

First Lutheran Church



I am a child of God - John 1:12

April 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

Worship – Please see enclosed schedule
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

April 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...



“An Angel in the form of a young man says, “Don’t be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. God has raised him to life, and he isn’t here. (Mark 16:6 CEV)”

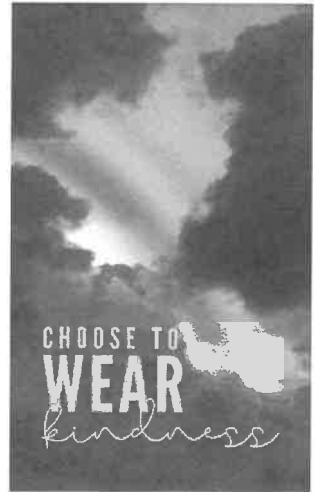


Our journey through Lent this year began with a smudge of ash on our foreheads as a memory that we are created from dust and will return to dust. That from death comes life is a concept that often goes over our heads. It’s an elusive concept that every human being struggles to understand... not only for today, but also in Jesus’ day.

Lent has always been a way for us to experience death. It’s a time of reflection and reduction. If you recall a year ago... we were only a couple of weeks into the season when the Corona Virus found its way into our world. A virus birthed in China and rapidly spreading all over the world. We were experiencing a variety of lockdowns and closures including worship and activities at First Lutheran. Furthermore, this virus still presents a problem for us a year later on a variety of levels as more and more people are becoming vaccinated. Over the past year... has certainly presented us with much disruption and heartache.

While some continue to experience a sense of anxiety and loss by social distancing, wearing masks, and isolating ourselves there is a sense where some normalcy is coming back to our lives. While the infectious rate continues to lower... we shouldn’t let our guards down. As Spring unfolds and renewal fills our lives for a promising year, this virus will still be with us in some form. So... we must be vigilant by continuing to be responsible and considerate to those who are still struggling. We must still Choose to Wear Kindness every day.

Mary Magdalene must have had a similar anxiety on that Easter weekend. She experiences a gruesome death of Jesus on Friday. She and others seclude themselves in locked houses. Three days later... she ventures out to the tomb, sees a young man sitting at the tomb of Jesus where he tells her... "Don't be Alarmed" as if she's not supposed to have some sort of anxiety. Isn't this just like us? We tend to form all kinds of anxieties and worries around many things in our lives. Usually, things we have little control over. The man tells her to go and tell Peter and all of her friends, as she can't believe Jesus isn't there. In fact... all of the disciples are stunned... even though Jesus told them what was going to happen. Jesus finally appears to Mary and the others and they believe. Easter has come... Jesus is Risen!



On the darkest of days, we found ourselves bewildered and beaten down. It is a place where we often cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel. We see a virus trampling the world and disrupting life in a variety of ways. Yet the light is present in the foreground. Yes... it maybe Friday... But Sunday's Coming. Why... We are Easter people. We believe in resurrection and redemption. We believe God works in the midst of tragedy for good. And... we know that good gets worked out through the Spirit of God, which is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, KINDNESS, Generosity, Faithfulness and Gentleness as Paul states in Gal.5.

Last year we spent the 40 days of Lent and Easter isolated from one another. This year... we are emerging and becoming renewed and energized for the future. A future where God is providing the necessary tools where we can gather and sing Hosanna... Alleluia... Christ has Risen... He has Risen Indeed...

My friends... We are Easter people... and Jesus walks with us on the dark roads of life... yet... Jesus continues to shine light on that road while we walk towards new life despite the challenges facing us in our lives today. *Don't be alarmed... God has raised Him to life!*

Blessings to you and your family this Easter season.

Pastor Name ☺

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

Upcoming Scripture Readings

April 4th – Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter
Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24,
Mark 16: 1-8



April 11th – Second Sunday of Easter
Acts: 4:32-35, Psalm 133, John 20:19-31

April 18th – Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, Luke 24:36-49

April 25th - Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, John 10:11-18

Worship Schedule

Fri.	April 2 nd	6:00 pm	Good Friday A service you will never forget @ Immanuel Lutheran
Sun.	April 4 th	8:00 am	Easter Sunday "The Redemption of the Covenant"
		10:30 am	Guest Pastor Ellie Russey
Sun.	April 11 th	10:30 am	Guest Pastor Ken Michaelis
Sun.	April 18 th	10:30 am	Guest Pastor Ken Michaelis
Sun.	April 25 th	10:30 am	Guest Pastor Jim Duehring

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.

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 2nd at 6:00pm



"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 4th
at
8:00 am & 10:30 am

Worship Notes

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

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.

Sewing Circle

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



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

Great News! Now during the worship service there is a Children's Sermon. Don't worry if you miss the service here at church or on line. We are now posting all Children's Sermons on our YouTube page. You have the choice to view the entire service or just the Children's Sermon.



A BIG thank you to Cindy Sjoquist and Amber Hess-Soderman for providing these educational messages. Education materials were sent to each child, in February, to continue their Christian Education, through May, at home.

Any families who are interested in having a half day of vacation bible school this summer, please call Amber Soderman at 763-213-3659 or the church office.

Annual Meeting



The Annual meeting has been scheduled *for Sunday, May 2nd at approximately 8:45am* 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.

If your committee has additional information, for the Annual Report since January 2021, please submit the information to the office no later than April 15th.

Call Committee

The Bishop provided a candidate whom was interviewed in March.

Myanmar Update:

Latest Myanmar Update and maybe the last for a while.

I talked with Isaac this morning (3-22) for a short time. We decided to end our contacts for a period of time. Right now, the Army has brought in Chinese cyber experts to establish a monitoring system for all out of country contacts. Some people have already been warned that because of what they have posted or transferred from within the country they have been "blacklisted" at the immigration station at the airport and will no longer be allowed into the country. To prevent me from being in that position I have stopped Facebook mini videos of encouragement and now will no longer contact people in Myanmar. This means very rare contact with Isaac, and discontinuing my classes for pastors. We will be in a sort of "blackout" time.

Some of the things to pray about until further notice:

1. To be on the streets is very dangerous. One can be indiscriminately shot or stopped by the army or police. If they check your phone and find any kind of suspicious information you could be arrested and imprisoned for three years. Should that happen, no one in your family will know about it. Many in prison are beaten to death and the family is then called to come and get the body. Why do I share this? Isaac spends as much as 4 to 5 hours a day looking for an ATM that has money in it. Sometimes he has to go to other parts of the city to try to find one. His safety is always at stake.
2. Since we run a print shop, we are always in danger of being found out and having the army come and destroy everything we have- machines, printed material like our Bibles, commentaries and books. They would then arrest some or most of the people working there and put them in prison.
3. Isaac and his family and other members of Rachel's family live in an apartment where there are two small bedrooms (10x10). With two small children they must find ways day in and day out to entertain them inside for fear of going out on the street. Now many are leaving the cities to go to states further out toward the borders where that may be safer. Isaac and Rachel need to make a decision to stay or go back to Kachin state where Rachel's parents live.
4. Support can still be sent to the Wells Fargo account for them to use for themselves and for the increasing IDPs (Internal Displaced People). Some of Isaac's relatives from his village in Chin state have run into the forests to escape the army.
5. During all this Rachel is now two months pregnant and has had to end her schooling due to the situation with the internet.
6. Pray for the killing to stop and for the elected government to be reestablished. Pray that these generals will be tried for inhuman behavior and that this will break the power of the army over the country.

You can try to keep up with circumstances there by googling the following:

The Irrawaddy- Myanmar Now- Al Jazeera- Mizzima Frontier Myanmar

Blessings, Len



Fortune Lake News

CAMP IS BACK AT FORTUNE LAKE IN 2021!

Youth who have completed grades 1-12 are eligible to participate in overnight camp. In addition to growing in their faith, campers will gain self-confidence, meet new friends, and make memories to last a lifetime!

Dates are filling up!

Visit www.fortunelake.org to register.

****First Lutheran has Camp Scholarships!!!****

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

As summer draws closer, Fortune Lake is asking for your help in fulfilling their Amazon Wishlist. All kinds of supplies are needed—including but not limited—to notebooks, crayons, and glue. These supplies will be used in Bible Studies and Cabin Times to help limit the sharing of materials during this time.



They're also looking for additional outdoor play equipment.

Take a look at their Wishlist and see if there's anything that you'd be interested in sending. www.fortunelake.org.

It's with help from wonderful people like you that they'll be able to have the best summer ever!

Stewardship

WEARY AND BURDENED

So, I'm sitting in my doctor's waiting room feeling sorry for myself and really down about a number of health issues that seem like they are ganging up on me. The answers to these problems are elusive and the whole diagnostic and treatment process is much more difficult and stressful than in my younger days. This is not news to many reading this, especially those of us considered part of the "silent generation".

This waiting room has a number of pictures on the walls and one caught my eye that read, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest". (Matthew 11:28). What a perfect biblical quote for that time and place. It's hard to imagine the number of people for whom this provided comfort and assurance yet, in that moment, it spoke only to me.

Shortly after arriving home that day, I got a note in the mail from our church's Welcome and Outreach Team offering me rest. This group speaks on behalf of all the good people at First Lutheran with words of hope and healing and prayers to those in need of rest.

All of us, at some time in our lives, are weary and burdened and desperately in need of rest. The mere act of turning to God in prayer and "coming to Jesus" can help us find a peaceful and restful place. Just us and God. However, God does God's work using our hands and, more often than we realize, brings us rest through the actions and stewardship of our family members, friends and neighbors.

The Spirit moves others around us to be faithful stewards and to use their gifts to reach out and touch our very souls when all seems lost.

This past year has been especially brutal and worrisome. We are all weary from worrying about our health and the welfare of those we hold

dear. This pandemic has put our stress levels on overdrive. We are, indeed, weary and heavy burdened and in need of rest.

There is good news in the quote I saw and, in the concern, and love shown by others around us. In spite of the troubles we bear, we will find rest when we come to God. It's also there for us as God works through the stewards in our lives. It's there in the phone call, the note of encouragement, the virtual hugs we get on our electronic devices and other expressions of love and concern from our neighbors. We all have gifts to share with one another. When we do, we see God at work, we give rest and we find peace.

In Christ,

Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

Special Giving Envelope

**This month's Special Giving will go towards
ELCA Synod Assembly Offering
Clergy Debt Relief/Seminary Support
Please help provide for our future Pastors.**



~ Faithful Stewardship ~

Last Month's Giving	Year-to-Date Giving	Year-to-Date Budget	Year-to-Date Over/(Under)
21,665.53	47,421.74	49,050.00	(1,628.26)
February: In house	8:00 am = 76	10:30 am = no service	
On Line Views	8:00 am = 469	10:30 am = no service	

As of February 28th, 2021

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!

Hope at The Inn

If you know of someone needing shelter assistance, please direct them to the Salvation Army at 786-0590.

We LOVE our Volunteers!

During the 2020-2021 season, 82 brave volunteers kept the shelter open despite Coronavirus.

Upcoming Events

Fundraisers:

Sort bottles & cans starting May 1
at Salvation Army, 3001 Fifth Ave. S., Escanaba

Elmer's Brat Sale on May 21, 2021

Happy Birthday to ...

Week 1:

Pat Casteel	Jade Graham	Ethan Rose
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Week 2:

Audrey Watson	Paula LaCrosse	Julia Olson
Jeff Tessmer	Werner Seawright	Avis Fairchild
Tammy Hanson	Gary Olson	Cooper Koski
Tanner Thorbahn	Diane Leach	Cole Tianen

Week 3:

Danny Stockham	Alex Williams	Tom Vermullen
Dragan Graham	Annette Seawright	

Week 4:

Marilyn Stade	Emily Tessmer	Rachel Coyne
Katharina Scholer	Wendy Bratonia	Bonnie Groh
Miles Skellenger		

Week 5:

Gerry Bovin	Paul Wedell Sr.	Dirk Manson
Jean Noskey	Pam Durbin	Kris McDonald
Olivia Nordin		

Happy Anniversary to ...

Lloyd & Mary Tuskan	57 years
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(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



Walk for Warmth

Thank you to all who gave donations for Walk for Warmth 2021 from our church family. I turned in \$665.00. All the money raised stays in Delta County and helps those who need help with heating costs. If you would still like to warm a heart and heat a home, you may send donations to Community Action Agency 507 1st Ave. N, Escanaba, MI 49829. Please make your check payable to MDSCAA Walk for Warmth-Delta. Nora



Council Highlights

The Congregation Council met on March 18th with Dotti Ford presiding. At this meeting the council: Decided the Annual meeting will meet in person (in the Sanctuary), with masks and social distancing, and via Zoom for those who wish to attend from home.

Lawn Care will be provided by Flinn's Flowers & Garden Center

Inc. Discussion was held on replacing the office furniture. The Office Planning Group of Iron Mountain will be contacted for consultation. Easter Sunday will have an 8:00 am and 10:30 service. The 2021 budget revisions were discussed and added to include a moving/call expense for the next pastor. Chuck Thomas will assist MEF Committee filtering out old unnecessary Mission Endowment Fund files



Funnies

From AARP Magazine

- "How much training do you need to become a trash collector, Gus?"
 "Well, Mike, not much. You pick it up as you go"

- "Hey Jack, I heard you have a good roof joke." "Nope, It's over your head"

- "When it's all over, you go to heaven and God says, 'What did you do?'
 "I made people laugh". God said "get in that REALLY SHORT LINE over there"

Submitted by Cindy Sjoquist

Serving Us in April

Readers	8:00 am	10:30 am
April 4 Easter	Chris Mineau	Connie Salmi
April 11	No Service	Erin Wickman
April 18	No Service	Laura Coleman
April 25	No Service	Sherri Ide

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

Sally Pouliot
 Lisa Thomas

Contact Us:

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Rev. Dennis Meyette, Pastor

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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

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Christ
Risen!