



January 2022

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

www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org
office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org
or check us out on facebook.com

Worship –8:00 AM and 10:30 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

Rev. Elisabeth Daniels, Pastor
pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com

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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.



Happy New Year FLC Family,

I bring you tidings of great news of joy. It is still Christmas until Epiphany, which is celebrated on January 6th, or for us in worship on Sunday January 9th. One ritual for Epiphany is a house blessing. At my home, we put away the Christmas decorations and bless our clean and put back together house for the year on Epiphany. We usually do fondue too, but I don't know why. The blessing ritual is included in this newsletter so you and yours can try it out if you are interested.



The other part of the tidings of great joy is **BIG** news. The spirit has been at work in the Northern Great Lakes Synod and once again the faithfulness of the people at First Lutheran has been noted! The council voted unanimously to move forward with this. We are getting a seminary intern in February. She had an internship in the synod that didn't work out, by no fault of her own.

In my last call, I was an internship mentor to seven different interns over the years. Had I stayed, next year I would have become an Internship Supervisor. I thought God had other plans for me here in Michigan, but apparently internship is still a part of God's plan.

First Lutheran has quite the reputation for pastoral formation. We have been supporting and forming future leaders of the church for years. I am sure former pastors and a certain dearly departed Bishop Emeritus had a great deal to do with this, but it only really works if the people are willing to teach and walk alongside those answering the call to ministry.

I'm proud to be called to a congregation that takes this calling and ministry to heart. Frankly, happily churning out new pastors over the years is not a bad reputation for a church to have. We walked with Vicar (now Pastor) Kelly Ylitalo and we will walk faithfully with our new intern as well.

This isn't the normal process for an internship, but in the last few years we've learned to pinch hit on an almost daily basis. We can help support this student. When a Yooper needs help, we know what to do and FLC will welcome and support her with prayers and support. Interns need good communication and engagement. They need encouragement and openness. This is our call. We are a welcoming community and we will

welcome her here to grow and learn. Be on the lookout in next month's newsletter. She will be introducing herself to us there.

The other thing I ask you to prayerfully consider is donating to the Intern Seminary Fund. As this was a bit of an emergency placement, it took some mental gymnastics to square the budget with the added expense. Our Financial Team found ways to make it work, but we need your help. If each of our regular giving families gave an extra \$185 offering, we would be in a much better place to support this great ministry. We understand that not everyone has an extra \$185 so put the decimal point where you can! \$18.50 would help. \$1,850 would be crazy awesome! \$1.85 shows that you care and were prayerful about your support. It would be a neat way to welcome our intern if we could say, "We are so excited to share in our ministry with you. All of our families contributed in some way to make this happen. We are blessed to be a blessing." Pray about supporting this great ministry. It will enrich our community and help someone in need. With God's guidance good will come.

God's peace, Pastor Elisabeth Daniels

Upcoming Scripture Readings

January 2 – Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Sirach 24 1-12, Psalm 147 12-20,
Ephesian 1:3-14, John 1:[1-9] 10-18



January 9 –Baptism of Our Lord

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

January 16 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

January 23 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

January 30 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30

+Epiphany Blessing Of A Home for January 6, 2022+

Make the Sign of the Cross and say: *"Peace be to this house/apartment/condo and: to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.*

Response: *Blessed be God forever.*

Reading: *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3.14)*

Using chalk, write the blessing on the outside of your home, above or next to an entrance or on a door hanging:

(write the first half of the current year)

+20

C for Christus

M for Mansionem

B for Benedicat

22+

(write the other half of the year)

The blessing will look like the following:

+20+C+M+B+22+

Christus Mansionem Benedicat means "May Christ bless this home."

Another explanation of the blessing is that the letters symbolize the legendary names of the Magi.

(write the first half of the current year)

+20

C for Caspar

M for Melchior

B for Balthazar

22+

(write the other half of the year)

+20+C+M+B+22+

Prayer: *Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Bible Study

Bible study meets weekly on Wednesday at 9:30 am.

Christian Ed

Christian Ed is seeking an individual(s) to coordinate the Sunday School, Youth Programs and someone to assist in leading Confirmation.

Grace Circle

Grace circle will meet on January 13th for bible study at 2:00 pm. Nora Smith will lead bible and communion will be prepared and presented by Pastor Elisabeth. Treats will also be shared.

Love Circle & Faith Circle

Love Circle will meet on the third Thursday of the month at 9:30 am

Faith Circle meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at First Lutheran Church. All women from Gladstone and Rapid River are invited. The study will be about the Holy Spirit. Study material will be in the narthex. Please call 428-1696 for more information.

Sewing Circle

The sewing circle meets every Tuesday at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall.



We have worship tablets for members who prefer to watch services from home, but do not have access to the internet. Please contact the office to sign one out.

Please Notice This



DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

Written and financial reports to be included in the 2022 Annual Report of the Congregation are due in the office *no later than Thursday, January 6th, 2022*. If at all

possible, please send your report via e-mail to office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org. Thank you!

Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes ...

Offering envelopes for 2022 are available on the tables in the narthex during the next couple of weeks. Please pick yours up. Remember, those who use eGiving also have envelopes.

Year-End Giving Statements

Year-end giving statements will be available for pick up in the narthex shortly after the New Year.

Thank You



- Occasionally fill-in as our **Sound System Tech**
- Men and women to serve as **Ushers**
- Christian Education is seeking individuals to coordinate Sunday School, Youth Programs, and lead Confirmation

If you would like to help in any of these areas,
please call 428-4565!

Welcome New Members



The Landwehrs:

Julie was raised and confirmed at First Lutheran and she and Dennis were married at First in 2004. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Alaska where Julie taught High School biology and Dennis worked for the forest service as a soil specialist. Julie left her teaching position and Dennis retired from the forest service and moved back to the Upper Peninsula. Julie keeps busy making a home on lake Michigan and is preparing to help Dennis build a home on the North Bluff. Dennis is a hardworking, very talented and ambitious person. He is known as a "Jack of All Trades".

Emma attends the Escanaba Middle School and plays in the band. She also enjoys playing soccer.

The Lacrosse's: *The Lacrosse family, Eric and Holli LaCrosse have been married since 2008. They have three children: Ethan 10, Kate 7, Hailey 5. Being born and raised in Escanaba, Eric was previously a member of First Lutheran Church with his family and was confirmed in the church. Holli is originally from Wisconsin Rapids and was confirmed at the Kellner Moravian Church. The LaCrosse family moved from Appleton, Wisconsin to Escanaba in 2017. Ethan, Kate and Hailey were baptized at First English Lutheran Church in Appleton, Wisconsin. Ethan loves reading, Legos and playing Minecraft. Kate enjoys gymnastics, barbies, and arts and crafts. Hailey like gymnastics, baby dolls, and playing dress up. Eric works as a Paramedic for Rampart EMS and Holli is a Special Education Teacher at the Upper Elementary School in Escanaba. They are excited to join the First Lutheran Church Family.*





Cathy Lindquist: Hello, my name is Cathy Lindquist, I moved up to Gladstone permanently in July of this year from Hamond, Indiana which is just southeast of Chicago. I have been coming up to this area pretty much all my life, both of my parents were born in this area. My mom was from Rapid River, her maiden name was Rita Ross, and my dad Milton Lindquist was from the Cooks area when he was young. Prior to moving up here I worked at a Harley Davidson Dealership in Munster, Indiana, for over 22 years. Yes, I rode and owned my own Harley motorcycle, but

sold it prior to moving in July.

September, 2020 Harley Corporate closed down our dealership, and we were all out of a job. A month prior to that, I lost my mom who lived here in Gladstone. So that is when I decided I needed a new start. I moved up here July 3rd, and started my new job on July 6th at Delta Force PI, doing Accounting and Admin. work. I have lots of family in the area and my Grandparents were prior members of First Lutheran Church, along with many other family members. Thank you for making me feel so welcome!!
Cathy

Patti Schmitendorf: Patti was a First Lutheran member from 1980-2003. During this time Patti taught Sunday school for sixteen years, was active in the choir, served on the congregational council and was president of the WELCA group. She raised her children in Gladstone and they were all confirmed at First Lutheran. Patti retired from a bank in Illinois then returned to Gladstone and First Lutheran Church in 2020.





Installation of New Members

Introducing our New Custodian

Adam Haberstich: Adam was a member of First Lutheran during his youth. He enjoys spending time with his two children Oliver, age 8, Ava, age 4, family and friends. His hobbies include cooking, mixed martial arts, and having fun in the great outdoors. Adam is in the process of learning his new roll, please be patient while he adjusts. If you have a custodial or maintenance request, please fill out the form on the following page.



MAINTENANCE/REPAIR REQUEST FORM

Date of Request ___/___/___ Requesting Party_____

Phone Number _____

Work Location _____

Description of Work/Repair (circle one). Please be detailed.

Request Priority

High – Must be done within 24 hours

Medium – Within the week

Low – within the month

Date Work Completed ___/___/___

Completed By: _____

(Once completed turn into the office)

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Stewardship

DON'T BE A HERO

“Don’t be a hero” is a phrase used to discourage someone from putting themselves at risk. This pandemic has spawned a group of people for whom we would gladly take that advice back. Were it not for the heroic behavior on the part of many who have touched us throughout this Covid thing, who knows what our lives would look like.

Heroic is a little hyperbolic for all the essential workers along the supply chain, but you get the idea. There are heroes, though, everywhere among those working in our health care system. All those who tend to the sick and dying, exposing themselves and their loved ones to great risk, are true heroes.

If there is a silver lining behind all this pain, suffering and grief, it would be the awakening of how much we need God’s love and grace and one another. It’s not like we didn’t know this, but the pandemic was like a big slap to get our attention. It also reminded us how much we need to be in conversation with God during this dark time.

Another plus amid all this isolation and depression is the assurance that comes from surrendering our illusion of control and turning everything over to God. God is in charge and promises to always be there for us. That pledge is a true gift.

So, if the pandemic has opened our eyes, how should we respond? Loving and tending to our neighbors, in Christ’s name, gives legs to this awareness. We need to be the church wherever we are and be open to seeing God’s work getting done through us.

All of this doesn’t require heroism, but it does call for a willingness to be intentional about ways we can give of our time, abilities, energy and treasure. Sounds like stewardship.

We don’t need to be heroes. We just need to trust God and share the many blessings with which we have been entrusted. Thanks be to God, the heroes among us and to those who do God’s work.

In Christ,
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

INTRODUCING THE NEW VANCO MOBILE APP

Supporting our ministries and mission is only a click away. We offer convenient online giving, so you never have to worry about leaving your cash or checkbook at home. You can make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts – a great option for members who will be traveling south for the winter months. Get started by visiting our online donation page at www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org.

You can also download the new Vanco giving app from your app store. Get started today!



(Vanco App Logo)

Current eGiver's - Remember, download the new Vanco Mobile app before January 31, 2022.



Special Giving Envelope

This month's Special Giving will go towards
Intern/Seminarian Fund

Help support First Lutheran's upcoming seminary intern Melissa Salminen

Change of Address



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

Gifts to the Congregation

In Memory of *Lawrence & Irene Obernauf*

For Intern/Seminarian Fund

From Bill Obernauf

Thank
you



Thank you to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year. A special thank you to Meijers, Mission Endowment Fund, Thrivent and Walmart for their grant money, the sewing ladies for all their hard work and Doctors Skellenger and Ballard for their donation of tooth brushes. We were able to send 110 boxes to children in the countries of Georgia and Benin. Here is some info on Benin. It is

located in West Africa and was formerly called Dahomey. It is the birthplace of the voodoo religion. The national animal is the leopard and the national dish is kuli kuli which is ground smashed peanuts shaped into balls or biscuits and then deep fried in it's own oil. The life expectancy for females is 64 and for males it is slightly less. Please pray these boxes will teach the children about how much Jesus loves them. Thank you

Ann Christiansen

Dear Pastor and Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$375.00 to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Because of your support, we can continue to provide much needed help to refugee and migrant families and our ongoing work in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. Likewise, we wish you and your congregation well and pray for your health and sustained ministry today and in the future.

Your congregation's gift is providing life-sustaining care for migrant and refugee families both as they arrive and during the time it takes to build a new life. Thanks to you, children who were separated from their parents have been reunited with their loved ones and given the resources and connections needed to recover from trauma. You're also helping us advocate with a firm resolve for ending shameful policies that tear families apart and prevent newcomers from finding refuge here.

You have shared a vitally needed voice of hope in a world too often filled with violence, a nation often filled with hate.....

Together in Faith, Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, President and CEO

Hope at the Inn

The shelter is open. We need your support by volunteering. Our first week of hosting is right after the holidays, January 2- 8. We would like to increase our volunteer support here at First Lutheran before our hosting week. Please consider volunteering. For training information, please visit www.hopeattheinn.org for the next volunteer training session and listen to the announcements.

Happy New Year, Rhonda Husbye and Pat Casteel

Synod Events

Lifelong Faith Formation

Winter Semester 2022



The Northern Great Lakes Synod offers a diverse series of online classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, contemporary Christian issues, and more. Launched in 2020, Lifelong Faith Formation, evolved from the synod's Lay School for Mission.

Mostly, Lifelong Faith Formation is designed for curious adults who want to engage more deeply with the Bible, to learn more about church traditions, to become better equipped to serve the work of Christ in their congregations and to grow in spirituality and faith.

Sign up by January 7 for the Synod's 2022 Lifelong Faith Formation Classes nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation

The 2022 winter schedule is:

- **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew - 8 Sunday evening sessions**
- **The Samuel Series: Prayer and the Spiritual Life - 7 Monday morning sessions**
- **he Big Picture Bible Discussion - 4 Tuesday evening sessions**
- **The Book of Ezekiel, Part II - 10 Wednesday evening sessions**
- **Anishinaabe Culture - up to 3 Thursday evening sessions**
- **Dialogue with the Islamic Resource Group - 2 sessions on a Thursday and Friday evening**

For more information, see nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation or contact Deacon Lori Ward at lori.ward@nglsynod.org or 615-519-1969 (cell)

Synod Events Continued

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Resources from the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute's [2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) are now available for purchase. Taking place Jan. 18-25, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to join in communion with the prayer of Jesus "that they all may be one" (John 17:21).

Subscribe to *Living Lutheran*

Subscribe to the [print edition](#) of *Living Lutheran* to stay connected within this church and keep current on religious news and social issues, congregational life, global and domestic mission, faith and family, spiritual practices and resources, and more. Or sign up for *Living Lutheran's* free [e-digest](#) to receive personalized stories weekly, biweekly or monthly, delivered right to your inbox.



2022 ELCA Youth Gathering Update

Plans for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering continue to move forward with caution. Registration will remain open through May 22 and the Gathering will take place July 24-28 in Minneapolis, MN. Attendees from the NGLS will have the option to travel together via bus transportation. Contact Stefanie Ehl, Synod Youth Coordinator, at youthcoordinator@nclsynod.org to get connected with other Gathering attendees from our synod or visit the Gathering website for details.

Fortune Lake News

SENIOR DAYS

Senior Days at Fortune Lake 2022. 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!

Dates: Jan. 10 2022

Mar. 14, 2022

May 9, 2022



WINTER WONDERLAND RETREAT

The days are short and the air is cold...Why not join us at Fortune Lake for a winter getaway? Our Winter Wonderland Retreat will be held **January 14-16, 2022**. We can't wait to welcome you back!

This event is open to everyone: Families, youth groups and individuals!

Come and enjoy a hot sauna, snowshoeing cross country skiing, and all sorts of winter fun. The weekend will include opportunities to hear Scripture and reflect, enjoy quality time with family and friends, and play about in the winter wonderland of Fortune Lake.

Register online at www.fortunelake.org **Deadline: January 7, 2022**

Junior/Senior High Retreat

Technology is everywhere these days, there's just no way around it. Fortune Lake invites youth currently in grades 7-12 to take a break from screens and join us at camp for an unplugged retreat.

This one-night retreat will be held **February 4-5** and will feature Bible Studies, games, and camp style activities designed to encourage attendees to disconnect from their electronics and reconnect with the people around them.

January Birthdays

Week 1:

Abel Ellison	Benson Ellison
Debra Koski	Iris Ellison
Gail McEachern	Lisa Thomas
Lisa Zuehlke	Alison Austin
Jean Schmidt	



Week 2:

David Gobert	Jason Hanson	Sally Hillman
David Tianen		

Week 3:

Pat Hewitt	Kelly Westerberg	Peggy Austin
Jane Coyne-Smith	Ruth Botbyl	Pr. Elisabeth Daniels

Week 4:

Jared Larson	Ellen Swenson	Ray Brandt
Elvera Kallio	Bonnie Anderson	Carlene Otis
Mary Plante	Derek Weide	

January Anniversaries

Dewy & Avis Fairchild	48 years
Derek & Collette Weide	52 years



College Bound?

First Lutheran has a scholarship for Finlandia University. Any First Lutheran member may submit an application for the scholarship each year they attend Finlandia University. Pick up a scholarship request form in the office to apply.



Homebound Members



Christian Park

Marilyn Stade

Bishop Noa

Betty Erickson
Joyce Creten
Marie Hirn

Pinecrest, Powers

Jean Schmidt

Sunny View

Marv Kaski

Lakeview

Laila Whitfield
Carole Wedell
Agnes Johnson

Murray's Country View

Pat Shampo

At Home

Arla Pearson
Mary Kossow
Lorraine Moreau
Don Erickson



Council Highlights

The Congregational Council met on December 16th with President, Kathy Gobert presiding. At this meeting the council: Decided to suspend services to unused worship tablets. Accepted the proposed MEF grant recommendations go to the congregation for a vote at the annual meeting. The annual meeting date was set for Sunday, February 6th. The next congregational council meeting is Wednesday, January 19th at 7:00pm



Serving Us in January

Readers

8:00 am

10:30 am

January 2	Ellen Swenson	Sherri Ide
January 9	Pam Durbin	Laura Coleman
January 16	Judy Hammond	Dirk Manson
January 23	Chris Mineau	Bruce Movalson
January 30	Cindy Sjoquist	Jolane Nelson

Communion Assistance

January 2	Judy Hammond	Jo Skogman
January 9	Sally Pouliot	Chuck Thomas
January 16	Cindy Sjoquist	Pam Bialik
January 23	Nora Smith	Ann Christiansen
January 30	Dotti Ford	Jane Coyne-Smith

Thank you for volunteering to serve. We understand if you do not wish to serve during the pandemic. If you are unable to serve, please contact the office at 428-4565.

Altar Guild

Judy Hammond
Tiffany Olsick

Contact Us:

First Lutheran Church

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Office: 906-428-4565 Home: 773-419-2892

Office Manager: Rhonda Husbye

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Secretary: Reyna Rose

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Director of Music: Ray Miller (temporary volunteer)

Musicians: Ray Miller, Paul Rajala

Christian Ed Coordinator: Cindy Sjoquist (temporary volunteer)

Custodian: Adam Haberstich

Congregation Council:

Kathy Gobert, President

Lynn Thomas, Vice President

Cindy Sjoquist, Secretary

Bill Ehrhardt, Treasurer

Steve Bolek

Jeff Gudwer

Dirk Manson

Chris Mineau

Howard Haulotte

Ray Miller

Jane Coyne-Smith



A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

