

# 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)

~ **APRIL 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)

April 2018

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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.

## EASTER BREAKFAST AND FOOD FOR THE POOR

### EASTER BREAKFAST, Sunday, April 1, 9:15 a.m. ...

On Easter Morning, between services we will have an Easter Breakfast. It takes me back. I remember being at these events through my youth. Memories at 5 or 6 wearing stiff, shiny, new black shoes that gave me blisters; a stiff collar that scratched; a tiny suit coat that made it impossible to run and play. Memories at 14 of running the dishwasher and being all steamy-sweaty. On the whole, good memories that said this is not an ordinary day. I wonder: Do we still make the effort to come? Do we bring our children and grandchildren? Are we building memories for them? I hope so.



I am not sure I can say that the message of an empty tomb, a resurrected Lord and Life eternal had really sunk in. Worship seemed longer than usual, like a day frozen in time. Not an ordinary day. It was a break in time. Somehow the wall between normal and mystery, between humdrum and holy had been broken. Was it the full sanctuary, the new clothes, the perfumes and aftershaves mixing in the air, the organ playing loud the brass? I do not know. But it hung there as different. Are we allowing different for the next generation?

The food fare was orange juice and coffee, varieties of coffee cakes, Danish and all manner of sweet concoctions, some fruit (usually mixed fruit in heavy syrup), egg dishes and if we were really lucky bacon or sausage. Food was always a part of the festivities as it is in all cultures. And this got me to thinking about how Easter might be different in other places. One of our midweek Lenten devotions was about a visit to sister congregations in Tanzania. How the food was a banquet on the first day and began to dwindle each day after that. How the visit was impacting that small rural congregation and their meager resources. Yet celebrating their oneness in Christ and their hope in Christ was worth it to them.

### ... AND FOOD FOR THE POOR, Sunday, April 15

On April 15, the third Sunday of Easter, we will have a guest from an organization called Food for the Poor. It is an organization which was born out of the devastation of the earthquake in Haiti. Pastor Berger's information appears somewhere else in this newsletter and will be a part of an insert in coming weeks. His visit is a reminder of many things.

That there are fellow Christians and more specifically fellow Lutheran Christians whose Easter Breakfast is far more meager, but whose Easter Hope may be far greater than ours.

It is also a reminder that we do not have to take on the whole world but can pick one or two places to focus our efforts. These folks have decided to dig in and help in Haiti as others do in other parts of the world.

My hopes in this visit are two-fold. That we are truly thankful for the opportunities and memories of this Easter season for us and for our families. And to think that the resurrection life may lead us to find our one place we wish to dig in and serve.

In the name of our risen Lord,  
Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Otis



**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES START WITH**  
**HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS**

**Wednesday April 25, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Escanaba**

You know how important it is to me that we can speak directly and honestly to one another. It is important in a world where no one listens well, that the church is a place where we listen and hear one another.

Ramie Bakken comes to us from the ELCA with expertise to talk about how we can create better and healthier communications in our congregations and as a result in our lives and in our communities. We will gather with leaders of several congregations. Imagine what it would mean if we could begin to show our community leaders, our politicians, our neighbors how we can still talk to one another, still solve problems together, still care for one another.

I want to encourage you to come to this event. I believe that modeling healthy communications is a gift that the church can give the world, but it requires you to come and join us. Pastor Ramie uses some of the best materials available today. If you are tired of hearing me talk about this topic, come and listen to someone new.

The world needs the Good News of Jesus Christ now more than ever. Help us learn how to share it.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Otis

## **A CONVERSATION ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER**

### **When We Say All Are Welcome Do We Mean All Are Welcome?**

There are no limits to God's Love. Because of human sin, there are limits to our love. We are called to reach beyond our sinful nature to love as Jesus loved, to welcome as Jesus welcomed. At our council special training event we learned that this takes work. We believe that we are prepared to do this work. On **Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm to 5:00pm** we are going to have a conversation. We will use the "Thriving in Change" model for how to hold difficult conversations about things that matter.

Given this history of respecting the conscience of others, our church, the ELCA, decided at its 2009 General Assembly that there are four viewpoints which the church supports as valid and faithful based on scripture, tradition, and reason. In other words, there are four different positions this church recognizes that, with conviction and integrity, a faithful person could hold.

These positions could be briefly summarized as follows:

- 1• Same-gender sexual behavior is sinful, contrary to biblical teaching, and contrary to natural law. Therefore, same-gender sexual behavior carries the grave danger of unrepentant sin and those engaged in this behavior best serve the neighbor and the community by repenting for that behavior and turning to a celibate lifestyle.
- 2• Homosexual behavior, even within a lifelong, monogamous, homosexual relationship, reflects a broken world in which some relationships do not pattern themselves after the creation God intended. Even though such relationships may be lived out with mutuality and care, they do not serve the well-being of the neighbor or community, and, therefore, should not be publicly recognized as traditional marriage.
- 3• Because the scriptural witness does not address the context of sexual orientation and lifelong loving and committed relationships

that we experience today, the neighbor and community are best served when same-gender relationships are honored and held to high standards and public accountability. However, these relationships should not be equated with marriage. Congregations and pastors should provide community support and pastoral care and may wish to surround lifelong, monogamous relationships or covenant unions with prayer.

4• The scriptural witness does not address the context of sexual orientation and committed relationships that we experience today. The neighbor and community are best served when same-gender relationships are lived out with lifelong and monogamous commitments that are held to the same rigorous standards, sexual ethics, and status as heterosexual marriage.

*[Note that these positions say nothing about the ordination or the calling of a pastor. Regarding calling a pastor who is homosexual or married to someone of the same gender: the ELCA, per our constitution, leaves the final decision about which person to call as pastor to the congregation.]*

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, I want to be clear about what we are and what we are NOT. We are NOT promoting an agenda of any kind in relation to your position on this issue. We seek respectful and productive conversations around this topic. Because the Supreme Court of the United States decided that same sex marriages must be recognized, we need to reflect and come up with a mature response. What welcome do we want to extend as a congregation? Are we mature enough to have a majority decision that differs from our own personal position and still consider this our church home? That is to say if I hold the second or third position stated above, can I participate in a church that decides to hold position four? I think the answer is yes but it requires listening, speaking frankly without malice and a true care for those who are here. I invite you to join us in this conversation.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Otis

## UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **April 1** – Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

### **April 8** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1 - 2:2; John 20:19-31

### **April 15** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

### **April 22** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

### **April 29** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

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## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

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

7:00 pm – Worship with Holy Communion

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

7:00 pm – Community Worship at First Lutheran

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

8:00 am – Worship with Holy Communion

9:15 am – Easter Breakfast

10:30 am – Worship with Holy Communion





## **FOOD FOR THE POOR**

Please join us on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> to hear The Rev. Robert Lee Berger speak at our worship services about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Pastor Berger will share personal witness about Food for the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.



The Reverend Robert Lee Berger was ordained June 15, 1969 in St. Paul Lutheran Church, Reading, Ohio. Since August 2011, after more than 40 years serving in ELCA parishes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida, he has been privileged to be a speaker for Food for the Poor.

Pastor Bob lives in Orange City, Florida with his wife Connie. They have two grown and married daughters, also living in Florida, with five marvelous grandchildren.

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## **QUARTERS FOR WORLD HUNGER**

A great big thank you to Fred and Doris Sundstrom for coming up with the idea of Pastor eating pig hocks if we raise the \$2000 for the quarters for world hunger. They also have put forth a challenge to everyone to give \$20 over and above the money they put in the piggy banks. This could be a record year for the donation we bring to Synod Assembly. Thanks to all who participate in this worthy cause. There are still many hungry people in the world.

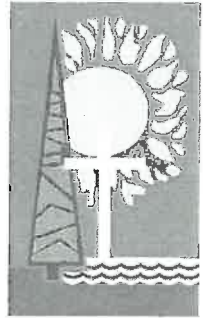


## **FORTUNE LAKE NEWS**

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.



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## **SALVATION ARMY LUNCHEON**

First Lutheran Church will serve lunch at the Salvation Army on Saturday, April 14th at noon. Please check the bulletin board in the narthex for ways to help.

- \* Food prep ..... Friday, April 13th at 10:00 am
- \* Monetary donations
- \* Workers on Saturday, April 14th from 11:00 am until about 1:30 pm



If you have questions, please speak to Nora Smith (786-5231).

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## **SPECIAL GIVING ENVELOPE**

This month's special giving envelope will support our youth attending the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston in June. Please give generously and help our youth grow their faith at what can be a life-changing event. Thank you.

All men and women 55 years and older are invited ...

## TRIED-N-TRUE

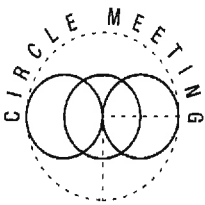


**Natalie Patterson, Director**  
**Jennifer Pastorick, Program Manager**  
**BAY PINES CENTER**

**Luncheon and Program**

**Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**at Noon**

Please sign up on the bulletin board in  
the narthex by Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> if you  
plan to attend.



### **GRACE CIRCLE**

Grace Circle will meet at Fairview Manor at 2:00 pm on Thursday, April 12th. 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". Nora will serve as hostess. Guests are always welcome. If a ride is needed, please call the church office at 428-4565.

## **WELCA NEWS**

Thank you to all who took part in the "Young at Heart" luncheon and program hosted by the Women of the E.L.C.A. that took place on Friday, March 16th at noon.

Pam Chouinard for making a delicious luncheon, desserts made by Pam and Doris Sundstrom, serving and clean up Pam, Doris, Geri George, Mary Tuskan and Nora Smith.

Special music shared by Kris McDonald, Charlie George, Dirk Manson and whistle blower, Barbara Ball.

The free-will offering will be used by WELCA for an outreach ministry.

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The Women of the E.L.C.A. executive board will hold their next planning meeting at the church on Monday, April 2nd at 7:00 pm.

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## **UPCOMING EVENT**

We are looking for those interested in participating ...

*Mother, Daughter and Friend Event, May 3<sup>rd</sup>*

Presenting a fashion show of past weddings and proms.

We are looking for those interested in sharing their:

- Wedding dress
- Mother of Groom
- Mother of Bride
- Prom

Interested in modeling? Interested in sharing your dress for someone else to model?

Please let me know.

Thank you to all those willing to join in the fun.

Pam Chouinard 906-280-2918

The Women of the E.L.C.A. and friends will meet on

**Thursday, April 5, 2018**  
**7:00 p.m.**

***"Four Seasons – Sharing Your Memories"***

Families and friends share memories all the time; "Do you remember when...". This night is set aside to share: childhood, young wife/mom, church ladies group memories and much more.

Tell a story, read a children's book, or just sit back and enjoy what others are sharing.

Bring memorabilia to display...

- Toys
- Dishes
- Books
- Pictures
- Clothing

Sharing memories is not only a good way to reminisce but it is also a way to share your story with a new generation.



Hostesses will be members of Faith Circle.

Bring a friend!

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### **ATTENTION ALL ELMER'S SHOPPERS!**

Elmer's County Market is giving you the opportunity to donate your unused Elmer's Rewards Points to First Lutheran. All you need to do is pick up a **Community Care Donation Card** from the church office, then, whenever you have accumulated at least 500 Rewards Points the cashier can scan your Donation Card and transfer the points to First Lutheran. This is an easy fundraiser for the church (we've already earned \$200 in gift cards!) and it's also a way to use points that would otherwise go to waste. Thank you!

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### **USHERS NEEDED!!!**

Ushers are needed for our 10:30 AM worship service. You can serve for a week at a time (or for an entire month!).

Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the office if you are able to help. Thank you!

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### **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](mailto:office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)) or Pastor Tom (428-4565, 280-9997, [pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)). 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 Tom, or send us an e-mail. Thank you for your assistance!

## THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE

Those of us who are old enough to remember award shows on TV can probably recall the words, “the envelope, please”. The emcee would say these words toward the end of the program and the envelope would usually be delivered by an attractive, young woman. In the envelope would be the name of the person who won the award or title just waiting to be announced. DRUM ROLL...., SUSPENSE, and then, THE WINNER!



As the winner appeared, it was not uncommon to hear some biographical information about that person highlighting aspects of their journey to this place and time. A backstory, if you will.

In our church life we, too, have our envelopes. We have our regular giving envelopes with special observances like Christmas, Lent and Easter. The envelopes I would like to focus on here are those included in our monthly newsletters. Usually each month features a different “cause” or ministry in need of our financial support.

Unlike the envelope containing the name of a winner, these have the name of the recipient right on the outside (think H.A.T.I., Salvation Army, Fortune Lake, hunger projects, etc. etc.....). No drum rolls, no suspense!!

They do have one thing in common. Just like the backstory of every person whose name is in the winner envelope, each of these envelopes has its own backstory. Each ministry shown on these envelopes has a rich history and a vision for tomorrow. Realizing those visions requires resources.

I have the bad habit of setting aside these appeals to think about contributing and soon have several of them accumulated. When this happens it gets a little overwhelming and my interest and focus wane. Often I procrastinate again and wind up with an even bigger pile without giving each ministry its due consideration. Sound familiar?

Truth be told, each ministry deserves support and procrastinating exacerbates the situation by putting these worthy ministries in competition in the "I'll get to it someday" pile.

It's unrealistic to expect that everyone can or even will want to support all these ministries, or even most of them, but it is reasonable to try a couple of things:

1. Try to imagine the "backstory" of each ministry and what vision it has for itself. Imagine how your contribution translates into constructive action.
2. Try to consider supporting in a timely fashion one ministry at a time.

God has blessed all of us abundantly. Luke 12:48 says, "...from everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded".

God has high expectations for us. Should we expect less of ourselves? I expect I will always fall short, but trying harder to do better is well within my grasp. How about you?

In Christ,  
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair



... to those who helped with the March Messenger; Mary Bjorkquist, Avis Fairchild, Judy Hammond, Judy Haulotte, Chris Johnson and Carol Wedell.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Many thanks to WELCA and friends for the March Tried-n-True meal and program.



Dear Friends at First Lutheran,

Thanks so very much for hosting the "MARKED" Synod Youth Event on February 25. It was a successful event with over 60 youth and adults participating. Your "kitchen crew" did a great job feeding us and Pastor Otis and Amber were so helpful. Thanks for being partners in our synod's ministries!

Pastor Jim Duehring on behalf of  
the Synod Youth Committee



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Many thanks to the First Lutheran Men's Dartball Team  
for their generous donation to the Coffee Fund.

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Received by the Mission Endowment Fund ...

Thank you for your gift to support the mission of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp of \$5,600.00.

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is a partner and an extension of your congregation's mission and ministry. Your expression of this partnership through this gift strengthens our mutual ministry and our partnership...

Together in Christ,  
Sara Jonasen  
Interim Camp Director

Thank you for your very generous gift of \$600! Your support will assist LOPPW (Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin) to work with young people to help strengthen their path as Christians and their ability to lift their voices in support of justice ...

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Cindy Crane  
Director

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...**

4/1 Pat Casteel  
 4/2 Ethan Rose  
 4/3 Audrey Strom  
 4/4 Paula LaCrosse  
 4/5 Julie Olson  
 Werner Seawright  
 4/6 Avis Fairchild  
 4/8 Cooper Koski  
 Gary Olson  
 Tanner Thorbahn  
 4/10 Diane Leach  
 4/11 Danny Stockham  
 Alex Williams  
 4/14 Annette Seawright  
 4/15 Helen Ann Williams

4/20 Marilyn Stade  
 Emily Tessmer  
 4/22 Rachel Coyne  
 Katharina Scholer  
 4/23 Wendy Bratonia  
 4/25 Gerry Bovin  
 Paul Wedell  
 4/26 Dirk Manson  
 Betsy Perry  
 4/28 Arabella Roman  
 Lila Roman  
 4/29 Pam Durbin  
 Jean Noskey  
 4/30 Kris McDonald  
 Dan Strom

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...**

4/23 Mary & Lloyd Tuskan



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

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

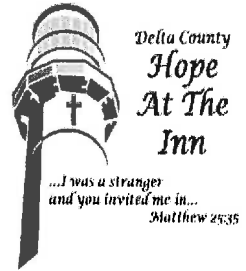


In loving memory of "Doc" Hirn  
 for the choir by Jo and Dale Skogman

## **HOPE AT THE INN**

We are hosting HOPE AT THE INN April 8<sup>th</sup> thru April 14<sup>th</sup>.

To volunteer for a shift please sign up at [www.hopeattheinn.org](http://www.hopeattheinn.org) and click on Volunteer for a Shift on the left hand side of the page. If you need help signing up please call the church office and we can assist you.



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## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

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

Approved the following students for Confirmation: Andrew Hanson, Thade Myers, William Olsick, Nick Siedlecki, and Aaron Steinhoff ...

Learned that Reyna Rose has been hired as the new office secretary ...

Decided to participate in a one-time St. Vincent de Paul food bag collection ...

Referred to the Property Committee the idea of replacing our current sign with an electronic one ...

In April, in lieu of a regular meeting, the Council will attend the Healthy Congregations workshop on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> at Immanuel, Escanaba. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.



**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:** Reyna Rose

[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 April

| Date   | Time  | Greeters  | Readers        | Acolytes    | Communion                                     |
|--------|-------|---|----------------|-------------|---|
| Apr 1  | 8:00  | Trudy & Ray Brandt<br>Doris & Fred Sundstrom    | Judy Hammond   | Maci M      | Sally Pouliot<br>Julie Sanville               |
|        | 10:30 | Rose Family                                     | John Thomas    | Gus S       | Jane Coyne-Smith, Dirk<br>Manson, Lynn Thomas |
| Apr 8  | 8:00  | Gail & Dutch McEachern<br>Ellen Swenson         | Ellen Swenson  | Aaron S     | Dotti Ford                                    |
|        | 10:30 | Connie & Rob Salmi<br>Dolly & Al Salmi          | Dolly Salmi    | Carter S    | Chuck Thomas<br>Erin Wickman                  |
| Apr 15 | 8:00  | Maxine & Raino Maki<br>Nora Smith               | Chris Mireau   | Nick S      | Cooper Koski                                  |
|        | 10:30 | Ruth & George Botbyl<br>Ira Goetsch, Barb Karas | Matt Swanson   | Braden S    | Pam Bialik<br>Carol Kocsis                    |
| Apr 22 | 8:00  | Judy Hammond<br>Vicki & Dave Ottensman          | Julie Sanville | John R      | Judy Hammond                                  |
|        | 10:30 | Mary & Lloyd Tuskan                             | Sue Manson     | Rylee G     | Jane Coyne-Smith<br>TBD                       |
| Apr 29 | 8:00  | Donna & Dale Schlemmer<br>Nora Smith            | Cooper Koski   | Billy Ray R | Dale Schlemmer                                |
|        | 10:30 | Barb & Tom Tauzer                               | Cindy Sjoquist | Werner S    | Jo Skogman<br>Jacob Siedlecki                 |

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

**10:30:** TBD

**Altar Guild:** Ruth Botbyl, Lisa Thomas

First Lutheran Church  
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