

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)

~ **January 2019** ~

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.



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



UNCHARTED WATERS

January brings a new year. I think of it as Uncharted waters. I look south out of Little Bay de Noc and see open water. But for several miles off the end of Stonington there are big rocks and sand bars that can catch or wreck a boat. On the west side, the water south of Escanaba looks like perfect sailing but it is too shallow for my boat. There are Islands off the end of Garden Peninsula. You can sail safely between some of them, others passages are filled with underwater obstacles. Isn't that like a new year. It may be a year of "clear sailing". It may be a year with many obstacles to navigate. It may be a year that feels like you have landed on the rocks.

Our Faith Teaches

Immanuel, God is with us. The light has dawned from on high and the darkness cannot overcome it. God walks with us on the darkest and hardest paths of our life. God's love opens possibilities for Grace to shine into our lives even when we don't see it coming. This is most Certainly true.

Our Faith Commitment

So how do we live . Do we keep the boat in the harbor, afraid of what lurks out there?

Do we spend all our time studying the charts and waiting for perfect weather? Do we put on 11 life preservers and tow a skiff behind as we go? Do we just launch out and see what happens?

I know for certain that: There are a few things we are planning for and working toward in the year ahead. I know for certain that: There are a few things that will need to be addressed that we are not currently thinking about. I know for certain that: There will be at least one major "I didn't see that coming." I know for certain that: Nothing is for certain! In other words, I have NO Idea.

Reasonable planning, Reasonable preparation, Prayer and Reliance on the Grace of God. In the end that is all we have. In the end that is all we need.

Faith is never about what I know for certain. Faith is about what God has done, is doing, and will do for us. *I believe God has created me... (Luther's explanation of the first article), I believe that in Jesus God saves me from certain and eternal death... (Luther's explanation of the second article) and I believe that God calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies each of us, all of us and **our future** through the Holy Spirit... (Luther's explanation of the third article).* And I can with say with confidence of my faith, "This is most certainly true!"

What Might Our Future Hold?

I imagine that we will continue to welcome new members and families. I imagine that we will have baptisms, confirmations, and weddings. I imagine that some of us will leave this life to be born into God's eternal Kingdom. I imagine that we will continue to care for one another in all manner of ways. I imagine that we will continue to make the world a better place in all manner of ways. I imagine that our participation and giving will stay strong. I imagine hearing about Surgeries, Retirements, The birth of Grandbabies, lots of travel plans and a whole host of changes in the individual lives of our members.

And then there are the might be's. We might find ourselves hosting parts of the Synod Assembly this year. We might find ourselves hosting an intern pastor. That last one and many other things are just over the horizon. Who Knows? God Knows. What can we do about the future? Pray. This is most certainly true.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Otis



UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 6th – Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

January 13th – Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20th – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

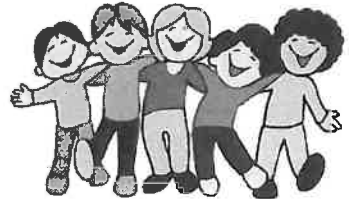
January 27th – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

Beginning on Wednesday, January 9nd and
continuing through February 27th ...

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.

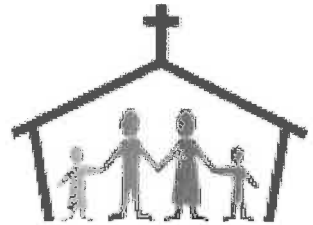
Pick up a registration form from the church office.

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 7:00 pm

Bible Study –
Wednesdays at 9:30 am



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE

Thank you to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year. Special thanks to Meijer's, Walmart, Thrivent and our Mission Endowment Fund for their contributions. We were able to make and collect a total of 117 boxes this year.

Our boxes went to Uganda. Here are a few facts about the country. Uganda is in East/Central Africa and 56.76% of the people in Uganda



live in extreme poverty. The life expectancy for a man is 54 and 55 for a woman. One of the people's favorite snacks is grasshoppers and it has the best pineapples in the world!

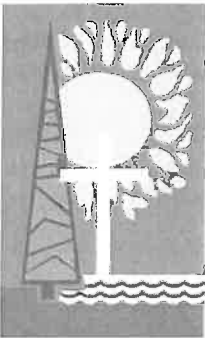
A new record. God Bless!!!

MITTEN TREE UPDATE

Thank you to all who contributed to the Mitten Tree. We had a record year!! 358 mitten/gloves, 94 hats, 24 scarves, 5 pair of socks and 8 headbands were delivered to the Salvation Army this year. What a wonderful show of support for the Salvation Army Christmas gifts. God Bless you all!!



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 10 am – 2 pm and enjoy a delightful day at FLLC, including a devotion, program, lunch and fellowship! \$10 donation per participant is requested.

March 11: **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 10 am – 2 pm and enjoy a delightful day at FLLC, including a devotion, program, lunch and fellowship! \$10 donation per participant is requested.

May 13: **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 10 am – 2 pm and enjoy a delightful day at FLLC, including a devotion, program, lunch and fellowship! \$10 donation per participant is requested.

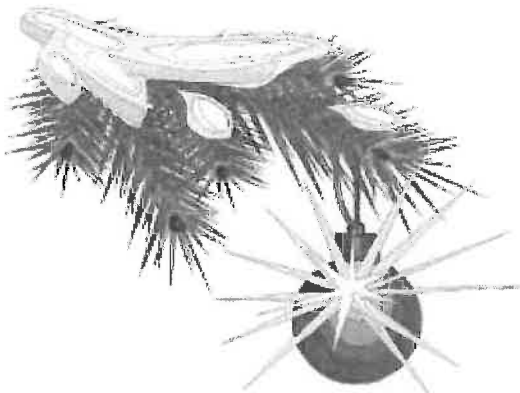
For more information on Fortune Lake see the bulletin board in the fellowship hall, go to www.fortunelake.org or check out Fortune Lake on Facebook.



With Great joy and excitement, the Board of Directors announces Amanda Rasner as the next camp Director of Fortune lake Lutheran Camp, to start January 2019.

Ananda has a passion and long history of

participation and involvement with Fortune Lake. We are excited that Amanda is ready to lead where the Holy Spirit has called her! She is a passionate, diligent, and natural leader with a great gift of compassion. Join us as we celebrate the gifts hat Amanda will bring to the ministry of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp as we continue our mission and vision into the future.



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

TRIED-N-TRUE
Luncheon and Program

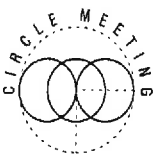
Bay College Speaker: Laura Coleman



Friday, January 18th
at Noon

All First Lutheran seniors and friends are invited.

Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the church at 428-4565 to **RSVP by Wednesday, January 16th**.



GRACE CIRCLE

Grace Circle will meet at Fairview Manor on Thursday, January 10th at 2:00 pm. Nora Smith will lead the Bible study from the book of Philemon by Max Lucado titled

"The Miracle of Forgiveness. Please read Philemon 1:8 - 21. Pastor

Tom will join us at 2:45 and share a meditation and communion. Nora will be hostess. Guests are always welcome. Please call the church office at 428-4565 if you need a ride.

WELCA PROGRAM

Upcoming Events:

February 5th WELCA will have the **“Soup and Sewing”** this will be from 9am until? Lunch will be served at noon. Hostesses: Sewing Circle & Friends

March 15th WELCA will have the **“Young at Heart Luncheon”** the program is TBA, Lunch will be served at noon. Hostesses: WELCA & Tried-n-True

April 4th **“Once upon an Apron”** ~Starched Aprons and Soft Hearts~
Hostesses: Love Circle



First Lutheran Church will be helping with the Salvation Army Lunches in 2019. Please watch the bulletin board for dates and ways to help.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Ed Koch, the mayor of New York from the late 70's through the late 80's had a trademark phrase he used often on the street--"How'm I Doin'?" If the good people of First Lutheran asked people, "How are we doing? We would probably get a variety of grades.

I wonder what grade we would receive from God on how well we are managing the gifts God has entrusted to us (AKA stewardship)? We



usually categorize these gifts as our time, our energy, our skills and abilities and our money.

God really hasn't GIVEN these gifts to us, but rather God LENDS them to us TO TAKE CARE OF while we occupy these earthly bodies. I don't think I'm going out too far on a limb to contend that our grade from God on "how are we doing?" moves up the scale the more we USE those gifts.

I also think that our grade improves when we consciously and intentionally seek out new opportunities to use our gifts. Often this proactivity opens doors behind which lie new and different ways to be good stewards.

We have a great opportunity, as we head into the new year, to flex our stewardship muscles by having a seminary intern in our midst over the next year and one half or so. In this case, the intern will be finishing a four-year program that involves working in our congregation approximately one-half time and doing seminary studies one-half time, much of it on-line.

This is an opportunity to use ALL of our gifts to teach and to learn. Being an internship site requires a commitment from our pastor and from all of us to welcome the intern and to teach as much as we can about the various parish ministries. We also have to be open to learning all we can about the path to ordained ministry from someone on that journey. We need to walk together and lean on each other when the path is smooth and when it's rough.

Up until now our discussions about exploring the possibility of becoming an internship site have been in the abstract. Now we have a real, live person ready to bless us with her gifts and a chance to bless her with ours.

Looks like the good Lord has lined up all the stars and the Spirit is at work. While no one can predict that this new ministry will be all peaches and cream, it's a real blessing to have this chance to start this

journey with a single BOLD stewardship step.

It's WAY above my pay grade to give First Lutheran a grade on its stewardship--that's God's job! I'm just praying that God will give us extra credit in the grade book for this step into unfamiliar territory with Jesus as our guide.

Trusting and In Christ,

Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair



**CALLING ALL
MEMBERS OF
FIRST
LUTHERAN!!!**

Would you be willing to be a greeter in 2019? I will be helping the WELCA Circles get people to

greet before the 8:00 am and 10:30 am worship services. Individuals, couples and families are all invited to share in this ministry. Please contact Nora Smith (786-5231) if you are willing to serve.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex if you would like to welcome people to church.

- 1) Greeters should arrive ½ hour before the service.
- 2) Greeters are to greet at each entrance to the narthex.

We will schedule greeters, send you a copy of the schedule and place the schedule in the Messenger. If you are not able to greet on your

assigned Sunday, please find someone to take your place and call the office so changes are noted in the bulletin.

USHERS NEEDED!!!

Ushers are needed for our 10:30 AM worship service. You can sign-up for a week at a time (or for an entire month!).

Sign-up on the bulletin board or call the office if you are able to help. Thank you!

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation has been scheduled for **Sunday, February 3rd** following the 10:30 AM worship service.

Written and financial reports are due in the office no later than

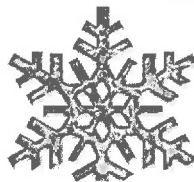
Monday, January 7th (earlier would

be very helpful to the office staff!) in order to be included in the Annual Report. If at all possible, please send your report via e-mail to office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org. Thank you!



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2019 can be picked up in the narthex. Remember, those who use **Simply Giving** also have envelopes.



GIVING STATEMENTS

2018 giving statements will be available in the narthex by Sunday, January 6th. Please pick yours up, or, if you would like yours mailed call the office at 428-4565.

DECEMBER NEWS ... READ ALL ABOUT IT!

On December 16 we received a new family; Ray & Maggie Miller. Welcome!

On December 16th, Pastor Otis along with Kris McDonald and the Sunday School teachers prepared and presented a great Christmas program. Special thanks to confirmation kids who narrated. The children & program were delightful. Thank you also to the parents of the Sunday School Children who helped greet and do coffee hour.

The Choir Cantata on December 9th was outstanding. Thanks to Kris and the Choir for hours of work and preparation. And to Wayne & Vicki Marshall who narrated the story. You really helped create the mood as we looked forward to Christmas.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services have not happened at the time of publication, but a word of thanks as well to all who helped us welcome the Christ into our hearts anew this Christmas Season.

Remember, together we are the body of Christ. Together we are strengthened and enriched.

Where Does My Offering Go?

Provide governance and leadership

5 %
of
giving

Growing the Lutheran Church around the world -

- Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.
- Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

Continued next month ... watch for it!



... to those who helped with the December Messenger; Carol Ebbesen, Avis Fairchild, Judy Hammond, Judy Haulotte, Sue Manson, Mary Tuskan. Thank you all, so very much!

~

Many thanks to Sally Pouliot (Meal), Sally Strom (Meat Pies), Cindy Sjoquist, Stacy Carter and Finlee, & Nora Smith for the December Tried-n-True meal. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

~

Thank you to all who were a part of the Grace Circle and Square Ladies Christmas luncheon at Bayview Manor on Friday, December 7. 18 attended and 2 meals were taken to those who could not attend. Connie Salmi and Nora Smith shared cooking duties and Connie and Sherri Makowski treated everyone with hot cocoa reindeer favors. Thank you to Connie, Sherri and Ann Miller for serving and cleaning up. Thank you to Pat Hewitt and Jean Helman for setting the tables and Pat for making punch.

Nora shared a devotion about snowflakes and all the Grace Circle and Square ladies who have died or are in care giving places were recognized. Pastor Tom shared communion and brought his guitar, so we could sing a variety of Christmas songs. The monetary offering collected as well as a truck load of canned and boxed food was given to the Rock Food Pantry. Lucy Lampinen wishes to thank everyone for their generosity.

~

Thank you for all those who helped in a variety of ways for the Christmas Day dinner held at the United Memorial Methodist Church. A listing of volunteers will be shared in the February newsletter.

Thank you to all who put in the extra effort to make our Advent and Christmas Season at First so special. Thank you for all the special gifts of the holiday that many of you shared with us, and that I observed you sharing with each other. May each little gift be an inspiration for us to better serve the Lord of love.

Pastor Otis

Thank you for the blessing the Community Thanksgiving Dinner
~ Delta Bay Girl Scouts & Community Thanksgiving Dinner Board

~

Thank you so much for all the goodies and good wishes shared with the staff throughout the Christmas season.

Jodi, Reyna, Dave and Kris

~

Pastor Otis, Congregation & Special Ladies of First Lutheran,

Thank you for your kindness & sympathy. We so appreciated your contribution to Mom's (Chris) Memorial service. The dinner was wonderful! We felt very cared for with love,

~The Ziems Family

~

Dear First Lutheran Church

Grace and peace be until you! And thank you for the gift of \$100.00. In Memory of Beverly Gurney. Fortuen Lake has changed people's lives for generation and due to generous donation from friends like you, we will continue to change lives for years to come.

**~Together in Christ,
Ruth Warmanen
Board Member**

~

Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated

~ Chris Ziems Kids....

~

Thank you so much for all your hard work setting out, serving and cleaning up for the meal for Terry Belongie. It was so appreciated.

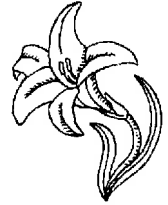
~The family of Terry Joe Belongie

~

Your ministry and message of comfort will always be held in grateful remembrance.

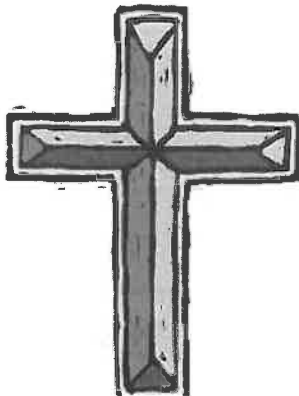
~ The family of Loyal Swenson

Gifts to our congregation have been given ...



In loving memory of **Chris Ziems**
for Seminarian Support Fund by ...
Dale & Jo Skogman
Bernice Marshall
Sally Pouliot
for Sewing by...
Nora Smith
Al & Dolly Salmi

In loving memory of **Beverly Gurney**
for Fortune Lake by ...
Lloyd & Mary Tuskan
Nora Smith
Pat Hewitt
Al & Dolly Salmi
Scott & Jayne Coyne-Smith



In loving memory of **Loyal Swenson**

for Seminarian Support by ...

Sally Pouliot

Dale & Jo Skogman

Richard & Paula LaCrosse

Mary Tuskan

Ellen Swenson & Family

for Capital Improvement by ...

Jolane & Andrew Nelson

for Choir by ...

Irv, Monica & Jay Bostwick

for Senior Ministry by ...

Bernice Marshall

for Undesignated Memorials by...

Duane & Nancy Bovin

Danny & Anita Stockham

Nora Smith

Bernadine Harris

Wayne & Vicki Marshall

Carol Wyatt

Bill & Kathy Shine

for Mission Endowment by ...

Ellen Swenson & Family

Steve Bolek & Ann Christiansen

Amy & Craig Dyer

Violet Christiansen

for World Hunger by ...

Ellen Swenson & Family

In loving memory of **Terry Belongie**
 for Choir by...
 John & Andrew Nelson
 Nora Smith
 for Kitchen Fund by...
 Family of Terry Belongie

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

- | | | | |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|
| 1/2 | Deb Koski | | |
| | Abel Ellison | | |
| | Benson Ellison | 1/20 | Peggy Austin |
| 1/3 | Gail McEachern | | Jane Coyne-Smith |
| | Lisa Thomas | 1/21 | Ruth Botbyl |
| | Lisa Zuehlke | 1/23 | Erin Wickman |
| | Iris Ellison | 1/24 | Ellen Swenson |
| 1/8 | Bernice Marshall | 1/25 | Ray Brandt |
| 1/11 | David Gobert | 1/26 | Elvera Kallio |
| 1/13 | Jason Hanson | 1/27 | Bonnie Anderson |
| | Sally Hillman | 1/28 | Carlene Otis |
| | David Tianen | 1/30 | Mary Plante |
| 1/19 | Kelly Coyne | 1/31 | Ava Menard |
| | Pat Hewitt | | |
| | Dustin Lucier | | |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

- | | |
|------|------------------------|
| 1/12 | Avis & Dewey Fairchild |
| 1/31 | Collette & Derek Weide |

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





THE DING-A-LINGS STRIKE AGAIN!

HUGE thanks, once again, to those who rang the Salvation Army bell at Pat's on the 14th and 15th of December. The combination of their time, their bell ringing muscles and their engaging, convincing smiles raised a total of \$938.95. This will go a long way to providing badly needed help to those in need this Christmas and into the New Year.

We are grateful and humbled by the efforts of the following people:

Lloyd & Mary Tuskan

Barb & Ira

Dirk Manson

Kathy Gudwer

Howard & Judy Haulotte

Connie & Rob Salmi

Betty & Harvey Setter

Dave and Vicki Ottensman & Sam Hewitt

Linda Sovey

Vicki & Wayne Marshall

Jack Soderman

Ken Groh

Maxine & Raino Maki

Katie Smith & Kids

Cindy & Dogs (Jack and Wally)

Jane Coyne-Smith

The Strom's

These names were taken directly from the poster board master sign-up sheet. Sorry if we missed anyone.

Dirk Manson, Ding-a-Ling Facilitator





Update on Arla Pearson, her sister Greta called to let us know she is coming along well from her Stroke and will be staying temporarily at Eastwood Nursing Center. If you would like to send well wishes her address is as follows:

Temporary Address for Arla Pearson:
Eastwood Nursing Center RM 133
Negaunee, MI 49866

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Congregation Council met on December 13th with President Marshall Seawright presiding. At this meeting the council ...

Designated Pastor's housing allowance, per IRS requirement ...

Set the date of the Annual Meeting for Sunday, February 3rd, following the 10:30 AM worship service ...

Approved a donation request for the 2019 Gladstone Senior Class All-Night Party ...



Approved the 2019 Projected & Expense worksheet, as well as the 3rd Quarter Mission Endowment Report.

Discussed the intern possibility and approximate start date.

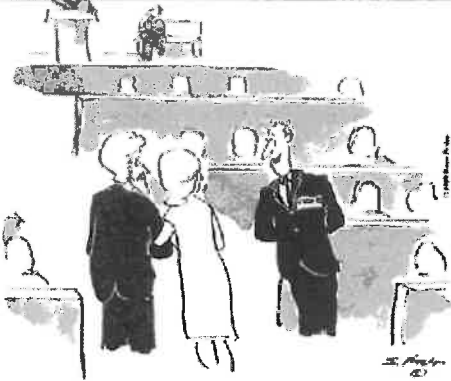
The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be Thursday, January 10th at 7:00 pm.

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 Otis (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 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!

FUNNY BONES...



"Clapping or nonclapping?"



LEPERS ... | HEAL LEPERS

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www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org or find us on facebook.com

Rev. Tom Otis, Pastor

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

Office Manager: Jodi Tianen

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Secretary: Reyna Rose

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Musician: 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

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 January

Date	Time	Greeters	Readers	Acolytes	Communion
Jan 6	8:00	TBD	Doris Sundstrom	Maci Menard Madison Tienen	Nora Smith
	10:30	TBD	Pam Durbin	Austin Brown	Kathy Gudwer Carol Kocsis
Jan 13	8:00	TBD	Ellen Swenson	John Roman	Julie Sanville,
	10:30	TBD	Bruce Movalson	Lauren Sundquist	Dirk Manson Jo Skogman
Jan 20	8:00	TBD	Julie Sanville	Allison Rose	Dotti Ford
	10:30	TBD	Sherri Ide	Sam Olsick	Chuck Thomas Erin Wickman
Jan 27	8:00	TBD	Judy Hammond	Gus Soderman	Carol Knauf
	10:30	TBD	Dirk Manson	Werner Seawright	Pam Bialik Ann Christiansen

Ushers 8:00: Don Seeley, Dennis Hanson **Altar Guild:** Sherri Ide, Sue Manson, Tiffany Olsick
10:30: TBD Volunteers needed, please!!!