

# 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)

~ MARCH 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)

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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 YEAR WITH LUTHER

10:30 a.m. SUNDAY, March 18<sup>th</sup> –  
**Luther: The Rock Opera**



Since September we have been learning songs and doing skits and watching videos in preparation for presenting the story of Martin Luther. You will be happy to know that we have edited it down from the full Opera as it was presented in Minneapolis – St. Paul and in Wittenburg, Germany. On Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> we will be sharing with you what the children and youth have learned this year about the birth of the Protestant Reformation and about Luther himself. With the help of the adult choir and the praise ensemble we will tell the story in a combination of contemporary songs and skits.

Now the truth: I didn't want to do this project. I thought maybe a mention of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fabled "Nailing of the 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenburg Chapel" would suffice. Oh, and perhaps a showing of Rick Steves' "Tour of Luther Sites" from PBS. But then we had a visit from the Pastor who creates my confirmation material and everything changed. He had written this material and this Rock Opera about Luther to teach about coming to faith. The material has been unorthodox and a bit of a stretch for our Sunday school teachers. Sadly, we had one family that wasn't ready for quite that much creativity and has moved to another church. I want to commend Amber, Reyna, Deb, and Amelia. Those who have stuck with it have learned a great deal. I have learned a great deal as well; especially about trusting the instincts of my teachers. I have come to believe that what they did is very important. Why?

We are at another Luther moment, that's why. It seems that our culture has to go through growing pains every 500 years or so. A time when the world changes so fast you can't even recognize it. In his writing and speaking Luther ended the medieval culture of Europe and

gave birth to our modern world of democracy and public education and religious freedom and much more.

Like in Luther's time our culture is moving faster than we can keep up. For Luther it was the printing press. In our time it is the Internet and computer and tablet and smart phone. People are tossing out things that don't seem to have relevance to their lives left and right. Some are lost in their newfound freedom and, just as in Luther's time, they are throwing out really important stuff that they will come to miss.

It's time to keep what's important to you. That is why this project has become important to me. Revisiting the Reformation and its turmoil has helped me to begin to sort things out.

How do you figure out what's important? In the year 51 A.D., the church in Corinth was completely disoriented by all the possibilities that their new Christian Faith was giving them. What traditions were they to keep? What was no longer of any value? Paul taught them that though their world was changing rapidly that, "in the mean time, abide (that means dwell on) these three things: Faith, Hope, and Love, but the greatest of these is Love."

The Faith may look different in the years ahead. It will still be a gift of Grace from God. God is clinging to you in love and hope and trust.

Together we will learn how it is we cling to God in trust and hope and love. That is why we gather. Quite literally, that is what we are here for. So join us for a different kind of Luther celebration on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. "For we are saved by grace through faith, and this is not our own doing, it is a gift of God."

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Otis

## UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **March 4** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Mark 14:66-72

### **March 11** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; Mark 15:1-20

### **March 18** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

### **March 25** – Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 15:21-39

## LENTEN WORSHIP

### **Wednesdays in Lent** –

6:00 pm – Soup Supper (*If you are able to provide soup, bread or dessert please sign-up on the bulletin board .*)

6:45 pm – Lenten Worship

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

### **Palm Sunday, March 25**

8:00 am – Worship

10:30 am – Worship

### **Maundy Thursday, March 29**

7:00 pm – Worship

### **Good Friday, March 30**

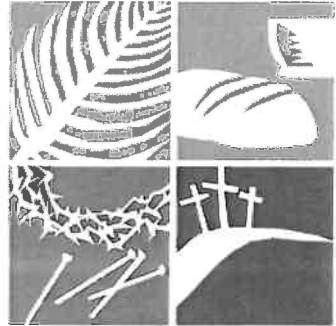
7:00 pm – Community Worship at First Lutheran

### **Easter Sunday, April 1**

8:00 am – Worship

9:15 am – Easter Breakfast (*Please sign-up on the bulletin board if you can help.*)

10:30 am – Worship



### QUARTERS FOR WORLD HUNGER

Please pick up your piggy bank in the narthex on your way out of church. We are raising money for our Synod Assembly donation to 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



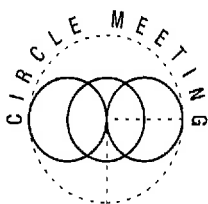
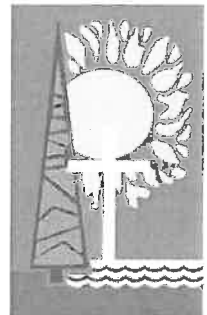
\$2000. He has kissed a pig, eaten pickled pigs' feet and headcheese. Please let Ann Christiansen know your suggestions for this year. Let's begin saving up to make this a banner year. Thank you for your generous support of this worthy cause. There are still many hungry people in the world!

### FORTUNE LAKE NEWS

Summer Camp Registration is now open online!

**First Lutheran provides "camperships" of \$195 per camper (\$95 for mini-camp) – stop by the office for an application.**

Go to [fortunelake.org](http://fortunelake.org) for more information or to sign-up today.



### GRACE CIRCLE

Grace Circle will meet at Bayview Manor at 2:00 pm on Thursday, March 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 1:9-14 titled "Praying with Power". Patricia Hewitt 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. will host the



**Tried-n-True Luncheon and Program:**

Music by "Mood Swings"  
with Kris, Laurie and Loni

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

All men and women 55 years and older are invited for a meal, devotions and a program. WELCA will provide the meal and dessert free of charge. A free-will offering in support of women's ministries will be taken after the program.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or by calling the church office by Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.

**SALVATION ARMY LUNCHEON**

Thank you to all who helped in any way as we served a Saturday luncheon at the Salvation Army on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The menu was cream of tomato soup, crackers, grilled ham and cheese sandwiches, carrots and dip, fresh fruit cups, valentine cookies, juice, milk, and coffee.

Those who helped .....

food prep ..... Connie Salmi, Geri George and Nora Smith

monetary donations ..... Pat Hewitt, Laila Whitfield, Connie Salmi and Nora Smith

workers on Saturday ..... Dewey & Avis Fairchild, Raino & Maxine Maki and Nora Smith

We served 35 guests plus kitchen crew. Leftovers were brought back to church and used at the first Wednesday soup supper.

## I LOVE YOU

Who in this world doesn't want to hear those three powerful words, "I love you"? They are truly magical and carry the power to change everything. God (Christ) starts it all by saying "I love you" to each and every one of us. We are freed to respond by saying, "I love you" to God AND to our neighbors. The mere utterance of those words is not enough unless we breathe life into that love through action. While love is certainly a feeling and an emotion, it remains unfulfilled without action.



So, if God showers us with unconditional love and grace (and God does!) we must take action in response to those undeserved gifts. One action we need to take is to pray – often and boldly. Beyond prayer, though, our best response is to love ourselves and our neighbors.

**ENTER STEWARDSHIP.** We need to manage all those blessings we have been given (better, still, entrusted with) by **DOING SOMETHING** that expresses that love.

If we are intentional and work hard showing love through action, we act as witnesses to God's love. If our neighbors see God's love manifested through us they will love themselves more and respond in kind. **THINK OF THE RIPPLE EFFECT!!**

Love is as love does. It's a true action verb. Stewardship gives legs to our love and is everything we do with everything we have. Everything we have comes from God – just God's way of saying "I love you". The ball is now in our court.

Loved by God,  
Dirk Manson  
Stewardship Chair



## SEMINARIAN SUPPORT

*"You are my witnesses says the Lord and the servant  
whom I have chosen." Isaiah 43:10a*

In Guideposts magazine Joann Jones writes: "During my second year of nursing school our professor gave us a pop quiz. I breezed through the questions until I read the last one: 'What is the name of the woman who cleans the school?'

Surely this was some kind of joke! I had seen the cleaning woman several times, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank.

Before the class ended, one student asked if the question would count toward our grade. "Absolutely," the professor said. "In your careers you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say hello."

Over a period of years this column has solicited people to pursue ordained ministry with good success at First Lutheran. Since we no longer have anyone in seminary, I recently asked the Church Council if we should continue these newsletter articles and their response was a resounding "Yes!" We need to continue to encourage people to pursue ordained ministry and at the current time a task force is considering branching out into another dimension of pastoral training as we explore becoming an Internship site.

It is important to encourage people to consider professional ministry but, at the same time, we must remind ourselves that all of us are called to be God's witnesses! We can be witnesses to:

- The visitor who comes to worship at First Lutheran.
- The person sitting next to us on the plane, bus, train, etc.
- The clerk at the grocery store.
- The cleaning lady in the hotel.
- The distant relative at the family reunion.

- The family in the campsite next to us.
- The waitress in the restaurant.
- The neighbor children playing next door.

We will continue to encourage persons to pursue ordained ministry as seminarians and, possibly as interns, but in the meantime, let us remember that God says to all of us "YOU are my witnesses."

Dale Skogman on Behalf of Seminarian Support

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### **SPECIAL GIVING ENVELOPE**

This month's special giving envelope will go to Seminarian Support. Please help provide for future First Lutheran seminarians.



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... to those who helped with the February Messenger; Mary Bjorkquist, Carol Ebbesen, Avis Fairchild, Judy Hammond, Judy Haulotte and Paula LaCrosse.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Many thanks to Paul Hammond and the kitchen crew for the February Tried-n-True meal.

~

Thanks for all the get-well cards, calls, visits and to Pastor Tom for communion at home and prayers from the congregation and friends.

February 22 and 23 should be the end of this set of infusions. Sometime later they will do a CAT scan to check on the progress.

With love,  
Paul Wedell

Dear friends at First Lutheran, Gladstone,

On behalf of Bishop Finegan and the whole Synod Council we want to thank you for your wonderful hospitality in hosting Synod Council.

Our meeting room worked well and the two meals you served us were outstanding! Thank you for your kindness and support of the work of your synod.

God's peace,  
Jim Duehring  
Assistant to the Bishop

~

Thank you to the many people that helped with the CARE Soup Supper. Karleen, Ryan, Trevor and Tanner Thorbahn, Barb Ball, Charlie and Geri George, Rob and Connie Salmi, Sally Strom, Pat Hewitt, Mary Herro, Chris Smauley and Joan Dekeyser.

Take outs are welcome starting at 4:30 and the next supper is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. All proceeds go to our Gladstone St. Vincent's for community help.

~

Thank you to all who took part in our Souper-Bowl. The Patriots got \$7, the Eagles \$56.91 and Other Favorite raised \$118.50. All proceeds will go to World Hunger. I am still looking for ideas on what we will have Pastor do if we raise over \$2000. Let me know your suggestions.

Thanks,  
Ann Christiansen

~

Thank you from Jack Soderman and Nora Smith for all the support received for their Walk for Warmth on Saturday, February 24th. They turned in \$1,874. Wow!

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### **JUST A REMINDER ...**

**Daylight Savings Time** begins on **Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 AM.

Remember to set your clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...**

3/1	Jeanne Hoegh	3/20	Tim Wickman
	Tiffany Olsick	3/21	Diane Hanson
	Mary Tuskan		Taylor Trudeau
3/3	Easton Groleau		Dorothy Westerback
3/4	Rachel Soderman	3/22	Jeremy Menard
	Jeannie Spaulding	3/23	Anne Movolson
3/5	Rhonda Husbye		Arla Pearson
	Agnes Johnson	3/24	Joyce Creten
3/7	Stacie Carter		Vicki Ottensman
3/9	Tom Otis	3/25	Mack McDonald
3/10	Jamie Siedlecki	3/26	Leah Hanson
3/13	Audra Steinhoff	3/27	Sophie Scholer
3/16	Jenna Steinhoff		Clarabelle Oney
3/17	Chris Johnson	3/28	Jeff Gudwer
	Savanna Sovey	3/29	Abigail Claes
3/18	Maxine Maki		

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...**

3/2	Susan & Michael Snowaert
3/21	Betty & Harvey Setter



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

**FROM THE BISHOP**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It used to be that Palm Sunday was a day of celebration. The better part of the worship service was hosannas and palm branches waving. Children and adults looked forward to this upbeat worship, especially after 40 days of somber, penitential Lent. And the service acted as a sort of reprieve, before the intensity of Holy Week began.

But then, attendance during the Great Three Days began to decline. Maybe Holy Week was too intense for some. Maybe it was too sad. Maybe these three days somehow were no longer given the focus and attention due them as the central worship of our faith.

Whatever the reason, missing Holy Week meant that folks were experiencing the “happy happy joy joy” of Palm Sunday and then leaping over Holy Week to the “happy happy joy joy” of Easter Sunday. They would completely skip over death, and suffering, and sadness. They would miss the betrayal, the last supper, the crucifixion of Jesus.

And I guess, who can blame folks for wanting to avoid all that grim darkness. We would much rather celebrate and be joyful than sad and somber.

But worship that only considers the happy hosannas and the empty tomb misses the whole point of Christ on the cross and the sin of the world that put him there. There is value in looking at the death of Jesus, in pondering his suffering, and in dwelling on his last hours of life.

Because you know and I know that life is not all “happy happy joy joy.” To worship in Lent, and to dive in to Holy Week is to admit the truth to ourselves, no matter how unpleasant – that life can be hard, and death can be harder. We live in the shadow and fear of death. We suffer. We sin. We die. And we need saving.

So I am glad that our Lutheran tradition dwells in the darkness, if only for a little while. It is good that our worship reflects the truth of life and the truth of our faith. Constant joy is not the way things are. And worship that only celebrates feeling good, soon seems hollow, no matter how upbeat the music.

So during Lent and Holy Week we take the time to consider the suffering and death of Jesus. During these 40 days, we sit in the knowledge of our sinfulness and consider our need for God.

And we take this time, not so that we feel condemned and sad, but because death is the only way to new life.

Jumping from Palm Sunday to Easter is like jumping from fall to spring with no winter. Fall and winter are necessary before spring can come. And Jesus must suffer death before he can rise again. There is no resurrection without the crucifixion. There is no rising without dying. Easter joy is real when we admit that death is real. We receive the freedom of forgiveness with relief and gladness if first we understand our need for God's grace.

So Palm Sunday is now Passion Sunday and our hosannas quickly fade. During Holy Week, we will pause in Jesus' final hours and give them their due. In our Lutheran tradition there is no escaping the sacrifice and death of Christ.

But then neither do we miss the new life of resurrection and the fullness of Easter joy... in this life, nor in the life to come.



–Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

### **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

The Congregation Council met on February 8<sup>th</sup> with President Marshall Seawright presiding. At this meeting the council ...

Reviewed the council covenant and introduced new council members ...

Elected officers for 2018: President – Marshall Seawright,  
Vice-President – Jeff Gudwer, Secretary – Doris Sundstrom, Treasurer – Bill Ehrhardt ...

Recommended the church picnic be held on August 12 ...

Heard that the Internship Site Task Force met and that their discussion led to the conclusion that First Lutheran may not be in a position to host an intern until overall staffing issues are addressed ...

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

**EASTER FLOWERS**

If you would like to provide flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one for Easter, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office by **Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**. All flowers must be delivered to the church on **Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** between **9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**



\_\_\_\_\_ I will provide flowers (**NO LILIES or TULIPS!**) to be delivered on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. *I will take the flowers after worship.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I will provide flowers (**NO LILIES or TULIPS!**) to be delivered. on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. *The flowers will be distributed by the Altar Guild.*

In memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT US:**

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[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)

Office: 428-4565

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, Lori Anderson

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

**Custodian:** Dave Strom

**Congregation Council:**

Marshall Seawright, President

Jeff Gudwer, Vice President

Doris Sundstrom, Secretary

Bill Ehrhardt, Treasurer

George Botbyl

Dotti Ford

Kathy Gobert

Judy Haulotte

Amber Hess-Soderman

Cooper Koski

Dirk Manson

Karleen Thorbahn

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





## Serving Us in March

Date	Time	Greeters	Reader	Acolytes	Communion
Mar 4	8:00	TBD	Cooper Koski	Nick S	Judy Hammond
	10:30	TBD	Carolyn Nelson	Sam O	Pam Bialik Lynn Thomas
Mar 11	8:00	TBD	Lori Shea	John R	Sally Pouliot
	10:30	TBD	Al Salmi	Danny K	Ann Christiansen Carol Kosci
Mar 18	8:00	TBD	Nora Smith	Billy Ray R	Cooper Koski
	10:30	TBD	Connie Salmi	Trevor T	Jacob Siedlecki Erin Wickman
Mar 25	8:00	TBD	Doris Sundstrom	Andrew H	Nora Smith
	10:30	TBD	Carol Koscis	Vera R	Kathy Gudwer Ann Christiansen
Mar 29 Maundy Thurs	7:00 pm	TBD	Dirk Manson	Austin B	Ann Christiansen
Mar 30 Good Friday	7:00 pm	TBD	No Reader	Thade M	No Communion

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

**Altar Guild:** Geri George, Judy Hammond

**10:30:** 3/4-Marshall Seawright & Tim Rybicki, 3/11-3/30-Everett Robinson & TBD

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