

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)

~ **November 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

November 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.

THE PASTOR'S PEN

Assumptions

CNN recently shared some Pew Research Center information that challenges our assumptions. As Christians around America see their beloved churches declining or grow older, they ask “Why?”, “What is going on?”. Without looking carefully, we can jump at the first explanation. “Aha! There aren’t any young families with children.” We bemoan the lack of children, we blame the pastor for the lack of children and we push for programs for families with young children in a hope of rebuilding. But that, in fact, is not the best place to be looking. Better to “Look before you leap” into programs that are the right answer to the wrong question.

There is a large segment of unchurched people right under our noses. They identify the things that they are looking for and why they aren’t engaged in a church. Without getting lost in the details of the research, the answer is surprising. It is women over the age of 50. How can we make these friends and neighbors feel welcome?



What are they looking for?

A place to matter. A place to serve or volunteer without making major commitments. A place to be a part of a group of women where they feel safe. In short, a place to belong and find meaning.

Why they don't come?

The reasons they give may sound all too familiar, but that doesn't mean that these reasons aren't very real to them. Some work on Sundays. Some have transportation issues or even health and mobility issues. Some are unsure if they will be welcomed. A few are afraid of high expectations. Most haven't found a church where they feel comfortable. They give these and many other reasons we often hear. If you look at their desire for community and their resistance as two sides of the same coin, it is the anxiety involved in the forming of

any new relationship. It is kind of like dating. Knowing they need something, yet fearing rejection or disappointment, they fail to try.

What we have to offer

If there was ever a target audience for First Lutheran, this is it! How do we get them over the obstacles formed by their anxiety? Quilters is a place you can quietly work in a side room or be on the main floor, be in a wheel chair or even carry oxygen. Circles provide meeting and depth as well as ways to serve. We have a relationship to offer, but do we consciously reach out?

Saints Alive

You never know what you may find. It could really blossom. If they have a spouse, we have the men's group and occasional property events. If they have grandchildren, we have Sunday School and Afterschool. When we open ourselves to the world around us there is a large mission field and a way into it. You can be "Saints Alive" for Christ and a vessel for His love. But it means dumping our assumptions and looking at what is actually going on around us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Otis

UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

November 4th – All Saints

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11: 32-34

November 11th – 1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 18th – Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

November 25th – Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93;
Revelation 1:4b-8;
John 18:33-37



**Gladstone Ecumenical
Thanksgiving Worship**

**Sunday, November 18th
7:00 PM**

at

**United Evangelical Covenant Church
305 South 9th Street
Gladstone**

Join us as we gather with others in our community
to give thanks to a good and gracious God!



**ALONE FOR THE HOLIDAY? INDIVIDUALS AND
FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO COME TOGETHER FOR A
DELICIOUS THANKSGIVING DINNER ON THANKSGIVING DAY**

**WHERE: ESCANABA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CAFETERIA**

WHEN: 12:00

Menu: Roast Turkey, Dressing, Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes, & Gravy, Cranberry Sauce Rolls Coffee, Milk and Pie!

MEAL RESERVATIONS, RIDES, OR HOME DELIVERED MEALS CAN BE ARRANGED BY CALLING ESC. SENIOR CENTER 786-8850

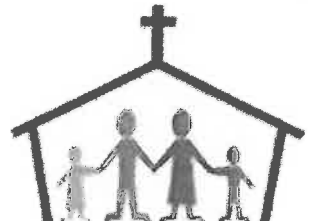


JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!

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





We will be collecting mittens, hats and scarves for the mitten tree again this year (socks are ok too). We will donate all items collected to the Salvation Army. Please bring your items to church and put them on the mitten tree!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Please return your boxes to church by Sunday November 12th or you can deliver them to Grace Church yourself from November 12-19.

Thank you.

Thank you.

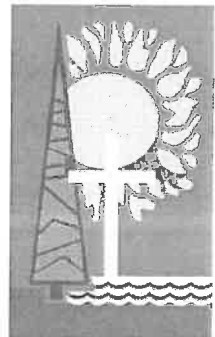
Ann Christiansen

FORTUNE LAKE NEWS

Upcoming Events:

November 2-3: **Junior & Senior High Retreats**

An exciting weekend of games, new friends, songs, worship, and Bible Study as we explore Martin Luther, the Reformation and what it means for us today. Registration is from 6-7 pm central time on Friday and the retreat ends Saturday at 2 pm. Cost is \$50.



**Houston Youth Gathering Reunion
and Synod Youth Brainstorming
at Fortune Lake**



2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

**Saturday, November
3rd - 2pm to around
4pm**

The Fortune Lake Jr./Sr. High Overnight Retreat starts 6pm, Friday, November 2nd and concludes at 2pm on Saturday.

For those interested, we will stick around for another 2 hours to talk about the Houston Youth Gathering, sing some songs and brainstorm about other Synod Youth Events!

Some of the youth from the awesome Synod Day Band will be playing!

There is no additional cost for this “extra 2 hours”.
Everyone attending the Fortune Lake Retreat is welcome!

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.

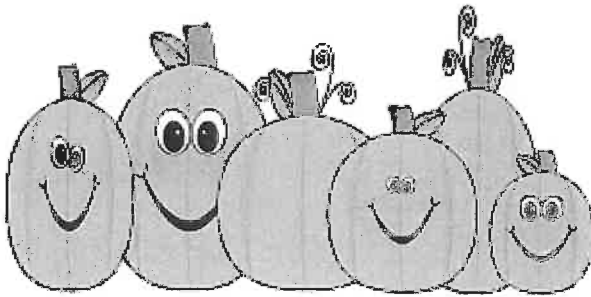
Registration is from 5-6 pm on Friday and the retreat concludes on Sunday at noon. Cost is \$90.

November 12: **Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors**

Also in November (Monday the 12th from 10 am to 2 pm), we will celebrate a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with Senior Adults (Norman Rockwell style). If you live within a 2-hour drive from camp, this event, which has been growing in popularity, is worth the drive. We divide into teams and prepare the feast ourselves, sharing our cooking and eating skills! It's a great way to give thanks for numerous blessings! Please email or call the camp office (906-214-2267) by November 8 so we know how big the turkeys need to be! Cost is \$10.

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.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A CHRISTIAN?
IT'S LIKE BEING A PUMPKIN!



God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you may have gotten from the other pumpkins.
Then He cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff.
He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.
Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.

SPECIAL GIVING ENVELOPE

This month's special giving envelope will go towards:

Hurricane Relief
Lutheran Disaster Relief



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

TRIED-N-TRUE
Luncheon and Program (TBA)

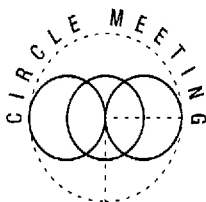


Faithful + Witnesses

Friday, November 16
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, November 14th**.



GRACE CIRCLE

Grace Circle will meet at Bayview Manor and Thursday, November 8th at 2:00 pm. Nora Smith will lead the Bible study from Colossians 4:7 -18 by Max Lucado titled "Companions on the Journey" starting at 2:00 pm. Pastor Tom will join us at 2:45 pm and share a message and the celebration of Holy Communion. Pat Hewitt will serve as hostess. Guests are always welcome. If a ride is needed, please call the church office.

WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A. NEWS

Sunday, November 18 is Women of the E.L.C.A. Sunday at First Lutheran Church. Our women and girls will serve in a variety of ways at both services. A coffee fellowship will follow the 10:30 am worship hosted by Charity Circle and friends. The free will donations will support outreach missions and ministries of our women.

Thank you to Doris Sundstrom for being a delegate to the Synodical Women's Convention at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in September.

ATTENTION FIRST LUTHERAN DING-A-LINGS



Reserve Friday and/or Saturday, December 14-15 for Salvation Army bell ringing at Pat's in Gladstone.

We need to defend our stalwart record of high achievement (maybe even set a new record). Actual signups on the two preceding Sundays- December 2 and 9.

More to come

LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

IF you are currently not getting the Living Lutheran Magazine and would like to, please contact the church office so we can include you in the subscription by November 6th.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

This year First Lutheran Church sent ...

722 Quilts, **504** baby care kits, **180** school kits.

The Square Ladies made 371 tops. Quilts were also given to graduates, to a Place of Hope project and look for many in the

upcoming silent auction. We had boxes from 17 churches put on the semi from Escanaba Moving Systems the morning of October 13th. The semi was about 3/4's full. We had a great crew of people who helped in many ways.

Those who brought goodies were Jo Skogman, Mary Herro, Mary Tuskan, Paula LaCrosse, Connie Salmi, Jane Coyne Smith. Nora Smith and most helped with serving and clean up.

Those loading boxes were Rick and Paula LaCrosse, Tiffany and Jim Olsick, Carolyn Nelson, Rob and Connie Salmi, Lloyd Tuskan, Kelly and Carson Shea, Everett Peterson, Dave Ottensman, Pastor Tom and Carlene Otis, Dewey Fairchild, Pam and Austin Brown, Joe and Pam Durbin

To all and to any I may have missed....

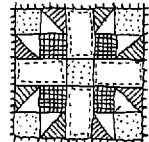
Gracias, Danke, Thank you for your servant hearts!

Nora

Please mark your calendars for
"QUILTS & TREASURES"

at First Lutheran Church.

The silent auction begins Sunday, November 4
and continues through Sunday, November 18 at noon.



Stop in any time during the week and check out what is available. Quilts, handmade items, table runners, some vintage things. Place your bid with your name and phone number. If you are the highest bidder and cannot be here on the 18th you will get a call and can pick up your item/items any time that following week.

All the money raised will be sent to Lutheran World Relief to help with shipping costs. **Anyone from the congregation may donate homemade items for the silent auction.**

SALVATION ARMY LUNCHEON

First Lutheran Church will serve the last luncheon of the year at the Salvation Army on **November 3rd at noon**. Please check the bulletin board in the narthex for ways to help and sign up.

Food prep will take place on Friday, November 2nd at 10:00 am. Monetary donations are welcomed. Workers on Saturday November 3rd from 11:00 am until about 1:30 pm. Questions??? Please speak with Nora Smith at 786-5231.



SLOPPY JOE AND FIXINGS LUNCHEON

served after the late church service on **November 11th. (11:30-1:00)**.

The donations will benefit victims of Hurricane Michael.

Thrivent Action Team volunteers will be serving the luncheon and will greatly appreciate your generosity.



Community
IMPACT



Our next gathering will be for a community meeting on Thursday November 8th @ 7 PM. This will be held at Bay College in the university Center. Please come join us! You can find more information at <https://missionofhope.net/communities/delta/> or on Facebook search @MISSIONOFHOPEDELTA

WORSHIP SERVICE CD'S

Our Sunday worship services are recorded and are available for shut-ins or others who would like to listen to them. The CDs are delivered and retrieved by volunteers and a CD player is provided. Call the church office if you would like to receive the tapes: 428-4565.

FALL BACK

We set our clocks BACK one hour on **November 4** at 2:00 AM. You can sleep in an extra hour and still be on time for church!



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

As some of you leave town to spend the winter in warmer, sunnier places please remember to let the office know your warmer, sunnier address. Thank you!

MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING

Often, in my humble opinion, those who say “money isn’t everything” have a lot of it. Of course, money isn’t everything, but it is something and, truth be told, I’d rather have it than not. We spend most of our working years earning it and trying to accumulate it because we think it will enhance our lives. Too often we are defined by how much of it we have. It gives us greater control and we can buy lots of “stuff” with it. Yet, it’s said, “you can’t buy happiness”.

Deep down, we would have to admit that happiness is not a dollars and cents issue. Given the choice though, of pursuing happiness without money or chasing the happiness dream with money, I’m betting most would choose the latter. Money takes a bad rap sometimes! It’s said to be the root of all evil. Actually, it’s the LOVE of money, not the money itself.

**SMART
LIVING**
Let the word
of Christ
dwell in you
richly

Having money and wealth or being rich is not inherently bad. What we do with it and what it means to us is where the trouble begins.

Intellectually, those of us with a few decades under our belts know that money is not where our trust should lie. Money can easily rise to God status and we know that's not right.

Emotions, however, are strong and money beckons to us to have faith that it will provide security and buy a better life for us and for those we love.

Having wealth is not, in and of its self, bad. Loving and trusting it, instead of our Lord and Savior, is. In fact, money is a necessity for God's work to get done. It's the treasure part of the time, talent and treasure stewardship triad. This vital need for money is why we traditionally emphasize the treasure part each Fall when we ask for your financial commitment.

GOD IS ON THE MOVE here at First Lutheran! It's way beyond my faith level to walk away from all of my possessions and follow God as Jesus commanded in Mark 10: 21, but Christ is all about second chances. While I continue to fall short God never does. Unconditional love, mercy and grace flow always from God and provide the "no strings attached" fuel I need to do better and grow my giving.

Money isn't everything, but sometimes it's only thing when our time and talents can't reach far enough to love and serve our neighbors.

We are blessed to be a part of a community of faith that gives its treasure joyfully and boldly. Thanks for your continued support and thanks be to God.

Grateful and In Christ,

Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

Where Does My Offering Go?

Support and develop current and future **LEADERS** in the ELCA

15 %
of
giving

Growing the Lutheran Church around the world -

- Will recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,900 rostered ministers.
- Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.
- Identify, connect and provide ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.
- Offer events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults

Continued next month ... watch for it!



... to those who helped with the

October
Messenger;
Mary
Bjorkquist,
Carol Ebbesen,
Avis Fairchild &
friend, Gloria
Kanerva, Judy
Haulotte

Thank you, ladies, very much!

~

Many thanks to Vickie Marshall, Geri & Charlie George, Mandy Larson, Karleen Thorbahn and all the kitchen helpers for the October Tried-n-True program and meal.

~

To our partners in ministry at First Lutheran Church of Gladstone,

I would like to take the opportunity to share gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the students and staff at the campus of Bay College who thoroughly enjoyed the great meal you provided us this month. The students, staff & even those visiting the campus were truly blessed by your great cooking, and your willingness to serve.

In Christ,
Pastor Tony Morrison, Director of Bay Area Campus Ministry

~

Our Gladstone-Rapid River Kiwanis members are very grateful for the continuous financial support from the First Lutheran Church congregation toward our school's backpack food program. On behalf of our children who would otherwise be going hungry, thank you so much for making it possible that we provide nutritious meals for our kids in need.

Larry Kirshner
Kiwanis Club President

~

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the gift to support the mission of Fortune Lake Camp. Fortune Lake Camp is a partner and an extension of your congregations's mission and ministry. Your expression of this partnership through this gift strengthens our mutual ministry and our

partnership. We thank God for our campers, retreat participants, and for the families, Churches, and supporters who make it all possible. It is your support of Camp which allows us to continue our ministry to Drive Faith forward, day by day, for all ages and in all seasons.

Together in Christ,

Ruth Warmanen
Board member

~

To First Lutheran Church,

Thank you! Thank you so much for the sympathy and understanding during a very difficult time. Pastor Otis memorial service was inspiring. The music was uplifting and the luncheon was greatly appreciated. We couldn't have asked for anything more.

Jeanne Hoegh

thankful
&
blessed

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



In loving memory of **Donna Dawson**
for Mission Endowment Fund by ...
Dirk & Sue Manson

In loving memory of **David Leach**
for Sewing by ...
Lorraine Moreau
In loving memory of **Jim Cannon**
for Sewing by ...
Lorraine Moreau

In loving memory of **Pastor Lund**
for Seminarian Support by ...
Lorraine Moreau
In loving memory of **Dan Morley**
for Seminarian Support by ...
Lorraine Moreau

HOPE AT THE INN – HATI

GOOD NEWS! Our HATI guests will be coming to stay with us during the first week of December the 2nd – 8th. Rhonda, myself and our volunteers will be looking forward to welcoming our guests to the First Lutheran to offer them a warm bed, a a warm meal and to help them to feel safe during their stay with us.

For 2018-2019 Rhonda and I are asking our congregation for warm gently used winter clothing such as sweaters, sweatshirts, zippered hooded sweat shirts. NEW underwear and socks, men’s and women’s sizes small, medium, large and x large. Also, mittens, gloves, possibly waterproof & winter hats for men and women.

Please deposit items in the box under the HATI bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Look forward to Rhonda and my presence in the Narthex during the month of November recruiting volunteers for shiftwork and volunteers for dinners, food items for breakfasts and snacks for our guests. Rhonda and I would like to thank everyone for your caring, for your generosity and for your prayers. We greatly appreciate everything that you do.

Blessings,

Pat Casteel & Rhonda Husbye



*Delta County
Hope
At The
Inn.*

*...I was a stranger
and you invited me in...*

Matthew 25:35

All Saints Day

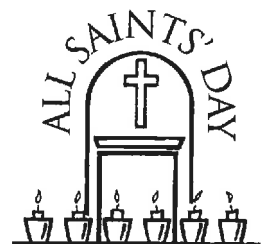
All Saints Day this year falls on Sunday, November 4th. During worship that day we will lift up in prayer the following saints who have gone before us, who have witnessed God’s love, and who now celebrate eternal life with Jesus:

Mike Hess

Dennis Hoegh

Ron Anderson

David Leach



If you have a loved one to add to the All Saints Day list, please contact the office so they can also be lifted up on All Saints Day.

NEW DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

If you find your in need of a current directory, please stop by the church office, we have printed Directories, as well as pictorial updates of our recent new members. A big “Thank you” to Cindy Sjoquist for taking the pictures!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

In Lieu of the regularly scheduled Council meeting the Congregation Council met at Immanuel Lutheran Church for the Delta 6 Conference.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on Thursday, November 8th at 7:00 pm.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-------|--------------------|
| 11/1 | Elaine DeRoek | 11/15 | Dale Hongisto |
| 11/2 | Anna Smith | 11/17 | Bradley Gilbert |
| 11/3 | Joshua Bilkey | 11/18 | Annabelle Christie |
| | Mark Nelsen | | Hannah Christie |
| | Sally Strom | | David Cowen |
| 11/4 | Lailee Movolson | | Hunter Martinucci |
| 11/5 | Jacob Siedlecki | 11/20 | Austin Brown |
| 11/6 | Eric Husbye | | Carson Sovey |
| 11/8 | Laura Coleman | 11/22 | Ira Goetsch |
| | Logan Smith | | Kaden Menard |
| | John Skellenger | 11/23 | Connor Sovey |
| 11/9 | Sherri Ide | 11/24 | Denise Warner |
| 11/10 | Susan Snowaert | 11/25 | Bill Ehrhardt |

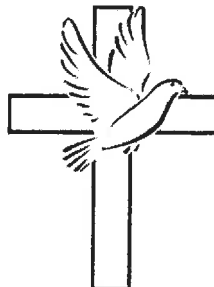
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|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|
| | Kara Salo | | Paige Warner |
| 11/12 | Addam Claes | | Sally Pouliot |
| | Haley Gustafson | 11/26 | Sue Manson |
| 11/13 | Diane Krouth | | Doug Anderson |
| | Barbara Tauzer | 11/27 | Lorriane Moreau |
| | Raino Maki | 11/28 | Kristina Hewitt |
| 11/14 | Don Casteel | 11/29 | Lee Anderson |
| | Kim Roman | | Marie Hirn |
| | | | Nicolle Trudeau |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 11/3 | Matt & Carrie Oney |
| 11/9 | Paul & Patty Geiken |
| 11/11 | Pam & Joe Durbin |
| 11/20 | Chris & Diane Johnson |
| 11/28 | Monica & Irv Bostwick |
| | Carol & Jerry Ebbesen |
| | Leah & Jason Hanson |



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



CONTACT US:

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Rev. Tom Otis, Pastor

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

Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary: Jodi Tianen

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: Amelia Seawright and Reyna Rose

Custodian: Dave Strom

Congregation Council:

Marshall Seawright, President

Jeff Gudwer, Vice President

Dotti Ford, 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 November

Date	Time	Greeters	Readers	Acolytes	Communion
Nov 4	8:00	TBD	Ellen Swenson	Vera Rose	Sally Pouliot
	10:30	TBD	Charlotte Strom	Werner Seawright	Pam Bialik Jane Coyne-Smith
Nov 11	8:00	TBD	Wayne Marshall	Trevor Thorbahn	Dale Schlemmer
	10:30	TBD	Chuck Thomas	Jesse Olsick	Kathy Gudwer Lynn Thomas
Nov 18	8:00	TBD	Chris Mineau	Maci Menard	Nora Smith
	10:30	TBD	Erin Wickman	Lauren Sundquist	Carol Kocsis Ann Christiansen
Nov 25	8:00	TBD	Dale Schlemmer	John Roman	Julie Sanville
	10:30	TBD	John Thomas	Danny Knapp	Erin Wickman Dirk Manson

Ushers 8:00: Don Seeley, Dennis Hanson **Altar Guild:** Ruth Botbyl, Donna Schlemmer
10:30: TBD Volunteers needed, please!!!

First Lutheran Church
1212 Minneapolis Avenue
Gladstone, Michigan 49837

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