

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1212 Minneapolis Ave.
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-428-4565

www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org
office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org
or check us out on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

~ **MAY 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

May 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.

FOUR SUNDAYS IN MAY

FOUR SPECIAL EVENTS TO CELEBRATE VOCATION

It was very important to Martin Luther for Christians to understand that each of us has many vocations, many things that we are called to do. We believe that God calls us to be parents, or teachers, or truck drivers or police officers or pastors or many different things all at the same time. Through the Holy Spirit and the specific talents we have each been given, we serve God and God's world even when we are not aware of it. Pastors and those who serve in the church are not holier or closer to God than others. I think of a couple of over the road drivers I know who actively fight human trafficking, who pray and counsel and minister in the name of Christ. For them being a truck driver is a calling and an opportunity to share Christ. This month we celebrate callings.



CONFIRMATION, Sunday, May 6, 10:30 a.m. ...

Two things happen at once. The church family confirms that these young people have enough understanding of the basic faith to be adult voting members. The young person publically announces that he or she is ready to proclaim Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior and take on the responsibilities of adult membership.

I encourage you to listen to the statements of faith these young people have written. How developed was your faith at this their age? What can you do to help them grow into a deeper faith?

Also, I encourage you to listen to the promises they make as a part of this service. Once you made these same promises. How effectively are you living into the promises you have made in this life? How can you help these young men live into the promises they make this day?

... MOTHER'S DAY, Sunday, May 13, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Last I checked, more than half of the people on the planet are women. The vast majority are, or will be, parents. This is a special calling. Some women will not or cannot have children, yet, take on relationships with nieces, nephews or others. Being a special adult in the life of a child is a valuable calling as well. This day we celebrate the unique and precious parenting that women provide. Our world is a better place because you have responded to that call.

... RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES, Sunday, May 20, 10:30 a.m.

GRADUATE BREAKFAST, Sunday, May 20, 9:15 a.m. ...

This day we recognize our high school graduates as well as any receiving college, technical school or graduate degrees. Commencement indicates that this is not the end of something old but the beginning of something new. For those who respond, we will publish a brief summary of "What's Next". I read these with a prayer, "God what vocation are you calling this young person to pursue?"

I have come to value the graduate family breakfast. It is often the last time I get to check in as they head into the next phase of development. I cherish hearing their plans as they make the next step in preparing for their life's main vocation.

... COMMUNITY SERVANTS, Sunday, May 27, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Day is a day we remember those who have given their lives in the protection of our earthly freedoms and democratic ideals. It makes me think of all those who are first responders as well. Those who are currently giving their lives and their time to the well being of others.

Immediately I think of First Responders: Police, Fire, Rescue. But also, E.R. nurses, Medical staff. And then those who are the infrastructure: serving on community boards and committees, teaching, volunteering. These are all Vocations: Callings: from Reading Buddies to Hope at the Inn volunteers. On this Sunday we will take time to publically recognize all of these important callings and to ask God's blessing upon them.

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

CONVERSATION FACED SNOWY CONDITIONS

FIRST CONVERSATION HELD ON April 15, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

In spite of the snow, 20 members of First Lutheran braved the weather and joined us to learn “How to have a conversation about difficult issues.” One of the things we decided was that we need to have more than one conversation.

SECOND EVENT PLANNED FOR June 10, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

On June 10th, we will continue the conversation we began on April 15th. We will use the same 90 minute format we used at the first session, so no one needs to feel left out. Each April 15th attendee has been challenged to bring 5 members to the conversation. Help them by agreeing to come.

IN THE MEAN TIME HALO substitute Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us as we meet to improve our conversation skills. We will slowly walk through the training for “Thriving in Change” or “How to talk when nobody is listening”. As a part of each week we will see if there are further insights we wish to add to our discussion. We will complete this on or before June 10th.

WHAT WE LEARNED

First, we learned that we need to bridge some gaps. To help those who fear that their thoughts might not be valued, to know that they are valued. Second, that learning to let the Holy Spirit guide a conversation requires learning to pay attention to more than simply the words of another, but to them as a whole person. Third, we learned that the real issue behind welcoming others may be in this same challenge of learning to “pay deep attention to words and actions, fears and needs”. Our own young members do not always experience welcome when they come. We learned that we need to get better at breaking these listening barriers.

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

FIRST COMMUNION

We ask for God's blessings on ~

Deegan Miron
Lauren Sundquist



who celebrated their First Communion on April 8th. Welcome to the Lord's Supper!

We also recognize Mercedes Koski, Braidyn Miron, Violet Rose, Lauren Sundquist and Madison Sundquist who received Holy Bibles on April 8th. May you continue to grow and be strong in God's Word.

UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

May 6 – 6th Sunday of Easter

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

May 13 – 7th Sunday of Easter

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

May 20 – Pentecost

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

May 27 – The Holy Trinity

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

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!

OINK OINK

Please return your piggy banks to the barnyard by **May 13th** so they can be brought to Synod Assembly on the 17th. Thanks for your support of World Hunger!

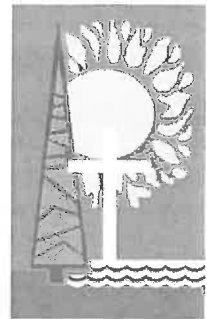


FORTUNE LAKE NEWS

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 for more information or to sign-up today.



SALVATION ARMY LUNCHEON

Thank you to all who helped with the Salvation Army Luncheon on Saturday, April 14th. 40 guests shared Almond Mandarin Salad, AuGratin Potatoes and Ham hot dish, green beans, French bread, milk, juice, coffee and ice cream sandwiches.

Food prep: Connie Salmi, Gail McEachern and Nora Smith

Monetary donations: Jane Coyne-Smith, Laila Whitfield and Pat Hewitt

Workers on Saturday: Dirk & Sue Manson, Raino and Maxine Maki and Nora Smith

First Lutheran will be serving lunches again on **June 23rd** and **August 18th**. Watch the bulletin board for ways you can help.

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

TRIED-N-TRUE

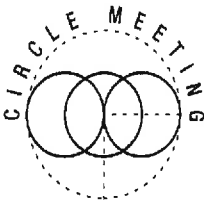


Faithful & Witnesses

Luncheon and Program

Friday, May 18th
at Noon

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex by
Wednesday, May 16th if you plan to attend.



GRACE CIRCLE

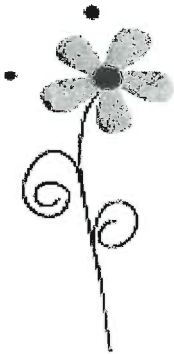
Grace Circle will meet at Bayview Manor on May 10th at 2:00 pm. Pastor Tom will join us to share a message and communion. Nora Smith will lead the Bible study from Colossians 1:15 'The Supremacy of Christ' by Max Lucado. Allie Rajala will be the

hostess. Guests are always welcome. If a ride is needed, please call the church office at 428-4565.

LOVE CIRCLE

Love Circle will meet on Thursday, May 17th at 9:30 AM here at church. We will then have lunch at the Delona.

All women are invited to join a Circle for Bible study and fellowship. We have four Circles and their meeting dates are always in the Messenger. Please come and join us.



WELCA PRESENTS

**MOTHER, DAUGHTER and
FRIEND BANQUET**

Thursday, May 3

Dinner Served at 6:00 pm

First Lutheran Church

*Program: Looking for Wedding Dresses to
display or model! If you are willing to share,
please call Pam @ 280-2918.
All ages are welcome*

Tickets will be sold after the 8 am and 10:30 am services
on April 22nd and April 29th.

They will also be available in the
church office during regular
office hours.

Cost: Adults \$10.00
Children 5-12 \$7.00
Under 5 Free



SPRING WORK DAY

Saturday, May 12th

9:00 AM

All men, women and children of First Lutheran are invited/encouraged to join us for a Spring Work Day to clean up the church grounds after the winter thaw. Please bring: rakes, shovels, trimmers, tarps, garbage cans, leaf blowers, trailers, trucks, edgers, elbow grease, enthusiasm and other appropriate equipment. Hope to see YOU there!!!

(Rain date is May 19th)



LUTHERAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to a grant from the First Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund, scholarships are available for students from First attending ELCA Lutheran Colleges during the 2018-2019 school year.

In order to be considered for a scholarship, current or prospective students need to complete an application and return it no later than June 30, 2018. Applications can be picked up in the church office.

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!

ALL ARE WELCOME, EXCEPT ?

Figuring out what God expects of us, in the welcoming department, doesn't require years of study and research. The answer to the question, "who is to be welcomed and who is not?" is not complicated. We, being human, however, fall prey to over thinking and making it complex and, in the process, setting ourselves up as judge and jury. We become authorities on the issue and accumulate the power and control to decide who is "in" and who is "out".



There's that control thing again! If I, or the group to which I belong, believe that the answers to God's intentions lie with us, we have power and control. We control who gets to join our club and who is free to look elsewhere.

This all sounds quite sinister, cold and calculating, but this doesn't have to be an example of blatant manipulation with evil intent. In fact, in most cases, it happens subtly, perhaps unconsciously and even well intentioned. This is probably born out of a desire to surround ourselves with like-minded people whose values, morals and views are similar to ours. This seems like a perfectly reasonable impulse to be among those with whom we can be comfortable, accepted and free from conflict. Who doesn't want that?

The danger is that our good intentions to stabilize and grow the community of faith we all love we often slip into "group think" that stifles diversity.

Let's segue to the concept of churches that really want to be friendly, warm, accepting and welcoming. Most congregations would probably want those adjectives used to describe them. So if a church markets itself as a place where ALL ARE WELCOME does it really mean ALL? Do congregations, like ours, want to be fully inclusive and accepting of ALL, regardless of each person's unique constellation of characteristics? If the answer to that is "yes" then are we ready and willing to extend all the benefits of membership to ALL?

If I may be so bold, let me suggest that God isn't interested in those things that make us different from one another. Rather, God wants and expects us to do three simple things: love ourselves, love and serve God and love and serve our neighbors. Really pretty simple stuff! Oh, and I might add – Jesus made it clear as crystal, our neighbors means ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD.

ALL who believe that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord and ALL who believe that ALL are saved by grace through faith should be welcomed and included.

ALL who believe that they are sinners who cannot save themselves, but have faith in God's undeserved love, mercy and forgiveness should be welcomed and included.

All the rest is just noise

I would have to admit that this is a lot easier said than done. It's much easier to write about than, as Nike says, "just do it!".

The real world has a way of making the simple a real challenge to us every step of the way to this "ALL ARE WELCOME" goal. It's a journey filled with "fits and starts", but a journey we need to take. God wants us to keep moving forward on this journey and, by the way, as we put one foot in front of the other, God expects us to witness by showing our love to ALL as servants of ALL.

Welcomed and loved by God,
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

SEMINARIAN SUPPORT

"The blessing of the Lord makes rich." Proverbs 10:22a

For several years in retirement I've had the privilege of recruiting and affirming persons to pursue ordained ministry in this column. It occurs to me that I should share the story of my own call and pursuit of ordained ministry with the hope that it might be helpful and encouraging to others.

As a fourth generation resident of the big community of Felch, MI, I was born into a staunchly Lutheran family. My maternal great-grandmother, Brita Skog, was a founding member of Zion Lutheran Church, Metropolitan, Michigan. She provided the impetus for construction of the first church, donated the land on which it was erected and arranged for pastoral services until the first pastor could be called. It was a lifelong dream of hers that a member of the family might become a pastor and her hopes were not fulfilled until I, her great grandson, was ordained.

Raised in Zion congregation, I was baptized, attended Sunday school, vacation church school, confirmation and the youth group. I also taught Sunday school. To my utter amazement, members of the congregation suggested to me that I should become a pastor. One afternoon, coming home from school, my parents informed me that the Reverend Carl Pontus Peterson, my pastor, had paid them a special visit suggesting that I should become a pastor! Ugh!

Growing up, I was always well provided for, but cash was often in short supply and our daily existence was definitely humble. Ordained ministry was not a part of my plan! As I showed some academic promise, my parents agonized as to how I might be the first in my extended family to afford the luxury of a college education. It was my dream to pursue a career that would definitely improve my financial bottom line.

A business major seemed like my ticket to success. This dream ended when I witnessed firsthand the cut-throat business world through the experience of my brother who was fifteen years my senior and employed in management in the air craft industry. Now, faltering in my career plans, college counselors, based on my personality profile, encouraged me to pursue a career in politics or elementary education.

Finally, I came to the realization that I had been denying God's call to ordained ministry expressed through those who knew me and an inner voice within me. Finally, after two years of college I went to my knees before God and prayed "Okay, have it your way, I will pursue ministry but I also pray that if it's not meant to be you will give me a strong sign."

Well, as they say, "The rest is history." I have been an ordained pastor for fifty-three years having served in rural, small town, metropolitan and suburban congregations and in the office of bishop. In retrospect, I thank God for a family, congregation members and a pastor who recognized gifts for ministry in me! It's been quite a journey and you know what, I have been blessed by God and made rich indeed! This is my story and I can't wait to hear yours! Is God also calling you to ordained ministry?

Dale Skogman, on behalf of the Seminarian Support Committee.



... to those who helped with the April Messenger; Carol Ebbesen, Avis Fairchild, Judy Hammond, Judy Haulotte, and Chris Johnson
Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Many thanks to Sally Strom, Geri and Charlie George, Nora Smith and Connie Salmi for the April Tried-n-True meal.

~

Thank you so much for all the food we picked up from the First Lutheran Church recently. It was enough food to fill the 150 backpacks that we distribute to the Gladstone and Rapid River School children who would otherwise be going hungry each weekend. Your continuous monthly money donations allow us to buy fresh fruit to include in the weekend food backpacks. Your continuous generosity toward our hungry area kids is greatly appreciated.

Larry Kirschner
Backpack Food Coordinator
Gladstone-Rapid River Kiwanis Club

Dear Pastors, Fellow Workers, Patrons and Friends:

WOW...This year went by so fast!!!! We have finished six (Project CARE) soup suppers with the help and support from so many people ... Thank you, thank you, thank you ...

We served 343 people. The numbers served were down from previous years, but we were still able to give \$2632 to St Vincent's de Paul. This makes a total donation of \$ 25,689.70 for our 10-year efforts.

Thank you for your support ...
Mary Palka

~

Received by the Mission Endowment Fund ...

Thank you for the generous gift of money you gave to the Delta Alano Club ... so we can keep a meeting place for recovery groups to have meetings on a regular basis.

Sincerely,
Tami LaFleur, Treasurer

Thank you for your recent donation. We appreciate your gift and look forward to using it to make a better program for the athletes of Special Olympics, Michigan ...

Sincerely,
Lois Arnold
President and CEO

WOW! What a glorious surprise when I opened you letter! Your letter and check brought encouragement to my soul. God is once again working on behalf of The Word Print Shop. Please accept my humble thanks on my behalf and on behalf of Lai Pai and his wife Dai Naw who are overseeing the workings of the shop in Yangon, Myanmar ...

May God bless your efforts for His Kingdom,

Len Sabourin
... The Word Print Shop

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|------------------|
| 5/1 | Donna Schlemmer | 5/20 | Brian Botruff |
| 5/4 | Chris Carter | 5/21 | Mya Nivison |
| 5/6 | Jan Gustafson | 5/23 | Hilary Austin |
| 5/8 | Carol Seeley | | Bruce Movalson |
| 5/11 | David Lahtinen | | Lynn Thomas |
| 5/12 | Gen Morley | 5/24 | Gloria Kanerva |
| | Rob Salmi | 5/26 | Wayne Marshall |
| 5/13 | Regan Salo | | Adelle Seawright |
| 5/14 | Pam Chouinard | 5/27 | Cindy Sjoquist |
| | Gary Larson | | Anita Stockham |
| 5/17 | Kraig Dyer | | Lloyd Tuskan |
| 5/18 | Karen Bratonia | 5/28 | Mary Herro |
| | Betsy Olson | 5/29 | Kristin Bourdeau |
| 5/19 | Betty Palmquist | | Aaron Steinhoff |
| | Ruthann Skellenger | 5/31 | Loyal Swenson |
| 5/20 | Ann Severinsen | | |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| 5/3 | Allie & Duane Rajala |
| 5/6 | Suzanne & Chris Dahlke |
| | Darla & Jim Pardon |
| 5/7 | Jean & John Noskey |
| 5/8 | Gen & Will Morley |
| | Kathy & Bill Shine |
| 5/11 | Pam & Bey Brown |
| 5/12 | Geri & Charlie George |
| 5/17 | Kris & Mack McDonald |
| 5/23 | Leah & Dale Hongisto |
| 5/26 | Mary & Joe Herro |



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

Gifts to our congregation have been given ...

In loving memory of **Mike Robinson and Sherri Robinson**
by Nancy and Duane Bovin
by Carol Wyatt for World Hunger



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. This is an important time to help people to become more informed, aware and to understand the concept of mental illness and brain disorders. The local chapter of NAMI – the National Alliance for Mental Illness, Delta County – does just that.

Who are they? They are people with loved ones, family members or friends dealing with mental illness.

What are they? They are a grassroots self-help group that provides support for one another, education for the public and themselves, and advocacy for family members or friends dealing with mental illness.

I ask that you would pray for persons who are dealing with mental health issues, also their family members, loved ones and friends.

Thank you,

Pat Casteel

President, NAMI Delta County

HOPE AT THE INN

Many thanks to everyone who helped out with Hope at the Inn in early April. The guests truly appreciate a warm meal and a soft bed. Our next week will be in the fall.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this area-wide ministry or if you have any questions you can contact our Congregation Coordinators, Pat Casteel or Rhonda Husbye.



Delta County
*Hope
At The
Inn*

*...I was a stranger
and you invited me in...
Matthew 25:35*

Also, the **Remnant's Concert** (a HATI fundraiser) will be held at the Memorial United Methodist Church in Gladstone on

Saturday, May 19th.

Get your tickets from HATI Coordinators or at Gust Asp!

HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Whether it's an emergency, outpatient surgery, a hospital stay, or a move to a care facility; please remember to contact the church office (428-4565, office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org) or Pastor Tom (428-4565, 280-9997, 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!

SPECIAL GIVING ENVELOPE

This month's special giving envelope will support Answer the Call, a Northern Great Lakes Synod endowment fund that provides scholarships to all seminarians from our synod.



CONTACT US:

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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



~~~~ 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 20<sup>th</sup>. We are again getting the plants from Chenier's Greenhouse. The cost is \$ 3.75 for each geranium. Please fill out this form and return it (with your payment) to the office by **Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**. No phone orders can be accepted.

Plants can be taken home following the 10:30 a.m. service on May 20<sup>th</sup>.



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

\_\_\_\_\_ red geraniums for Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$3.75 = \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Serving Us in May

| Date   | Time  | Greeters | Readers         | Acolytes  | Communion                        |
|--------|-------|----------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| May 6  | 8:00  | TBD      | Dale Schlemmer  | Andrew H  | Sally Pouliot                    |
|        | 10:30 | TBD      | Dirk Manson     | Sam O     | Chuck Thomas<br>Erin Wickman     |
| May 13 | 8:00  | TBD      | Lori Shea       | Maci M    | Julie Sanville                   |
|        | 10:30 | TBD      | Jolane Nelson   | Trevor T  | Pam Bialik<br>Ann Christiansen   |
| May 20 | 8:00  | TBD      | Vickie Marshall | Gus S     | Carol Knauf                      |
|        | 10:30 | TBD      | Lynn Thomas     | Danny K   | Jane Coyne-Smith<br>Kathy Gudwer |
| May 27 | 8:00  | TBD      | Nora Smith      | Aaron S   | Judy Hammond                     |
|        | 10:30 | TBD      | Erin Wickman    | Allison R | Carol Kocsis<br>Dirk Manson      |

Ushers 8:00: Don Seeley, Dennis Hanson

Altar Guild: Barbara Ball, Sally Pouliot

10:30: TBD

First Lutheran Church  
1212 Minneapolis Avenue  
Gladstone, Michigan 49837

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