

## May 2022

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

**Worship** –8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

**Office Hours** – Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Rev. Elisabeth Daniels, Pastor**

[pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com)

**Vicar Melissa Salminen**

[vicar.melissas@gmail.com](mailto: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,

*"Beloved Child(ren) of God, know that you are loved and blessed in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen"*



Recently, it's been pointed out that I'm getting a reputation as a "Beloved Child of God" pastor. Apparently, it is one of my vocational ticks. I say it a lot and I mean it. Most of you have probably heard it in worship during Holy Communion.

When I offer a blessing to children or others not receiving Holy Communion, I use some variation of the quoted words above. It's not much of a blessing because I use the words "*know you are loved and blessed*" instead of "God bless you and love you." I use *know* because I want those receiving the blessing to know that God has already done the loving and blessing. That is what Communion is, our reminder of Christ's love broken and poured out for us. That love is daily blessing us, not just on Sunday morning.

I like that in those offered words we are reminding toddlers, visitors, and others choosing not to commune that they belong to God. They are a part of the family gathered in our sanctuary and online. When you join us for the meal you can know that you are loved and belong. You are blessed and it is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit doing the loving and blessing. Sometimes our God works through neighbors, family, and the church community. Sometimes God's love goes beyond time and space. Through the waters of baptism, you are named and claimed as a Beloved Child of God.

As we start to see church life returning to some of our old familiar ways of doing things, let's take time together to remember why we do what we do. We offer blessings to those not communing because they are still beloved members of our family. God includes them and so do we. All are welcome at our table. First Lutheran Church does not turn others away, we invite them in through blessing, through the meal, and through Christ's love. There is a place for you no matter who or (in this technological age) where you are.

God's peace, Pastor Elisabeth

## **From the Intern: Melissa Salminen**

### **Ubiquitous Unknowns**



Greetings Siblings in Christ

As a lifelong Lutheran, I am continually shocked by the meaning behind the traditions and practices.

This month, a liturgical practice that is not just a time to stretch and take a break but has real meaning and purpose behind its usage in the worship service.

#### **Passing of the Peace**

“Peace be with you” (Jn 20:19) is the first words from Jesus Christ when he enters the room where the disciples were on the evening of the first day of the week, Easter Sunday as we now reference the day. Actually, he says it three times in the twentieth chapter of John.

Growing up on the Sundays when communion was celebrated, we would “share the peace” with each other. The practice changed over the years. As a school age child, I remember turning around and shaking hands with those in the pew in front of and behind the one we sat in, fourth from the front of the left-hand side of the sanctuary. In middle and high school, I sat in the balcony and often we would say “peace” quickly and slink back in the pew. In the past few years, pre-pandemic, we moved around the sanctuary greeting everyone present or as many as possible.

About a year ago, in conversation with a pastor friend, we were talking about “passing the peace” and the significance of it in the liturgy. I was told it was a time to make amends and go to those where ill will or hurt feelings surfaced to come to Holy Communion having sought the peace between siblings.

It is also a time for us to share the spirit with one another as Jesus shared the Holy Spirit with us in John 20. “Peace be with you” and Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit onto the disciples and on to all who gather in the name of the Triune God.

During worship and at all times, may we seek to spread the peace of Jesus Christ to all those we meet and find peace in the forgiveness we seek, and the forgiveness we give to others.

Peace be with you all,  
Vicar Melissa Salminen

## **Upcoming Scriptures**

**May 1** – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20], Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

**May 8** – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

**May 15** –Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

**May 22** – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5, John 14:23-29

**May 29** – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

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## **Bible Study**

Did you know...? That when you are at a church service and you hear the WORD of God from the Bible, you ARE studying the Bible as well? Did you want to ask a question about the meaning of one of those readings? We find answers in a Bible Study group every Wednesday at 9:30am in the Youth Room. At this time we are studying the Book of Nehemiah. We read, discuss, ask questions, find answers, share thoughts, ask more questions, even digress a bit. We also come together to build up, strengthen and serve when we go out from God's church. So the month of May is a very good time to find out more about this ministry.

## **Flag Committee**

The Flag Committee has met twice and plan to have a display in place and ready to dedicate on June 12, 2022. The display will be created and curated over the next few months. If you would like to contribute to the display or if you have any questions, please contact Vicar Melissa.

## **Grace Circle**

Grace Circle will meet at Waterview Manor (Bayview Manor) at 2:00 pm on Thursday, May 12th. Pastor Elisabeth will join us for music, a message and the celebration of Holy Communion. Nora Smith will lead the bible study from Max Lucado's Life Lessons from LUKE...Luke 11:1 - 13 titled "Persistent Prayer". Nora 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 7:00 pm 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. They are praying for gently used towels, bath or hand towels. You can be part of our answer to prayer. If you have towels or flannel sheets that need to be put to new use, drop them off in the 'baby room'. Any questions, call Connie at 428-1696



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- 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
  - Folding **Bulletins** each Thursday at 1pm.
  - Assembling the **Newsletter**, the last Wednesday of each month at 2pm



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

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## GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

We will be ordering geraniums for Pentecost again this year. Fill out the order form at the end of the newsletter and have it submitted to the office no later than **May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

## Class of 2022 High School Seniors



*William Olsick*

William is a graduate of Gladstone High School. He will be attending Northern Michigan University in the fall studying music.

*Aaron Steinhoff*

After graduating from Gladstone High School, I will be attending Midwest Truck Driving School to get my CDL. I will also be working for JMCA Construction as a laborer/operator doing fiber optic installation.



*Nicholas Siedlecki*

Nick is graduating from Gladstone High School.

## Stewardship

### "I'VE GOT YOUR BACK"

When the going gets tough, and someone says, "I've got your back", it's music to our ears. Somehow, knowing that we're not alone when things go south, is a great comfort. When dark times come, and they will, just some reassurance that someone is there to support us is a real gift.

These words are probably a paraphrase of "watch my back"-a life or death utterance that soldiers would command one another as they faced the enemy in combat. Our need for protection is not usually a matter of life or death, but it can be crippling.

Thank God that we have Jesus that "has our back". Through thick and thin, God surrounds us with the protection of love, mercy, forgiveness and grace. The beauty of all this is that it's there for us without condition. Well, almost. We do have to believe and have faith.

God has our back through the faithful stewardship of our time, abilities, energy and treasure. The love we show for our neighbors, through our actions, breathe life into the "new commandment" Jesus gave to his disciples at the Last Supper.

God gifts us with opportunities galore to freely share with our neighbors the abundant blessings God has entrusted to us. I would add that God also expects us to love one another missionally and intentionally. We need to reach out to serve others BEYOND our local community of faith and do so with INTENT. Rather than passively waiting for chances to love and serve to "drop in our laps", we need to seek out opportunities to "have one another's backs". Those neighbors of ours live right next door and throughout the world.

Good stewardship can be overwhelming. Christ is here with us to help us love and serve one person at a time. To quote a Chinese proverb, "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step".

Thanks be to God!

In Christ, Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

## **Special Giving Envelope**



This month's Special Giving will go towards  
**NGLS – Clergy Debit Relief**

Support our current and future pastors so seminarians can *answer the call* to prepare for ministry, and pastors can *answer the call* to serve in the mostly rural context of the NGLS.

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**Walk for Warmth**  
Warm a Heart. Heat a Home.

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Thank you for choosing to donate to our March Special Giving Envelope "Walk for Warmth". First Lutheran members and friends donated over \$570.00 to helping our neighbors.

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## **Lutheran World Relief**

A big thank you to those who contributed to the LWR "Crisis in Ukraine" Special Giving Envelope for April. First Lutheran members and friends raised over \$1,200.00 for our neighbors in Ukraine who are struggling to survive during the war with Russia.

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## **Synod Assembly World Hunger**



The Synod Assembly is May 14<sup>th</sup> and they are collecting for World Hunger. Piggy banks are available in the Narthex and need to be returned to the church office no later than **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.  
*Give generously to this worthy cause as there are still many hungry people in this world.*

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## Lenten Sock & Underwear Challenge



WE DID IT!!!  
WE BLEW OUR GOAL OF 40  
PAIRS OF SOCKS AND  
UNDERWEAR OUT OF THE  
PARK.

Thank you to all who contributed to the sock and underwear challenge. First Lutheran members and friends brought in **244** pairs of socks and **152** pairs of underwear. 40 pairs of each will be sent to

***THE DRAWER*** in Minneapolis, Minnesota

AFTER SPEAKING WITH THE DRAWER, WE FOUND OUT OUR COLLECTION OF SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR WILL BE DELIVERED TO UKRAINE TO AID DISPLACED INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.

The remaining socks and underwear will be distributed to Cameron Elementary for students of families in need.



### Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser Update



Thanks to your generosity, and sweet tooth, the Sunday School raised \$849.00. These monies will go toward Vacation Bible School expenses this July 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Hope at the Inn

We are in need of a new Coordinator or a couple people, even three would work, to function as new Co-Coordinators. Rhonda is stepping down as a Co-Coordinator and Pat is unable to fill the position by herself. If you are willing, or know of someone who may be interested, please contact Rhonda in the church office.



Spring Blessings,  
Rhonda Husbye & Pat Casteel

The annual brat & hot dog sale is at Elmer's on  
Friday, May 20th.

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First Lutheran has a large container in the Narthex to collect non perishable food and household items for the Salvation Army and Rock Food Pantry's. Pick up some extra items the next time you do your grocery shopping.



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.

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## Spring Clean Up

The Property Committee has planned for a *Spring Clean Up* of the grounds and a few indoor items need to be tended to. Join them on:

**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am**  
Back up date: Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am

Many hands make light work.



## **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!

**Date: May 9, 2022**



### **Seeking Volunteers**

**We are seeking volunteers to come throughout the month of May** to help us prep camp by:

- Raking and moving fallen branches
- Cleaning cabins and other seasonal buildings
- Moving, splitting, and stacking firewood
- Other jobs as they arise. There's something for everyone!

Pick a day that works for you, and invite a friend or two (or twelve!) to come along. Call (906) 214-2267 or email our office

([officemanager@fortunelake.org](mailto:officemanager@fortunelake.org)) to let us know when to expect you, how many are coming, and what type of work you'd prefer to do. If you can stay for lunch, we'd be happy to feed you!

Many hands make light work! Help us prepare to spread God's love through the ministry of summer camp at YOUR place of grace!



Thank you to Lloyd and Mary Tuskan for folding the bulletins each week. And to Sue and Dirk Manson, Cindy Sjoquist, Mary and Lloyd Tuskan, and Geri George for assembling the April newsletter.

Dear First Lutheran,

On behalf of all the people we serve, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service would like to thank you for your generosity throughout the year of 2021. Your financial gifts are so important and are truly making a difference in the lives of immigrants and refugees each and every day....So Today, we want to personally thank you for welcoming refugees and immigrants with open arms by financially supporting this ministry of welcome in 2021. Your ongoing support assists us in the mission to care for and welcome the stranger. Thank you for all the ways you continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus at home and around the world.

In God's Peace,

Andrew G. Steele, Vice President for Development and Outreach

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## **Introducing Our New Custodian**



Hello! My name is *Hope (Kleiman) Thompson*. I was born and raised in Gladstone as was my husband, Joe. We've been married for nearly 34 years.

After Joe's tour of duty in the Air Force, and other civilian job assignments, we moved back to the area in 2000. After being away for 12 years, we thought, what a better place to raise our children than back here in the UP, where our Parents were still living.

We now reside in Gladstone with our dog Maggie, who we adopted 2 years ago.

Our kids are, Kyle (Paige) and JJ, Appleton WI, Natalie (Erik) Gammon, Marquette, and Jillian (Bailey) and Barry (our Grand dog) Lamb, Escanaba. We are thrilled and blessed to be new Grandparents!

I am very happy to be a part of the team at First Lutheran.

## From the Bishop

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I remember my first time going to Bible camp, where the youth of the church and their friends gather for a week of fun, fellowship, learning, and more.

As often happens at Bible camp, the campers were led through a series of team building exercises, one of which was "The Trust Fall." I would guess many of you have participated in this exercise and even as you read this, you're remembering your own experience. Did they catch you? Did you fall to the ground? Did you drop anybody?

For those of you unfamiliar with "The Trust Fall," I give you the following description. Imagine you are standing on the very edge of a picnic table, with just enough of your toes on one end to keep you standing on the table and your heels hanging off the side. You have been instructed that at the moment when you fall back chest to whacking someone in the face or taking out a fellow camper's watch eye. Your heart begins to race as you arrange themselves in two lines facing each other starting from the edge of that picnic table. Their arms are outstretched in a pattern that alternates elbows and wrists, left and right, from each side of the line.



You look down at them at what seems like a very flimsy zippered net of skinny middle school arms. Sure, there's the camp counselor, but that person is not particularly positioned to catch you. Your fellow campers are supposed to catch you...with their scrawny pre-pubescent arms they're supposed to catch you. These fellow middle school campers look up at you, and you can see that they're not so sure about this either. The full magnitude of this action settles into your gut as you realize what this all means, that you're supposed to fall backwards from the discomfiting four-foot height of the picnic table into this bony net of weak, angular wrists and

elbows, mere ulnas and radiuses, that you're quite sure will snap and break like dry twigs when your body slams into them.

You have never witnessed a trust fall, and you're pretty sure that you're going to get hurt somehow. But the camp counselor assures you that all will be well. You consider stepping off that picnic table, but everyone is looking at you, and you don't want to be considered a coward. So you steel yourself, cross your arms over your chest, and with grim resolve, face forward. You hear your counselor say, "Ready?" and you reply with a conviction you don't feel, "Ready!" Fall away!

And through an act of will you let your body fall backward. But really, more accurately, you let go of what's keeping you upright, you let go of fear and apprehension, you let go of all the reasons not to let go. You let your body fall....and you trust that scrawny net of bony pre-pubescent arms to catch you even as you brace yourself for a spine jarring impact on your tail bone. For a brief, shining, moment, you are airborne. You are in flight. You are weightless, until you feel those scrawny arms catch you, surprising in their strength, their resolve, to care for you, to keep you safe, and not let you hit the ground.

And you are amazed! Euphoric! The adrenaline of that brief act of courage hits you like a wave of joy. You are so relieved...and surprised! Who knew scrawny pre-pubescent arms could work so well together? To catch even a body in free fall? Who knew?

In Hebrews 11:1 we read, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

For the past two years, in many ways, we have been in freefall...this untethered descent into the space of the unknown, uncertain of our landing, unsure of the damages and unclear how much we can depend on those we need to depend on.

No, the pandemic is not over. No, we have not yet "landed." Yet, God gives us instructions through Jesus the Christ as to how we should line up in order to provide safety for ourselves and others. One of us, alone, cannot provide the needed support, but all of us together, with combined strength and resolve, can work well together, no matter how ill equipped we might seem.

We have Christ's own assurance, that even though we cannot see the presence of God, God is with us.

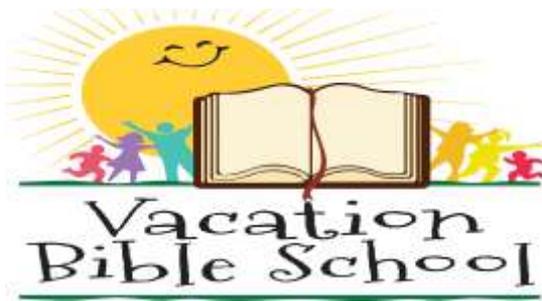
Ultimately, in faith, we trust that God will catch us. In faith, we trust that together, we have what it takes to care for each other and keep each other safe. In faith, we are stronger than we know and braver than we feel. In faith, we have received the promise of God's abiding presence.

We may not ever feel ready, and yet, in faith, by the grace of God, we are blessed to "fall away" and feel the love of God in the many arms of the community of faith that seek to catch us.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

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Vacation Bible School is scheduled for

**July 5<sup>th</sup> – July 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Registration opens May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Registration forms will soon be available in the church office and posted on the Sunday School bulletin board. We are also looking for HOSTS to house the Fortune Lake Staff.

Stay tuned for more information.

## May Birthdays

### **Week 1:**

Donna Schlemmer Janet Gustafson

### **Week 2:**

Ron Larson Carol Seeley Misty Gerow  
Ray Miller Gen Morley Pam Chouinard  
Gary Larson

### **Week 3:**

Truett Elegeert Penelope Hammond Kraig Dyer  
Ruthann Skellenger Mia Nivison

### **Week 4:**

Dennis Landwehr Bruce Movalson Lynn Thomas  
Gloria Kanerva Dylan McDonough Paulette Larson-Pepin  
Wayne Marshall Adelle Seawright Cindy Sjoquist  
Anita Stockham Lloyd Tuskan

### **Week 5:**

Aaron Steinhoff Jody Peters

HAPPY  
Birthday  
FROM YOUR  
CHURCH FAMILY



## May Anniversaries

Scott & Tammy Hanson	3 years
Chris & Suzanne Dahlke	10 years
Bey & Pam Brown	20 years
Dale & Leah Hongisto	30 years
Jim & Darla Pardon	33 years
Mack & Kristine McDonald	42 years
William & Kathleen Shine	57 years
Charlie & Geri George	60 years
John & Jean Noskey	68 years

# 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

## Murray's Country View

Pat Shampo

## at Home

Arla Pearson  
Lorraine Moreau  
Don Erickson  
Gen Morley

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## Council Highlights

**March:** The Congregational Council met on March 24<sup>th</sup> with President, Kathy Gobert, presiding. At this meeting the council: arranged for the remaining offering envelopes to be hand delivered. Decided to purchase a month-to-month subscription to Pro Church Art. Put the planning of the Daycare/Preschool on hold. Voted to have Nault's Green Lawn provide the lawn fertilizing for the 2022 season. Approved a \$100.00 donation to the GHS Senior All Night Party and decided to place an ad in the Delta County Travel Guide. Worship will remain the same as long as Delta County stays in a low covid zone.



**April:** The Congregational Council met on April 20<sup>th</sup> with President, Kathy Gobert, presiding. At this meeting the council: discussed doing a new Church Directory in the fall. Decided to cancel June and July council meetings and resume business in August. Communion will continue with the communion kits until they are gone, then regular cups and wafers will resume.

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### **Serving Us in May**

<b>Readers</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
May 1	Ellen Swenson	Ann Christiansen
May 8	Pam Durbin	Laura Coleman
May 15	Judy Hammond	Jane Coyne-Smith
May 22	Chris Mineau	Pam Durbin
May 29	Cindy Sjoquist	Sherri Ide

### **Communion Assistance**

May 1	Nora Smith	Kathy Gudwer
May 8	Dotti Ford	Jo Skogman
May 15	Judy Hammond	Cindy Sjoquist
May 22	Sally Pouliot	Ann Christiansen
May 29	Cindy Sjoquist	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**

Marty Nelson  
Amy Miron

## **Contact Us:**

### **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. Elisabeth Daniels, Pastor**

[pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com)

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

### **Vicar Melissa Salminen**

[vicar.melissas@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.melissas@gmail.com)

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

### **Office Administrator: Rhonda Husbye**

[office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org)

### **Director of Music: Ray Miller (temporary volunteer)**

### **Musicians: Ray Miller, Paul Rajala**

### **Christian Ed Coordinator: Cindy Sjoquist (temporary volunteer)**

## **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.



# Geraniums for Pentecost

The Liturgical color for Pentecost is red, and we have a wonderful tradition here at First of filling the sanctuary with red geraniums on Pentecost Sunday.



This year Pentecost is on June 5<sup>th</sup>. We are again getting the plants from Chenier's Greenhouse. The cost is **\$4.00** for each geranium. Please fill out this form and

return it (with your payment) to the office by **Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**. No phone orders can be accepted.

Plants **MUST** be taken home following the 10:30 a.m. service on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

For Spirit filled moments in my life, I wish to purchase:

\_\_\_\_\_ red geraniums for Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

x \$4.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>**



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First Lutheran Church  
1212 Minneapolis Avenue  
Gladstone, Michigan 49837

Address Service Requested

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

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