

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)

~ **September 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

September 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.

It's Time

In October of 2014 then Bishop Thomas Skrenes sent us a letter indicating it is not the pastor's personal discretion but the congregation's policy that dictates whether we offer the opportunity for members of our church family who are gay to celebrate a wedding ceremony in our church. We have had a variety of conversations about everything from "how to hold a conversation" to "emotional maturity when anxiety strikes". We have held three conversations regarding this topic and how it relates to our mission "All are Welcome". It is time to vote on the policy our members have worked so hard to develop. We will have a Special Congregational Meeting to discuss this on Sunday, September 23rd at 3:00 p.m. The format of the meeting will be as follows. There will be a call to order, then there will be a motion to move to "committee of the whole". At that time we will use the 90 minute format for holding a "conversation about things that matter" that we have been learning over the past year. The statement below will be the starting point of our conversation. At the end of that time when we have finished our conversation and have a statement that the majority of those present are comfortable with, we will return to regular order and vote on the final statement as a part of the wedding policy of First Lutheran Church.



Again, let me emphasize, the below statement is our starting point. We invite you to join us in this conversation.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Otis

Our Faith Teaches:

There are no limits to God's love. Because of human sin, there are limits to our ability to love. In Grace we know that we are loved with an eternal and saving love. In Faith we are called to reach beyond our sinful nature to love as Jesus loved, to welcome as Jesus welcomed.

Our Faith Commitment:

Knowing we will fall short, we will strive to love and welcome each and every person who comes across our threshold. As a person, made in the image of God and worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we want everyone to feel valued. In short, we wish to say as truthfully as we can, "All Are Welcome".

Understanding the limits of our Welcome:

We live in a changing world that tests the limits of our welcome. Not everyone in the congregation is able to welcome all people with the same enthusiasm. We acknowledge that different levels of acceptance exist within our congregation. This statement is to clarify our position on marriage as it relates to our welcome of persons who are lesbian or gay.

As Christians we embrace Christian marriage. We recognize that many of our members choose to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman. Others within our congregation welcome those who wish to live in both a committed relationship with God in Christ and a committed lifelong same-gender relationship.

We understand a Christian marriage as a lifelong monogamous commitment that is held to the standards and sexual ethics of fidelity that our faith teaches.

Respecting those with different views, it is the affirmation of the majority of this congregation that we best live out the mandates of God's love for all persons when we embrace those whose views of marriage might be different than our own.

Commitment:

Thus, we welcome all persons seeking lifelong monogamous commitments that are held to the same rigorous standards, sexual ethics and are given the same status as heterosexual marriage. We welcome all couples seeking to enter Christian Marriage.

Special Meeting of the Congregation

**Sunday, September 23rd
3:00-5:00 PM**

... to have a conversation about and vote on a final version of
the **Statement on Welcome** ...

Upcoming Scripture Readings

September 2 – 15th Sunday of Pentecost
Psalm 15; James 1:17-27

September 9 – 16th Sunday of Pentecost
Psalm 146; James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17

September 16 – 17th Sunday of Pentecost
Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12

September 23 – 18th Sunday of Pentecost
Psalm 54; James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

September 30 – 19th Sunday of Pentecost
Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20



Please join us for Bible Study -

**Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.
in the Youth Room**

Beginning Wednesday, September 19th and
continuing through November 9th
(except for October 31st)

The Wednesday Afterschool Bible Experience



3:45 – 5:00 PM
for kids in Kindergarten
through 5th grade
(your child will ride the DATA bus from Cameron or be
walked over from Jones by an adult volunteer)

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

**Pick up a registration form from the church office
or call 428-4565 to register your child.**

Fortune Lake News

Upcoming Events:

Oct 6: **Fall Fest Quilt & Fine Art Auction**, 9:00 am
Quilt and fine art auction, brunch, country market,
country store and kids' activities.

Oct 12-13: **Upper Elementary Retreat** for grades 4-6
A perfect chance to come to camp for the first time or
come back to camp for more fun. Games, singing,
campfires and new friends make a great combination
for faith and fun!

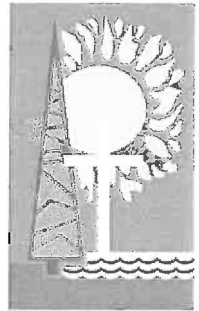
Nov 2-3: **Junior High Retreat** for grades 7-8
Senior High Retreat for grades 9-12

Fun, faith and friends! This retreat is a great way to get the year off to a
great start! Expect games, singing, Bible studies, and lots more!

Nov 2-4: **Unfinished Object (UFO) Craft Retreat**

Join us for an opportunity to work on those crafts you haven't had time
to finish and get to know other great people in the process.

For more information on Fortune Lake see the bulletin board in the
fellowship hall, go to www.fortunelake.org or check out Fortune Lake
on Facebook.

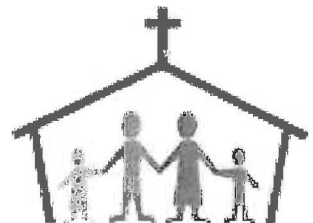


Join us for Christian Education!

Sunday School – for Pre-K through 5th grade
Sundays at 9:15 am

Confirmation – for 6th through 8th grades
Sundays at 9:15 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Bible Study –
Wednesdays at 9:30 am

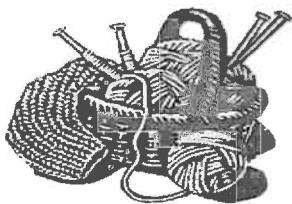


School Kits

Can you believe it? School supplies are already on sale! For each Lutheran World Relief backpack we need ...

- 5 - Pencils (unsharpened #2)
- 1 - Pencil sharpener
- 4 - Notebooks (lined, 70-80 sheets)
- 5 - Blue or black ball point pens (no gel ink)
- 1 - 30 cm ruler
- 1 - Crayons (box of 16 or 24)
- 1 - Eraser (2½ inch size)
- 1 - Blunt tip scissors

LWR requests no religious or patriotic symbols or camouflage colors. Please drop your donation in the box labeled school supplies in the narthex. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thank you!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawls are available upon request to members and non-members who have a special need or have reached a special life milestone. This could be an illness; physical, emotional or spiritual pain; a trial or difficult situation. Shawls may also be given for milestone events such as birthdays, graduations, and anniversaries.

A prayer shawl is knitted or crocheted, in a shape something like a stole. The person making the shawl, as each link is created, lifts up a prayer for the person who will receive the shawl. As the shawl is held or worn, the recipient, when feeling the links, will be reminded that prayers have been lifted up on his or her behalf.

Please call the office (428-4565) or speak with Pastor Otis if you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl.

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

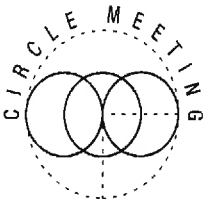
Tried-n-True
Luncheon and Program

**Meet our new
Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary
~ Jodi Tienen ~**

**Friday, September 21st
at Noon**

All First Lutheran seniors and friends are invited.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or
call the church office (428-4565) to
RSVP by Wednesday, September 19th.



Grace Circle

Grace Circle will meet at Bayview Manor on September 13, 2018 at 2:00 pm. Nora Smith will lead the lesson from Colossians 3: 1 - 17 by Max Lucado titled "Living Differently". Pastor Tom will join us about 3:00 pm to share a meditation and Holy

Communion. Allie Rajala will be the hostess. Guests are always welcome.

Women of the ELCA Ministries

Programs for 2018 -2019 have been planned and you can pick up a copy of them in the narthex. The Women of the ELCA does not meet in September.

The 10% of the ELCA treasury was given to the Lutheran World Relief school kits in August ... \$125.00.

2018 Annual Synodical Women's Organization Convention is Friday, September 14th. Doris Sundstrom will represent First Lutheran. The Fall retreat will be Friday - Sunday, September 14 - 16. Both of these events take place at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Scholarships are available through our WELCA. Please contact Pam Chouinard for information about the Fall Retreat.

The fall Bible study from the Gather magazine focuses on the theme of repentance. Three Circles will be using this study. Check out the time and places on the bulletin board or think about getting some sisters in Christ together for bible study that meets at a time that fits your schedule.

First Lutheran Church is a welcoming place. Have you considered being a part of our greeting ministry? If so, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. Individuals and families are tapped to be greeters before the 8:00 am and 10:30 am worship services.

A heads up for upcoming events ... the WELCA Cluster will be October 6th.

Lutheran World Relief shipping date possibly October 13th. Please watch the worship bulletin and board in the narthex for more information.



WELCA presents
**"Monarch Migration" at the
Peninsula Point Lighthouse**

Peninsula Point Lighthouse was built on the Stonington Peninsula on July 20, 1864, along the shores of Little Bay de Noc. The peninsula is shaped like a funnel, collecting monarch butterflies at its tip each fall, where they rest before continuing south across Lake Michigan on their annual migration.

Please join us for a potluck picnic at the lighthouse and learn about the Monarch Migration and Larva Monitoring Project!

Local volunteers have been collecting data on the Monarch Butterflies at Peninsula Point for several years, Data collected right here on the Stonington Peninsula is shared with scientists from around the world, to help understand and preserve this most recognized and most loved of all North American insects. *Sue Jamison*, a local volunteer, will be joining us and sharing what role they play in the Larva Monitoring Project.

When: Thursday, October 4, 2018

Where: Peninsula Point Lighthouse, Stonington Peninsula

Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

What to Bring: Dish to pass and lawn chair

Carpooling: meet at church at 4:00pm

In case of inclement weather we will meet in the fellowship hall at First Lutheran!

We Need Your Help

Eiko Olson, one of our faithful 10:30 members, has to have dialysis in Escanaba three times a week; Monday, Wednesday and Friday. She needs a ride to the Escanaba center on these days and we have set up a schedule for each month.

Eiko needs to be picked up at her home in Gladstone at 10:30am to make her 11:00 appointment and then picked up at the center to go home at 2:30pm.

If you are able to provide a ride for Eiko either to her appointment or to pick her up, or to drive both ways please call Connie at 428-1696. Thank you so much.

Bay College Meal

We again have the opportunity to serve the Bay College meal on Monday, September 24.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. We need servers, hot dishes, bars and drinks.

We thank everyone in advance.

Connie Salmi

Mission Endowment Fund Grants

A reminder that requests to the Mission Endowment Fund for the 2019 disbursement are due in the office no later than **Sunday, September 30.**



Guidelines and request forms for the disbursement are available from the office. The final disbursement plan will be approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January or February.

Over the years this fund has made a real difference in the lives of people from Gladstone to Escanaba and across the world by distributing over \$307,000 to a variety of organizations.

Salvation Army Luncheon

Thank you to all who helped with the Salvation Army Luncheon on August 18th. We served a 'Fair Theme" of corn dogs, potato salad, pickles, watermelon, chocolate and white milk, two kinds of cold drinks and sundae cones for dessert. With generous monetary donations and frugal shopping the cost was \$65.24. We served 38 guests and 7 helpers. Thank you to Connie Salmi and Nora Smith for food prep, monetary donations from Pat Hewitt, Laila Whitfield and Connie and Rob Salmi and workers Dewey and Avis Fairchild, Reyna, Alison, Vera and Violet Rose and Nora Smith. The Rose girls did an awesome grace! The last luncheon for 2018 will be November 3rd.



Join the Choir!

Chancel choir rehearsals will start on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:00 pm. Anyone who would like a chance to praise God in song (and have a lot of fun doing it) is welcome to join us!



Attention Ushers (and would be Ushers)!!!

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!

Drinking from the Saucer—Sweet!

I have fond memories of my father-in-law setting his coffee cup in a deep saucer and filling the cup to overflowing and drinking from the saucer. I suspect he did this to cool the coffee a bit to a drinkable temperature. My wife's grandmother did the same thing. Another trick they used was to put a lump of sugar in their mouth and sweeten the coffee by sipping it through the lump.



You've heard this before, I'm sure, but the power of its meaning bears repeating – "I'm drinking from my saucer because my cup runneth over!"

Using the imagery of my wife's father's habit of sipping his coffee through a lump of sugar to sweeten it, we could think of taking the blessings God gives us and enhancing (sweetening) them by USING them instead of hoarding them. We magnify them by using the time, abilities, energy and money God gives us instead of letting them lie fallow.

God does, indeed, fill our cups and then some! God showers us with so many blessings we need saucers to handle the overflow. God faithfully gives us far more than we need. What we do with those bountiful blessings defines us as stewards and Christians.

God's grace abounds! The "no strings attached" grace that fills our cups and saucers FREES us to move past the necessity of earning our way to heaven. We are free to respond to that unconditional grace and love by loving God back, loving ourselves and loving our neighbors.

Now that we are the consummate RECEIVERS, we need to be the consummate GIVERS. GIVING IS THE REASON FOR LIVING! To quote from the book, "Generous People" by Eugene Grimm, "in survey after survey, people say that the primary reason they give is gratitude to God for the blessings they have received". Another quote is, "giving is intrinsic to being Christian".

The title of Grimm’s book, “Generous People” aptly describes the good people of First Lutheran. We ARE generous people! We have good stewards everywhere we look.

As we move into our traditional Fall financial “ASK” time, we will, once again, have the opportunity to give our dollars to God’s work in the coming year. Our proven generosity promises to “sweeten the pot” from which we draw the resources to get the job done here, at the synod level and world wide.

Thankful for your generosity and in Christ,
Dirk Manson
Stewardship Chair

Where Does My Offering Go?

Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries ...

Growing the Lutheran Church around the world -

18%
of
giving

will send **230 missionaries** in more than 48 countries and more than **84 Young Adults in Global Mission** in 11 country programs.

- As a member of the Lutheran World Federation, we’re in communion with 145 member churches and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.
- Accompany new Lutheran churches, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.

Continued next month ... watch for it!



... to those who helped with the August Messenger; Mary Bjorkquist, Avis Fairchild, Judy Hammond, Gloria Kanerva, Paula LaCrosse and Carole Wedell.

Thank you all, for all your help!

~

Many, many thanks to Howard Haulotte for painting the "Quiet Room". It looks great!

~

First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for honoring me during this special time in my life. I really appreciate the quilt and well wishes as I continue on through college to pursue a degree in nursing. I will never forget the memories and friendships that I have gained through the years. The support and guidance has helped me grow closer to God and become a better and more faithful person.

God Bless,
Shelby Martinucci

~

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous support of ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge. Your generous gifts will be matched dollar for dollar. Your support of agriculture-related programs of ELCA's ministry to end hunger poverty makes a difference as we work together toward a just world where all are fed.

Blessings to you as you continue to live out God's call to love our neighbor.

The ELCA World Hunger Team

Dear Special Friends at First Lutheran:

We are sure Big Dan is so happy with all of you. The Shades of Gray, the Choir and the music was touching. Pastor Otis and Reverend Skogman were comforting. The food couldn't be better. Thanks to the serving groups. Dan would be proud of the military tribute.

Now the people who gave flowers, memorials, sent cards and paper products, you are so thoughtful.

We hope we didn't forget anyone.

You are all so special,
Dan Morley's family -
Betsy, Sam, Madelyn
Willard and Gen Morley
Dan's brothers and sister

~

Dear Pastor Tom and First Lutheran,

We just wanted to thank you again for your warm reception and for your generous gift of \$304.00.

With love,
The LeGaults

Gifts to our congregation have been given ...

In loving memory of **Norm Lund**
for Seminarian Support by ...
Nora Smith

In loving memory of **Dan Morley**
for Seminarian Support by ...
Jo and Dale Skogman



Happy Birthday to ...

9/2	Patt Shampo	9/19	Allie Rajala
9/3	Geri Labre	9/20	Al Salmi
9/4	Donna Caron		Charlotte Strom
9/6	Dolly Salmi	9/21	Darla Pardon
9/8	Helen Belongie		Jack Soderman
	Geri George	9/22	Joan Anderson
	Carol Kocsis		Charlie George
	Cali Kossow	9/24	Tom Ford
9/10	Carter Menard		John Kloet
9/11	Londyn Koski		Henrietta Miller
9/12	George Botbyl	9/26	Lori Shea
9/14	Billy Ray Rodriguez	9/27	Barb Filizetti
9/16	Jolane Nelson	9/28	Tina Erickson
9/18	Neal Johnson		Dewey Fairchild
	Connie Salmi	9/29	Lexi Hongisto
	Marshall Seawright	9/30	Bambi Johnson
	Nicole Siedlecki		

Happy Anniversary to ...

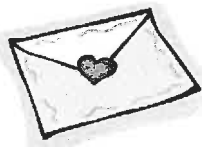
9/4	Sherry and Dewayne Ide
9/6	Bonnie and Lee Anderson
9/12	Pat and Don Casteel
9/15	Kayla and Dan Verbeek
9/17	Kristin and Mike Bourdeau
9/18	Sally and Chuck Strom
9/21	Pam and Paul Bialik
9/23	Trudy and Ray Brandt
9/26	Kim and John Roman
9/29	Vicki and Dave Ottensman
	Emily and Ken Clement



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

Special Giving Envelope

This month's special giving envelope will benefit **Hope at the Inn**; Delta County's faith based, rotating location homeless shelter.



Walking Together

Coming in October!!!

You are invited to a mini-Festival of Congregational Renewal at **Immanuel Lutheran, Escanaba**. This Northern Great Lakes Synod event will include leadership training, address current concerns, equip you for the future and offer the blessing of being church with other congregations in your area. Our Conference 6 meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 11 from 5:30-8:00 pm**.

We can send nine more people to this event. Please call the church office (428-4565) if you would like to attend.

Hope at the Inn Benefit

Hope at the Inn (HATI) is Delta County's faith-based, rotating location homeless shelter. In order to raise needed funds they are holding a

Nacho Saturday!

Saturday, September 8th, 5:00-7:00 pm
Salvation Army, 3001 Fifth Ave South, Escanaba



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 should be an easy fundraiser for the church and a way to use points that would otherwise go to waste. Thank you!

Attention All Amazon Shoppers!

If you shop on Amazon you can donate to First Lutheran through the Amazon Smile Foundation. Every time you make a purchase at Amazon.com, login through **smile.amazon.com** instead. Designate First Lutheran Church Gladstone as your charity of choice. Every quarter First Lutheran will receive a donation that is a percentage of each purchase price. Thank you!

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 to 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!

Council Highlights

The Congregation Council met on August 9th with President Marshall Seawright presiding. At this meeting the council ...

Heard a proposal to change our bylaws relating to committee operation to continuing resolutions which will allow for more flexibility in committee structure. The congregation will vote on this proposal at the Annual Meeting ...



Approved the hiring of Jodi Tianen as the new Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary ...

Learned that Pastor Otis will be serving as administrative interim at Christ the King in Escanaba ...

Heard that the Personnel Committee has begun discussing hiring a lay person to work with youth and families ...

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on Thursday, September 13th at 7:00 pm.

Contact Us:

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Rev. Tom Otis, Pastor

pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org
Office: 428-4565
Cell Phone: 280-9997

Administrative Asst/Financial Secretary: Jodi Tianen

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Secretary: Reyna Rose

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Director of Music: Kris McDonald

Musicians: Kris McDonald, Olivia Wery, Lori Anderson

Christian Ed Coordinators: Reyna Rose, Amelia Seawright

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 September

Date	Time	Greeters	Readers	Acolytes	Communion
Sept 2	8:00	Judy and Paul Hammond	Ellen Swenson	Vera R	Sally Pouliot
	10:30	Mary and Lloyd Tuskan	Dale Skogman	Werner S	Dirk Manson Jacob Siedlecki
Sept 9	8:00	Jean and John Noskey	Julie Sanville	Kaden M	Dale Schlemmer
	10:30	Gloria Kanerva Nora Smith	Cindy Sjoquist	Sam O	Jo Skogman Erin Wickman
Sept 16	8:00	Monica and Irv Bostwick	Judy Hammond	Gus S	Nora Smith
	10:30	TBD	John Thomas	Deegan M	Chuck Thomas Lynn Thomas
Sept 23	8:00	Vicki and Wayne Marshall	Wayne Marshall	John R	Vicki Marshall
	10:30	Ruth and George Botbyl	Peggy Austin	Danny K	Ann Christiansen Pam Bialik
Sept 30	8:00	Trudy and Ray Brandt	Chris Mineau	Maci M	Julie Sanville
	10:30	Pam Chouinard Carlene Otis	Laura Coleman	Lauren S	Jane Coyne-Smith Kathy Gudwer

Ushers 8:00: Dennis Hanson, Don Seeley

Altar Guild: Carol Knauf, Lori Marmalick, Amy Miron

10:30: g/2 George Botbyl, Tim Rybicki; g/9 – g/30 TBD

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