



March 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

Vicar Melissa Salminen

vicar.melissas@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,

On March 2nd we begin our Lenten journey. In our Ash Wednesday scripture, Jesus reminds us to give alms, pray, and fast. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, sacrificial giving, and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of Word and sacrament. It is a forty-day journey through the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Even during Lent, we are Easter People! We have eternal life and nothing can separate us from the love of God. We were beautifully made and we will beautifully die and that ashy mark that begins our Lenten Journey is a tangible way that we enact the meaning of our Christian hope.

We know that we are called to give to the poor, communicate with God, and fast from the things that distract us from God, which includes but is not limited to indulgent foods and meat. During this season we are called to simplify our lives and focus on Christ. Seeing as we have felt the struggle of “giving up” so intensely over these past few years perhaps we can focus on adding specific disciplines to strengthen our relationship with Christ.

We will be sending home some **40 Days of Prayerful Activity Scratch Off Cards** for the kids. There will be extra Large Print Lenten Devotionals in the Narthex. A reminder that the synod hosts daily devotions through:

Prayfaithfully <https://nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully/daily-devotions/>. If you look at the recent archives you will notice some familiar names as well, several from First in fact!

I've heard of people taking prayerful pictures each day of Lent. Knitting projects... One of my friends knits a weather scarf for Lent. She knits a row of yarn in the color of the sky each day and prayed as she did. How creative. We are also going to reactivate the phone tree for Lent. There will be some adjustments as people and time have changed things. Each week during Lent, we hope to activate the tree. A

discipline of Christian connection to help us build our relationship with God through the season that leads to Easter.

Lent is a time for us to examine our relationship with God. We start by laying it all out there. We confess our sins to God. We are marked with the ashy cross of Christ. Our death and resurrection are laid out before us. We are called to look at our innermost thoughts. God incites us to act in good faith and with Christ-like motivation. God creates clean hearts in us and it's beautiful.

Whether you are new to the faith or a handful of decades into exploring why we do what we do in the church it is helpful to reset and reconnect.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE LENTEN PHONE TREE?

If so email office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org or call 906-428-4565. Please contact the church by March 4th if you want to participate.

God's peace,
Pastor Elisabeth

Upcoming Scripture Readings

March 6 – First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13



March 13 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17—4:1, Luke 13:31-35

March 20 – Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

March 27 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

From the Intern: Melissa Salminen



Growing up, Lent was a time of the year when my father gave up chocolate and I would give up something as well. He did it from his background growing up in the Catholic church and I did it because dad did it. I never really understood why, I just followed the crowd. How often do we participate because of others do?

The quote from NT Wright, for me, brings the purpose of a Lenten journey into a different light. Giving up something I loved or craved was a way to discipline myself. Refraining from chocolate, soda, television, or social media was a challenge. Most recently, the time spent on TV or social media was spent in conversation with God through prayer and study. A time to be honest about how much time and energy was spent wrapped up in worldly things. Often, I dwelt on the loss of the item given up instead of finding the joy in what had replaced it in my life.



Dwelling on loss is the default today. During the pandemic, I dwelt on the missed time with family and friends, the lack of entertainment, plays, and social gatherings, and the inability to go to a restaurant. It was easy to focus on the loss. It was a long journey. Instead, focusing on extra time spent with family playing games, going on car rides, and completing craft projects were all sources of joy. We support local businesses by ordering

take-out from places we had not used in the past. We embraced a slower lifestyle. I specifically enjoyed the added warmth during the winter wearing a mask and the reduced number of winter colds.

As life becomes busier, I look forward to Lent as a time to discipline myself through cultivating a new practice to focus on the blessings in my life through contemplation and mediation. A time with God in confession and honest reflection. Embracing time carved out each day with joy, not hesitation. A disciple expanding beyond lent. If you are interested in joining me, reach out and we can traverse this journey together.

Blessings,
Vicar Melissa

Bible Study

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

Flag Committee

If you are interested in working with Vicar Melissa to help design our new Flag Wall, please join the Flag Committee! The committee will meet during coffee hour on March 13th.

Grace Circle

Grace Circle will meet at Fairview Manor at 2:00 pm on March 10th. Pastor Elisabeth will join us for music and a message and the celebration of Holy Communion. Nora Smith will lead the bible study from Max Lucado's Life Lesson from LUKE, Luke 7:11-23 titled "Christ's Compassion". Audrey Ansell will serve as hostess. Guests are always welcome.

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.

Mutual Ministry

The Mutual Ministry Committee will meet on **March 20th** during the fellowship coffee hour. Committee members are:

Dolly Salmi Steve Bolek
Chuck Thomas Julie Landwehr
Kathy Gobert, Council President

Sewing Circle

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



Ash Wednesday Worship



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



***Wednesday March 9
Wednesday March 16
Wednesday March 23
Wednesday March 30***

7:00 pm



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.

Christian Ed

"Souper" Bowl Sunday

"Souper" Bowl Sunday was a big hit at First Lutheran with a huge win for the Packers, even though they didn't even play in the Super Bowl, they sure are a team favorite here at First. The kids raised \$237.66 for ELCA Good Gifts. Farm animals, fruit trees, seeds, gardening tools, fish ponds and many other items are available for the children to pick out and send to a third world country to fight world hunger.

The Sunday School thanks everyone who contributed to the "Souper" Bowl.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

"Welcome to the Table" Class will take place during Sunday School, In March. We will offer the class to 1st graders and up. So only the little ones will be left in Sunday School for those weeks plus the ones that have already received First Communion.

March 6, 13, & 20

During Sunday school

The students will receive their Communion Blessing (often called First Communion) on ***Maundy Thursday, April 14th*** at ***7:00 pm***.

Bibles for Third Graders

First Lutheran third graders will receive their first bible on ***Maundy Thursday, April 14th*** at the ***7:00 pm*** service.



WALK for WARMTH

Because of the pandemic and COVID cases remaining high, Community Action will not be holding its annual Walk for Warmth event at the Elks Lodge. The need for help with heating expenses remains high. People have had their employment put on hold or changed due to the conditions of the pandemic. People are living on fixed incomes and have seen a rise in the cost of their basic needs. Once again, we ask you to consider contributing to Walk for Warmth to help a Delta County neighbor faced with a heating emergency.

No amount is too small, and every dollar raised for Walk for Warmth will be used for heat assistance in Delta County.

Donations can be made to MDSCCA Walk for Warmth—Delta. You can provide a donation or you can get a pledge sheet and donations. First Lutheran Church and friends have been very generous with helping with this local outreach ministry. Your gifts can be left at the office during the month of March and Nora will take them to Community Action on April 1st.

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Sharing a recent request from Lutheran World Relief. They ask, are you planning for a gift on your Lenten focus. I am writing to ask you to please include assembling **Personal Care Kits** for our neighbors in need. Around the world, our neighbors are suffering in the aftermath of war displacement, and poverty. A Personal Care Kit contains simple, yet life-saving items that help families maintain good hygiene, health and basic human dignity.

For many years First Lutheran has not included Personal Care Kits shipped in October. Is this something we can do this Lenten season. The kits include: 1 light-weight bath size towel, 2 bath size bars of soap, 1 adult size tooth brush in its original package, 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging, 1 metal nail clippers, remove packaging. Wrap all items in a towel and secure with ribbon or yarn.

Could we do 40 kits for Lent? Money to purchase items could come from Thrivent Choice Dollars or a Thrivent Action Team event. And, if we decide to do this, how do we get them to the warehouse in South St. Paul, MN?

Keep this in your prayers and touch base with Nora as we make a decision.

- 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!



HELP NEEDED!!!!!!

As First Lutheran adjusts from having two people in the office to one person, help is needed in folding bulletins each week along with assembly and mailing the newsletter each month. Please contact the office if you are available to help with either area of need.



Bulletins will be folded every Thursday in preparation of the next Sunday.

Newsletters will be assembled the last Wednesday of the month.

Temporary Office Hours

The office hours are changing while the Office Administrator adjusts to the new responsibilities of the position. Please make a note of the following office hours.

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Friday: Closed

These hours will remain in effect until further notice.
Thank You for your cooperation and understanding.

Stewardship

PLUGGED IN

A sudden loss of power can be scary and disorienting, depending on one's circumstances. If you're awake and it's dark and cold in the dead of winter when this happens, you have more to worry about than if you are basking in the warm sunshine somewhere in southern climes.

Most of us are spoiled and dependent upon convenient and reliable electrical power, for example. We take it for granted. We just assume that all we have to do is "plug in" and "Voila"—life is good! We really don't give much thought to electrical power until it's not there and the longer we have to be without it, the more we realize how much we need it.

Our need for God is ever greater. God is our ultimate source of power. It's unlimited and there for the taking. But we must be "plugged in" to be energized by God's grace and love. Without this connection to God, we are powerless.

So how do we plug in? Well, I'm no theologian, but I'm going with by building and maintaining a right relationship with Christ. I don't think we, as sinners, can fully plug in, but we can constantly work at it. We start by admitting that God is in control and giving ourselves over to the Spirit. Then we pray regularly, worship in community, study God's word and open our hands and hearts in love for and service to our neighbors.

The writer of the February 4th message in the devotional booklet, "Christ in our Home", puts it far more eloquently than I. It reads, in part, "It's the same in our lives of faith when we are disconnected from our divine energy supply, God. The Almighty has given each of us wonderful gifts and abilities that are unique to us, and God wants us to use them for holy purposes. But we're not going to accomplish much if we are separated from God's power. Psalm 138 expresses the sure promise that God is always there and ready to give us what we need—reassurance, strength, courage, wisdom—to walk as disciples."

In Christ and working on plugging in,

Dirk Manson,
Stewardship Chair



Special Giving Envelope

This month's Special Giving will go towards
Walk for Warmth

Help support the community and those struggling to keep warm this winter.

Hope at the Inn

Volunteers are needed for our next week of hosting, **March 13-20**. Call Rhonda in the church office or Pat Casteel to sign up. Do not worry if you are not trained. We will set you up with someone who is. You can also sign-up online at www.hopeattheinn.org



Winter Blessings,
Rhonda Husbye & Pat Casteel



2022 ELCA Youth Gathering Update

Official Statement from the ELCA

After much prayer, conversation and tears, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2022 Gathering, MYLE and the tAble due to the ongoing pandemic, the recent COVID-19 surge and safety considerations.

We know there are thousands of young people who will not get to experience the Gathering, and our hearts break for them. This was not an easy decision, and we ask for your prayers and your grace. We understand the impact this decision will have on our youth, volunteers and planning teams, and we hope to return to Minneapolis for a future Gathering.

Registered congregations can visit their registration accounts starting Monday, February 7, to select their desired refund option. For more information and FAQs, please visit elca.org/Gathering.

With God's power at work in and through us, we can do far more than we dare ask or imagine! The ELCA is fully committed to supporting the

young people of our church and to seeing that the ministry of the Gathering, MYLE and the tAble continue for years to come. With that assurance, we are turning our attention toward 2024 for the next Gathering. Stay tuned to Gathering communications for a location announcement this summer.

Grace and peace,
The ELCA Youth Gathering Team

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**



2022 Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

Yippee!! It's the moment we've been waiting for: Summer 2022 Registration is now open for Fortune Lake! There are programs for people of all ages, and we have room for YOU! Use the fortunelake.org website for details, invite a friend, and get registered today.

First Lutheran has camperships. Forms are in the office and on the Sunday School bulletin board.

March Birthdays

Week 1:

Jeanne Hoegh	Tiffany Olsick
Mary Tuskan	Easton Groleau
Rachel Soderman	Rhonda Husbye
Agnes Johnson	



Week 2:

Stacie Carter	Tom Otis	Carrie Tobias
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Week 3:

Audra Steinhoff	Jeanna Steinhoff	Christine Johnson
Stephanie Normand	Savanna Sovey	Maxine Make

Week 4:

Diane Hanson	Taylor Trudeau	Max Westerberg
Anne Movalson	Arla Pearson	Joyce Creten
Vicki Ottensman	Mack McDonald	Leah Hanson

Week 5:

Lenita Scholar	Jeff Gudwer
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March Anniversaries

Michael & Susan Snowaert	48 years
Harvey & Betty Setter	58 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

Lakeview

Laila Whitfield
Carole Wedell
Agnes Johnson

Bishop Noa

Betty Erickson
Joyce Creten
Marie Hirn

Pinecrest, Powers

Jean Schmidt

Sunny View

Marv Kaski

Christian Park

Marilyn Stade

Northwoods

Gen Morley

Murray's Country View

Pat Shampo

at Home

Arla Pearson
Mary Kossow
Lorraine Moreau
Don Erickson

**Homebound Visitation Volunteer Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
12:00 pm**

Please join us for this brief meeting if you are currently visiting our homebound, or if you are interested in providing some visitation. We will update the visitation list and offer a mini-training.

Council Highlights



The Congregational Council met on February 16th with President, Kathy Gobert presiding. At this meeting the council: accepted Reyna Rose's resignation with regrets. Accepted Rhonda to a full time position as the Office Administrator. Appointed Dennis Landwehr to the MEF Committee. Accepted William Olsick's council resignation. Welcomed and accepted Sam Olsick onto the council. Decided to form a Constitution Committee, Flag Committee and a Security Task Force Committee. Discussed worshipping with Covid and decided to remain with the current protocol. They also talked about hosting the Synod Assembly. The church picnic is set for August 7th at the large pavilion by the State Police post.

Serving Us in March

Readers

8:00 am

10:30 am

March 6	Christ Mineau	Connie Salmi
March 13	Cindy Sjoquist	Chuck Thomas
March 20	Doris Sundstrom	John Thomas
March 27	Judy Hammond	Lynn Thomas

Communion Assistance

March 6	Nora Smith	Carol Kocsis
March 13	Dotti Ford	Pam Bialik
March 20	Judy Hammond	Ann Christiansen
March 27	Sally Pouliot	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

Sally Pouliot
Lisa Thomas

Contact Us:

First Lutheran Church

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Rev. Elisabeth Daniels, Pastor

Pastor: firstgladstone@gmail.com

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

Vicar Melissa Salminen

vicar.melissas@gmail.com

Office: 906-428-4565 Home: 906-360-1001

Office Administrator: Rhonda Husbye

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

Ruth Botbyl

Ann Christiansen

Howard Haulotte

Dirk Manson

Ray Miller

Chris Mineau

Sam Olsick

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



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