

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)

~ JUNE-JULY 2018 ~

Worship – Sunday – 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Office Hours – Monday-Thursday – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Friday – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Tom W. Otis, Pastor

pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

June-July 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.

CHANGING WORLD

Pastor's Summer Session

What will the church look like in the future? Will it still exist? Will I recognize it? Will there be a place for me?



Since 2000 approximately 50,000 Christian Churches across the country have closed. We are approaching the time when less than half will have a traditional Christian Education Program.

Our loving Creator will still be God, Jesus will still be the Saving Lord and the Transforming Work of the Holy Spirit will continue. The purpose of this year's offering is designed to address the question, "What is my place in all this?" I want you to feel safe, optimistic and "Strong on the Lord" as we face the days ahead.

3 WEEKS IN JUNE

Let's get right to the meat of it. For a variety of reasons I settled on three sessions. They are unique and separate, yet they fit together as they answer the questions our culture is raising.

I hope you join us.

**... THE GREAT EMERGENCE Tuesday June 12, 6:30 p.m. or
Wednesday June 13, 11:30 a.m.**

Our World is going through an incredible series of changes. People are lost and confused. What's happening to our culture? Where do we turn for authority? How can my Faith help me to know the Truth that will lead me through the darkness of confusion into the light?

Last year I gave the HALO Group a video discussion of this topic. I publically apologize. It was not as good as I thought it would be. This is a complicated topic. It is also an exciting topic. I asked the Lutheran Pastors of Delta County to read through the groundbreaking book on

the subject, I viewed the video series several times, and I did some further research. With their help I have sorted this down to a one evening presentation that will lead us into understanding two things: what's now and what's next. (If you want to read the book in advance of this evening it is "The Great Emergence" by Phyllis Tickle.)

**... Z – THE NEXT GENERATION Tuesday June 19, 6:30 p.m. or
Wednesday June 20, 11:30 a.m.**

Do you wonder what our children are thinking, what goes into the values they are forming, how they go about making choices? BARNAs Institute is one of the foremost research groups in the country. We will take a look at their ground breaking work. It will give you some new insights and some challenges. As new research, the book "Gen Z: the Culture, Beliefs and Motivations Shaping the Next Generation" is very expensive, but is available from Barna Group if you are interested.

**... LET'S KILL SUNDAY SCHOOL BEFORE IT KILLS THE CHURCH
Tuesday June 26, 6:30 p.m. or Wednesday June 27, 11:30 a.m.**

A CONTROVERSIAL TITLE to get your attention? Well yes. We have hard numbers from the ELCA. In 1990 we had 1,007,774 children registered in Sunday school across the country. In 2015, only 189,000 children were registered. In 25 years we are at less than 1/5. These numbers are consistent with denominations all across the country. The message is this: what we have done for over a century is not working anymore.

Do you love your children ... grand children? Do you love Jesus? Do you love His Church? Can we fix this? No, but God can. We have to ask the Holy Spirit, "What now?" So let's take a look at what's next.

... Why June? Let me promote our Adult Education Opportunities.

Each year I focus on doing a special education event. I chose the time for my classes to work around 3 existing programs. I never want to get in the way of these terrific learning opportunities.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study is ending for the year. We have finished the first Seven Books of the Old Testament and the Gospel of Matthew in the New. This is a very thoughtful and enjoyable group. Each week Ellen Swenson leads the study for the day and I join for the last 20 minutes for Q & A called "Stump the Pastor". I really want to encourage anyone who is free from 9:30 to 11:00 on Wednesdays to join us.

HALO Hour of Adult Learning Opportunities on Sundays at 9:15 was originally started by Pastor Terry Frankenstein. We are ending the year with a look at ways to meaningfully separate and present the issues, feelings and facts around any difficult topic. This model was developed by University of Chicago Process Theologians Bernard Lonergan and David Tracy. Finally, we will look at how to invite the Holy Spirit into our difficult conversations. The last sessions will be on June 3 and June 10 at the 9:15 hour. If you can't join us this year, watch for our plans for HALO for next fall.

Lay School for Mission on Tuesday evenings is over for this year and will begin again in September. This is a great program for anyone who wants to dig deeper or discern where your personal mission and ministry might lead. These courses are taught by five different pastors each focusing on their expertise. If you want to know more, just ask.

In the name of our risen Lord,

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Otis



UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

June 3 – 2nd Sunday of Pentecost

1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Mark 2:23 – 3:6

June 10 – 3rd Sunday of Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15); Psalm 138; Mark 3:20-35

June 17 – 4th Sunday of Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13; Psalm 20; Mark 4:26-34

June 24 – 5th Sunday of Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; Mark 4:35-41



July 1 – 6th Sunday of Pentecost

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; Mark 5:21-43

July 8 – 7th Sunday of Pentecost

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; Mark 6:1-13

July 15 – 8th Sunday of Pentecost

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Mark 6:14-29

July 22 – 9th Sunday of Pentecost

2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 29 – 10th Sunday of Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; John 6:1-21

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

We rejoice with

Iris Patrice Ellison

who was baptized on April 22nd

and with

Andrew Hanson

Thade Myers

William Olsick

Nick Siedlecki

Aaron Steinhoff

who were confirmed on May 6th

May God bless you all!



Summer Communion

During the summer months at the 10:30 AM service there will only be one Communion Assistant serving wine. Please follow the usher's instructions as you approach the communion rail.



SAVE THESE DATES ...

Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School**, led by a team from Fortune Lake Camp, which will take place

August 6-10 from 9:00 am to noon.

There is a registration form included in this newsletter which can be turned in anytime. We hope all kids, Kindergarten through 5th grade, will plan to attend this fun and faith filled week.



Other VBS opportunities in Gladstone include:

Covenant Church, July 16-20, 9:30 am-12:00 pm

Memorial United Methodist, July 22-26, 5:00-8:00 pm

Grace Church, July 30-Aug 3

Please call each church for more information.



On **Sunday, August 12th** at **10:30 am** we will hold our annual First Lutheran Summer Worship & Picnic at Van Cleve Park.

Please watch the bulletin board for more information – sign-up sheets will be posted later in July.

Congratulations to our ...

2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Addam Claes – Escanaba High School

From Addam ... "I plan to attend Central Michigan University to study Environmental Science and Leadership."

Bryce Dykes – Gladstone High School

From Bryce ... "My plan after graduation is to enroll in Northern Michigan University's Electrical Lineman School."



Spencer Louis Husbye – Gladstone High School

From Spencer ... "I plan to attend Bay College in their pre-physical therapy program."



Cooper James Ralph Koski – Gladstone High School

From Cooper ... "I will attend Bay College in the fall to obtain a degree in business management. While pursuing my degree I've decided to accept a job as a local Domino's Public Relations Director."



Shelby Ann Martinucci – Gladstone High School

From Shelby ... "After graduation, I will be attending Bay College in the fall. At Bay College I will be working toward my RN degree. After getting my RN, I will continue my education to get my BSN. I would like to stay in this area and work at OSF."



Jacob Thomas Siedlecki – Gladstone High School

From Jacob ... "I will be attending Michigan Tech for the Civil and Environmental Engineering program."



Charlotte Marie Strom – Gladstone High School

From Charlotte ... "I will be attending Bay College in the fall to continue my education as an English major. I am excited to continue my journey in faith as a counselor at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp and I am thankful to everyone who has helped me in my journey thus far."

Matthew A. Swanson – Gladstone High School

From Matt ... "I plan to attend Ferris State University majoring in Biochemistry, before moving on to medical school where I would like to become a surgeon."

Also graduating:

Josh Bilkey

Dylan McDonough

Erika Roman



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.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

On June 27th we will be sending 7 congregants to Houston for the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering. Please pray for Eric and Rhonda Husbye, Sam Hill, Alex Williams, Will Olsick, Danny Knapp and Thade Myers as they embark on their adventure. We will be hosting a coffee hour and sending service on Sunday, June 24th and we invite you to come and see them off. We will be collecting funds for the Youth Gathering Literacy Campaign. Their goal is to collect 100,000 books for the children of Houston. We have decided to split the funds raised at the coffee hour between the ELCA Youth Gathering and the Gladstone Library, who also struggle to fund our local reading programs. Thanks to the generous support of the entire congregation here at First, especially Pat Hewitt and Karleen Thorbahn for their pasta and stromboli sales, we are fully funded for this trip. We will also be bringing down the God's Global Barnyard funds raised by the Sunday School children in the loose offerings this past year as they will be matching funds up to \$515,000. That means we will be able to double our \$900+ to \$1800+ for the God's Global Barnyard project. Thanks be to God.



I want to personally thank each and every one of you for the support I have received in my years as Christian Ed Co-coordinator. This has been the most rewarding job I have ever had. I also want to tell you how lucky you are to have Reyna Rose and Amelia Seawright stepping into Deb's and my position. They are going to do great things!
~ Amber Hess-Soderman

ACOLYTE TRAINING & REFRESHER

On **Sunday, June 24 at 9:15am** Pastor Otis will provide training for all new acolytes (those who will be in 6th grade and starting Confirmation in the fall) and refresher training for those current acolytes who would like to "brush up" their skills.

Cake and ice cream will be served!!!



SOO-EY!!!

Thanks to all who donated to our Piggys for World Hunger. We raised \$2,321.24 to bring to the Synod Assembly. Pastor WILL be eating piggy parts!!!



FOOD COLLECTION

On **Sunday, June 10th** St. Vincent de Paul will have food collection bags available at our worship services. Each bag will have a shopping list of food items needed by the Gladstone food pantry. If you are able to help out, please take home a bag, fill it with the requested items, and return it on **Sunday, June 17th**. Thank you for helping our neediest neighbors.

FORTUNE LAKE NEWS

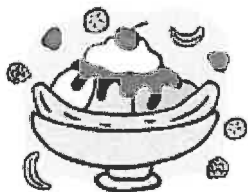
It's not too late to register for Summer Camp!

First Lutheran provides “camperships” of \$195 per camper (\$95 or \$135 for mini-camp) – stop by the office for an application.

Go to fortunelake.org for more information or to sign-up today.

HELP MIRIAM GO TO SCHOOL

Miriam Msumali is the orphan from Kijichi Lutheran Church in Tanzania (our companion congregation) that we have been sending to school for the past few years. We are having an **ice cream social on July 22nd after the 10:30 service** to raise money for her scholarship. Education is so important for children in Tanzania. It is their ticket out of poverty. Please come and support Miriam with your free-will offering.



Ice Cream Social

SALVATION ARMY LUNCHEON

First Lutheran Church will serve luncheon to guests at the Salvation Army on Saturday, June 23rd at noon. Please check the bulletin board in the narthex for ways to help.

*Food prep on Friday, June 22 at 10:00 am

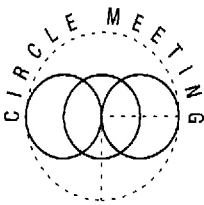
*Monetary donations

*Workers on Saturday, June 23 from 11:00 am until about 1:30 pm

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

SUMMER BREAK

Tried-n-True and the Wednesday Morning Bible Study will both be taking the summer off. Check out the September Messenger for start-up dates.



GRACE CIRCLE

Grace Circle will meet at Fairview Manor on Thursday, June 14th at 2:00 pm. Nora Smith will lead the Bible study "Serving Christ" by Max Lucado (Colossians 1: 24-29). The Bible study will begin at 2:00 pm, Pastor Tom will join us by 3:00 pm to share a message and Holy Communion. Nora will be the hostess. Guests are always welcome. If a ride is needed please call the church office.

Grace Circle will meet at Bayview Manor on Thursday, July 12th at 2:00 pm. Nora Smith will lead the Bible study "Walking with Christ" by Max Lucado (Colossians 2:1-10). The Bible study will begin at 2:00 pm. Pastor Tom will join us by 3:00 pm to share a message and Holy Communion. A hostess is needed. Guests are always welcome. If you need a ride, please call the church office.

CHARITY CIRCLE

Charity Circle will meet on Wednesday, June 13th at 1:00pm at church and again on Wednesday, July 11th at Arla Pearson's home. All women are welcome to join us.

WOMEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

The first session of the Summer Bible Study begins on Thursday, June 21st at 7:00 pm. The study for the three sessions is on PRAYER. The group usually meets in the kitchen. Please contact Pam Chouinard if you would like to lead a session or serve coffee and a treat. Scripture for the 1st session is found in 1 Samuel 12:12-23. The July date will be the 19th and the August date the 16th.

The women's organization has shared monetary gifts this year with the Mkuza School Water Project, the Salvation Army, Fortune Lake scholarships and the Upper Peninsula Honor Flight.

WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A.

Thank you to all who were a part of the Mother-Daughter-Friend event on May 3rd. It was a wonderful evening of wedding fashions, photos and stories. Thank you to all who shared dresses and neat stories. To President Pam Chouinard for being the MC, and for table decorations, fun handouts at tables and table grace. To Connie Salmi and Betty Setter for the wedding cupcake desserts. To head chef, Paul Hammond, for the yummy rib meal and his helpers – Lloyd Tuskan, Ray Chouinard, Joe Durbin, Rob Salmi, Dale Skogman, Charlie George and Pastor Tom.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED!

Fellowship over coffee and some treats is an important way for First Lutheran members to bond and to share joys and tribulations and also a way to welcome visitors into our community. Please consider hosting a coffee hour! Treats can be simple and Connie Salmi or another member of the Welcome Team would be willing to orient and assist you. Volunteer by signing the sheet on the entry bulletin board or calling the church office: 428-4565.



COMPLAIN, COMPLAIN!!

It seems like with each passing year our conversations are riddled with complaints about our health. Our bodies begin to show the effects of genetics and how we have treated them over the decades. The parts start breaking down and that sense of invincibility we once had eons ago is all but gone. Pretty depressing stuff, right? Well, it's not particularly the stuff of sunshine and roses, but, if we pay attention, it can be a time of peace and hope. This can be a time where we finally must accept that God is in control and that love is all there is. The greatest of these is God's love for us. It IS all about love and relationships – to our God and to our neighbors.



Of course our love for God and, next, for our immediate and extended families are numbers one and two, but, hopefully, our love for others in our First Lutheran community of faith is right up there. Then again, that love should extend to our neighbors everywhere!

The Daily Devotional, "Christ in our Home" for May 22, 2018 uses the bible passage, 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 to highlight the importance of COMMUNITY.

Our little corner of the world (our worshipping community) is "one body with many members". Each member has a function and is as important to the whole body as any other member. Aristotle is credited with saying, "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts".

But, for the body of Christ to be healthy, all of its parts must be healthy. The healthy body requires each member, with its own unique gifts, must be loved, nurtured and cared for equally.

For the body to be healthy, we need diversity and inclusiveness and acceptance AND WE NEED TO BE IN COMMUNITY.

If the various members of the body neglect using their God-given gifts and do not love and nurture other members, in community with one another, the body fails. 1 Corinthians 12: 24b-26 says, "But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, so that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it".

Now that's the health conversation worth talking about!

Grateful for community and In Christ,
Dirk Manson
Stewardship Chair

AUDIT REPORT FOR 2017

To: First Lutheran Congregation Council

From: 2017 Audit Committee; Mary Bjorkquist, Sherri Ide, Mary Herro

The Audit Committee met during the month of March 2018 for the annual audit.

After reviewing all bank and investment accounts and accounting procedures for the fiscal year 2017, the Audit Committee is satisfied that the accounting records of the church are in good order. The Committee found no corrections or adjustments necessary.

Lisa continues to do an excellent job with our financial reporting and the Committee would like to thank her for her cooperation in pulling records, making copies and answering all our questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Herro
Audit Committee



... to those who helped with the
May Messenger; Mary Bjorkquist
Judy Hammond, Judy Haulotte, and
Gloria Kanerva.

Thank you all, so much!

Many thanks to Ruth Botbyl, Sally Pouliot, Stacie Carter and Finlee,
Geri and Charlie George and Paula LaCrosse for the May Tried-n-True
program and meal.

~

Thank you so much to the serving group who did such a wonderful
job with Ron's funeral luncheon.

The Family of Ron Anderson

~

Dear members of First Lutheran Church,

The All Saints Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul
thanks you for your participation in the soup and sandwich suppers at
the Community of Christ Church. The homemade soups were delicious
and the \$2,632 earned will help us to meet the needs of the less
fortunate in our community. May God bless you for your support of
our efforts to serve the poor.

Sincerely,
Mary Knoch, Secretary

~

Received by the Mission Endowment Fund ...

Please convey our deepest thanks to the Endowment Committee for
the donation of \$1,040 to the Food Pantry Program of Faith Lutheran,
Rock. The program is alive and well thanks to our faithful volunteers
and the generosity of people like First Lutheran's Mission Endowment
Fund ...

Sincerely,
Rev. Rell Spickerman
Interim Pastor

You have done a great thing! We would like to personally thank you for your contribution of \$250 to the YMCA 2018 Annual Campaign ... We look forward to helping more kids and families than ever before ...

Sincerely,
Jarred Drown
Jennifer Drown
Campaign Co-Chairs

Thank you for your recent donation to our program. Your generous donations have allowed us to continue providing even the most basic needs for our youth right here in Delta County ...

Thank you again!
YAP Board Members

We want to make sure you know how grateful we are for your recent contribution to the SON Ministry work here in Tanzania ... It is so wonderful to have you all as partners as we serve the People of Tanzania with clean water and education. Your contribution will help us to educate children about Water, Sanitation and Hygiene as well as supply several families with a water filter that will give them clean drinking water for a very long time. Each family that receives a filter also learns about Jesus the Living Water.

Thank you and may God bless each of you!

Ann & Todd Ziems
and the SON Tanzania Team

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 6/3 | Pam & Ray Chouinard | 6/15 | Judy & Paul Hammond |
| 6/4 | Maxine & Raino Maki | 6/21 | Mya & David Nivison |
| | Carol & Don Seeley | 6/29 | Diane & Dennis Hanson |
| 6/5 | Ellen & Loyal Swenson | | |
| 6/9 | Elaine & Russ DeRoeck | | |
| | Sue & Dirk Manson | | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|
| 6/2 | Paul Bialik | 6/18 | Kelsey Gustafson |
| 6/3 | Gayla Louis | 6/21 | Jean Helman |
| 6/4 | Sandy Boutilier | 6/22 | Chad Walker |
| 6/5 | Erika Roman
Jennifer Walker | 6/23 | Emily Clement |
| 6/6 | Claire Soderman | 6/24 | Adam Hongisto
Braden Sundquist |
| 6/7 | Tim Rybicki | 6/25 | James Pardon
Carole Wedell |
| 6/8 | Lauren Marshall | 6/27 | Julie Sanville
Tom Gobert |
| 6/9 | Josh Miron | | Alison Rose |
| 6/11 | Paul Hammond | 6/28 | Bonnie DeMay
Don Seeley |
| 6/12 | Susan Anderson | | |
| 6/13 | Pam Brown | 6/29 | Rachel Kars |
| 6/15 | Christina Hanson | | |
| 6/17 | Charlie Chouinard
Megan Robinson | | |

AND TO ...

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|--|
| 7/3 | Bentley Olson | 7/17 | Macy Trudeau |
| 7/5 | Ruth Johnson
John Roman III | 7/18 | Alexis Coleman
Eileen Demeuse |
| 7/6 | Jerry Ebbesen | 7/19 | Erik Soderman
Rylee Gerow |
| 7/7 | Kendall Dahlke
Dotti Ford
Sarah Hanson | 7/20 | Scott Hanson |
| 7/9 | Ray Chouinard | 7/22 | Peter DeMay
Christine Mineau |
| 7/11 | Violet Rose
Hadley Wiltzius | 7/23 | Monica Bostwick
Braylin Carter
Griffyn Verbeek |
| 7/13 | David Ellison | | |
| 7/14 | Ann Christiansen
John Roman III | 7/24 | Jay Bostwick |
| 7/16 | Alaina Trudeau | 7/28 | Kathleen Shine
Carol Wyatt |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

- 7/3 Donna and Dale Schlemmer
 7/6 Robin and Doug Hewitt
 7/7 Carole and Paul Wedell
 7/8 Cheryl and Bruce Dykes
 7/9 Ann Christiansen and Steve Bolek
 7/15 Jessica and Mike Groleau
 7/17 Alyssa and David Ellison
 Bonnie and Ken Groh
 7/21 Barb Karas and Patrick Cleveland
 7/23 Jessica and Sean Coleman
 7/24 Kelly and Ron Robinson
 7/25 Lisa and Gord Zuehlke
 7/27 Vicki and Wayne Marshall
 Ginny and Jeremy Menard
 7/30 Ruth and George Botbyl
 Mary and Dave Cowen



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

SPECIAL GIVING ENVELOPE

This month's special giving envelope will support Always Being Made New. This Northern Great Lakes Synod initiative supports a different area each year. In 2018 half the funds raised will support Lutheran Campus Ministry in our Synod and half will go to the ELCA Fund for Leaders.



Raising up leaders for ministry and the faith formation of young adults is an ongoing priority. This year's campaign seeks to give our Synod Campus Ministry sites and partners the financial support they need to give wings to creative ideas that would not otherwise be possible. And it seeks to build up the support of the ELCA Fund for Leaders that helps reduce the cost of a seminary education, thereby making new graduates more available to the whole church.

Gifts to our congregation have been given ...

In loving memory of **Mike Hess**
for Seminarian Support by ...
Carol Wyatt

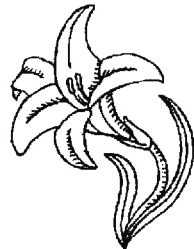
for Camperships by ...
Sue and Dirk Manson
Jo and Dale Skogman
Nora Smith

In loving memory of **Ron Anderson**
for the Memorial Fund by...
Karen Eastburn
Peg Freeman
Cindy and Steve Gard
Jean Ryan
Kathy and Bill Shine
Rosie Spindler

for Sewing by ...
Bonnie Anderson
Nancy Bovin
Cindy and Steve Gard
Judy Larson

for Senior Ministries by ...
Peg Freeman
Sue and Dirk Manson
Jo and Dale Skogman
Nora Smith

for Backpacks by ...
Pat Hewitt
Kathy and Bill Shine



FROM THE BISHOP

*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ....***

-Ephesians 4:8

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Every May, your congregation sends two or more members to attend the Synod Assembly on behalf of your congregation. Every year, we As congregations joined together in ministry gather together for 2-3 days to learn, worship, network, celebrate, discern, discuss, and remember that we are the body of Christ together.

This is no small thing.

So often it seems there is a temptation to get overwhelmed with the demands of ministry in our own setting. We can get bogged down in the details. The mail keeps coming, the bills need to get paid, there are the continual challenge of finding volunteers, getting acolytes, arranging for funerals, attending to relationships, navigating opinions and personalities, scheduling activities around school and community calendars ... I could go on and on.

Yet each one of our congregations is not an island unto itself. You are partnership with neighboring ELCA congregations and ecumenical churches. You are connected to 79 other ELCA congregations in your Synod. In terms of the Body of Christ, you might consider yourself a toe, or a finger, or an elbow. Together as a Synod, when we think of all 80 congregations as connected, then we might be a whole arm with a hand, or perhaps a leg with a foot attached.

Even as we consider the whole ELCA together, we are still not a complete body, as the Church also includes Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, Methodists, Episcopalians, and on and on. Together we are the Church on earth and the body of Christ in the world.

So this work we do, the mission we strive to accomplish, is not just about what your church does in your community. The world is a big place, and God so loved it all, so our efforts are not exclusively local or global, but rather both.

So that is where the Synod expression of the Church and the global expression of the Church come in very handy. Such expressions enable us to be faithful in our efforts, both locally and globally as these expressions provide the opportunity for each congregation to participate in mission and a purpose that is bigger than any one congregation or any singular community.

You are faithful to our wider mission with every gift of Mission Support that you send to the Synod. Your Synod bookkeeper, Betsy Koski, then continues that faithfulness by sending a portion of what you have sent on the toe churchwide expression of the ELCA.

The percentage of that portion is one of the decisions that the Synod Assembly makes as we seek to be faithful, not only to the mission and ministry here in the Northern Great Lakes, but also the wider and bigger impact we can have as the ELCA together.

The Synod Assembly is one way that we seek to Equip the Saints for Ministry. Those who attend will return to your congregation with stories of how our work together is building up the body of Christ, not only here, but across the Church and throughout the world. They will return to you with ideas, new knowledge, and a deeper understanding of what it is that we strive to do together that has greater purpose and broader possibilities

I pray that the people you send will find meaning and joy in the time spent with other Northern Great Lakes Synod Lutherans. And perhaps next year, it will be your turn.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan.

REPORT FROM THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the 31st Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly held at Northern Michigan University and Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette. The theme was "Equipping the Saints for Ministry. It was good to greet old friends and meet new ones. The worship at Messiah was awe inspiring, great music and messages. Bishop Katherine Finegan led us through the business with finesse and a neat sense of humor. Those giving the variety of reports were prepared and passionate about their ministries. Keynote speaker, Linda Bobbitt, was great. The workshop I attended was informative and challenging. The food at the banquet was wonderful as well as the musical program by the Jazz Trio (actually 4 people) from Messiah Lutheran Church. The Holden Evening Prayer service was led by clergy and so appropriate as an ending to the day. The highlight of Saturday morning was worship with the celebration of Holy Communion and the installation of Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jim Duehring, business wrap up and reports. I was invited to come back to First Lutheran Church knowing through my baptism and God's grace I am equipped for mission – whatever God nudges me to do for him.

Chuck Thomas was elected to serve at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Our piggy bank fund with other churches totaled nearly \$40,000 for World Hunger!

I'm planting a seed! Prayerfully think about going to Synod Assembly next year!

~Nora

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Congregation Council met on May 10th with President Marshall Seawright presiding. At this meeting the council ...

Heard that we received a "sneaky visitor" report that was very positive ...



Agreed to list new prayer requests in the Prayers of Intercession for one week and then to move them to a separate list in the bulletin ...

Learned that Pastor and the Worship and Music Committee would like to try making some changes to the liturgy ...

Heard about pastor's Summer Class, taking place on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm and Wednesdays from 11:30am-1:00pm on June 12 and 13, 19 and 20 and 26 and 27. He will touch on "The Great Emergence", Generation Z trends, and Rich Melheim's teaching techniques ...

Learned that Amelia Seawright and Reyna Rose are taking over as Christian Education and Sunday School Coordinators ...

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on Thursday, June 14th at 7:00 pm.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Seventh Annual Scenic Shore Run/Walk

5K Run / 1 Mile Walk

Saturday June 16th – 10:00 AM

(registration 9:00-9:45 @ 303 North 8th St, Gladstone)



\$15 per person or \$40 per family up to 5 people. Registration fee includes lunch for race participants. Additional lunch available at \$2.00 per person.

For more information contact Donna @ 420-2730 or Dan @ 906-280-5803 or emailing gladstoneseniorcenter303@yahoo.com.

Sponsored by the Gladstone Senior Citizens Non-Profit Corporation and Thrivent Financial. Proceeds will benefit the Gladstone Senior Center.

CONTACT US:

First Lutheran Church

1212 Minneapolis Ave.

Gladstone, MI 49837

906-428-4565

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

Rev. Tom Otis, Pastor

pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Office: 428-4565

Cell Phone: 280-9997

Office Manager: Lisa Zuehlke

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Secretary: Reyna Rose

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Director of Music: Kris McDonald

Musicians: Kris McDonald, Olivia Wery and Lori Anderson

Christian Ed Coordinators: Amelia Seawright and Reyna Rose

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 June

Date	Time	Greeters	Readers	Acolytes	Communion
June 3	8:00	TBD	Doris Sundstrom	Nick S	Dotti Ford
	10:30	TBD	Peggy Austin	Austin B	Lynn Thomas
June 10	8:00	TBD	Ellen Swenson	John R	Cooper Koski
	10:30	TBD	Pam Blalik	Werner S	Ann Christiansen
June 17	8:00	TBD	Wayne Marshall	Andrew H	Vickie Marshall
	10:30	TBD	Ann Christiansen	Braden S	Erin Wickman
June 24	8:00	TBD	Julie Sanville	Maci M	Irv Bostwick
	10:30	TBD	Lou Martin	Thade M	Jacob Siedlecki

Ushers 8:00: Don Seeley, Dennis Hanson

Altar Guild: Sherri Ide, Sue Manson, Tiffany Olisick

10:30: TBD

Serving Us in July

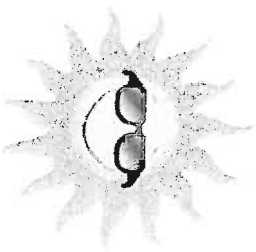
Date	Time	Greeters	Readers	Acolytes	Communion
July 1	8:00	TBD	Judy Hammond	Vera R	Sally Pouliot
	10:30	TBD	Bruce Movilson	Austin B	Jo Skogman
July 8	8:00	TBD	Cooper Koski	Kaden M Maci M	Dale Schlammer
	10:30	TBD	Andy Nelson	Werner S	Chuck Thomas
July 15	8:00	TBD	Vickie Marshall	Gus S	Nora Smith
	10:30	TBD	Carolyn Nelson	Jesse O Deegan M	Erin Wickman
July 22	8:00	TBD	Chris Milneau	John R	Irv Bostwick
	10:30	TBD	Al Salmi	Danny K	Pam Bialik
July 29	8:00	TBD	Lori Shea	Maci M	Julie Sanville
	10:30	TBD	Connie Salmi	Rylee G Lauren S	Ann Christiansen

Ushers 8:00: Dennis Hanson, Don Seeley

Altar Guild: Jan Gustafson, Amber Hess-Soderman

10:30: TBD

First Lutheran Church
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Gladstone, Michigan 49837
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