

# First Lutheran Church

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

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

~ **December 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](mailto: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.



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

**THE PASTOR'S PEN**  
***Holiday Memory***



Wednesday the election was over. And so were the political commercials. Praise the Lord! And there on my screen replacing jaded rhetoric and outlandish lies was ... you guessed it ... Christmas!!! Gap and Old Navy filling the void with tinsel and gaudy over-the-top holiday scenes! My imagination hears Charlie Brown yell “AAAARRRGH!!” and I want to join him. December overwhelms me. What is past, what is present, what is yet to come?

Holiday memory is a two-edged sword for me any way. The people and events I can’t remember, the ones I only half remember and the ones I remember but (I am corrected by my dear Carlene) I seem to remember all wrong. Memories made up of colors and textures and smells and feelings. So many memories that they clump together like partly stirred cookie dough and get confused. Add age to that and it begins to get really interesting.

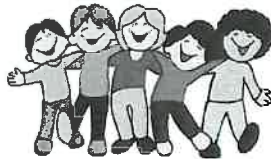
Each year there are many who come for the children’s program, the Cantata, Christmas Eve or other Special services. I am getting to know your extended families better. I actually try very hard to remember names, When I was 40, I could remember a name from a year or two past. Now, not so much. Jesus knows you by name. You are precious in his sight. I think I should remember as well, but alas, Gray Matter matters.

So, feel free to reintroduce your family members again. Or, correct me when I confuse you with someone else. I do know you in my confused “partly stirred cookie dough” way. More importantly, God knows you. who plays softball, who has graduated and who is still in school; please remember, I am doing it with a mind that can’t remember which Christmas I did what at which church. (Or at least that is what Carlene tells me.)

I am sure that this Christmas will bring new combinations of familiar old Carols and cookies and traditions and hot dishes. I am looking

forward with eager anticipation. But mostly I am looking forward to the fresh hope of Jesus born anew in my heart. The babe will soon be in the manger. Christ has come, Christ is coming to us fresh and new, Christ will come again. I can't wait.

### Coming up in Sunday School:



**December 2: Decorate our Christmas tree**

**December 16: Christmas Sing-Along at the 10:30 service  
(during Children's Sermon) \***

**December 23 & 30: Winter break, NO Sunday School**

**January 6: Epiphany Party!**

**\*We would like to host a Coffee Hour after the Christmas Sing Along on December 16. To make this happen, we are in need of parents to help with set up during the 9:15 hour, since teachers will be practicing songs with the kids during that time. Please let Reyna or Amelia know if you can help out! Thank you!**

Greetings to all of you from the staff  
at First Lutheran. May you have the gift of faith,  
the blessing of hope and the peace of His love  
at Christmas and always.

*Pastor Tom, Kris, Dave,  
Reyna and Jodi*



## **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

### **Sunday, December 9**

**10:30 a.m.** – Please join us on Sunday, December 10, at 10:30 worship as the choir presents their Christmas Cantata, “Behold the star”.

### **Sunday, December 16**

**8:00 a.m.** – Worship Service

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship Service with Sunday School Program



### **Sunday, December 23**

**8:00 a.m.** – Worship Service

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship Service

### **Monday, December 24**

**4:00 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Family Worship

**7:00 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

### **Sunday, December 30**

**8:00 a.m.** – Worship

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship

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## **UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **December 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

### **December 9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Malachi 3:1-4; Baruch 5:1-9; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

### **December 16 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

**December 23** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

**December 30** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52



We are 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!

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**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Thanks to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child. **We brought 117 boxes to Grace Church.** Another record year!!!

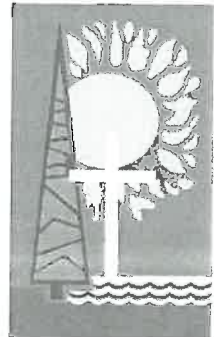
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**FORTUNE LAKE NEWS**

**Upcoming Events:**

January 14: **Senior Day**

Come and join us for a day of wonderful conversation, delicious food, and great fun! Senior Day is a wonderful way to reconnect with old friends and make a few new ones along the way! Gather in the Dining Hall from 10am – 2 pm and enjoy a delightful day at FLLC, including a devotion, program, lunch and fellowship! \$10 donation per participant is requested.



There has never been a more impactful time to join the **Tenacious 200 Team**, a group of generous monthly donors, who support the life-changing ministry of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Getting started is easy. You can sign up on our website [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org), through Paypal to use a credit card, or fill out a

form from Vanco to have your monthly gift withdrawn from your checking account. Please call the Camp office if you have any questions. 906-214-2267. Help us get to 200 members of our team!

Thrivent members also have the opportunity to use your Thrivent Action Teams to raise funds for Fortune Lake Camp. Stop by the church office for a list of ideas.

For more information on Fortune Lake see the bulletin board in the fellowship hall, go to [www.fortunelake.org](http://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**

**“Shades of Gray”**



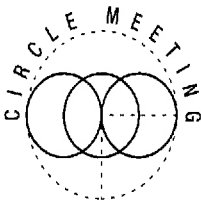
**Friday, December 21  
at Noon**

All First Lutheran seniors and friends are welcome.

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

## **HELP WANTED**

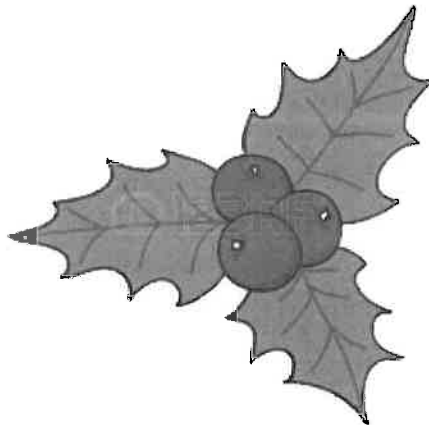
Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve and clean up for our Tried-N-True luncheons the third Friday of each month from approximately 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. You do not have to commit to each month. If you would be willing to help, please contact the church office.



## **GRACE CIRCLE**

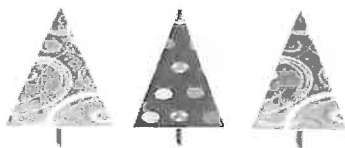
Grace Circle will meet for their Christmas luncheon at Bayview Manor on Friday, December 7th at noon. The luncheon will be catered by Connie Salmi and Nora Smith at a cost of \$5.00 to be paid on the 7th. Please

RSVP by Tuesday, December 4th by calling the church office or signing the sheet on the bulletin board in the church narthex. Pastor Tom will share a message and the celebration of Holy Communion. There will be a time for singing carols and sharing stories/memories. The monetary offering will be shared with the Rock Food Pantry as well as canned/boxed food items. Soup, spaghetti o's and items for back packs are especially needed.





## CRAFTY CHRISTMAS CREATIONS



**Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 pm**

All women are invited to attend.

Please bring a friend, daughter, granddaughter, or niece  
for a light-hearted evening of

preparing for the Advent season and Christmas

~ making easy "take home" crafts ~

~ signing a card for a home-bound member ~

~ listening to scripture and a devotion ~

~ sharing conversation ~

~ enjoying a holiday treat shared by Love Circle ~

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

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Women of the E.L.C.A. Thankoffering Service Sunday on November 18th....greeters, ushers, readers. A special note of gratitude to Jackie Wodich for sharing the children's message and to Marilyn Noble for her sermon message and to Pastor Tom for all his support of women's ministry. And to the ladies of Charity Circle and those who helped with an amazing coffee hour. The generous

loose offering received will continue to support women's outreach mission and ministry.

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### **SALVATION ARMY LUNCHEON**

Thank you to all who helped with the luncheon served at the Salvation Army on Saturday, November 3rd. Geri George, Connie Salmi and Nora Smith did food prep monetary donation were shared by Pat Hewitt, Connie and Nora, workers on Saturday were Dirk & Sue Manson, Dewey Fairchild and Nora. 40 guests were served a luncheon of Pasty Soup, Egg Salad Sandwiches, Pickles, Pumpkin Dessert, Milk, Juice and Coffee. Thank you to all who have helped with this outreach ministry. We will again be asked to take a date in January or February.

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### **JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS!!!**

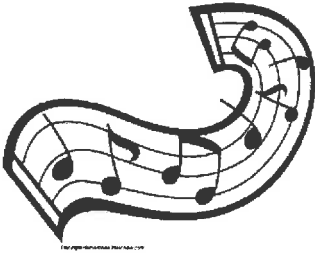
It's time to jingle the Salvation Army bell and uphold our reputation of excellence in the category of "Best Bell Ringers"!

Reserve an hour of your time on Friday or Saturday, December 14 and/or 15 at Pat's Foods. A sign-up poster will be available in the narthex starting Sunday, December 3.



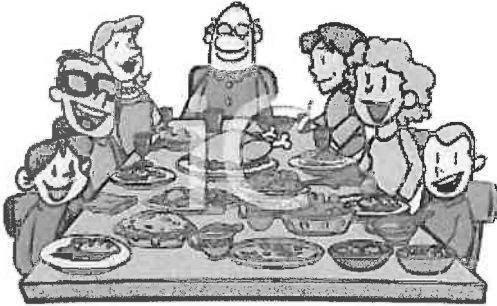
THANK YOU, in advance, for continuing your faithful support for the work of the Salvation Army.

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### **BAY DE NOC CHORAL SOCIETY**

Is hosting it's annual Christmas Concert Sunday, **December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 PM.** This will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church in Escanaba. There is not charge but a free will offering will be taken and a reception will follow. The concert will feature Organ, Bells and strings accompaniment.



### **CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

Christmas Day Dinner hosted by the churches in Gladstone will again be held at the Memorial United Methodist Church.

A meal of turkey, ham and all the trimmings will be served from 12 noon until 1:30 pm on the 25th.

This year First Lutheran Church will be responsible for 18 pies (disposable tins may be picked up in the office) and 12 dozen homemade rolls. Other ways to help include :

- turkey carving on December 11 at 10:30 am at the Methodist Church
- set up in the kitchen and dining room on December 23: Volunteers are needed after 1:00 pm
- working on Christmas Day

Please watch the Sunday morning bulletin and the window in the narthex for sign-up sheets and additional information. Volunteers must be at least 17 to work in the kitchen. Questions may be directed to Nora Smith (786-5231)

### **2019 OFFERINGS ...**

In order for your offering to be credited to 2018, envelopes must be received in the church office no later than **Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at noon**. Thank you.



### **OFFERING ENVELOPES ...**

Offering envelopes for 2019 will be available on the tables in the narthex during the next couple of weeks. Please pick yours up, but don't start using them until January. Remember, those who use **Simply Giving** also have envelopes.

### **DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS!**

Written and financial reports to be included in the 2018 Annual Report of the Congregation are due in the office **no later than Monday, January 7**. If at all possible, please send your report via e-mail to [office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org). Thank you!

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### **RECEIVING OR GIVING--WHICH IS BEST?**

By the time you read this, our annual appeal for estimates of giving will be pretty much wrapped up. We will have consecrated these estimates at worship and dedicated the dollars they represent to God's work in the new year to come. In a sense, we are not only wrapping up the campaign, but also wrapping up our financial gifts and presenting them to God.



It's easy to get sidetracked by the numbers. We are tempted to measure success by how many estimates come in and how much money those estimates will generate. That's understandable partly because the everyday impact those dollars will have is subjective and more difficult to measure. The data becomes the goal. The higher the numbers the better.

The title of this article is really a "chicken or the egg" thing. Both getting and giving are necessary. The November 11th reading from "Christ in Our Home", which highlights the giving aspect says, "when we remember that we are the church that gives, rather than thinking we give to the church, our perspective changes".

I would suggest that our focus should be First Lutheran as a giver instead of a receiver. Granted, you can't give what you don't have, so receiving is vital. What we give to our community of faith is crucial but being a church that gives should be our default identity.

Your generosity helps support our mission and makes it all happen. Your gifts empower us to change our perspective and reach out to those in need. The resources you provide allow us to love and serve our neighbors, in Christ's name, and to take care of those in physical and spiritual need.

Next time you look at the stewardship numbers, look beyond the figures. See the love, compassion and service that go well past the data. Receiving is good--giving is better!

Giving thanks and In Christ,  
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

## SEMINARIAN SUPPORT

“Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel... by which you are saved if you hold it fast.” I Corinthians 15:1a.

The church not only needs pastors, but it needs pastors who can communicate and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ with clarity and relevance in our world today. For many years I used a sermon illustration admonishing people to make Christ central to their lives and the illustration would be quite outdated in our world today. It was about a farmer who was commended on the very straight furrows on his farm. When asked how he did it he pointed to a church steeple in the distance and said: “I cut the first furrow by aiming directly at the steeple and all the rest fall into perfect line.” I admonished people that if they put Christ central in their lives like the farmers church steeple everything in their lives would fall into place as well. Today, as little white churches are disappearing from the landscape the illustration is no longer as relevant or helpful. We need a new delivery system in our preaching!

The Skogman potato farm in Foster City, MI has been in the family for over one hundred and fifteen years and today is being farmed by fourth and fifth generation members of the family. In the old days sowing potatoes was a tedious and intensive task much of it done by hand. Today an automated planter guided by a Global Positioning System cuts the potato seed, spaces it perfectly in the rows and applies just the right amount of fertilizer. Guided by GPS the planter even steers itself around the potato field.

Jo and I just returned from a 5,186 mile trip encompassing much of rural America. We visited three southern plantations built on the backs of slave labor who tediously picked cotton under the hot sun stuffing them into gunny sacks tied around their waists. Today we saw mechanized cotton pickers that plucked the cotton removing the seeds and rolling them into huge bales wrapped in plastic.

Where am I going with this? I’m suggesting that today’s pastors must be prepared to preach the gospel with relevance using language and illustrations that have meaning in a technologically advanced society. Preachers must be prepared to translate camels going through the eye of a needle, Zacchaeus in a sycamore tree and

water being turned into wine in a way that is relevant, intelligible and faith inspiring in a new age.

Is there someone out there who's up to the challenge? Some of us old preachers sought to preach the gospel with meaning in our time, but it's time for new folks to step up to the plate. In a world of Face Book, instant messaging and texting the old ways of communicating simply won't work.

During our travels we were amazed that folks pushing age ninety made use of Alexa to answer lots of questions, remind them to take the chicken out of the oven, and to perform many other tasks. Yes, it's time to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in new ways in a transforming world! Who will that be?

Dale Skogman on behalf of Seminarian Support

### **SPECIAL GIVING ENVELOPE**

This month's special giving envelope will go to Seminarian Support. Please help provide for future First Lutheran seminarians.

### **Where Does My Offering Go?**

Invest in **technology** and **communications**

**8 %**  
of  
giving

**Growing the Lutheran Church around the world -**

- Design and maintain communications tools to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission & ministries.
- Connect members with one another through new technology & systems.

**Continued next month ... watch for it!**



... to those who helped with the November Messenger; Mary Bjorkquist, Avis Fairchild, Judy Haulotte, Gloria Kanerva, Paula LaCrosse, Cindy Sjoquist and Carole Wedell.

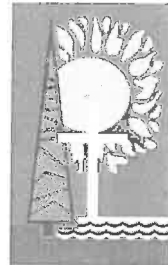
As always, your help is very much appreciated!

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Many thanks to Sally Strom, Geri George, Paula LaCrosse, Pam Chouinard, Donna Schlemmer for the **November Tried-n-True program and meal.**

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your continued support to the mission of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. We would like to welcome the opportunity to work with you in an identified area of ministry, either here at camp your own retreat weekend or VBS your church. Let us know how we might enhance our partnership of ministry with your congregation and serve your groups.



at

Together in Christ,  
Ruth Warmanen  
Board Member

On behalf of our 150 Gladstone and Rapid River School Students receiving weekend food backpacks, thank you for your generous and continuous financial support. We are now able to regularly provide nutritionally balanced weekend food for these students who would be going with little or no food on weekends without their food backpacks.

Merry Christmas and Thank you for your continuous generosity toward this local mission.

Gladstone- Rapid River Kiwanis Club



First Lutheran Blanket Making Ladies,

On behalf of Delta Regional Child Advocacy Center, thank you for your beautiful 17 children's blankets which were recently delivered to them. They were nearly out of blankets for the abused children being interviewed at their center.

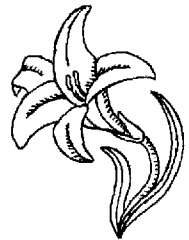


Gladstone-Rapid river Kiwanis Club

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

In loving memory of Chris Ziems  
for Sewing by Judy and Paul Hammond



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...**

- |      |                    |       |                            |
|------|--------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| 12/1 | Frank Austin       | 12/17 | Kellan Smith               |
|      | Laila Whitfield    | 12/18 | Clark Dahlke               |
| 12/3 | Mary Bjorkquist    | 12/19 | Kathy Gudwer               |
|      | David Ottensman    | 12/21 | Carl Smith                 |
| 12/4 | Lori Morley-Sharon | 12/22 | Kristianna Dufresne-Wilson |
| 12/5 | Barbara Karas      | 12/23 | Dennis Hanson              |
|      | Helen Ruth Seppala | 12/29 | Gus Soderman               |
|      | Carter Sisson      | 12/30 | Everly Wiltzius            |
| 12/6 | Eiko Olson         | 12/31 | Abi Kars                   |
| 12/9 | Laura Anderson     |       | Kinzie Kars                |
|      | Joe Skellenger     |       | Doris Sundstrom            |

- 12/10 Braxton Breitenbach
- 12/12 Brock Nelsen
- 12/13 Maci Menard
- 12/14 Dani Lyn Berg  
Dave Gerow  
Olivia Oney
- 12/15 Katie Smith
- 12/17 Betty Erickson



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO**

- 12/18 Lori & Marshall Seawright
- 12/19 Dale & Jo Skogman
- 12/20 Connie & Rob Salmi  
Anita & Danny Stockham
- 12/31 Doris & Fred Sundstrom

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**HOPE AT THE INN**

Our week for hosting HOPE AT THE INN is quickly approaching (December 2, 2018 – December 8, 2018).

To volunteer for a shift please sign up at [www.hopeattheinn.org](http://www.hopeattheinn.org) and click on Volunteer for a Shift on the left-hand side of the page. If you need help signing up, please call the church office and we can help.

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

The Congregation Council met on November 8 with President Marshall Seawright presiding. At this meeting the council ...

Heard from Dale Schlemmer on behalf of the Mission Endowment Committee regarding the 2019 disbursements ...

Heard from Audrey Strom on behalf of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp regarding fund-raising opportunities for Fortune Lake ...

Learned that Synod Assembly will take place between the dates of 5/16/18 -5/18/18, in Delta County. First Lutheran Church will host the Friday evening Holden Prayer, and the Saturday Morning Breakfast for the Assembly, here at First Lutheran Church.

Discussed the Income Projections for 2018 and approved a revised 2019 budget to recommend to the congregation at the Annual Meeting ...

Heard that the Nominating Committee will hold their meeting on Sunday, November 18 ...

There was a discussion and review of the Policy on Same Sex Marriage, it was motioned to carry the policy it was voted on and was passed.

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



## **REMEMBER SEPTEMBER**

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 held a Special Congregational Meeting to discuss this on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. It was the fourth conversation regarding this topic and how it relates to our mission "All are Welcome". We were a Handful short of the 50 required for a quorum. In total we had about 60 different members participate in the four different conversation groups at the end of the discussion on

September 23<sup>rd</sup>, there was general agreement that the statement below is representative of the feelings of the congregation on this topic. Council was given the task of determining the best way to complete process of these discussions. The statement in full is stated below. I will make some comments at the end after the Policy itself. I am adding some language in italics to give the statement a formal structure.

**Our Faith Teaches:** *Whereas,*

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:** *and Whereas,*

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:** *and Whereas,*

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:** *Therefore, be it resolved,*

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.

### **Council Votes on the Policy**

As we discussed the above policy and the best way to proceed, a motion was brought to the floor that the council exercise its authority and vote to approve the policy as a fair representation of the congregation. Some wished to find a way to get more feedback than the 60 persons who had been a part of the process. The vote of those present was 5 to 4 to approve the policy. We recognize that all policies set by council are subject to the oversight of the whole congregation and can be clarified or changed by the congregation at any regularly called meeting of the congregation.

I want to thank all who participated. I do believe that the policy is representative of the congregation as a whole. If I were to extrapolate the polling data from the meeting of September 23<sup>rd</sup> the results would be as follows:

5% (approximately 22 people)

Hold to the view that homosexuality is a choice and that those who choose to be homosexual are condemned to hell. They need to repent to be saved.

13% (approximately 50 people)

Believe that being gay is not a choice, but the result of a broken and sinful world. God's intent is for a man and a woman to live together as the foundation of human community. They believe that we should

the foundation of human community. They believe that we should “love the sinner” and “hate the sin.” No special protections should be afforded.

27% (approximately 120 people)

Believe that we should welcome all of our members equally. We should endorse the legal rights of gay couples by supporting their right to a civil marriage and even ask God to blessing their lives just as God blesses all Christians. They do not, however, see a Biblical or historical basis for a “church wedding”.

55% (approximately 240 confirmed active members)

Would support the idea that an active member or their child who is gay may request that the church be available to them for a wedding.

If you have any questions, I invite you to join us in this conversation. If you wish to know which of these categories I fall into, you may ask me. I do have my own position, but in the setting of this policy, I am only on member. I will follow the policy set by the majority.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Otis

**CONTACT US:**

**First Lutheran Church**

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

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

**Rev. Tom Otis, Pastor**

[pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)  
Office: 428-4565  
Cell Phone: 280-9997

**Office Manager: Jodi Tianen**

[office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)

**Secretary: Reyna Rose**

[office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto: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.



If you would like to bring a poinsettia to church for Christmas in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please fill out this form and drop it off in the church office. In order to be listed in the bulletin, **forms must be received in the office no later than noon on Wednesday, December 20.**



**Poinsettias must be delivered between 9 AM and 4 PM on Thursday, December 20 or 9 AM and Noon on Friday, December 21.**

**NOTE: Poinsettias CANNOT be in the building prior to Thursday, December 20 and must be removed by Thursday, December 27. Please be respectful of your fellow parishioners with allergies.**

The Altar Guild suggests you consider purchasing 6” pots as we have stands to hold the flowers and they have openings for 6” pots. Thank you.

In Memory/Honor of:

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Given by:

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## Serving Us in December

Date	Time	Greeters	Readers	Acolytes	Communion
Dec 2	8:00	TBD	Lori Shea	Sam O	Carol Knauf
	10:30	TBD	Peggy Austin	Deegan M	Chuck Thomas Jayne Coyne-Smith
Dec 9	8:00	TBD	Nora Smith	Allison R	Dale Schlemmer
	10:30	TBD	Pam Blalick	Rylee G	Jo Skogman Erin Wickman
Dec 16	8:00	TBD	Doris Sundstrom	Gus S	Judy Hammond
	10:30	TBD	Lynn Thomas	Austin B	Dirk Manson, Carol Kocsis
Dec 23	8:00	TBD	Ellen Swenson	Kaden M	Julie Sanville
	10:30	TBD	Ann Christiansen	Braden S	Chuck Thomas, Kathy Gudwer
Dec 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	Please Volunteer	Dale Schlemmer	Deegan M	Dotti Ford, Carol Knauf, Vickie Marshall
	7:00 PM	Please Volunteer	Laura Coleman	Werner S	Pam Blalick, Lynn Thomas, Jo Skogman
Dec 30	8:00	TBD	Wayne Marshall	Jesse O	Sally Pouliot
	10:30	TBD	Jane Coyne- Smith	Vera R	Ann Christiansen, Jane Coyne-Smith

Ushers 8:00: Dennis Hanson, Don Seeley, Paul Wedell      Altar Guild: Sally Pouliot, Lisa Thomas  
 10:30: 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/24, 12/30: TBD

**First Lutheran Church  
1212 Minneapolis Avenue  
Gladstone, Michigan 49837**

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Church in America**  
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