

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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](https://www.facebook.com)

## ~ FEBRUARY 2018 ~

**Sunday** – Worship – 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM  
Christian Education – 9:15 AM

**Wednesday** – Bible Study – 9:30 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

**Tom W. Otis, Pastor**

[pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)

## WHAT'S INSIDE ...

Pastor's Pen	Page 2
Annual Meeting Announcement	Page 4
Upcoming Scriptures	Page 4
Lenten Worship	Page 5
Christian Education News	Page 5
Afterschool	Page 6
MARKED! Event	Page 6
Not Lock-In	Page 7
Tubing Party	Page 7
World Hunger	Page 8
Fortune Lake News	Page 9
Tried-n-True	Page 9
Circle News	Page 10
Soup and Sewing	Page 10
Salvation Army Lunch	Page 11
Special Giving	Page 11
Stewardship	Page 12
Thank Yous	Page 13
Gifts to Our Congregation	Page 16
Birthdays and Anniversaries	Page 17
Hope at the Inn	Page 17
Walk for Warmth	Page 18
Council Highlights	Page 18
Contact Us	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.



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

**LENT IS UPON US ALREADY?**

February is coming FAST with a "Flurry" of events!

February 4<sup>th</sup> – **Annual Meeting**

February 11<sup>th</sup> – **Special Guest Brenda Smith** – Morning Worship

February 14<sup>th</sup> – **Ash Wednesday Worship** – 7:00 p.m.

February 21<sup>st</sup> – **First Soup Supper and Lenten Worship** – 6:00 p.m.

And that is not all. We will be hosting about 100 youth on February 25<sup>th</sup> for the Synod "Marked" event, Special Youth and Sunday school events and more. Because there is so much and I don't want anyone to miss it, I want to keep my article for this month to short comments about each activity and hope that you come and see.

February 4<sup>th</sup> – **Annual Meeting**

I hope you will take time to read the reports in the annual meeting packet. In many ways we are in a very strong and healthy position. Poised for growth? Poised to go in new directions? Poised for the Holy Spirit to take hold of us. In various reports you will see that we are starting to explore how we should focus the resources that God has blessed us with for our future. You are an essential part of that future. I hope you come.

February 11<sup>th</sup> – **Special Guest Brenda Smith**

Pastor Smith oversees the development of faith formation for the ELCA and works out of the National Offices in Chicago. I want to be open to the possibility that her expertise and wisdom will help us be open to what is ahead.



February 14<sup>th</sup> – **Ash Wednesday Worship** – 7:00 p.m.

I hate to break the news to anyone who might not know, but Ash Wednesday is more important in the life of following Jesus than St. Valentine's Day. That is why we had the Pink and Heartsie party a few days earlier. This day is about preparing our hearts to let Jesus form us into something more.

February 21<sup>st</sup> – **First Soup Supper and Lenten Worship** – 6:00 p.m.

Sign-ups will be out and confirmation families will help serve. I hope you look forward to these gatherings as much as I do.

**Lenten Theme and Worship** – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

This year I want to keep things simple. Rather than creating a devotional for the season, I want to encourage you to use the "Christ in Our Home" pocket devotionals available in the church entryway. Themes for our Wednesday worship will be drawn from this devotional as well. We will gather for a short worship that will include prayers, the scripture from the devotion for that day, reflection on the question of the day and then three songs: one old standard, one contemporary, and one camp song.

To my way of thinking we are having a real winter this year and the best remedy for cold is warmth. So get ready for a February of being together in the Warmth of the Holy Spirit in our midst. May we feel that spirit and let it bring us joy.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Otis

### **Save the Date...**

The youth preparing to go to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston are planning an **Appreciation Dinner** to say thank you for your support. At this time there are plans for someone to watch the children so moms and dads can eat a quiet meal together. This dinner, originally scheduled for February 11, has been rescheduled for **April 22**.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
has been scheduled for **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**  
following the 10:30 AM worship service.  
A light lunch will be served.



### UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

**February 4** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11,20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

**February 11** – Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

**February 18** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 14:32-52

**February 25** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 14:53-65

**LENTEN WORSHIP**

**Ash Wednesday, February 14 –**  
7:00 pm Worship

**Wednesdays in Lent –**  
6:00 pm Soup Supper \*\*  
7:00 pm Lenten Worship



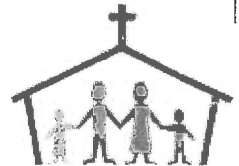
\*\* If you are able to provide soup, bread or dessert for our Soup Suppers, please sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

**JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!**

**Sunday School –** for ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Sundays at 9:15 am

**Confirmation –** for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades  
Sundays at 9:15 am and Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

**Bible Study –**  
Wednesdays at 9:30 am



Continuing through February 14 ...

## The Wednesday Afterschool Bible Experience

3:45 – 5:00 PM  
for kids in Kindergarten  
through 5<sup>th</sup> grade



Join us for sharing, songs, skits, snacks and games.

**\*\*If school is cancelled, Afterschool is cancelled\*\***

### MARKED! EVENT

First Lutheran will be hosting a Northern Great Lakes Synod Marked! event (for Confirmation students and leaders) on Sunday, February 25.

The youth will be collecting items for their local school backpack programs and the congregation is invited to donate the following items:

- Mac and cheese cups
- Ramen noodles
- Chef Boyardee products
- Peanut butter
- Granola bars
- Popcorn
- Applesauce or fruit cups (metal, not plastic)
- Snack sandwich crackers (cheese or peanut butter)
- Individual cereal portions (oatmeal packets or cold cereal cups)



**\*\*\* Items can be placed in the large blue box in the narthex \*\*\***

## NOT a LOCK-IN!

**Who:** Youth in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades

**When:** Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
5:00 – 8:00 pm

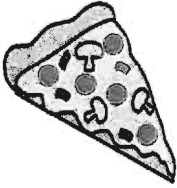
**What:** Pizza!

Games and prizes!!

Nerf war!!!

Making tie blankets for the

Delta County Foster Closet!!!!



## TUBING PARTY!!

This is a MULTI-CONGREGATION EVENT!

**When:** Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

**Where:** Gladstone Sports Park, 1200 N Bluff Dr., Gladstone

**Cost:** \$3 per person / \$10 per family



Dress warm! See you there!!

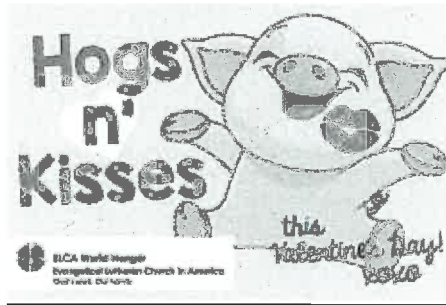


## **SEND HOGS 'N KISSES THIS VALENTINE'S DAY**

We are selling valentine grams and coloring pages for your loved ones on the table in the narthex.

Please consider donating by selecting a valentine gram in someone's honor. We also have coloring pages that children can color and give as a valentine.

Put your check or cash in the box on the table in the narthex. Suggested donation for purchasing a pig is \$30, bees \$20 or a fruit tree for \$10. Any amount of donation is greatly appreciated. All money goes to World Hunger to help make a difference in people's lives.



## **QUARTERS FOR WORLD HUNGER**

Lent is quickly approaching, which is the time of year we begin collecting our quarters for World Hunger. We made over our goal last year for our quarters at the Synod Assembly. This year we hope to do at least as much, if not more. I need suggestions as to what Pastor would have to do if we raise over \$2000. He has kissed a pig, eaten pickled pigs' feet and headcheese. Please let Ann Christiansen know your suggestions for this year. Let's begin saving up to make this a banner year. Thank you for your generous support of this worthy cause. There are still many hungry people in the world!

**Summer camp registration is now open!!!**  
Register by March 1<sup>st</sup> for an early-bird discount.

For more information on Fortune Lake see the bulletin board in the fellowship hall, go to [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org) or check out Fortune Lake on Facebook.



All seniors, those 55 years young and older, are invited ...

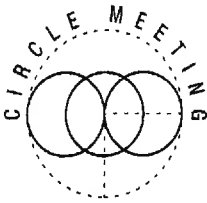
**TRIED-N-TRUE**  
Luncheon and Program



**Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**at Noon**

All First Lutheran seniors and friends are welcome.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the church office (428-4565) to **RSVP by Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.**



**GRACE CIRCLE**

Grace Circle will meet at Fairview Manor at 2:00 pm on Thursday, February 8, 2018. Pastor Tom will join us for a message and the celebration of Holy Communion. Nora Smith will lead the Bible study written by Max Lucado from Colossians 1:1 -8 titled "Faith, Hope and Love". Audrey Ansell will serve as hostess. Guests are always welcome. If a ride is needed, please call the church office at 428-4565.

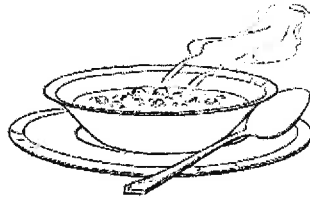
Women of the E.L.C.A. invites you to attend their February event ...

**--- SOUP AND SEWING ---**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

**9:00 AM** --- the day begins

**10:00 AM** --- coffee fellowship



**NOON** --- soup luncheon (Gail McEachern is our soup-maker)

Come for all or part of the day and check out the many ways you can be a part of this outreach ministry. The Square Ladies, friends from St. Vincent de Paul and pastors will join us.

Sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex if you will be there for lunch.

A short program about Lutheran World Relief will follow lunch.

An offering will be taken to support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

**See you there. Bring a friend!**

## **SALVATION ARMY LUNCHEON**

First Lutheran Church will serve lunch at the Salvation Army on **Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at noon**. Please check the bulletin board in the narthex for ways to help.

- Food prep.....no date and time yet.....check the Sunday bulletin or talk to Nora Smith
- Monetary donations
- Workers on February 17 from 11:00 am until about 1:30 pm

If you have questions, please speak to Nora (786-5231). First Lutheran Church will serve again on April 14.

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## **ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild will meet on **Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm** with Pastor Otis. If you are interested in joining in this essential ministry please call Pam Durbin at 428-4429.

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## **SPECIAL GIVING ENVELOPE**

This month's Special Giving Envelope is designated for Fortune Lake Camperships. Your generous support will enable more of our youth to grow their faith at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp this summer.

Thank you!



## **STEWARDSHIP EVERYWHERE**

One of the blessings that has accrued to me over the past 20+ years of writing about stewardship for our newsletter is a keener awareness of what it looks like. The privilege of getting to write about it, on a regular basis, carries the responsibility of recognizing it when I see it and sharing that awareness with others – otherwise, why bother?



What has worked for me is being intentional about keeping my eyes and ears open looking for stewardship within our faith community and outside the church's four walls. Hopefully, with practice, one develops a greater sensitivity to identifying acts of stewardship and holding them up to the light for all to see.

One thing I have learned is that there is stewardship everywhere. It permeates our lives and brings new meaning to the well worn phrase, "God's work, our hands". This is really a shorthand way to say, "God's work, our time" or "God's work, our talent" or "God's work, our treasure".

So whenever we see someone giving of their time or using their skills and abilities (talent) or contributing money (treasure) to help others, we are witnessing stewardship. Many, many times we see our fellow Christians giving ALL of these gifts at the same time – sort of stewardship on steroids!

Why is recognizing stewardship important and why is it important to hold it up for all to see? I would contend that good stewards are witnessing to God's love with each act of sharing. When we are more aware of stewardship all around us we see God's love everywhere. When we see Christ's love everywhere we are motivated to follow God's example and look for ways to use our hands to do God's work more often and in new venues.

The Holy Spirit is at work within and among us as we share the many gifts Christ has entrusted to us, especially in communion with one another.

If we pay attention and keep our antennas tuned, we will pick up those sometimes subtle acts of stewardship happening everywhere in our lives. We are blessed with many gifts. They are all around us just waiting to be shared.

Blessed and In Christ,  
Dirk Manson  
Stewardship Chair

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... to those who helped with the January Messenger; Mary Bjorkquist, Carol Ebbesen, Judy Hammond, Chris Johnson and Paula LaCrosse. As always, your help is very much appreciated!

Many thanks to Margie Movalson, Paula LaCrosse, and Geri and Charlie George, for the January Tried-n-True meal.

~

Thank you so much to the serving group members who took time in preparing and serving our family and friends upon the conclusion of Norm Boutillier's funeral services. Thank you also to the many members who donated the delicious food items. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are forever in our hearts.

Love,  
Sandy, Brenda, Lori, Gina and Penny

Thank you so much to everyone who dropped off goodies and good wishes for the staff over the Christmas season. They were very much appreciated.

Pastor Otis, Roxanne, Dave, Kris and Lisa

~

THANK YOU to anyone who took part in the 2017 Christmas Day dinner at the Methodist Church. The homemade pies and rolls were delicious and volunteers who cut up the turkeys, did set-up and food prep, take-outs and delivered to home-bound, served and cleaned up on Christmas Day were cheerful and hard-working. Over 350 meals were enjoyed. A little less than last year. Leftovers were shared with the Salvation Army and Hope at the Inn. Sign-up sheets recorded 78 volunteers on Christmas Day and 54 volunteers on the 23rd and I'm sure there were those who didn't sign a sheet! Many hands make lighter work. Three people applied for and received Thrivent Action Team funds, a big help with expenses. A special note of gratitude to Dennis and Diane Hanson for donating 150 pounds of potatoes. Working together with other churches in our community is wonderful and blessed by God's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Your time, talents and prayers were greatly appreciated.

Just planting a seed for you to consider, I'd like to step aside and have someone from First serve on the planning committee next year.  
Nora Smith

~

A big, big thank you to the folks of First Lutheran Church for hosting the January meeting of Synod Council. Council members felt very welcomed and cared for while meeting here on Friday and Saturday. Special thanks to the folks who prepared and served the amazing meals and snacks: Geri and Charlie George, Sheri Makowski, Connie and Rob Salmi, and Nora Smith.

~

Dear Friends,

When hurricanes ripped through the Caribbean and Southeastern United states and destroyed homes, churches and livelihoods, you

acted quickly. You reached out with kindness and generosity to give a gift that will change lives ...

Powerful winds caused widespread damage, but an equally powerful, compassionate response is bringing people and resources together on the long road to recovery. Your gift makes you a part of God's restorative work after these storms. Thank you!

In Christ,  
Carol Jackson-Skelton  
ELCA Mission Advancement

~

Dear Friends at First Lutheran,

On behalf of the planning team for Gladstone's Community Christmas Dinner, I write to thank you for the many ways you supported this year's event. The many volunteers and bakers from your church were great! Together we served about 400 meals and enjoyed the support of about 80 volunteers.

The biggest blessing of the day is the joy in working ecumenically to spread the reality of Christ's love for all.

Thank you for your part in this ministry!

Sincerely,  
Alice Butch, Planning Team

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## **PROJECT C.A.R.E. SOUP SUPPER**

*(Community Awareness Reaching Everyone)*

**Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 – 6:30 PM**

at the Community of Christ Church



**On February 5<sup>th</sup>, First Lutheran is helping with the Monday night soup supper at Community of Christ Church by donating the bars and cookies, making sandwiches and serving soup and cleaning up. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the narthex.**



*Gifts to our congregation have been given ...*

In loving memory of **Norman Boutilier**  
for Sewing by Judy and Gary Larson  
Cheryl and Bruce Dykes  
for Backpacks by Pat Hewitt  
for Seminarian Support by Sally Pouliot  
for Senior Ministries by Nancy and Duane Bovin  
for Mission Endowment by Jennifer and Ed Walker  
for the Memorial Fund by Nancy and William Adams  
Mary and Gary Bjorkquist  
Sue and Dirk Manson  
Gail and Dutch McEachern  
Vicki and Dave Ottensman  
Dolly and Al Salmi  
Jo and Dale Skogman  
Kathy and Bill Shine  
Nora Smith  
Carol Wyatt



In loving memory of **David Helman**  
for Sewing by Pat Hewitt

In loving memory of **Carol Anderson Nelson** and  
**Charlotte Nelson Melby**  
for the Memorial Fund by Hilda Rohr

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...**

2/2	Jesse Olsick	2/16	Finlee Carter
	Sarah Soderman		Dennis Severisen
2/3	Joe Durbin	2/18	Braidyn Miron
2/5	Violet Smith	2/19	Andrew Hanson
2/6	Amy Miron	2/20	Michael Coyne
2/7	Steve Chouinard	2/21	Alyssa Ellison
	Deegan Miron		Wanda Kloet
	Jack Soderman	2/24	Emma Verbeek
2/11	David Nivison	2/26	Betty Setter
	Sophia Smith	2/27	Ed Walker
2/12	Gabby Movalson	2/28	Don Erickson
2/14	Fred Sundstrom		William Olsick
2/15	Violet Christiansen	2/29	Duane Rajala
	Lori Marmalick		

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...**

2/2	Barbara & Dennis Filizetti	2/14	Mary & Gary Bjorkquist
2/8	Dianne & Dave Lahtinen		Carol & Steve Kocsis

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

**HOPE AT THE INN**

Many thanks to everyone who helped out with Hope at the Inn in early January. The guests truly appreciate a warm meal and a soft bed. Our next week to host will be April 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this area-wide ministry there are training sessions scheduled for Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at noon at Memorial United Methodist in Gladstone and Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at Christ the King in Escanaba.

You can contact our Congregation Coordinators, Pat Casteel or Rhonda Husbye, with any questions.



## **COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY - WALK FOR WARMTH**

**Saturday, February 24, 2018**

**Registration: 9:00 to 10:00 am**

**Walk: Begins at 10:00 am.**

Route begins at the Elks Lodge and proceeds down Ludington Street to 14<sup>th</sup> Street and ends with a return to the Elks.

Pledge sheets are available at church. No amount is too small and every dollar raised will be used for heat assistance in Delta County.

Jack Soderman and Nora Smith have decided to walk, please support them! Or walk yourself!

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## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

The Congregation Council met on January 18<sup>th</sup> with President Marshall Seawright presiding. At this meeting the council ...

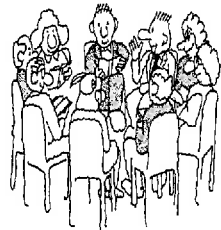
Learned that Pastor would like his "summer class" to be three weeks studying The Great Emergence and three weeks of Leadership Training ...

Agreed that Mary Bjorkquist, Mary Herro and Sherri Ide should continue as members of the Audit Committee ...

Voted to purchase a new wheelchair for use in the church ...

Approved a new pew card designed for visitor use ...

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.



**CONTACT US:**

**First Lutheran Church**

1212 Minneapolis Ave.

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906-428-4565

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

**Rev. Tom Otis, Pastor**

[pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)

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Cell Phone: 280-9997

**Office Manager:** Lisa Zuehlke

[office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)

**Secretary:** Roxanne Spencer

[office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)

**Director of Music:** Kris McDonald

**Musicians:** Kris McDonald, Olivia Wery, Nancy Norberg, Lori Anderson

**Christian Ed Coordinators:** Amber Hess-Soderman and Deb Koski

**Custodian:** Dave Strom

**Congregation Council:**

Marshall Seawright, President

Jeff Gudwer, Vice President

Dotti Ford, Secretary

Bill Ehrhardt, Treasurer

Judy Haulotte

Amber Hess-Soderman

Cooper Koski

Dirk Manson

Carolyn Nelson

Dan Strom

Doris Sundstrom

Karleen Thorbahn

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



## Serving Us in February

Date	Time	Greeters	Readers	Acolytes	Communion
Feb 4	8:00	TBA	Nora Smith	Billy Ray R	Judy Hammond
	10:30	TBA	Bruce Movolson	Gus S	Pam Bialik Lynn Thomas
Feb 11	8:00	TBA	Doris Sundstrom	Andrew H	Julie Sanville
	10:30	TBA	Dick Feehan	Werner S	Ann Christiansen Jane Coyne-Smith
Feb 18	8:00	TBA	Judy Hammond	Maci M	Cooper Koski
	10:30	TBA	Sherri Ide	Gus S	Kathy Gudwer Jacob Siedlecki
Feb 25	8:00	TBA	Ellen Swenson	Aaron S	Dotti Ford
	10:30	TBA	Pam Durbin	Thade M	Erin Wickman Chuck Thomas

**Ushers 8:00:** Don Seeley, Dennis Hanson

**Altar Guild:** Lori Marmalick, Amy Miron, Carol Knauf

**10:30:** Joe Durbin, Dewey Farchild

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