of listening, discerning, experimenting and reflecting.

#### **Key Features**

- \* Dwelling in God's Word
- \* Tracing God's Movement in our Lives & Neighborhoods
- \* Action Learning Experiments
- \* Intentional Reflection

Registration and payment are Due by April 5<sup>th</sup>

For more information see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex  
or contact Pastor Jim Duehring  
906-228-2300

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### **Tri-County Conference (formerly Delta Conference)**

**March 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**  
Via Zoom

## **Stewardship**

### A LEGACY OF LOVE

The older I get, the more I think about the power of love. This aging process also refocuses me, and perhaps you, on what inheritance we will leave behind for those we love. What kind of legacy will our heirs inherit once we are gone?

Hopefully, most of us want to “get our house in order” with stuff like wills, advanced directives, power of attorney, trusts and the like. We even spend a good share of our lives amassing assets to pass down to future generations. Those arrangements are very important because they reduce the burden of loss, let people know our wishes and help with the fair distribution of all the “stuff” we have accumulated.

As important as the disposition of all of our “stuff” is, it is, after all, just “stuff”. A far more important inheritance is love. The bible is, literally, peppered with references to the pervasive power of love. This power seems to undergird all of Christ’s teachings.

Leaving behind a legacy of love is, perhaps, the greatest act of stewardship one could will to the world. Christ did, but how do we and to whom?

I believe that what we leave behind is the sum total of all of our lifetime interactions with others. If love was at the foundation of these relationships, that love will never end (1 Corinthians 13: 8a). Love is, indeed, the gift that keeps on giving.

The beauty of this inheritance is that it is not just a legacy left behind for our heirs, but for all whom we have loved. The ripple effect is everlasting. This is stewardship to a higher power and those that receive this legacy will remultiply the power of love by “paying it forward”.



Grateful to be loved by God,  
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

From "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran on love:

When you love you should not say, "God is in my heart,"  
But rather, "I am in the heart of God."

And think not you can direct the course of love, for love,  
If it finds you worthy, directs your course.

**Special Giving Envelope**

**This month's Special Giving will go towards  
Miriam Scholarship  
Please help provide for Miriam's tuition.**



**~ Faithful Stewardship ~**

Last Month's Giving	Year-to-Date Giving	Year-to-Date Budget	Year-to-Date Over/(Under)
24,876.21	24,876.21	27,250.00	(2,373.79)
January: In house On Line Views	8:00 am = 72 8:00 am = 440	10:30 am = no service 10:30 am = no service	

**As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

## **Seminarian Support**

**“As for me, I would seek God, and to God I would commit my cause,”**

**Job 5:8**

When I served as bishop, I visited many churches. Often there would be a member who was eager to share a bit of humor with me. One Sunday a parishioner couldn't wait to tell me about two men who were in a boat fishing when a horrible storm caused the boat to capsize and they were drowning. When they came up the first time one said "Let's pray to God for help and promise to give Him half of all we have if He saves us. Miraculously, they were saved. One man gave half of his possessions to God. One day as he worked in his garden the other man drove by in a fancy car, clothes and with an ornate cane. Asked about their promise to give half of all they had to God he said "Well, when I got home I prayed to God again and said 'God if you ever catch me out in a boat again you can have all that I have.'"

Okay, a little "corny" but it wasn't my joke! It's my way, however, of asking if there is anyone reading this who feels called to parish ministry but is playing hard to get/commit?! The church needs pastors, desperately, as we well know at First Lutheran! Is there someone reading this, or someone you know, who needs a "nudge" to answer God's call?! No excuses!

Dale Skogman on behalf of Seminarian Support at First Lutheran

## **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!

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### OSF Healthcare

#### Announcing “Virtual Grief Groups”

*We suffer many losses through our lifetime; loss of loved ones, job loss, divorce, etc. Coping with grief and mourning loss can be very difficult, but we need to grieve in order to heal. Understanding the normal grief process helps you understand your thoughts and feelings when grieving*

Registration is required so program information and access code can be provided. They meet:

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month  
1:00pm – 2:00 pm EST  
Zoom – video/phone

Participants will need to pre-register. To register, please call 906-786-3915 and ask to be connected to the Escanaba office to provide your name, address, and phone number and you will be notified of an access code prior to the meeting

## **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](http://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.

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## **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

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# Thank You

The Gladstone/Rapid River Kiwanis Club would like to thank you for your generous donations to the backpack program. We are also very grateful for the privilege of using your church for our meetings....

Ken Benson, Secretary

Dear People of First Lutheran in Gladstone,

Hope is a powerful force. It pulls forward and nudges us from behind. It lifts, inspires, motivates, and lightens. It helps us to bear what is painful and turns our attention to future possibility. As people of faith in Christ, we are people of hope.

Your faithful generosity to the work of Christ that we do together has created hope. Despite all the uncertainties and changes of the past year, and in light of all the challenges to come, I am grateful for the future possibilities you have created with your Mission Support to the greater, wider, and deeper work of the Church.

Thank you! I pray our partnership as a synod together will continue to bless others with an abundance of hope by the power of the Holy Spirit of Christ, at work in the world, in your congregation, and in each of you.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finnegan



## **Happy Birthday to ...**

### **Week 1:**

Jeanne Hoegh  
Easton Groleau  
Agnes Johnson

Mary Tuskan  
Carrie Oney  
Rhonda Husbye

Tiffany Olsick  
Rachel Soderman

### **Week 2:**

Stacie Carter  
Deborah Parrett

Pastor Tom Otis  
Sierra Kars

Jamie Siedlecki  
Audra Steinhoff

### **Week 3:**

Paul Geiken  
Savanna Sovey

Jenna Steinhoff  
Maxine Maki

Christine Johnson  
Tim Wickman

### **Week 4:**

Diane Hanson  
Max Westerberg  
Joyce Creten  
Mack McDonald  
Clarabelle Oney

Taylor Trudeau  
Arla Pearson  
Vicki Ottensman  
Leah Hanson

Jeremy Menard  
Anne Movalson  
Matt Oney  
Sophie Scholer

### **Week 5:**

Jeffrey Gudwer

Abigail Claes

## **Happy Anniversary to ...**

Matt & Carrie Oney

9 years

Jason & Leah Hanson

18 years

Joe & Pam Durbin

43 years

Gerald & Carol Ebbesen

57 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

### Sunny View

Marv Kaski

### Lakeview

Laila Whitfield

### Murray's Country View (formerly Pine Haven)

Pat Shampo  
Carroll Wedell

### At Home

Arla Pearson  
Marie Hirn  
Mary Kossow  
Lorraine Moreau





## **From the Bishop**

The other day, right in the middle of a phone conversation, my office phone suddenly stopped working. I was incredibly irritated, and I yelled into my empty office how I felt about that phone. Several days later, I was snowshoeing, and my extendable walking pole contracted unexpectedly to about 14 inches, making it useless. Again, I found myself hurling verbal insults at an inanimate object. The snowy and peaceful silence of the wooded trail was shattered as I called my pole “stupid” and tried to forcibly manipulate it back to its appropriate length. But no matter how much I pulled and twisted and complained, it wouldn’t budge. Stupid thing.

With a vaccine being slowly rolled out, it feels like we should be in the homestretch of the pandemic. But the finish line seems to recede the closer we get. If you feel weary and irritable, with no patience for even the smallest inconvenience, you are not alone. We brace ourselves for the big things – loss and death, ongoing challenges to returning to what we miss, the need to be supportive to loved ones, but the little things...they can send us over the edge. Perhaps you too have experienced an adult temper tantrum over something that, pre-pandemic, would have been more manageable. These days, our skin is thinner and our emotions nearer the surface. Criticism that would have bounced off the armor of personal confidence now cuts deep. We have no reserve, no wherewithal, no room in a psyche already full to overflowing to cope rationally with one more thing.

In presentation about what it takes to be resilient, I learned the number one thing was being realistic. So, let’s be realistic. This is hard. We want to be done. We want to hug and sing and gather around the family table with loved ones we haven’t had supper with in over a year.

All in good time. The day will come. We just to wait a...little...bit...longer. Some months at least.

So, we wait. We wait for our well to be filled, our strength to be renewed, our spirits to be refreshed. I have found that laughter helps...and play. But most of all, I have found that acknowledging the



feeling of weariness, naming that I am tired of waiting, and then extending grace to myself and others, goes a long way to getting past it.

The prophet Isaiah has something to say about waiting.  
*But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
 they shall run and not be weary,  
 they shall walk and not faint.*  
 -Isaiah 40:31

### **Council Highlights**

The Congregation Council met on February 18<sup>th</sup> with Dotti Ford presiding. At this meeting the council: Discussed updating the constitution and decided it would be best to wait until we have a new pastor. The Annual Meeting date was set for May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Worship will continue with in-person and live stream opportunities.



Groups are welcome to come back in groups of ten or less, without serving food or drink and following Covid safety rules. Easter worship will have two services, 8am & 10:30am. Updates of the 2021 expenses were reviewed and approved. Worship & Music would like to purchase two new portable mics. It was approved to have one mic be paid for out of the Choir fund and one from Christian Education Fund.

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

## **Serving Us in March**

<b>Readers</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
March 7	Cindy Sjoquist	No service
March 14	Nora Smith	No service
March 21	Doris Sundstrom	No service
March 28	Pam Durbin	No service
April 4 Easter	Judy Hammond	Connie Salmi

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**

Ruth Botbyl  
Donna Schlemmer

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## **Contact Us:**

### **First Lutheran Church**

1212 Minneapolis Ave.

Gladstone, MI 49837

906-428-4565

[www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org](http://www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org) or find us on facebook.com

### **Rev. Dennis Meyette, Pastor**

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### **Secretary: Reyna Rose**

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**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



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