

# 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)

~ **February 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](mailto:pastor@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)

## WHAT'S INSIDE ...

Pastor's Pen	Page 2
Annual Meeting Announcement	Page 5
Upcoming Scriptures	Page 7
Christian Education News	Page 7
Afterschool	Page 8
Not Lock-In	Page 9
MARKED! Event	Page 10
World Hunger	Page 10
Fortune Lake News	Page 11
Tried-n-True	Page 11
Circle News	Page 12
Soup and Sewing	Page 12
Salvation Army Lunch	Page 13
Special Giving	Page 15
Stewardship	Page 15
Seminarian Support	Page 16
Thank Yous	Page 19
Gifts to Our Congregation	Page 21
Birthdays and Anniversaries	Page 21
From the Bishop	Page 22
Hope at the Inn	Page 24
Thrivent Choice Dollars	Page 25
Council Highlights	Page 25
Contact Us	Page 27

### 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.



## **INTERN ON BOARD**

The idea of First Lutheran becoming an internship congregation was first raised at the Annual Meeting in February 2016.

After helping 10 different candidates from our church study for ministry, we hit our first experience in many years of not have someone up and coming. Many wanted to

continue our commitment to developing new pastors for the Lutheran Church. Dirk Manson, Bishop Dale Skogman and a hand full of others have been keeping this idea alive. Three years later, the financial resources, the timing, and a candidate have all come together.

Ms. Kelly Ylitalo will be starting with us as an Intern pastor this month! Kelly entered Wartburg Seminary as a Collaborative Learning Intern in 2016. She will be finishing up the last 17 monthes of this 4 year program with us. We should rejoice in this opportunity as Jesus calls Kelly into ministry and calls us to help make it happen.



## **WHAT IS A COLABORATIVE LEARNING INTERNSHIP**

The CL internship is a new program. In fact, Kelly is one of the first students. As a way of dealing with the high cost of Seminary education, this program places the student in a congregation for 4 years. They work 20-25 hours a week in actual ministry and take much of their course work in live classes on line. Kelly will need to spend a week from time to time in course work that will take her away from the congregation. Kelly uses her talents to strengthen and build up our church. We support Kelly as she learns and serves the church in real time. I am particularly excited about Kelly's abilities. BUT, I will restrain myself and let her introduce herself and tell her own story at a later time.

## **HOW DID THIS HAPPEN**

Sometimes the world moves quickly and in unexpected ways. I will let Kelly tell her experience in her own way. The short version is: Kelly found out around thanksgiving that the Pastor who has been serving as her intern supervisor will be moving. Eight weeks from when she found out she was unexpectedly without an intership site, she will be moving

into Gladstone. She will need and deserve all the best love we can surround her with as a Christian community.

My own story on this is different.

**Unresolved** We started meeting some time after the 2017 annual meeting to get serious about becoming an internship site. By Easter 2018 we had investigated the seminaries and selected the one we wanted to work with. However, we had come to the conclusion that we were not going to be able to find an intern for this year and probably not for next year either. We began to look at other ways to strengthen and develop our ministries, keeping the thought of hosting an intern on a quiet back burner. We began to explore other kinds of ministries.

**UnKnown 1** Through August and September I had been following the process for calling a new camp director at Fortune Lake. First Lutheran has a long history with the camp. I knew a couple of people that were being recommended. I had no idea that it would affect First.

**UnKnown 2** October 6 I took a retirement seminar online with the church pension program. As a result I decided to retire in 2019. I called the Bishop and made plans. Less than 10 days later she called me back, "Would You and First Lutheran consider becoming an intern site in 2019?" "Everything is confidential" she said, "and I can't tell anyone any anything about the situation, but we may or may not need you to be an internship site." So, for the last three months I didn't know. Am I going to retire? Am I going to be an intern supervisor and work another year and a half? Or even longer? I won't bore you with all the other unknowns.

**Surprise!** Then it happened. Mid-November a new camp director was named. The new camp director's husband was the Internship supervisor for Kelly and would be leaving the congregation. Kelly was told, he announced and suddenly the Monday after Thanksgiving everything changed. I want to thank several members of our internship support committee who have been working tirelessly since then. As of Wednesday January 16<sup>th</sup> Kelly has decided to join us here in Gladstone to complete her training for Ordained Ministry.

## **WE HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR BLESSINGS**

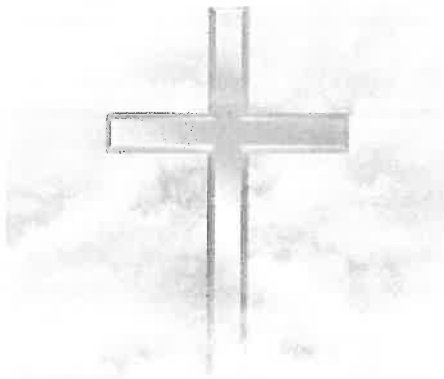
Kelly has been involved in various church ministries for more than a decade. She has much to offer us. We also have much to offer her. Our

Tuesday study group includes several pastoral mentors for her to reflect with. Our support committee has some great people with talents and experience who will support her. Bishop Skogman (our own private wiseman), Pam Durbin (a pastor's mom), Chuck Thomas (member of the Synod Council), Dirk Manson (member of the Synod candidacy committee) and Nora Smith (our own private wisewoman). I really believe that this could be a great experience for Kelly and for us.

### **WHAT SHOULD WE CALL HER?**

I have already had someone ask me the proper title by which to address her. She is not a pastor until she is finished, so technically not that, but if it slips out no lightning will strike from heaven. Vicar Kelly would be OK since she is licensed to perform ministry under supervision. I think Intern Kelly is most official, but then I have been trying for years to get you all to just call me Tom instead of Pastor. I have been called Father Tom, Priest in charge, Pastor, Pastor Tom, Pastor Otis, Your Holiness, Your high and mightyness, Preacher, the Right Reverend, the Wrong Reverend, PTO, PO PO'ed and once at a wedding, "Hey You" by the mother of the bride. I suggest you ask Kelly how she would like to be adressed and work it out between you.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Otis



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



## **Annual Meeting Resolutions – 2019**

First Lutheran Church, Gladstone, Michigan

1. **In compliance with the constitutional requirements of C16.02 and C16.03, Council recommends to the congregation for a vote at the 2019 annual meeting and communicated to the congregation via the February Newsletter and in the annual report. Pastor Otis**
- \*C16.02.** Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.
- \*C16.03.** Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

Whereas, the congregation leadership is unable to fill all the committees as defined in the constitution; and,

Whereas, the number and type of committees and ministry teams may no longer accurately define the ministry of this congregation; and,

Whereas, the congregational council would be more effective if it could define the working groups of committees and ministry teams as a reflection of the congregation's current mission statement,

Therefore, be it resolved that the following committee and ministry team descriptions currently designated as by-laws be changed to continuing resolutions

C13.06.03 to C13.06.A19

C13.06.04 to C13.06.B19

C13.06.05 to C13.06.C19

C13.06.06 to C13.06.D19

C13.06.07 to C13.06.E19

C13.06.08 to C13.06.F19

C13.06.09 to C13.06.G19

C13.06.10 to C13.06.H19

C13.06.11 to C13.06.I19

C13.06.12 to C13.06.J19

**Example:**

~~C13.06.03~~ C13.06.A19 There shall be a committee on Evangelism. This committee shall provide leadership to the congregation in its witness and outreach to the unchurched. The committee shall provide materials and education in evangelism, and shall work with other committees to enhance the outreach in all of the congregations programming. The committee shall also seek to strengthen the skills in witness of individual members of the congregation.

Detailed changes as they will appear in the constitution

## UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

**February 4** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11,20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

**February 11** – Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

**February 18** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 14:32-52

**February 25** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 14:53-65

## JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!

**Sunday School** – for ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Sundays at 9:15 am

**Confirmation** – for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades

Sundays at 9:15 am and Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

**Bible Study** –

Wednesdays at 9:30 am





Continuing through February 27th ...

## The Wednesday Afterschool Bible Experience

3:45 – 5:00 PM  
for kids in Kindergarten  
through 5<sup>th</sup> grade



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

**\*\*If school is cancelled, Afterschool is cancelled\*\***



## MOVIE NIGHT! (GRADES K-12) BRING A FRIEND!

**When:** Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00 – 6:30 pm  
(Pre-K is welcome if accompanied by a parent.)

**Where:** First Lutheran Church

**Cost:** Bring a non-perishable food item

**BRING A FAVORITE BLANKET, STUFFED ANIMAL, AND WEAR  
JAMMIES!**



## NOT a LOCK-IN!

**Who:** Youth in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**When:** Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
5:00 – 8:00 pm

**What:** Pizza!

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Happy February Sunday School! There are a few things this month for parents and students to be aware of.

1. We will be collecting non-perishable foods for the food pantry for the entire month.
2. Christian Education is hosting coffee hour on February 17. Please see the bulletin board in the fellowship hall if you are willing to bring fruits, veggies, crackers, pita crisps, chips, or dip.
3. There will be a Movie Night for grades K-2 on Friday, February 22, from 5-6:30pm. (Pre-K is welcome if accompanied by a parent.) Please bring a non-perishable food item, favorite blanket, stuffed animal, and wear jammies!
4. There will be a "Not Lock In" for grades 3-5 on Saturday, February 23, from 5-8pm. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry.

Blessings,  
Amelia & Reyna

## **QUARTERS FOR WORLD HUNGER**

Lent is quickly approaching, which is the time of year we begin collecting our quarters for World Hunger. We made over our goal last year for our quarters at the Synod Assembly. This year we hope to do at least as much, if not more. I need suggestions as to what Pastor would have to do if we raise over \$2000. He has kissed a pig, eaten pickled pigs' feet, picked pig hocks, and headcheese. Please let Ann Christiansen know your suggestions for this year. Let's begin saving up to make this a banner year. Thank you for your generous support of this worthy cause. There are still many hungry people in the world!

## **MARKED! EVENT**

Upcoming Northern Great Lakes Synod Marked! event (for Confirmation students and leaders) on Sunday, March 10, 2019 at Our Savior in Marinette.

The youth will be collecting items for their World Relief Personal Care Kits and the congregation is invited to donate the following items, each kit will include:

- 1 light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"X40" & 52"X27"), dark color recommended
- 2 or 3 Bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz. of any brand, in original wrapper (please, **NO mini soap bars from hotels**)
- 1 adult size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 metal mail clippers (attached file optional)



**\*\*\* Items can be placed in the large blue box in the narthex \*\*\***

## Summer camp registration is now open!!!

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 ...

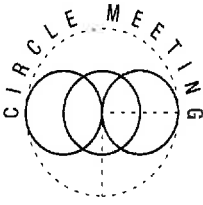
### **TRIED-N-TRUE Luncheon and Program**



**Gayle De Shambo  
Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>  
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, February 13<sup>th</sup>.**



### **GRACE CIRCLE**

Grace Circle will meet at Fairview Manor on Thursday, February 14th at 2:00 pm. Nora Smith will lead the bible study from 1 John 4: 7 - 21 by Max Lucado titled "All About Love". Pastor Tom will join us and share a message and the celebration of Holy Communion. Audrey Ansell will serve as hostess. All are welcome. If a ride is needed, please call the church office.

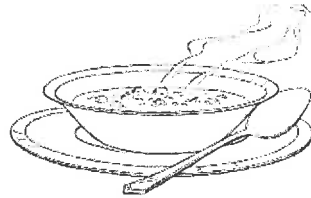
Women of the E.L.C.A. invites you to attend their February event ...

### **--- SOUP AND SEWING ---**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2018**

**9:00 AM** --- the day begins

**10:00 AM** --- coffee fellowship



**NOON** --- soup luncheon (Gail McEachern is our soup-maker)

Come for all or part of the day and check out the many ways you can be a part of this outreach ministry. The Square Ladies, friends from St. Vincent de Paul and pastors will join us.

Sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex if you will be there for lunch.

A short program about Lutheran World Relief will follow lunch.

An offering will be taken to support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

**See you there. Bring a friend!**

## **SALVATION ARMY LUNCHEON**

Just a note, the next time First Lutheran Church will serve lunch at the Salvation Army is April 13, 2019. Please watch for the church bulletin and the sign-up sheet in the narthex for ways to help.

---

## **UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

221 meals were delivered      205 guests ate at the church  
59 meals were take-outs

TOTAL 485 meals served (not much leftover!)

Volunteers numbered many and some helped on more than one day. 9 people helped with turkey carving on 12/13; 43 helped with set up and cooking on 12/23; and 68 people helped on 12/25 with cooking, serving, clean-up and delivery.

First Lutheran Church took part in many ways. Making pies were Sally P, Paula I, Gail M, Nora S, Kathy G, Vicki O, Pat H, Jo S, Dolly S, Anita S, Jay B, Amber S, Pam D, Eileen D. Rolls were shared by Gail M, Cindy S, Vicki O, Katie S, Dottie F and Nora S. All the potatoes, 150 pounds, were donated by Dennis and Diane Hanson.

Workers included Scott S, Nora S, Jo S, Barb and Dennis F, Wendolyn T, Steve B, Carol L, Irv and Monica B, Jay B, Sally P, Cindy S, Mark and Maggie T, Olick family, Lucas C. and anyone who may have helped but didn't sign the volunteer sheet

Thank you to all who helped in any way. Your hands and hearts made a wonderful difference as they celebrated the birth of our Savior Christmas Day.

A thank you note received: Thank you for making our Christmas Day so special. My 2 daughters and granddaughter who was here from Colorado. The meal was fantastic, we enjoyed every bit of it. Everyone was so cheerful, had a smile for each and every one. It will be a day we will never forget. Thank you for all the things you had to do. Take care and God bless. D LaPorte

---

**ATTENTION... ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE SEWING CIRCLE:**

Please remember the sewing circle when cleaning your closets. We can use fabric, sheets, blankets, t-shirts, towels, and heavy fabric for school back-packs. Donation may be brought to Church anytime, but you are always welcome to visit us on Tuesday morning from 9-11:30.

Thank you in advance,  
Connie Salmi

---

**GOODIES FOR COFFEE HOUR:**

Anyone willing to help provide goodies for Coffee hour, after our 10:30 worship service is encouraged. The Welcome & Outreach Committee would be glad to help serve. Call Connie Salmi 428-1696 or contact the church office 428-4565.

---

**ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild will meet on **Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** with Pastor Otis. If you are interested in joining in this essential ministry, please call Pam Durbin at 428-4429.

---

## **SPECIAL GIVING ENVELOPE**

This month's Special Giving Envelope is designated for Fortune Lake Camperships. Your generous support will enable more of our youth to grow their faith at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp this summer.

Thank you!



---

## **WHERE THERE'S HOPE**

For some unknown reason, as I was casting about trying to come up with an idea for this month's newsletter stewardship article, the word "HOPE" jumped out at me. Perhaps the Spirit is responsible- so much for the unknown reason.

Hope is such a huge concept with so many aspects we could explore, but in this case, let's take the stewardship path. If Google can be trusted, in her book "The Diary of a Young Girl", Anne Frank wrote, "Where there is hope, there's life. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong again".



I'd like to think that every time we share our gifts with those around us, we give hope. Our acts of stewardship, big and small, renew our courage and strengthen us. We give of our time to someone or to some cause. We share our skill and ability. We donate our money or other material resources. The sharing of all these gifts give hope to others. These life-giving acts reach well beyond First Lutheran, but, for now, let's keep it local.



The reason for being in community with one another, either in worship hearing God's word and sharing in the sacraments or involved in any of our ministries, is to share hope with one another.

Whether it be a touch, a word or an act of concern and kindness, we are sharing a part of ourselves and giving hope. Every time we reach out to others, we charge our spiritual batteries and generate more power within someone else. There's more hope because we are together!

That's the power of community--a chance to exchange hope and to give each other a glimpse of God's love. As we work at becoming better stewards of the abundant gifts God has entrusted to us, we give hope and life. We, also, are gifted with renewed boldness, power and resolve to do God's work and where there is hope.....

With hope in Christ,

Dirk Manson,  
Stewardship Chair

### **SEMINARIAN SUPPORT - FEBRUARY 2019**

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works..."  
Hebrews 10:24a

President James Nieman of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago shared some startling statistics in a recent issue of the seminary newsletter "The Epistle" about the dire need to recruit and retain more pastors in our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. According to President Nieman:

- Collectively, the seven seminaries of the ELCA supply only about half the need for first call pastors in our church and more students are desperately needed.
- Only 16% of those who express an interest in attending seminary enroll.

- If the ELCA currently needs 400 new first-call pastors, then we must have a pool of around 2,500 people who are interested in attending seminary each year.
- Reaching this target will take many years and many approaches to encourage application and enrollment in seminary.
- We need to support the feeder systems that awaken a desire for church service: Camping and outdoor ministries, faith development on campuses, volunteer and mission opportunities and other ways.
- Congregational members need to notice those with gifts for ministry, and then risk the bold question, "Have you ever thought about ministry?"

President Nieman goes on to say there is something more we must do - retain more pastors in ministry:

- According to a 2016 report, the retention issue is first noticeable five years after ordination when just over 90% of all pastors remain in service. This means that one out of ten clergy are already gone.
- The news is more startling at ten years, when only 75% to 85% of pastors are still serving – a downward trend for the past three decades.
- We are losing folks just at the point when, in most professions, they are moving into mature forms of service – so we lose their acquired wisdom, too.
- If our church annually loses between one-fifth and one-quarter of the clergy who began a decade ago, then every five years an entire graduating class has vanished.
- Pastors leave ministry due to racist and sexist remarks, widespread anxiety and depression, administration that dampens mission and a deep sense of loneliness.

So, what does that mean for us at First Lutheran? I'm pleased that we've had ten members of our church enter ministry and now we

have the great privilege of helping to train an intern, Kelly Ylitalo for ministry. I challenge us to:

- 1) Continue to identify and encourage persons to enter ministry.
- 2) Continue to give financial support to our Seminarian Support Fund which will now be directed toward the support of our intern.
- 3) To encourage our pastors, seminarians and interns with our good words, deeds, thoughts and prayers.

Dale Skogman on behalf of Seminarian Support

---

## Where Does My Offering Go?

**Grow & Sustain** financial resources

<p>5 % of giving</p>
------------------------------

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

- Develop and promote efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

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

---



... to those who helped with the  
January Messenger; The Tianen Family;  
Dave, Jordan, Cole and Madison.  
As always, your help is very  
much appreciated!

Many thanks Charlie & Geri George, Paula LaCrosse, and Gail  
McEachern, for the January Tried-n-True meal.

~

Thank you for your recent contribution to the 2018 Houghton County  
Flood Relief Fund.

Kevin Store  
Executive Director

~

Thank you to my dear friends at First Lutheran. Thank you for all of  
your prayers, thoughtfulness and warm wishes during my recent plight.  
How I've appreciated the delicious soups, goodies and wonderful  
wishes sent my way. Again, thank you...

Gods Blessings,  
Pat Casteel

~

On behalf of the Gladstone Community Christmas Dinner Committee  
we would like to thank your members for assisting in the Christmas  
Dinner. As a Church Community what an awesome opportunity we had  
to serve others and show God's Love through our Christmas Dinner and  
fellowship.

Sincerely,  
Gladstone Community Christmas Dinner Committee

~

WELCA Women's Group,

Thank you for the bag of "goodies" and cards. It was so nice to be remembered especially when your new and renewing "old friends"

Marguerite Schuetter

~

Thank you to everyone who has helped Eiko Olson with her dialysis treatment. As of this writing she has decided to opt-out of her dialysis treatments. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Connie Salmi

~

Thank you from Fortune Lake Camp for the continued support. Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is a partner & an extension of your congregation's mission and ministry. We thank God for each of our camper, family and Churches who make it all possible.

Blessings,  
Ruth Warmanen

~

Thank you from Tri-County Safe Harbor, Inc., We wanted to thank you for your generous donation of Christmas Dinner (from the community meal you served) at our shelter. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Tara Segerstrom  
Acting Co-Director

~

Thank you from the Lucier Family to Geri, Charlie, Connie, Sherri and all other volunteers for donating your time & food at the luncheon for our father, Raymond Lucier. Your kindness touched our hearts & provided much comfort during this difficult time.

The Family of Raymond Lucier

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

In loving memory of **Marjorie Martell**  
for World Hunger by Lloyd & Mary Tuskan  
Dirk & Sue Manson

In loving memory of **Loyal Swenson**  
for Mission Endowment by Steve Bolek & Ann Christianson  
for Memorial Fund by Kathy & Bill Shine



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...**

- |      |                     |      |                                    |
|------|---------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| 2/2  | Jesse Olsick        | 2/16 | Finlee Carter<br>Dennis Severinsen |
| 2/3  | Joe Durbin          | 2/18 | Braidyn Miron                      |
| 2/5  | Violet Smith        |      |                                    |
| 2/6  | Amy Miron           | 2/20 | Michael Coyne                      |
| 2/7  | Steve Chouinard     | 2/21 | Alyssa Ellison<br>Wanda Kloet      |
|      | Deegan Miron        | 2/24 | Emma Verbeek                       |
|      | Jack Soderman       | 2/26 | Betty Setter                       |
| 2/11 | David Nivison       | 2/27 | Ed Walker                          |
|      | Sophia Smith        | 2/28 | Don Erickson                       |
| 2/12 | Gabby Movalson      | 2/29 | Duane Rajala                       |
| 2/14 | Fred Sundstrom      |      |                                    |
| 2/15 | Violet Christiansen |      |                                    |
|      | Lori Marmalick      |      |                                    |
|      | Ken Groh            |      |                                    |

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...**

2/1 Ray & Maggie Miller

2/14 Mary & Gary Bjorkquist

2/8 Dianne & Dave Lahtinen

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

---

*The article below should have been in your January Newsletter, sorry for any inconvenience...*

*~From the Bishop*



*“...Then shall  
all the trees  
of the forest  
sing for joy  
before the Lord;  
for he is coming...”*

*~from Psalm 96*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From November 17-27, 2018, I was honored to be chosen by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to be one of two newly elected leaders to attend a Retreat Of Newly Elected Leaders (RoNEL) sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation. The other ELCA representative was Bishop Pedro Suarez of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. The two of us joined bishops from all over the world: India, Chile, Canada, Angola, Guyana, Tanzania, Mexico, Hungary, and Poland.

The Lutheran World Federation came into existence out of a desire to respond to the overwhelming refugee crisis after World War II. With much of Europe in a shambles, millions of people were displaced. Some estimates put the number of refugees from Europe at nearly 60 million. Around 10 million of these were Lutheran Christians. Immediately after the end of the war, Lutherans around the world mobilized to provide assistance. This was the context in which LWF was founded in 1947.

We spent about five days in Geneva, Switzerland at the Ecumenical Center. The Lutheran World Federation shares space with the World Council of Churches and they partner together, where possible, for deeper and broader impact.

Some statistics:

The Lutheran World Federation is a partnership representing 148 churches and 75.5 million people from Lutheran traditions in 99 countries. The three areas of their work are:

1. Service
2. Holistic Mission & Theology and
3. Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

There are 75 staff people in Geneva overseeing the work of over 5000 deployed staff and volunteers. Pretty impressive.

After hearing about the work of the LWF, our group travelled to Wittenberg, Germany. There we enjoyed worship at St. Mary's church where Martin Luther had preached over 2000 sermons, and we took in the sites of the Castle Church where the 95 theses was first posted. A highlight for me was planting an apple tree as part of the Luthergarten project to observe the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. We are tree #468! I invite you to go to



[www.luthergarten.de](http://www.luthergarten.de), click on the British flag for English and find more information on this project.

Martin Luther once said, "If the world were to end in disaster tomorrow, I would plant an apple tree today." In this new year, may we look for and plant signs and seeds of hope. May God bless our efforts for the work of Christ in the year of our Lord, 2019.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

---

### **HOPE AT THE INN -FEBRUARY 10-16, 2019**

Good News? Our HATI guests will be coming to stay with us during the third week of February the 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. Rhonda, myself and our volunteers will be looking forward to welcoming our guests to the First Lutheran to offer them a warm bed, a warm meal and to help them to feel safe during their stay with us.



*Delta County  
Hope  
At The  
Inn*

*...I was a stranger  
and you invited me in...  
Matthew 25:35*

For 2018-2019 Rhonda and I are asking our congregation for warm gently used winter clothing such as sweaters, sweatshirts, zippered hooded sweatshirts, New underwear and socks, men's and women's sizes small, medium, large and x large. Also, mittens, gloves, possibly waterproof & winter haps for men & 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 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 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 or Rhonda Husbye

---

## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Here is some interesting information about Thrivent Choice Dollars: Eligible Thrivent benefit members can recommend where Thrivent

Distributes a portion of its charitable funding by

directing Choice Dollars. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. If you are a person with choice dollars and would like to have them applied, give Thrivent a call and let them know... you can reach Thrivent by phone (1-800-847-4836) The Choice Dollars for **2018** need to be directed by March 31, 2019. Thank you for your continued support of First Lutheran Church!



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Congregation Council met on January 10<sup>th</sup> with President Marshall Seawright presiding. At this meeting the council ...

Learned that Pastor is looking into using a 90-day model in our church regarding Mission, Ministry Interests, & Worship Planning whereas members could do a group for 90 days and see if that group fits them well, if not members could change to a different group to see how that works for them ... One of the goals is to see what the group could accomplish in those 90 days, etc...

December financial reports were reviewed and accepted subject to audit.



Nominations have been completed by the Nominating committee...new Nominated members for Church Council are: Ken Groh and Steve Bolek.

Pastor's written report was received and reviewed, as well as the Ministry reports.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> (Directly following the Annual Meeting).

---

## CHUCKLES...

### *Acting up in Church*

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 was 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!"

### *The Army of the Lord*

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

**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

**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)

**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 February

Date	Time	Greeters	Readers	Acolytes	Communion
Feb 3	8:00	TBD	Chris Mineau	Rylee Gerow Madison Tianen	Sally Pouliot
	10:30	TBD	Lou Martin	Deegan Miron	Erin Wickman Kathy Gudwer
Feb 10	8:00	TBD	Lori Shea	Kaden Menard	Judy Hammond
	10:30	TBD	Dick Feehan	Trevor Thorbahn	Dirk Manson Pam Durbin
Feb 17	8:00	TBD	Nora Smith	Jesse Olisick	Nora Smith
	10:30	TBD	Andy Nelson	Braden Sundquist	Chuck Thomas Jo Skogman
Feb 24	8:00	TBD	Doris Sundstrom	John Roman	Julie Sanville
	10:30	TBD	Carolyn Nelson	Vera Rose	Erin Wickman Pam Bialik

**Ushers 8:00:** Don Seeley, Dennis Hanson      **Altar Guild:** Jan Gustafson, Amber Soderman  
**10:30:** TBD Volunteers needed, please!!!

First Lutheran Church  
1212 Minneapolis Avenue  
Gladstone, Michigan 49837  
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Gladstone, MI 49837  
Permit No. 6



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