

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)

~ **October 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

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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.



It's About God's Kingdom

God has a Mission

First Lutheran is a part of God's mission. You are a part of God's Mission. Your giving is the earthly part of this mission to the world that God so loves. God's Love makes this mission happen. Through God's love for you, your dollars also make this mission happen.



It's About Family

The Body of Christ is a family of believers. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus makes a claim that those who leave everything for his sake and the gospel are his mother and brother and sister. We are his family. Those who risk leaving the life they know will receive a family of faith a hundred fold. Some of us are blessed to be able to bring our loved ones with us into this family of faith. Some do not really know or understand what it is to be a part of a family until they discover the love of Christ here. We pray for each other, visit each other, support each other in times of loss and illness. We encourage one another. We don't always understand our faith the same way. We don't always agree. That is also a part of family. We love and know we are loved. And just like any family we have bills and costs and expectations of being a part this family.

It's About Future

Will First be here 100 years from now? I don't know. Its up to God. God has a mission. We are part of God's mission. Our future depends in large part on our faithfulness. I sometimes worry about whether there will be a church in the future to marry and baptize and bury. But if I am faithful and you are faithful, my worry is silly. God has a mission. As I commit my time, talents, treasures and trust to this 'Mission Outpost' called First Lutheran it will remain.

It's About Your Faith

Do you believe Christ died for you? Do you believe that you have been blessed by knowing a God who loves you that much? Do you trust God? For you see, you giving is also a part of your commitment to showing your trust in the love of God..

Yours in Christ, Pastor Otis

UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

October 7st – Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

October 14th – Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

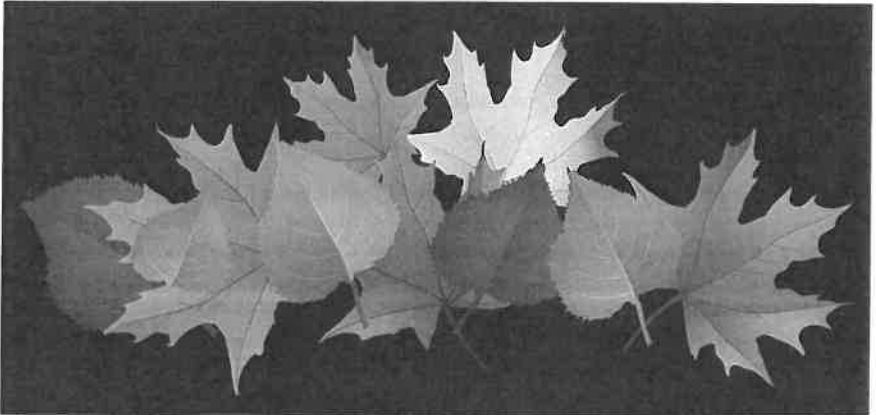
Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

October 21st – Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

October 28th

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36



We had fun at Rally Night and a great first day of Sunday School!

This year we invite any 2-3 year old children who would like to participate to our Pre-K class (moms and dads are welcome too!).

With everything going on in the world today, any contributions we receive from our bi-monthly coffee hours (beginning in October) or from the noisy offering (every second Sunday during children's sermon) will go to ELCA Disaster Response.

See you at Sunday School!

Amelia Seawright & Reyna Rose

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!

Sunday School – for ages 4 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

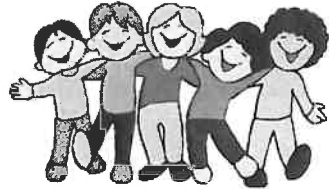
Bible Study –
Wednesdays at 9:30 am



Continuing through November 7th...

The Wednesday Afterschool Bible Experience

3:45 – 5:00 PM
for kids in Kindergarten
through 5th grade



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

Pick up a registration form from the church office.

TRUNK-or-TREAT!

Sunday, October 28th - 9:15 am

Wear your Halloween costumes to Sunday School and church
and go trunk-or-treating in the parking lot
(or the Fellowship Hall if it rains).



Congregation members are invited to bring candy or treats to pass out to the Sunday School children as they go trunk-or-treating.



Any members or returning members who were not included in the 2016 directory and would like their photos added to it please call Cindy. Once printed the new photos will be available in the Church Office for anyone to pickup to add to their 2016 Directory.

Please contact Cindy Sjoquist 428-9103

Special Giving Envelope

This month's special giving envelope will go to Fortune Lake Phone/Internet appeal, for vital technology upgrade.



"First off I'd like to thank First Lutheran for their continued support for Fortune Lake! Congregations like ours are vital to the survival of camp. With the changing of Directors, it has been made know to the board that vital technology updates need to be addressed. This would include phone lines for emergency situations, extended Wi-Fi coverage, and an update of technology in the office. As camp has been trying their best to function with minimal deficit there simply isn't money for these updates. I would like to thank First's Council for dedicating this month's special donations for this update and for the congregation members for being generous with their donations. Every dollar counts!"

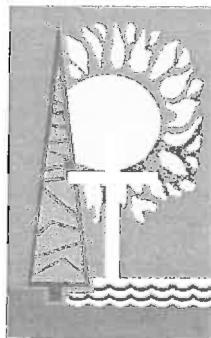
Love and light,
Audrey Strom

Fortune Lake News

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 6: Fall Fest Quilt & Fine Art Auction

Brunch will be served from 9- 11 am, the country store and markets selling baked goods and hand-crafted items will be open all morning. The quilt auction will begin at 11. All proceeds help support the ministry of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. You can see some of the items in the auction on our website and don't have to be present to bid.



October 12-13: Upper Elementary Fall Retreat

An exciting weekend of games, new friends, songs, worship, and Bible Study. Registration is from 6-7 pm on Friday and the retreat ends Saturday at 2 pm central. <http://fortunelake.org/files/retreat-registration-youth.pdf> Cost is \$50.

November 2-4: UFO (Unfinished Objects) Craft Retreat

This is an opportunity to work on those crafts you haven't had time to finish and to get to know other great people in the process. Please registration by noon Thursday, October 25. and the retreat concludes on Sunday at noon. Cost is \$90.

November 2-3: Jr & Sr High Fall Retreats

Join us for an exciting weekend of new friends, games, Bible Study and much more! <http://fortunelake.org/files/retreat-registration-youth.pdf> Please registration by noon Thursday, October 25. and the retreat concludes on Sunday at 2:00 pm central. Cost is \$50.

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.

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

TRIED-N-TRUE
Luncheon and Program

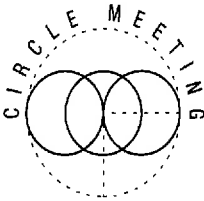


Faithful + Witnesses

Friday, October 19th
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, October 17th**.



Grace Circle

Grace Circle will meet at Fairview Manor on Thursday, October 11th at 2:00 pm. Pastor Tom will join us for devotions and the celebration of Holy Communion and a time for prayer. Nora Smith will lead the bible study from Colossians 3: 18 - 21 titled "Home Sweet Home". Audrey Ansell will serve as hostess. Guests are always welcome. If a ride is needed, please call the church office at 428-4565

Charity Circle

Charity Circle will meet at the home of Elaine Deroeck at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, October 10th. All women are welcome to join us.

WELCA EVENT

All women are invited to a **"Monarch Migration"** – picnic at the Stonington Lighthouse from **5:00 - 7:00 pm** on **Thursday, October 4th**.



Come and bring a friend! Learn more about Monarch Migration!

Hostesses for the evening are the executive board of the Women of the E.L.C.A.

DELTA CLUSTER MEETING of the WOMEN OF THE ELCA

SATURDAY, October 6, 2018 9:15 am - 12:30 pm

Lunch provided at Immanuel Lutheran Church
600 South Lincoln Road, Escanaba
Program: "Our Place Community Center"

Worship offering in in-kind offering will be given to
"OUR PLACE"

In-kind ideas for the offering: DVDs (new or used, G PG 13), puzzles (new or used). Craft paper (used for making cards), adult coloring books, colored pencils/markers and flavored popcorn.

Any questions please call Laurel @ 906 233-7292. First Lutheran ladies will be doing the prayer requests.

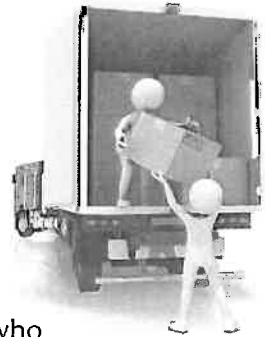
BOXCAR LOADING

The Lutheran World Relief shipping date is Saturday, October 13, 2018.

We will be loading our boxes into the semi trailer from 8:00 to 9:00 am. Area churches will be asked to come between 9:00 and 10:30 am.

Home-baked or store-bought treats are welcomed to share with our workers and those who bring boxes from other churches.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for ways to help. Many hands and strong bodies make light work! Touch base with Nora Smith (786-5231) if you have questions.



Salvation Army Luncheon

First Lutheran Church will serve lunch at the Salvation Army on Saturday, November 3rd. Ways to help will be shared in the bulletin and posted in the narthex.



Walking Together



Coming in the Fall of 2018!!!

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 up to 19 people to this event. Please call the church office (428-4565) if you would like to attend.

Musicians Gathering

Saturday, October 20, 2018 9:30 AM
Calvary Lutheran Church, Rapid River

all musicians (organists, pianists, instrumentalists, choir members and directors) in the Synod are invited to attend this gathering for Prayer, worship and discussion.

For questions or to register contact Lucas Wickstrom at lucas@lucas.net or (906) 204-6800

Please Close Classroom Doors!

Perhaps you've noticed there are "Please Close Door" signs on the classrooms off the fellowship hall? They are there for a reason! The fellowship hall is air conditioned, but not the classrooms. When classroom doors are left open the AC for the fellowship hall runs much more often, driving up utility bills and stressing the unit. Closing the doors saves energy and doesn't stress the AC unit!

During heating season, the same holds true. Our heat is zoned and leaving classroom doors open when not in use causes the Fellowship Hall furnace to run overtime.

THANK YOU!!! from the Property Committee.

“TRUST ME!”

Trust is, often, hard to come by. When someone says, “trust me”, the level of trust depends upon context and, more importantly, who the “me” is. When Kris McDonald, our Director of Music says to the choir, “trust me” (and she says it often!) I usually do. She can be trusted. If I’m shopping for a used car, on the other hand, trust can be a very elusive thing.



“Trust me” means “have faith in me”. Do we trust God? Do we have faith in God? I have to admit that trust in God is more elusive than I would like. I wish my faith were “rock solid” all the time and unshaken by the difficult times we all face in our lives.

One aspect of church life that tests our trust level is when we are asked to make a financial commitment to help pay for the cost of doing business. Viewing church as a business is an edgy thing yet, make no mistake about it, we need to be about the business of doing God’s work. There’s lots of work that needs doing--here at First Lutheran, at the Synod level and at the church-wide ELCA. We are all in this together and spreading the Good News takes money.

When we are asked to make a written “estimate of giving” this year, we will all need to crank up the trust level. Our family will, for one, need to have faith that God will give us what we need in 2019. We will need to trust that when we stretch our giving level, God will return the favor, bless us and provide.

You should be receiving a letter asking you to make an “estimate of giving” toward the end of September or early October. As you pray about and consider making an estimate and how much that estimate will be, think about:

1. Growing your giving level (increasing your Commitment)
2. Percentage giving (x% of your income)
3. Tithing (10% of your income)
4. Using Simply Giving (automatic monthly Draw from checking or savings)

I've said this many times before and it deserves repeating (over and over again!) --God has blessed us abundantly. One of God's greatest gifts is being a part of this faith community. The good people of First Lutheran have demonstrated, repeatedly, the trust and faith to stand up and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

God says, “Trust Me”. Have faith and give boldly!

In Christ,
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

Seminarian Support

“Legacy – Handed down from...” Webster’s Dictionary

In this column for several years we have encouraged persons to pursue ordained ministry and solicited financial support for them. I want to strike a different note in this column raising two issues: 1) As we encourage others to pursue ministry, what about our own witness? 2) What can we do to provide ongoing financial support for

those pursuing ordained ministry after we are gone? In our wills, Jo and I have addressed both issues.

As we prepared our “legacy” we wanted to make a final Christian witness to our family and to provide ongoing financial support for persons pursuing ordained ministry.

In witness to our family we placed the following preamble in our wills: “It is our conviction that among those things which we might bequeath to our heirs, there is no more valuable gift than a faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ, as our Savior and theirs. While we take delight in sharing our worldly assets with those who survive us, it is our fervent prayer that we might all share in the Christian faith which will bind us together for time and eternity. It is with thanksgiving to Almighty God, therefore, who has sustained us in life, redeemed us for eternity, that we have prepared this, our Last Will and Testament, and we encourage our heirs to receive our assets as a trust to be administered as faithful Christian stewards.”

In addition to making a final witness to our family about faith in Jesus, we also wanted to provide financial assistance for those preparing for ordained ministry after we were gone. When my predecessor retired from the office of bishop the synod gave him a cash gift. Anticipating that the same might be done for me, I indicated that I would prefer that rather than a cash gift I would be pleased if a Dale and Jo Skogman Seminarian Support Fund might be established to provide funding for seminarians from the Northern Great Lakes Synod in the future. In addition to our yearly contributions to this fund, Jo and I are most grateful that many other friends and associates have contributed to the fund over the years with the result that the fund reported a recent balance of \$135,000.00. Five percent of the fund’s total is disbursed each year. Our contribution, coupled with other synod support, has placed the Northern Great Lakes Synod first in seminarian financial support of all the sixty-five synods in the ELCA. We are most grateful to those who have joined us in contributing to our fund. Jo and I have also included our seminarian

fund as the recipient of the largest charitable contribution that we will make in our wills.

So, I conclude as I began: As we encourage others to pursue ordained ministry: 1) What witness to Jesus Christ are we, ourselves, making? 2) Will we also provide financial support for those pursuing ordained ministry after we are gone? As your “legacy” what will you “hand down?”

Dale Skogman on behalf of the Seminarian Support Committee

Where Does My Offering Go?

Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries

<p>16 % of giving</p>

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries -

Maintain constituent database, including 1.1 million records of rostered and lay leaders, members, donors and congregations.

- Preserve and maintain archives and historic records of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.
- Provide office space, equipment and human resources for staff and operations.
- Process 150,000 gifts to ELCA ministries.
- Equip congregations and synods with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters..

Continued next month ... watch for it!

... to those who helped with the October Messenger:



Carol Ebbesen, Judy Hammond,
Judy Haulotte, Paula LaCrosse,
Gloria Kanerva

Thank you, ladies, very much!

Many thanks to Karleen & Ryan Thorbahn, Paula LaCrosse, Connie Salmi, Pam Chouinard, Sally Pouliot & Finlee for the September Tried-n-True meal and program.

~

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,

The All Saints Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul extends a heartfelt thank you to the generous people of your church community for your participation in the Soup and Sandwich Suppers that have been held at the Community of Christ Church over the past ten years. We are very grateful for the funds raised that have allowed us to assist so many of those who are in need. We appreciate all the hours of work that went into preparing and serving these delicious meals as well as the planning and organizing that went on behind the scenes. May God Bless you for your generosity to the less fortunate in our community.

Mary Knoch, Secretary All Saints Conference

~



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the lovely retirement send-off. I so appreciate all the well-wishes, cards and gifts. I have loved my time working at First Lutheran and I am so grateful to all of you for the opportunity.



Peace & blessings,

Lisa

~

To my home congregation:

Thank you very much for your generous hospitality for Donna Dawson's funeral service and luncheon. Thank you to Pastor Tom for your assistance and support. Thank you Bishop Dale for doing the readings. Thank you to the Altar Guild and the serving groups that so wonderfully prepared and cleaned up the fellowship hall and sanctuary. I am proud to be a part of this blessed congregation.

Blessings, Pastor Diane

~

To First Lutheran Church,

Thank you to Pastor Otis for the beautiful memorial service, the choir for the music, the serving group for the wonderful food & their hard work and anyone who supported us during this difficult time. We may have left our church home in Gladstone, but our hearts remain.



The Family of Dave Leach

Gifts to our congregation have been given ...

In loving memory of **David Leach**

for Seminarian Support by ...

Sally Pouliot

Karen Bratonia

for Sewing by ...

Paul & Judy Hammond

Dale & Jo Skogman

Al & Dolly Salmi

Lloyd & Mary Tuskan

Gloria Kanerva

for Memorial Fund by ...

Pat Hewitt

Charlie & Geri George

Will & Gen Morley

Bill & Kathy Shine

Nora Smith

Carol Wyatt

for Salvation Army Lunch by ...

Dave and Vicki Ottensman

for Mission Endowment Fund by ...

Dirk & Sue Manson

for Choir by ...

Scott & Jane Coyne-Smith



In loving memory of **Dan Morley**

for Mission Endowment Fund by ...

Dirk & Sue Manson

Anita Stockham

Duane & Nancy Bovin

Bill & Kathy Shine

Ken & Bonnie Groh

Nora Smith

Dick & Marian Feehan

Carol Wyatt

Pat Hewitt

for Sewing by ...

Bernice Marshall

Al & Dolly Salmi

Tom & Dotti Ford

In loving memory of **Jim Bratonia**

for Sewing by...

Paul and Judy Hammond

In loving memory of **Dennis Hoegh**

for Memorial Fund by ...

Carole & Paul Wedell

Happy Birthday to ...

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 10/2 | Judy Larson | 10/19 | Diane Miller |
| 10/2 | Chuck Strom | 10/21 | Jo Skogman |
| 10/4 | Carol Knauf | 10/23 | John Thomas |
| 10/5 | Ginny Menard | 10/24 | Clinton Seawright |
| | Dave Tianen | 10/25 | Kayla Verbeek |
| 10/6 | Kristinna Trudeau | 10/26 | Dianne Lahtinen |
| 10/7 | Vickie Marshall | 10/27 | Pam Bialik |
| 10/8 | John Noskey | 10/28 | Russell McClinchy |
| 10/9 | Barbara Ball | 10/29 | Nancy Bovin |
| | Linda Erickson | | Lillian Strom |
| 10/10 | Will Morley | 10/30 | Jim Olsick |
| 10/12 | Richard LaCrosse | 10/31 | Evolette Ellison |
| | William Shine | | Betty Pardon |
| 10/14 | Vera Rose | | Judy Hammond |
| | Nora Smith | | Dale Schlemmer |
| 10/15 | Hunter Botruff | | Mary Cowen |
| 10/18 | Dewayne Ide | | |

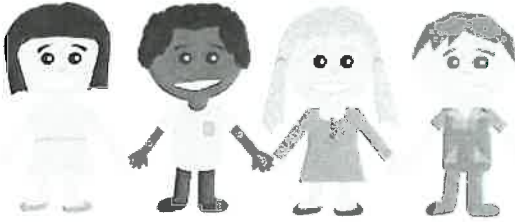
Happy Anniversary to ...

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 10/6 | Kathy & Jeff Gudwer |
| 10/7 | Barbara & Ron Ball |
| 10/8 | Richard & Paula LaCrosse |
| 10/11 | Lori & Kelly Shea |
| 10/12 | Rhonda & Eric Husbye |
| | Jolane & Andy Nelson |
| 10/16 | Kristinna & David Trudeau |
| 10/29 | Erin & Tim Wickman |



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

Operation Christmas Child



We will be collecting boxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year. You can fill a shoebox, plastic box or get one of the green boxes we have

in the narthex to fill for either a boy or girl. Then decide an age group; 2-4 years, 5-9 years or 10-14 years old. Then the fun starts as you fill your box with school items (pencils and sharpener, pens, crayons, notebooks, coloring books), toys (doll, soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal), hygiene items (toothbrush, soap, washcloths, combs) and put them in the box. Use your imagination, these are just suggestions. If you wrap the box in wrapping paper be sure to wrap the top separately as the boxes have to be inspected. Pray for the child who will receive the box. If possible, please also include a check for \$9 made out to Samaritan's Purse for shipping. If you don't want to go shopping, you can make a donation of money also and I will shop for you. You can also include a personal note to the child or a photo of you or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back to you. Please no used items, liquids, or breakable items. Also, we can no longer send toothpaste or candy. Remember, this may be the only gift these children ever receive in their entire life. Sunday School Children will also be packing the Christmas boxes on Sunday, Oct. 28th

Collection week to bring to Grace Church is **November 12-19** so please return your box to church by then.

Thank you.

Ann Christiansen

Council Highlights

The Congregation Council met on September 13th for their regularly scheduled meeting. Guest Speake Audrey Strom – Board Member at Fortune Lake Camp.

- Council discussed upgrades to sound system, referred to property & finance committees for further discussion.
- Decided October special giving envelope will be for Fortune Lake Vital Technology Internet Appeal.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be the “Walking Together” meeting – Thursday October 11th 5:30 – 8:00 at Immanuel, Escanaba



Cowboy Joe was telling his fellow cowboys back on the ranch about his first visit to a big-city church.

"When I got there, they had me park my old truck in the corral," Joe began.

"You mean the parking lot," interrupted Charlie, a more worldly fellow.

"I walked up the trail to the door," Joe continued.

"The sidewalk to the door," Charlie corrected him.

"Inside the door, I was met by this dude," Joe went on.

"That would be the usher," Charlie explained.

"Well, the usher led me down the chute," Joe said.

"You mean the aisle," Charlie said.

"Then, he led me to a stall and told me to sit there," Joe continued. "Pew,"



Charlie retorted.

"Yeah," recalled Joe. "That's what that pretty lady said when I sat down beside her."



One Sunday in a Midwest City, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle.

Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out.

Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"



CONTACT US:

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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

Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary: Jodi Tienen

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Secretary: Reyna Rose

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Musicians: Kris McDonald, Olivia Wery, Lori Anderson

Chancel and Handbell Choir Director: Kris McDonald

Christian Ed Coordinators: Amber Hess-Soderman 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 October

Date	Time	Greeters	Readers	Acolytes	Communion
Oct 7	8:00	Raino and Maxine Make	Dale Schlemmer	Jesse Olsick	Dotti Ford
	10:30	Evora Shaeter	Sue Manson	Trevor Thorbahn	Carol Kocsis Dirk Manson
Oct 14	8:00	Tom and Dottie Ford	Lori Shea	Allison Rose	Judy Hammond
	10:30 (At the Park)	Betty Palmquist	Dick Feehan	Rylee Gerow	Jacob Siedlecki Jo Skogman
Oct 21	8:00	Paul and Judy Hammond	Nora Smith	John Roman	Carol Knauf
	10:30	Dick & Marian Feehan	Sherri Ide	Austin Brown	Chuck Thomas Lynn Thomas
Oct 28	8:00	Wayne and Vicki Marshall	Doris Sundstrom	Gus Soderman	Vickie Marshall
	10:30	Arla Pearson	Pam Durbin	Braden Sundquist	Pam Bailik Erin Wickman

Ushers 8:00: Don Seeley, Dennis Hanson **Altar Guild:** Geri George, Judy Hammond

10:30: TBD Volunteers needed, please!!!

First Lutheran Church
1212 Minneapolis Avenue
Gladstone, Michigan 49837

Address Service Requested

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