

September 2023

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 – 3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
(Beginning September 10th)

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.



I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
-Isaiah 43:19

FLC Family,

We are embracing a new adventure. Conversations with the Congregation Council, the Exploration Committee, and several groups of congregation members between services and during coffee hour has helped us to see that there are opportunities for us to live out our mission in new and creative ways.



First Lutheran Church is now advertising for a Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC). We have an online satellite congregation. Covid times changed many things, because of that we have discovered an opportunity. There are people worshiping with us electronically near and far and we can invite, involve, equip, and empower our e-family to serve Jesus in their context. Our CEC will help accompany them in this.

This new position will help us to better engage our volunteers in church and out in the world. First Lutheran Church is a great place. We are not broken. We are not as big as we used to be, but there are beautiful people who worship and serve our church and our world through First Lutheran Church. We want to be intentional about recruiting, retaining, reminding, and recognizing our volunteers. A CEC will facilitate this ministry.

This is not out with the old and in with the new. It means, we dig deeper. What are we longing for? What does our community long for

from us? We have so much potential and possibility. This new position will help us to engage in church in ways that we have yet to discover.

Let's grow together! Please discern if this position is right for you. Is this an area you are called to serve in? Do you know someone who you could invite to apply? Sometimes we don't recognize our own gifts until we get some external support. Pray about this.

I am so thankful to serve in a congregation that is willing to talk and explore.

Thank you, Pastor Elisabeth

Upcoming Scriptures

September 3 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21, PsaLm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

September 10 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

September 17 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

September 24 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10—4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Altar Guild

Anyone interested in helping with these worship responsibilities is welcome to join us. The membership has dropped in the last two years and we would like to get back up to at least six teams that cover two months each. If you have any questions feel free to contact Pam Durbin 428-4429 or Amber Soderman (763)213-3659.

Bible Study

Welcome back from summer! Bible study of Isaiah resume Wednesday, September 6th at 9:30 am in the Youth Room. Isaiah the great prophet, warns both Israel and Judah of God's judgement.

Book Club

In September, Book Club will meet to discuss the book, "Handle With Care" by Jodi Picoult. Inside the cover: *Emotionally riveting and profoundly moving, Handle With Care brings us into the heart of a family bound by an incredible burden, a desperate will to keep their ties from breaking, and, ultimately, a powerful capacity for love. With the grace and wisdom she's become famous for, this novel by beloved #1 New York Times bestselling author Jodi Picoult offers us an unforgettable story about the fragility of life and the lengths we will go to protect it.*

We are always looking for discussion ideas and times to meet that will be better for all interested. If you have any suggestions, please drop them off in the office. This month Book Club will meet at **1 p.m. on Friday, September 29th**. Hope you will join us.

Christian Education

Vacation Bible school had about 35 children attend each day. It was a success and thank you notes were sent to volunteers and helpers. The Spark curriculum will be used for the 2023-2024 school year. A calendar of activities is available on the Sunday School bulletin board in the fellowship hall. The children will sing once a month at the 10:30 worship service.

Rally Day & Blessing of the Backpacks



September 10th

Register for Sunday School and Confirmation at 9:15am

Backpack Blessing during Worship. Come and bring your friends! Continental Breakfast served every Sunday. Volunteers are needed to help serve breakfast.

September 17th

Children's Choir sing at 10:30 worship

**Registrations for Confirmation are being accepted now.
Sign up Today!**

Sewing Circle

"Back to School" is in the news and over 200 backpacks for world relief are ready for supplies. You can help: we need **rulers, unsharpened #2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, blunt small scissors, non-gel pens (black/blue), box of crayons (16 or 24 ct.), lined note books, monetary donations** and we will pick up the supplies. A school supply tote is in the narthex. Thank you for all donations.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SHIPPING DATE

Lutheran World Relief Shipping Day is October 14, 2023. Please check ways to help on the bulletin board in the narthex.

* Our boxes and any boxes dropped off at First the week prior will be loaded from 8:00 - 9:00 am.

- * Boxes from other churches will arrive from 9:00 - 10:30 am
- * You may sign up for either or both shifts.

Pastor Brenda L. Greenwald from Wallace will be handling railroad car issues from Menominee. This year Tom Woodaz and Escanaba Moving Systems will no longer be able to transport the boxes for Lutheran World Relief to the railroad car in Menominee. First Lutheran Church is a great place for other churches to bring boxes for this awesome outreach ministry. Coffee, a treat and conversation is a plus. I am trusting God to open our minds and hearts and give us wisdom and a plan to carry out this ministry. Nora

Love Circle

Meets on the Third Thursday of the month at 9:30 am. We use the WELCA Gather Magazine Bible Study. If there is interest in a night time group, please contact pastor or the office.

Men's Group

Meets on the Third Thursday of the month at 9:00 am. All men are welcome. There is coffee!

Music Musings



SINGERS & RINGERS

Can you ring a bell? Can you sing a song? Do you like music? If you answered yes to at least one of these, then we want you! We are dusting off the handbells for ringing and looking for more voices to join us singing.

Rest assured; this is not a full-time commitment. If you have any interest or any questions, please contact me directly.

Stacie Carter...906-420-6448



Policy Committee

The policy committee has been actively updating the church's policies. Current policies being discussed and updated are the building use and marriage guidelines policies. Updated policies will be available to view in the narthex in the upcoming weeks.

Property Committee

Gifts to the property committee have been sent to the Capital Improvement Edward Jones Money Market account. Of those gifts, \$2,800.00 is designated as a down payment to Rock Electric for updating the lighting and breaker box. The committee is exploring installation of solar panels and discussed refurbishing the wall around the urinals in the men's bathroom. They also noticed a window in Pastor's office is deteriorating. Jeff's Glass came and recalced the window and Wesley Daniels scraped and painted it. Joe and Pam Durbin addressed the moss on the cedar shakes outside of church and removed about 30% of it. Jeff Gudwer will use Wet & Forget to address the remainder of the moss issue. And, two handrails were installed on the North entry to the fellowship hall by Andy Nelson. The skylight in the baby room is scheduled to be replaced by the Markell company and the hot water tank in the custodian's closet was replaced by DeHoogie & Viau. The next meeting is scheduled for ***September 10th at 9:00 am*** in the double classroom.

Fall Clean Up!

It doesn't seem possible, but fall is fast approaching, your property committee has set a clean up day of ***September 30th at 9:00 am*** with a make up date of ***October 7th at 9:00 am***. If there are things you see that you think need to be addressed, please let someone on the property committee, or the church office know. Hope to see you then, refreshments will be served.

Thank You, Charlie George, Committee Convener



Tried-N-True

Tried-N-True meets the 3rd Friday of each month September through May. The first luncheon and program are Friday, ***September 15th at Noon***, in the fellowship hall. Welcome Seniors! Sign up sheet in the narthex. Cindy Gendron from Christan Park will be presenting a “Long Term Care Program”. Our Tried-N-True Luncheon crew is looking for volunteers to help set up and serve the meals. Please leave your name in the office.

Safety Task Force

The Safety Committee has been discussing the signage in the North parking lot, occupancy of the sanctuary and building, along with the Michigan code. The next Safety Committee Meeting will be ***September 12, 2023, at 1:00 pm***.

Welcome & Outreach



The Welcome and Outreach committee is seeking new members. This ministry reaches out to those who have lost loved ones, sends supportive greeting cards, help with recording membership, and many other hospitality ministries. If you think you would like to join, call the office, or attend their next meeting on ***September 19th at 5:15pm***.

Job Opening: Community Engagement Coordinator

The Community Engagement Coordinator position is part-time. It will be the coordinator’s responsibility to oversee and coordinate E-Ministry, volunteer engagement, and community connections. The Community engagement Coordinator will work with pastor, office administrator, AV Tech, Welcome and Outreach Committee, and other committees as assigned. The Community Engagement Coordinator will also serve as our liaison to community groups. The full job description and application are available in the office or on our website.

Designated Memorial Gift Procedures

The memorial committee is diligently logging all designated memorial gifts received by First Lutheran as written in our constitution. Our committee's responsibility is to make sure all designated memorial gifts are given and utilized in the way the giver intended. When a designated memorial is received, it goes into the *designated memorial fund*. Then the group it was designated for must request the funds from the memorial committee. The memorial committee then sends a thank you not to the giver and keeps this process transparent. Once approved by the memorial committee, the office administrator can then process the funds for the group.

Life Long Faith Formation

Join the fellowship and fun with others in the Northern Great Lakes Synod as you explore the Bible, church traditions, and issues central to daily life. Registration opens in August on the synod website, www.nglsynod.org.



UP STATE FAIR CONFERENCE BOOTH

First Lutheran once again participated in the Tri-County Conference booth at the U.P. State Fair on **Tuesday, August 15th**. We thank everyone who helped tend the booth and those who supplied the baked goods that were sold to support clean water around the world. We had plenty to sell this year! After our day, we deposited \$603.75 into the Tri-County Conference bank account. First Lutheran had the highest grossing day! Way to Go!

Verbeek Wins Grand Champion Market Steer

Emma Verbeek and her steer "Cash" won Grand Champion at the U.P. State Fair in August. The heavyweight grand champion steer, shown by Emma, weighed in at 1409 pounds.



Emma had been raising the animal for almost a year. She has been in 4-H showing livestock for six years. She and her steer Cash were also named reserve champion showman for her presentation of the steer. *Congratulations Emma from your First Lutheran Family!*

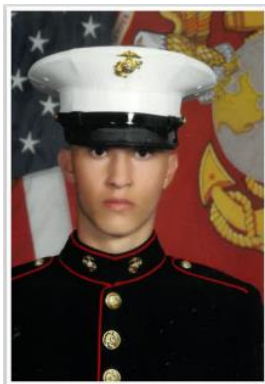
Mission Endowment Grant Request Forms

The Request Forms for Mission Endowment Fund distribution are now available in the church office. First Lutheran is fortunate to be able to provide gifts for ministry outreach every year because of the many individual contributions made over the years. The annual distribution of these funds is based on the guidelines of the fund bylaws approved by the congregation. These bylaws require distributions to accomplish the following purposes:

- A. Support ministries and programs relating to growth and nurture in life and faith, especially, but not exclusively, for children, such as attending a Lutheran college, university or seminary, camping and leadership conferences, other training that enables members of this congregation to grow in the Lutheran faith and service to God's people, or funding of church youth programs which involve community outreach, and for funding an internship site at First Lutheran Church.
- B. For families, for social service agencies and institutions, or special programs designed for those in our community who are in spiritual and/or economic need.
- C. Grants to Fortune Lake Bible Camp for general support of its ministries.
- D. Grants to our ELCA schools, colleges, universities, campus ministries, and seminaries, to Fortune Lake Bible Camp or other ELCA church-related camping ministries.
- E. Grants to the Northern Great Lakes Synod for general support of its ministries.
- F. Grants:

- a. through the Northern Great Lakes Synod partnership ministries, seminarian support, synod endowment support, Mission Outreach Fund
- b. through the ELCA for World Hunger, World Missions, and other partnership ministries

If you would like to submit a request on behalf of any program or organization that seeks to accomplish one of the above purposes, please stop in the office and pick up a form. Completed forms need to be returned to the office no later than **Thursday, September 28th**. Any questions may be directed to one of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee members: Dennis Landwehr (Chair), Dotti Ford, Pam Durbin, Dutch McEachern, and Chuck Thomas.



New Military Member

Please keep Lance Corporal Danzig “Danny” L. Knapp, and all our military members, in your prayers as he continues his career serving our country.



Stewardship

“SHOW ME THE MONEY”!!

Movie buffs, that are old enough, will probably remember this classic line from the 1996 movie, “Jerry Maguire”. Jerry, a sports agent, fines himself with only one client, a football player, who, at none point in the movie, has a back-and-forth yelling match shouting repeatedly “SHOW ME THE MONEY”

I have no idea why this line popped into my head as I thought about this September stewardship article and our usual fall ask for financial support for next year. Yes, it's hard to believe, but it's that time of the year already when we will be asking you to estimate how much money you intend to give to our congregation in 2024.

At the risk of sounding crass, the good folks who call First Lutheran their home, have been showing us the money for many, many years. We are so blessed that so many of you have been willing to give us your estimates AND that you have been so generous and faithful over the years.

Asking for money always seems uncomfortable and touchier than asking for your time and talents. Yet, without enough money to operate, we are trying to do God's work with one hand tied behind our backs. Getting the job done requires a commitment of ALL of our gifts, including money. So much for stating the obvious!

There is a prayer that we say after the offering in the service we are using this summer that pretty much says it all about good stewardship. Many of you will recognize it. It reads,

“everything in heaven and earth belong to you.
We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

This prayer speaks for itself. There is no need for elaboration.

Over the next couple of months, please pray about your giving intentions for next year. Submit an “estimate of giving” when you receive our ASK letter. Consider tithing or a percentage giving and contributing electronically.

Thank you, thank you and thank you again for the abundance you have provided by your generosity and faithful sharing of your many gifts.

Praise be to God!

With gratitude and In Christ, Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

Special Giving Envelope

September Special Giving will go towards

**ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response-
U.S Wildfires: Maui, Hawaii**



Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders, some moving to other Hawaiian islands. Wildfires have also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

Gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this, and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to, and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires.

August Special Giving, you raised \$110.00 for Lutheran World Relief as of August 27th.

Friendly Reminders

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.



Thank you to Mary Bjorkquist, Avis Fairchild, Judy Hammond, and Gloria Kanerva who helped assemble the August newsletter.

To Our Church Family and Pastor Elisabeth, Many thanks for your concerns and prayers for Lloyd during his illness and recovery. He's doing well now.

Blessings, Lloyd & Mary Tuskan

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, and words of encouragement during my knee surgery and recovery. I am advanced in my healing process thanks to your prayers.

Thank You, Rhonda Husbye

To the Ladies of First Lutheran's Sewing Group,

Thank you so much for the quilt! It's so soft and so beautifully made! I love the patterns and I can clearly see it was made with much love and care! Pink and blue are my favorite colors and I was so happy to receive such a beautiful quilt! You all are so kind and considerate!

Thank You, Alison Rose

Thank You!!

Over the past year and one half, I have been under going lots of tests to determine the cause of my shortness of breath issues. I have been prescribed various medications, so far, nothing has seemed to change things. I will continue to try, with the doctors, to determine and fix this problem. I thank you for all your kind words, cards, and most of all prayers. Please continue them.

Charlie George

Fortune Lake:

NATURE INSPIRED: FALL WELLNESS RETREAT

Saturday, September 14-7

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp welcomes you back to our 5th Wellness Retreat in participation with Pam Rose of Inspiring Roots, LLC. This year we will revisit the theme of “Nature Inspired” in order to further explore and connect with the beauty of the nature surrounding Fortune Lake.



FALL FEST QUILT AUCTION

Saturday, October 7th

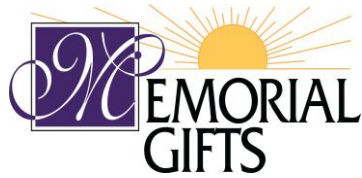
Continental breakfast and bake sale, beautiful quilts up for auction,affle tickets & hand-crafted items for sale.

Online Auction opens on Sept. 26th.

SOLID AS A ROCK: FALL RETREAT FOR GRADES 3-6

October 20-21

This year’s theme of “Solid as a Rock” invites us to explore God’s strength and the possibilities that open up to us when we rely on them fully. Campers will enjoy camp favorites like games, songs, Bible Study, outdoor play, camp-style worship and more.



In Memory of *Lorraine Moreau*

For Sewing
Dolly Salmi

For School Kits
Nora Smith

For Technology Development
Lloyd & Mary Tuskan



Lakeview

Carole Wedell
Everett Robinson

Bishop Noa

Betty Erickson

Murray's Country View

Pat Shampo

at Home

Arla Pearson
Gen Morley

D.J Jacobetti Veteran's Home

Robert Hasselbom

September Birthdays

Week 1:

Elson Daniels Pat Shampo
Pat Skorupski

Week 2:

Emma Landwehr Scott Smith
Helen Belongie Geri George
Cali Kossow

Week 3:

Carter Menard Londyn Koski
Billy Ray Rodriguez Carson Shea
Amelia Sovey

Week 4:

Neal Johnson Connie Salmi
Nicole Siedlecki Elveria Rajala
Charlotte Strom Spencer Husbye
Joan Anderson Charlie George

Week 5:

Tom Ford John Kloet
Barbara Filizetti Tina Erickson
Ethan LaCrosse Alexis Hongisto



Dolly Salmi
Carol Kocsis

George Botbyl
Jolane Nelson

Marshall Seawright
Al Salmi
Darla Pardon

Lori Shea
Dewey Fairchild
Bambi Johnson

September Anniversaries

Kari & Joel Nordin 10 years
Daniel & Kayla Verbeek 16 years
John & Kimberly Roman Jr. 24 years
Chuck & Sally Strom 30 years
Dave & Vicki Ottensman 34 years
Ray & Trudy Brandt 56 years
Don & Pat Casteel 59 years
Lee & Bonnie Anderson 60 years



Council Highlights



The Congregational Council meet on Wednesday, August 16th. At this meeting: council decided to roll over the \$750 dollars that remain in the Finlandia Scholarship Fund to the Intern/Seminarian Fund due to the closure of Finlandia University. Approved the Community Engagement Coordinator job description and authorized the search process to begin. Accepted the new social media policy while the marriage policy was moved to next month's meeting. The next meeting is September 20th at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Serving Us in September

Readers

8:00 am

10:30 am

September 3	Wayne Marshall	Dennis Landwehr
September 10	Judy Hammond	Peggy Austin
September 17	Vicki Marshall	Julie Landwehr
September 24	Pam Durbin	Jane Coyne-Smith

Communion Assistance

September 3	Carol Knauf	Kathy Gudwer
September 10	Vicki Marshall	Carol Kocsis
September 17	Sally Pouliot	Nora Smith
September 24	Dale Schlemmer	Jane Coyne-Smith

Thank you for volunteering to serve. If you are unable to serve, please contact the office at 428-4565.

Altar Guild: Judy Hammond & Tiffany Olsick

USHERS – USHERS - USHERS

First Lutheran is starting an Usher Pool. We are looking for at least 24 people to sign up in groups of two per team, a minimum of six teams per service. Ushers will be assigned dates throughout the year with their teammate. Schedules will be printed in the newsletter and given quarterly. We will consider if you are a snowbird and would prefer only ushering in the summer months. And, whether you prefer 8:00 worship or 10:30 worship. *Sign Up Today* by contacting the church office. Men, families, children, all are welcome to be a team!



- Occasionally fill-in as our **Sound System Tech**
- Men and women to serve as **Ushers**
- **Readers & Communion Assistants**

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

Cub Scouts

Come and see what being a cub scout is all about. Boys and Girls are welcome! **September 20th 4:00pm – 7:00pm**. We will meet at First Lutheran Church in the fellowship hall.

Contact Us:

First Lutheran Church

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906-428-4565

www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org or find us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

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pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com

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Home: 773-419-2892

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office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Director of Music: Stacie Carter

Musicians: Paul Rajala

Christian Ed Coordinator: Pam Brown & Suzanne Dahlke

Custodian: Hope Thompson

Congregation Council:

Cindy Sjoquist, President

Lynn Thomas, Vice President

Chris Mineau, Secretary

Bill Ehrhardt, Treasurer

Ruth Botbyl

Ann Christiansen

Rachel Coyne

Kathy Gobert

Dirk Manson

Ray Miller

Kynn Thomas

Reyna Rose

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



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September

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