

First Lutheran Church



I am a child of God - John 1:12

May 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 – 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

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

What's Inside ...

From the Pastor	Page 1
Upcoming Scriptures	Page 3
Worship Schedule	Page 4
Annual Meeting	Page 5
Circle News	Page 5
Christian Ed & Committee News	Page 6
Fortune Lake & Hope at the Inn	Page 6
High School & College Graduates Notice	Page 7
Synod Assembly	Page 8
Special Giving Envelope	Page 8
Stewardship	Page 9
Faithful Stewardship	Page 10
Get Involved "Color Your Faith" Event	Page 10
Seminarian Support	Page 11
Gifts to the Congregation	Page 12
Birthday's & Anniversaries	Page 13
Homebound Members	Page 14
From the Bishop	Page 15
eGiving & Prayer Shawls	Page 16
Council Highlights	Page 17
Serving Us	Page 17
Contact Us	Page 18
Geranium Order Form	Page 19

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.



The Journey @ First Lutheran...



*"The Lord said: Forget what happened long ago! Don't think about the past. I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it?"
(Isa. 43:18-19 CEV)*



As I sit here on vacation, at a rental house in Port Charlotte Florida, in the middle of April, overlooking an inviting pool, while sipping a cool drink, contemplating the next chapter in my life... *i.e. Retirement...* My life is about to change, into what? I don't really know as of yet. As I write this Kathy and I are looking at homes (fixer upper types) in Florida as this is where we desire to spend our retirement years in winter. So... there will be some home projects to work on in the short term. Long term... I will probably do some interim/ transition work for the church along with some travel. We will see what God has in mind.

But... I must say... life change happens to all of us all the time. A big change came some 10 months ago when I came to First Lutheran as your Administrative Interim. I would be doing double duty with First and Immanuel as both were in the call process. We also, were in the middle of a pandemic and scrabbling as how to proceed. We rapidly put together a call team and got to work creating a congregational profile. The team did great work and finished at the end of September and we interviewed shortly after that. We were excited, but those candidates were not the candidates God wanted at First. So... we continued to move forward with online worship followed by in-person at 8am... then into our normal 8am & 10:30am worship as the pandemic lessened. As I write this letter... we are interviewing once again and discerning if this candidate is who God is choosing for First.

In the coming weeks and perhaps in the next 2-3 months... you will call a new pastoral leader to guide you into the future. Whoever the pastoral candidate is, should you choose her or him, and they accept, will place their Spirit-filled hands on the rudder and guide you forward. You are ready my friends... You can do this... You have a GREAT foundation below you...

passionate servants among you... Some gifted leaders to help lead you... You are poised to do some GREAT things for the kingdom of God.

Now... my work is nearly finished among you. There have been moments when I wished I was 10 years younger and open for a call. But... that is not what God has called me to do. There really has been no question that my life's work has been to help congregations peek into the future. To encourage and to develop new ways of ministry. To help congregations see and experience that God isn't finished with them yet. This work has been fulfilling and my calling from God even when I didn't know it. First Lutheran... you have what it takes to make an impact in the Gladstone community. If you're feeling a bit over-whelmed... you're in good company. All of Jesus' friends felt that too. Jesus told them... *"If you have faith in me (Jesus), I tell you for certain, you will do the things I am doing. In fact... you will do even greater things than I!" John 14:11-12.*

To do the greater things of God in the future... you will need to as Isaiah states... *"Forget what happened long ago! Don't think about the past. I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it?" (Isa. 43:18-19 CEV)* Look for what God is doing in the present. Take some risks... have a spiritual entrepreneurship among you... experiment... trust that God has your back and you will move the mountains of ministry forward.

My friends... We are Easter people... the tomb is empty... Jesus continues to shine light on the road while we walk towards new life despite the challenges facing our lives today. I will say Goodbye on Sunday May 30, then slide into retirement. All of you have been a wonderful group of folks to work with and I pray whoever your next pastoral leader is God will bless your ministry together.

Blessings to you and your families and Thank You for allowing me to serve with you.

Pastor Dennis



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

Upcoming Scripture Readings



May 2nd – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21,
John 15:1-8

May 9th – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

May 16th – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

May 23rd - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34,35b, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27;
16:4b-15

May 30th – The Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8: 12-17, John 3:1-17

~~~ Geraniums for Pentecost ~~~

The liturgical color for Pentecost is red, and we have a wonderful tradition here at First of filling the sanctuary with red geraniums on Pentecost Sunday.

This year Pentecost is on May 23rd. We are again getting the plants from Chenier's Greenhouse. The cost is \$ 4.00 for each geranium. Order form is at the end of the newsletter or pick up in the narthex

Worship Schedule

Sunday May 2 nd	8:00 am Pastor Dennis Meyette 10:30 am Pastor Jim Duehring
Sunday May 9 th	8:00 am Pastor Dennis Meyette 10:30 am Pastor Ken Michaelis
Sunday May 16 th	8:00 am Pastor Dennis Meyette 10:30 am Lisa Bouche
Sunday May 23 rd	8:00 am Pastor Dennis Meyette 10:30 am Pastor Ken Michaelis
Sunday May 30 th	8:00 am Pastor Dennis Meyette 10:30 am Bishop Katherine Finnegan

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.

Worship Notes

Summer worship service will be at 9:00 AM
June, July & August



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is this coming Sunday, May 2nd after the 8:00am service.

You can participate in person OR



- Watch the live stream on YouTube the same way you watch a worship service or,
- Connect through Zoom on your compute, tablet, or telephone (if you know how to do that).

According to our constitution only those physically present can vote, but you can follow the discussion on either YouTube or Zoom and you can ask questions if you connect through Zoom.

Please contact the church office with your email address if you wish to attend the annual meeting via Zoom. A Zoom link and instructions for joining the meeting will be emailed to you.

Bible Study

Has resumed its regularly scheduled meetings on Wednesday's at 9:30 am in the Youth Room.

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.

Sewing Circle

The sewing circle ministry can always use gently used sheets, pillow cases, towels, 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

Confirmation is scheduled for May 23rd at the 8:00 a.m. service.
Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for May 23rd at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Call Committee

The call committee is currently interviewing a new candidate.

Fortune Lake News

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Fortune Lake is seeking volunteers to prepare the site for a fantastic summer. They need help to clean, rake, chop and hammer; those with specific skills, and those with willing hands; 5-year-old stick picker-uppers and 85-year-old painters.



Although they will not be hosting a large Work Bee this spring, they welcome individual and small groups.

Registration and full payment for Bible Camp is June 1st. Fees go up after June 1st. Spaces are still available.

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

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

Hope at The Inn

Mark your calendars for Hope at the Inn's **Brat Sale, May 21st** at Elmer's County Market. Monies raised will go towards covering expenses, transportation, beds, totes, etc.

Grace and Peace, Rhonda Husbye and Pat Casteel

*Hey! Class of 2021
High School & College Graduates*



Congratulations on your upcoming graduation. We would like to hear about your future plans and publish your photo in next month's newsletter. Please submit your Senior photo and post-graduation plans to the church office by email or drop into the mail slot.

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

By May 18th

Please send photos as an attachment to your email to office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org.

Thank you.



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021

The 2021 Synod Assembly is entirely virtual!

May 10-15, 2021.

Visitors are more than welcome at all of the Synod Assembly events. You do not need to register this year and links to participate in the workshops and observe the business meeting will be available on the Northern Great Lakes website.

Special Giving Envelope

This month's Special Giving will go towards
Technology Development Fund

Please help provide funds to Technology Development Fund and help support upgrades made to our microphones, costs of the Claris Tablet subscriptions, and future developments.



Stewardship

THE BEST AND WORST OF TIMES

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times....." Even those of us who have not read, *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, probably recognize hearing this part of the book's opening paragraph.

Perhaps the Covid 19 virus pandemic does not qualify as the "worst" of times, but it has to be a top contender. It is certainly a HUGE stretch to characterize 2020 and, so far, 2021 as having much good about it much less the "best" of times. Each of us have our own, unique "best" of times and "worst" of times during our lifetime. These are deeply personal times, but are also imbedded within the best and worst of those with whom we are connected and in community.

Just as the virus has brought differing degrees of hardship into our lives, it has been a DARK time. We each see more or less hope and light at the end of this dark tunnel depending upon our circumstances and our relationship with Christ. God's light is always there and bright and will help us find our way as we respond to God's unconditional grace and love.

The pandemic, conversely, has brought out the "best" in people. The list is long. The unprecedented development of a safe and effective vaccine over such a short period time, the hands of the heroic medical "saints" who put themselves in great jeopardy holding the hands of the sick and dying when nobody else could, those who transported the necessities of life and those who stocked the store shelves and we all could add to the list.

If there is any "best" to be found in this virus, it's the love, care and support that we and our neighbors have shared during this "worst" time. We have reached out and have been faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. We have "seized" the moment and creatively found ways to act out our love for our neighbors. I'm convinced that, absent the pandemic, we would not have found the "best" in ourselves and would have missed the chance to be better witnesses to the light of Christ. The search to stay connected and be in community continues.

A couple of other “bests” that have come out of our struggle with this new reality are the realizations that we have been blessed with so many gifts that we have taken for granted and an awareness of how much God wants us to be connected and in community.

Bottom line, the light of Christ is always there no matter how dark things get. We just have to open ourselves up to “see Jesus”. Borrowing from the Sunday, April 11 devotion from “Christ in our Home” ...” we experience for ourselves the risen Jesus in the love we give each other, in forgiving and being forgiven, in the kindness and compassion of listening and supporting and in the prayers and support that help a community of faith move from mourning to rejoicing, from Good Friday to Easter Sunday.”

In Christ,
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

~ Faithful Stewardship ~

Last Month's Giving	Year-to-Date Giving	Year-to-Date Budget	Year-to-Date Over/(Under)
21,162.01	68,583.75	70,850.00	(2,266.25)
March: In house	8:00 am = 101	10:30 am = no service	
On Line Views	8:00 am = 287	10:30 am = no service	

As of March 31st, 2021

Get Involved

First Lutheran has been invited to join Bethany Kids Connect in an exciting and colorful fundraising even! Run or walk

your way through color stations hosted by our local churches and finish the race with a fun color toss at Bethany! All proceeds benefit the Tri-County Safe Harbor. There are several ways to get involved. See the poster on the bulletin board in the narthex for more information.

“Color Your Faith”

Seminarian Support

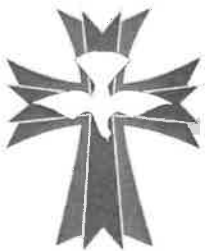
“They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom and tell of thy power.” Psalm 145:11

In the Jewish Talmud there is a legend about a king and his jester. According to the legend, the king once gave his jester the order to go out and buy the very best thing in the world. Two days later the jester returned with a very unusual purchase. He unwrapped his package and held a tongue before the king. The king said “That was very wisely chosen. Truly the tongue is the very best thing in the world.” Now go and buy the worst thing in the world.”

The jester took four days this time as though his search was far more difficult. He returned with another package. The king watched every movement as he unwrapped the package. What could the Jester bring as the symbol of the worst thing in all the world??? Finally, the king saw the contents. It was another tongue! Then the jester said “THIS YOUR MAJESTY IS THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD, OR THE WORST: IT DEPENDS ON HOW IT IS USED!”

We are bombarded with news in our world today and, unfortunately, much of it is vitriolic, vicious and hateful. The tongue can, indeed, be the source of both the very best and the very worst thing in the world!

Thus, the need is desperate for people, especially pastors, to speak the good news of Jesus Christ to a hurting world on the verge of destruction in so many ways. Who among us will come forth to “Speak the glory of the kingdom and tell of God’s power” in a world desperately in need of the good news of the gospel??



Dale Skogman, on behalf of Seminary Support at First Lutheran

Gifts to the Congregation have been given...

In Memory of *Lillian Strom*

For Sewing

Genevieve Morley
Kraig & Amy Dyer
Sally Pouliot
Nora Smith
Gary & Mary Bjorkquist
Rick & Paula LaCrosse
Ray & Pam Chouinard
Tom & Dotti Ford
Dave & Vicki Ottensman
Lloyd & Mary Tuskan

Karen Moberg
Scott & Jane Smith
Cindy Sjoquist
William & Kathy Shine
Gary & Judy Larson
Marlene Hongisto
Al & Dolly Salmi
Steve Bolek & Ann Christiansen
Duane & Nancy Bovin
Wayne & Vickie Marshall

For World Relief

Ellen Swenson
Dirk and Sue Manson

For Seminary/Intern Support

Dale & Jo Skogman

In Memory of *Carol Wyatt*

For Sewing
Cindy Sjoquist

Thank You to all those who have donated
Thrivent Choice Dollars to First Lutheran Church.

Thank You

Dear First Lutheran Family,

Thank you for your caring expression of sympathy and prayers during the past month with the passing of our mother, Rita Phalen.

With Heartfelt Appreciation,
Vicki Ottensman and Family

Happy Birthday to ...

Week 1:

Donna Schlemmer	Keegan Kossow
Christopher Carter	Janet Gustafson
Carol Seeley	Ronald Larson



Week 2:

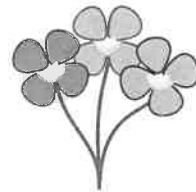
David Lehtinen	Gen Morley	Ray Miller
Misty Gerow	Regan Salo	Gary Larson
Pam Chouinard		

Week 3:

Truett Elegeert	Kraig Dyer	Betty Palmquist
Ruthann Skellenger	Brian Botruff	Mya Nivison

Week 4:

Lynn Thomas	Bruce Movalson	Gloria Kanerva
Wayne Marshall	Paulette Larson-Pepin	Adelle Seawright
Anita Stockham	Lloyd Tuskan	Cindy Sjoquist
Mary Herro	Kristin Bourdeau	Aaron Steinhoff



Happy Anniversary to ...

Scott & Tammy Hanson	2 years
Chris & Suzanne Dahlke	9 years
Bey & Pam Brown	19 years
Dale & Leah Hongisto	29 years
James & Darla Pardon	32 years
Mack & Kristine McDonald	41 years
Bill & Kathy Shine	56 years
Charlie & Geri George	59 years
John & Jean Noskey	67 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
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

Paul Wedell is currently living in Suamico, Wisconsin with his daughter.
Please contact the church office if you wish to send a greeting.



From the Bishop

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

~Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

We all have been making plans; plans to re-open, plans to re-engage in-person congregational life, plans for the welfare of all and not for harm, plans for a future with hope.

It is no easy thing, as you well know, to make plans and adjust, and think through so many details and decisions. Yet it seems we cannot avoid the challenges of our times.

As governors and health departments continue to proclaim edicts and advice, I have found the following to be helpful:

1. Efforts for in-person gathering should still prioritize creating a safe space for the most vulnerable. Both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated alike need to feel safe and welcomed.
2. Consider the metrics given for bars and restaurants, currently at 50%. While our buildings are not bars or restaurants, they vary in size and capacity. Following a percentage, rather than a flat amount, makes more sense for our worship spaces.
3. Be aware of the rising or falling numbers of COVID cases and ICU capacity in your community and act accordingly. [This helpful tool](#) to assess your local level of risk has been added to the homepage of our [synod website](#) in the section "Meeting the Challenges of COVID-19."

Pandemic fatigue is a real thing, and we are all tired. Soon and very soon we will turn a corner. I believe every one of our NGLS congregations has been diligent and mindful, and pastoral leaders and councils have considered together what is best. Thank you for your faithful attention to safety, to staying connected, and to encouraging each other.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Katherine Finegan
Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

eGiving

HELP US GROW THOURGH EGIVING

Electronic giving is a convenient, easy way to support First Lutheran Church.

By Giving electronically, you can:

- ❖ Give anywhere, anytime from your computer, smartphone or tablet.
- ❖ Donate to one of our special project funds.
- ❖ Set up recurring payments and never worry about bringing your checkbook, cash or envelope again.



Get started today! Visit our donations page to set up your online contribution: www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org



Prayer Shawls are available upon request to members and non-members who have a special need or have reached a special life milestone. This could be an illness, physical, emotional or spiritual pain; a trial or difficult situation. Shawls may also be given for milestone events such as birthdays, graduations, and anniversaries.

A prayer shawl is knitted or crocheted, in a shape something like a stole. The person making the shawl, as each link is created, lifts up a prayer for the person who will receive the shawl. As the shawl is held or worn, the recipient, when feeling the links, will be reminded that prayers have been lifted up on his or her behalf.

Council Highlights

The Congregation Council met on March 15th with Dotti Ford presiding. At this meeting the council: Decided to place an ad in the new Chamber Guide with the church’s information. Discussed pulpit supply for July and August. Talked about new furniture for the office. Since COVID is on the rise again, they decided groups shall remain 10 or less and food service is not permitted. They also decide on a retirement gift for Pastor Dennis Meyette as he retires on May 31st. Dirk Manson agreed to be the 2nd representative at the Synod Assembly event.



The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on Thursday, May 20th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Serving Us in May

Readers	8:00 am	10:30 am
May 2	Wayne Marshall	Dirk Manson
May 9	Ellen Swenson	Andy Nelson
May 16	Dale Schlemmer	Sue Manson
May 23	Nora Smith	Jolane Nelson
May 31	Doris Sundstrom	Carolyn Nelson

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 and 10:30 am. The live stream will be available at that time and will remain online for later viewing.

Altar Guild

- Sherri Ide
- Sue Manson
- Tiffany Olsick

Contact Us:

First Lutheran Church

1212 Minneapolis Ave.

Gladstone, MI 49837

906-428-4565

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

Geraniums for Pentecost

The Liturgical color for Pentecost is red, and we have a wonderful tradition here at First of filling the sanctuary with red geraniums on Pentecost Sunday.



This year Pentecost is on May 23rd. We are again getting the plants from Chenier's Greenhouse. The cost is **\$4.00** for each geranium. Please fill out this form and return it (with your payment) to the office by **Wednesday, May 19th**. No phone orders can be accepted.

Plants can be taken home following the 10:30 a.m. service on May 23rd.

For Spirit filled moments in my life, I wish to purchase:

_____ red geraniums for Sunday, May 23rd.

_____ x \$4.00 = _____

Name: _____