



February 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.





FLC Family,



“Blessings and Bummers,” “Highs and Lows,” “Thorns and Roses...” Many of us have participated in gatherings that start with these kinds of ice breaking activities. Typically, you go around the room and everyone gathered has the opportunity to share. Our Confirmation Students participate in this activity when we gather. As a group facilitator, I’ve noticed that once in a while someone bristles at having to speak up, or come up with something good on a bad day. Occasionally, there are folks that can never come up with anything negative. It’s interesting to see how we respond to being asked about ourselves.

What I appreciate about this activity is the balance it offers us even in a small way. Life isn’t all doom and gloom. It’s not all sunshine and rainbows either. Acknowledging both tends to ground us in our reality which is usually somewhere in between.

I once worked with a Spiritual Director about my prayer life because at that time I didn’t have a good rhythm and wanted a more structured way of praying. She had me pray for 3 positives (e.g., joys, thanksgiving, hopes) and 3 negative things (e.g., needs, helps, frustrations) each evening. There was to be no more and no less. Just 3-3. It was an interesting discipline because it really did dial down any drama or negativity in my personal life. Even on the “worst day ever” you can find 3 positive things and that somehow diminishes the assumed “worst” pretty quickly. I like to say that I’m a pessimist with hope. I do tend to start with the negative, but I don’t stay there. My faith in God always pulls me towards hope, eventually. 3-3 prayer pushed me to look for hope and as surprising as it is some days, I discovered over and over that there is hope and it had been there all along.

The flip side of this would be for those who struggle to look towards the tough stuff. The avoidance or denial of negativity can end up piling up until it bursts through coming out sideways and that’s not helpful either. Sitting with the rough stuff can be uncomfortable, but it teaches us a lot. It helps us see more clearly the true soul connecting hope we cling to versus

fluffy filler joy which works in a pinch, but cannot sustain us. Romans 5:3-5 says,

"And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Hope in God does not disappoint. Our loving God is with us throughout all of the legs of our journeys. Perhaps 3-3 prayer or Blessings and Bummers might be something for your home. Instead of "How was your day?", at dinner try "Blessings and Bummers." See what you learn about yourselves. Is it hard to come up with one side or the other? Or do the bad days end up being better than you thought? This is Spiritual Wellness and it's not one-size-fits-all, but it's worth exploring.

God's Peace,

Pastor Elisabeth

Upcoming Scripture Readings

February 6 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13], Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11,
Luke 5:1-11



February 13 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

February 20 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,
42-50, Luke 6:27-38

February 27 – Transfiguration of our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2, Luke 9:28-36
[37-43a]

Introducing the New Intern: Melissa Salminen

Dear Siblings in Christ

Greetings! I look forward to beginning this journey with you in February. My family and I have enjoyed visiting in January as Caroline joined the Sunday School classes.



I was born and raised in the Upper Peninsula. I am married to Luke, and we have a 5-year-old, Caroline. We reside in Harvey with our Labradoodles, Clifford and Theodore (Teddy).

We enjoy camping, traveling, carpool to afterschool activities, and spending time with extended family and friends usually around the backyard pool and firepit enjoying BBQ.

I am currently a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa starting the Spring semester of my third year. I look forward to our journey together as I finish my studies and internship with First.

Before attending WTS, I was a teacher for over 12 years and after moving home to marry Luke, I worked in a variety of part-time jobs while raising our little one. I am a lifelong Lutheran and assisted my home congregation by teaching Sunday school, confirmation, council member, and held a variety of paid positions such as secretary, treasurer, and financial secretary. I am currently a Synod Council representative and a member of the Justice and Advocacy Committee.

Blessings and Peace,

Vicar Melissa Salminen

Internship Committee

Dirk Manson – Chair
Pam Durbin
Jo Skogman

George Botbyl
Maggie Miller
Nora Smith

Stacie Carter
Ray Miller

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 at Fairview Manor at 2:00 pm on Thursday, February 10th. Nora Smith will lead a bible study from Max Lucado's Life Lessons from Luke titled, "A New Standard". Scripture is from Luke 6:1 - 11. Pastor Elisabeth will join us for the celebration of Holy Communion, a short message and music. Karen Bratonia will serve as our hostess. Guests are always welcome to join us.

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



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual meeting has been scheduled *for Sunday, February 6th at approximately 11:45am* following the 10:30 am worship service. Items that will be voted on include: elections of Congregational Council Members, Mission Endowment Fund Committee, Synod Assembly Voting Members, Tri-County (formerly Delta) Conference Representatives, Fortune Lake Camp Representatives, Nominating Committee, the MEF Grant Recipients, and the 2022 Budget. If you have concerns about attending, please contact the church office.

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 are available for pick up in the narthex until February 13th.

Thank You



Ash Wednesday Worship

***Wednesday March 2nd
7:00 pm***

- 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!



Thank You

Lutheran World Relief

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$3664.00 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund.

Because of your love, a family in a refugee camp can feel more at home with quilts to wrap around their shoulders. Families who have lost their homes in an earthquake can maintain their hygiene and dignity with a Personal Care Kit as they determine how to rebuild. And a mother living in the slums can welcome her new baby with pride, feeling your love and support every time she swaddles it with items from a Baby Care Kit.

I am so grateful that you are loving these neighbors by ensuring they'll receive these critical items just when they need them most. God bless you and your generous spirit.

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO



Huge thanks to the good people who rang the Salvation Army bell at Pat's on December 10th. The 11th date ringing was cancelled due to horrible weather. The one-day total was a whopping \$833.74! Captain Winters said that this total was almost 3 times what is usually raised at that location.

Just another example of wonderful stewardship by the following people: Sally Pouliot, Rick & Paula Lacrosse, Tom & Alice Vermullen, Nora Smith, Mary & Gary Bjorkquist, Kathy & Tom Gobert and Judy & Howard Haulotte.

Stewardship

WHY ARE WE HERE?

Why ARE we here? If, all of a sudden, First Lutheran were to disappear would anyone notice? It's a really dumb question because those of us who worship here and are involved in a variety of ministries would miss this congregation dearly. On the other hand, would the average person on the street, who is not a member or friend, notice?

I've heard this question asked as a "teaser" to prompt discussion about the relevance of our mission outside of our four walls. It's a thought provoking, sobering question.

I think that the more we are driven by our mission and the more we concentrate our time, skills, energy and money on pursuing our mission, the more we would be missed. If we "do stewardship" intentionally, radically and boldly, by "... inviting, involving, equipping and empowering to serve.... WE MATTER.

Of course, the only reason for doing all of this is "...so that all may know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior." This is what it is all about. Spreading the Good News of Christ is why we are here!

We are a welcoming church. We need to "invite" people to hear the Good News. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking about that welcome as an invitation to "come to us" rather than bringing Christ "out" to the wider community.

We have been blessed, once again, with the gift of another seminary intern and given the opportunity to INVITE her to be a part of our community of faith for a while. We have been given the chance to INVOLVE her in as many of our ministries as possible. By working together over the next fourteen (14) months or so, we pray that she will be better EQUIPPED with additional resources and tools to do her ministry. When all is said and done, we have faith that, enhanced by her time with us, Melissa will be EMPOWERED to serve. That service furthers our mission to the outside world. That's stewardship unleashed and unfettered by our four walls.

The ripple effect of our stewardship with Melissa and other interns and candidates for ordination is truly God sent. God is working through us to make our mission relevant and far reaching. What a gift!

Thanks be to God and to each of you. You have been so faithful and generous with your gifts. You have opened your hands and hearts over and over again to help those journeying to ordination. It's with a glad and thankful heart that we welcome Melissa to an internship filled with growth and grace.

In Christ,
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

P. S. Thanks to Dale Skogman for this gift that keeps on giving.



Special Giving Envelope

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

Help support First Lutheran's upcoming seminary intern Melissa Salminen.
We are \$5,899.00 away from our goal.

Hope at the Inn

Thank you to all who supported our week of hosting by helping with meals, volunteering for shifts and supplies. We would like to increase our volunteer support here at First Lutheran before hosting our next week in March. Please consider volunteering. For training information, please visit www.hopeattheinn.org for the next volunteer training session and listen to the announcements.



Winter Blessings, 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)



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@nglsynod.org to get connected with other Gathering attendees from our synod or visit the Gathering website for details.

Growing Younger

The ELCA Growing Younger project began in 2019, after research confirmed that congregations were experiencing a decrease in attendance, especially among young people. ELCA staff discovered that the Fuller Youth Institute had been working across denominations to help churches grow younger and create more vibrant communities in response to this trend. Since then, the ELCA has had over 300 people trained from 52 synods to learn how to create a faith community that not just welcomes young people, but equips them with strategies to create a place where young people can belong and be part of the church family.

The Northern Great Lakes Synod currently has 4 trained leaders and would like to continue to share resources and opportunities for others to learn more about how to encourage congregational growth. [Visit the Growing Younger webpage](#) for more information and upcoming training opportunities.

Contact Us

Contact [Stefanie Ehle](#) NGLS Youth Ministries Coordinator, with questions or for more information about youth ministry in the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

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: Mar. 14, 2022

May 9, 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.

Summer 2022 Program SCHEDULE GRID is available on the main Summer Camp page, to begin your planning for another great summer at Fortune Lake. Calendar and links to all detailed session descriptions are now live under Camp Sessions.

Learn about the Registration process below; review important details about deposits, discount eligibility, and other details before registering. You may register online or print off and mail in the necessary forms and deposit.

February Birthdays

Week 1:

Constance Lorenson	Jesse Olsick
Sarah Soderman	Joe Durbin
Violet Smith	



Week 2:

Amy Miron	Deegan Miron	Jack Soderman
David Nivison	Sophia Smith	Gabby Movalson
Reyna Rose		

Week 3:

Fred Sundstrom	Lori Marmalick	Finlee Carter
Dylan Gilbert	Braidyn Miron	Andrew Hanson

Week 4:

Alyssa Ellison	Wanda Kloet	Emma Verbeek
Kayla Martinucci	Gayle Sigan	Betty Setter

Week 5:

Ed Walker	Don Erickson	Will Olsick
Duane Rajala		

February Anniversaries

Ray & Maggie Miller	7 years
David & Dianne Lahtinen	36 years
Gary & Mary Bjorkquist	52 years
Dennis & Barb Filizetti	53 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

♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥

Council Highlights



The Congregational Council met on January 19th with President, Kathy Gobert presiding. At this meeting the council: Accepted with gratitude and regret, the council resignation of Jeff Gudwer. Agreed to host the May 14th Synod Assembly of conference 6 at First Lutheran. Recommended no soup suppers this year. Decided the church picnic will be at the VanCleve Park Pavilion near the State Police post on either August 7th or 14th, pending availability of the pavilion. Decided to ask the property committee to proceed with researching a security system. And, decided if the pastor should come down with Covid symptoms, the church will close for two weeks. Announcements will be published on our website, Facebook page, TV6 news and on Radio Results Network.

Serving Us in January

Readers

8:00 am

10:30 am

February 6	Nora Smith	Sue Manson
February 13	Doris Sundstrom	Andy Nelson
February 20	Ellen Swenson	Carolyn Nelson
February 27	Pam Durbin	Dolli Salmi

Communion Assistance

February 6	Judy Hammond	Kathy Gudwer
February 13	Sally Pouliot	Pam Durbin
February 20	Cindy Sjoquist	Jo Skogman
February 27	Nora Smith	Chuck Thomas

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

Ruth Botbyl
Donna Schlemmer

Contact Us:

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Rev. Elisabeth Daniels, Pastor

Pastor: firstgladstone@gmail.com

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

Howard Haulotte

Dirk Manson

Chris Mineau

Ray Miller

Jane Coyne-Smith



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

First Lutheran Church
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