

# December 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

Rev. Elisabeth Daniels, Senior 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.





Dear FLC Family,

While preparing for the Advent season, I listened to an "Advent Playlist" on Spotify. The first song to play was "Wait for the Lord." It is a Taize song. It is in our ELW Hymnal for the Lutheran church (which we use at First digitally). The lyrics are simply, "Wait for the Lord whose day draws near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The song is haunting and repeats in harmony several times, eventually joined by a solo flute or violin.

It's not holly jolly and could also work during Lent, but it's not a melancholy song. "Be strong, take heart!" ends with an exclamation point. Some of the versions have, "Keep watch, take heart!" It's a call to action. The song has hope. The expectations of the season are written in simple lyrics and melody. The more times the singers repeat this chorus, the more the lyrics have to say.

It is meditative. It guides us toward the more theological and liturgical purposes of this season. We pause, we prepare, and we ponder. Or, as we sing with the Sunday School kids at FLC,

Advent is a time for waiting waiting for Jesus to come. What do we do while we're waiting, waiting for Jesus to come? We sing a song. We say a prayer. We light the candle and breathe the air. That's what we do while we're waiting, waiting for Jesus to come.

Take a moment for breath and prayer this season—even just one minute. Listen to a song, meditate... Light your home advent wreath or even just your favorite scented candle, and be in the presence of the Lord. Wait for the day we celebrate the coming of Christ at Christmastime.

Instead of the usual sounds of the day, the TV, phone, messenger, the radio, etc., take a moment to listen to the silence of falling snow, or if silence isn't an option, enjoy the sound of the neighbor kids building a snowman. Pray for the people that have felt like a gift in your life. For us Christians, Christmas is worth the wait. We can prepare for the coming of Christ soon.

God's Peace, Pastor Elisabeth

#### **Upcoming Scriptures**

**December 3** – First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm, 80:1-7,17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

**December 10** – Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2,8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

**December 17** –Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

**December 24** – Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samual 7:1-11,16, Luke 1:46b-55, Romans 1625-27, Luke 1:26-38

December 24 Christmas Eve - Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

**December 31** – First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10—62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

# Advent and Christmas Worship Opportunities

Advent Worship: Take a breath out of the busy holiday season and attend a special evening of worship each Wednesday with Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00pm beginning Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.

First Sunday of Advent 12/03 8:00 & 10:30am Second Sunday of Advent 12/10 8:00 & 10:30am Third Sunday of Advent 12/17 8:00 & 10:30am

Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday 12/24 9:00am Christmas Eve Family Friendly Worship 12/24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 12/24 7:00pm

#### **Open Staff Position**

**Sound System Technician** First Lutheran is seeking a new Sound System Technician. This position operates the sound system for our Sunday worship services, funeral services, and special services. It is a paid position.



#### **Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas**

Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas is a colorful deck of cards that is full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Endlessly flexible for busy schedules, you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry

them on the go. Explore the entire season from Advent to Christmas through Epiphany. These make a great gift for families and friends!

Cost \$8.00-NOW ONLY \$5.00



#### **Advent Calendars**

Start a sweet tradition with this delicious fair trade Advent calendar! Twenty-four 3 oz. milk chocolate hearts, one for each day, hide behind the visual story of Divine Chocolate. Artisan chocolates are suitable for vegetarians. Free from artificial

flavorings, colorings and preservatives. Cost: \$9.00 NOW ONLY \$5.00

#### **Christmas Poinsettias**

If you would like to have a Poinsettia in church for Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form at the back of the newsletter and bring it to the church office. In



order to be included in the bulletin, forms must be received no later than Thursday, December 7<sup>th.</sup> Poinsettias must be delivered by noon Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **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**

A familiar business sign in Escanaba tells us to smile as we go by, if we can't stop in. Our door is open to come in Wednesday mornings for Bible Study, 9:30am – 11:00am. Yes, Isaiah continues to speak to you and me, all 66 chapters. Since 700-500 B.C., when Isaiah spoke to his people, the prophet also spoke about Jesus. You are already familiar with many of Isaiah's prophecies. They are used in the readings that you hear during both church services at First Lutheran on Sunday morning. Please note; when schools in the area are closed because of inclement weather, we will not meet.

#### **Book Club**

Book Club will meet Friday, December 8th at 1:00 p.m. The book to be discussed is: "The Journey Walking the Road to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton.

#### **Christian Education**

#### **Sunday School Christmas Program**

The Sunday School Christmas Program

10:30

December 17th

The program will take place during our 10:30 am Worship Service

Dress Rehearsal 12/10 during Parent's Night Out

We will be taking a break December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. We miss those who haven't been able to join us for Sunday School! Hope we see you back soon!

Christmas Program



"Parent's Night Out" would like to welcome kids to First Lutheran Church from 4:00 - 7:30 on December 10th for a Charlie Brown Christmas themed evening. Please bring a hat, pair of gloves and/or nonperishable item for donation. Kids will be fed dinner, make hot chocolate, play games and watch Charlie Brown's Christmas.

#### **Sunday School Schedule**

December 10 - Lakeview Assisted Living Sing (during class)

December 10 - Parent's Night Out 4:00-7:30pm

December 17 - Sunday School Program at 10:30 worship

December 24 - NO Sunday School

December 31 - NO Sunday School

#### 10:30 Worship Acolyte Schedule

12/03: Londyn

12/10:

12/17: Ethan

12/24 9am: Braylin 12/24 4pm: Violet 12/24 7pm: Londyn

12/31: Braylin



#### **Love Circle**

Meets on the Third Thursday of the month at 9:30 am. We use the WELCA Gather Magazine Bible Study. The group will meet at Pastor Elisabeth's home for the *December 21*<sup>st</sup> gathering *at 9:30am*. They will have a study first with a salad luncheon to follow.

#### **Mission Endowment Fund Committee**

The Mission Endowment Committee met on October 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss rates and interest of the Mission Endowment Fund. Chuck Thomas introduced "Mission Investment Fund" available from the synod. They are researching fixed income options for the MEF and discussed the Memorial funds designated by the Goetsch family. A request was made to the Memorial Committee to have the funds transferred to the Mission Endowment Fund – Mutual Funds. They also discussed the distribution of the MEF Grant requests. Twenty-one grant requests were received. The next meeting will be announced.

#### Men's Group

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

#### **Music Musings**

The holidays are fast approaching, and I have to say this is my favorite time for music! Some of my fondest Christmas memories revolve around the music at First. With the hopes of pulling out a couple oldies but goodies that all should remember, I am wondering if any "alumni" choir



members would join us Christmas Eve or a Sunday in December? Are any family members coming home that would like to join us for a song or play an instrument?

Contact me directly at 906-420-6448 or staciecarter717@gmail.com. We would love to have you share YOUR gifts!

Stacie

#### **Policy Committee**

The policy committee reviewed and edited the <u>Building Security and Key Policy</u>, the <u>Parental Leave and Family Grief Leave Policy</u>, and the <u>Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth in Church Activities</u> and recommended submitting them to the Council for approval. They began discussing the aspects of <u>Financial Policies and Procedure</u> which will be next addressed. Copies will eventually be posted on our website, provided to employees and staff, and printed for review in the office/narthex. The next meeting is *January 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm*.

#### **Property Committee**

The property committee approved Rob Matta for snow plowing this winter. They discussed the rusty air conditioner mounts, Andy to repair in the Spring. The next meeting is scheduled for *Sunday*, *December 3rd at 9:00 am* in the double classroom.

#### **Sewing Circle**

#### **Crafty Christmas Creations**

December 7<sup>th</sup>
Calvary Lutheran Church
7:00 pm

#### **Tried-N-True**

A Christmas luncheon gathering will be on Friday, *December 15<sup>th</sup>* at *12:00pm* with a sing-along of carols with Paul Rajala and Gretchen Strom. Tried-N-True meets on the third Friday of each month in the fellowship hall.



#### **Safety Task Force**

The Safety Committee expressed continued concern over the drugs and theft from our alley neighbors. The committee would like to note that despite the policy being presented to the council suggesting door locking during services and not requiring it, the committee continues to recommend doors be locked between services for safety concerns. The next Safety Committee Meeting will be on *January 9, 2024, at* 1:00 pm.

#### **Welcome & Outreach**

The Welcome and Outreach committee is seaking 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 *December 12*<sup>th</sup> at *noon*.

#### 2024 Offering Envelopes

Each February we order the offering envelopes for the following year. Last year we had a number of people who did not pick up their offering envelopes, leaving us with a big surplus. To prevent this from happening in 2025, we would like you to contact the office to place an order for your envelopes. If you give online through Vanco, and would like to receive Holiday or World Hunger Envelopes, please let the office know. All our funds that can be contributed to, are online on our website and through the Vanco app. Please contact the office before January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to order your 2025 envelopes.



#### **Mitten Tree**

We are collecting mittens, hats and scarves for the mitten tree again this year (socks are ok too). We will donate all items collected to the Salvation Army. Please bring your items to church and put them on the mitten tree displayed in the narthex from November 26<sup>th</sup> – December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

#### **Community Events**



#### **Faith Lutheran Church**



#### A Christmas Cantata

### Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

#### **Performances**

4:00 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church, Rock 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Church, Perkins Fellowship and refreshments will follow each performance. A free-will offering to defray the cost of music is appreciated.







#### Salvation Army Bell Ringing

It's time to jingle the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign at Pat's Foods. Let's uphold our reputation of excellence in the category of "Best Bell Ringers"!

Reserve an hour of your time on Friday or Saturday, December 8th and 9<sup>th</sup> at Pat's Foods. Sign-up in the office or online at https://tinyurl.com/hnbypnfv.

Thank you in advance for continuing your faithful support for the work of the Salvation Army



#### The Bay de Noc Choral Society

Presents its annual Christmas Concert.

"Glory"
Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>
1:30 pm
Bethany Lutheran Church
Escanaba

The concert will feature bells, organ, piano, brass, strings, and more. Each Christmas season the concert fills the church, so all are encouraged to come early. There is no charge and a free-will offering will be taken at intermission. Traditional, classical and contemporary pieces will be presented.

#### **Christmas Funnies**



#### **Stewardship**

WATT

Wait! Wait is not the word we want to hear when we are anxiously looking forward to something happening. Most of us can remember our childhood Christmas Eve and morning waiting torture. Sleep was hard to come by, except for our parents, who we thought would never get up. Sometimes we had to take matters into our own hands and jump on their bed so we could get the green light to descend on the gifts under the tree.

With age, we should get better at waiting and learning to be more patient, but, alas, that's not always the case. We would hope that experience and maturity would give us the wisdom to know when to wait, when to be patient and when to act. Our patience meter gives different readings depending upon what we are expecting to happen. Is it something good or something bad?

Advent is a season of waiting. It is a time of expectation. Wouldn't it be a wondrous thing if we were as excited and hyper about the coming birth of the Christ child as a child waiting to open gifts on Christmas.

So, we try to patiently wait. Each of us spends this time of expectation differently. We all have things going on in our lives that distract us and make it difficult to find the peace that centers us on the coming of our Savior.

There is the power of prayer that we can pass this time of waiting by being good stewards. We can pray that the Spirit moves us to share our many blessings while we wait. We all have unique gifts to share with one another and beyond our community of faith.

Waiting is OK. Active waiting is much better. Prayerfully sharing during this time of looking forward gives loving life to our journey to Jesus in the manger.

In Christ, Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

#### **Special Giving Envelope**

December Special Giving will go towards;

#### **Gladstone Public Library**



The Gladstone School & Public Library is proud to serve the students and community providing current books, magazines, and the latest in technology. Services they offer are photocopying, faxing, and Internet access. In addition, they offer young children's holiday, special occasion, summer reading programs and book fairs.

**November Special Giving,** you raised \$195.00 for Lutheran World Relief – Aid for Families in the Holy Land



First Lutheran has a large container in the Narthex to collect non parishable 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 Ann Christiansen, Avis Fairchild, Kathy Gobert, Chris Johnson, and Paula LaCrosse who helped assemble the November newsletter. Thank you to Lloyd and Mary Tuskan for folding the bulletins each week.

# Please Notice This

#### **DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS**



Written and financial reports to be included in the 2023 Annual Report of the Congregation are due in the office no later than Thursday, January 4th, 2024. If at all possible, please send your report via e-

mail to office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org. Thank you!

#### Offering Envelopes ...

Offering envelopes for 2024 will be available on the tables in the narthex during the next couple of weeks. Please pick yours up, but don't start using them until January.



#### 2023 Offerings

In order for your offering to be credited to 2023, envelopes must be received in the church office no later than Sunday, December 31st at the 10:30 worship service.

#### **Fortune Lake**

#### Winter Wonderland Retreat

The days are short and the air is cold...Why not join the crew at Fortune Lake for a winter getaway? The Winter Wonderland Retreat will be held January 12-14, 2024. Activities include hot saunas, camp game and song, time spent outdoors and good food. Time spent outdoors in the snowy Northwoods! Take time away from your busy lives to recenter, enjoy the season, and fill your cup here at camp.

This event is open to everyone: family/friend groups, youth groups, and individuals of all ages.

Check out www.fortunlake.org/event/winter-wonderland-retreat/ for more information and pricing.

#### **December Birthdays**

Week 1:

William Austin David Ottensman

Barbara Karas Karyn Coleman Laura Anderson Mary Bjorkquist Lori Morley-Sharon Carter Sisson

Ava Tavola Joe Skellenger December

Ace Watchko Kelly Ylitalo

Week 2:

Ann Miller Grace McDonough Katie Smith Brock Nelsen-Paquin Allison Tessmer James Gerow Jacob Tessmer

Week 3:

Betty Erickson Kathy Gudwer Kristianna Wilson Kellan Smith Sherry Salo Jordan Larson

Clark Dahlke Carl Smith Collette Weide

Week 4:

Nicholas Siedlecki Doris Sundstrom Gus Soderman

**Everly Wiltzius** 



#### **December Anniversaries**

Kelly & Max Westerberg 4 years
Fred & Doris Sundstrom 8 years
Gary & Judy Larson 29 years
Marshall & Lori Seawright 47 years





**Bishop Noa** 

**Betty Erickson** 

<u>Lakeview</u>
Carole Wedell
Everett Robinson

Murray's Country Viewat HomePat ShampoArla Pearson

D.J Jacobetti Veteran's Home New Dawn

Robert Hasselbom

The Congregational Council meet on Wednesday,

<u>Christian Park</u>
Mary Plante
Gen Morley

Lake House (Northwoods)

Jolane Nelson

#### **Council Highlights**

November 15<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. At this meeting the council: approved the Building Security and Key Policy. Decided the Parental Leave & Family Grief Policy needed polishing, accepted the Key Use Guidelines and the Policy for Protecting Children and Youth in Church activities, along with the Covenant for Working with Children and Youth. Cindy agreed to unlock the doors and read the announcements for the November 19<sup>th</sup> worship services with Pastor Steve Solberg. The 2024 MEF Grant Proposals were approved to go to the congregation for a vote at the February 4th Annual Meeting. Discussion took place about changing Pastor Elisabeths title to Reverand Elisabeth Daniels, Senior Pastor now that Pastor Melissa is working as the CEC. Pastor Melissa's title is; Reverend Melissa Salminen, Community Engagement Coordinator. The 2024 budget was revised to the correct 403b expenses for employees whom participate in the 403b retirement plan. The council would like the transfer of funds for supporting the CEC position, from the Lamberg New Initiatives Edward Jones Money Market account, to be documented. The Finance Committee will discuss the issue and create a plan. The Pastor's and other committee

reports were accepted. First Lutheran was gifted a piano. The council discussed the moving expense and upkeep expenses. The next meeting is December 12th at 6:00pm via Zoom.

The congregational council would like to invite you to help create the 2024 Special Giving Envelope List. The list will be composed by the council and the congregation. Voting on the list will happen at the Annual meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The top twelve will be our 2024 Special Giving Offering. Currently we have these organizations on the list:

Misson of Hope
Kisarwee Luther Junior Seminary
Kiwanis Backpack Program
Walk for Warmth
Synod Assembly
Inter/Seminarian Fund (FLC)
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services
NGLS Clergy Debt Relief
Gladstone Library
Y.E.S (Youth Empowering Services

Mkuzu Girls School SON International World Hunger Appeal Operation Christmas Child Fortune Lake Camperships Seminarian Fund (NGLS) Grace to Ukraine Lutheran World Relief Lakestate Industries Pink Pumpkin

Please submit your ideas for organizations we can help in our community to the church office.

Greetings to all of you from the staff at First Lutheran. May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His Love at Christmas and always.



Reverend Elisabeth Daniels,
Senior Pastor
Pastor Melissa Salminen, CEC
Rhonda Husbye, Stacie Carter,
Paul Rajala, Hope Thompson, &
Max Bloxton

## Serving Us in December

Readers	8:00 am	10:30 am
December 3	Judy Hammond	Lynn Thomas
December 10	Chris Mineau	Jane Coyne-Smith
December 17	Nora Smith	Jane Coyne-Smith
December 24 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Ellen Swenson	
December 24 <sup>th</sup> 4pm	Pam Durbin	
December 24 <sup>th</sup> 7pm		Dirk Manson
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Judy Hammond	Bruce Movalson

C	ommunion Assistance	8:00 am	10:30 am
	December 3	Carol Knauf	Jane Coyne-Smith
	December 10	Sally Pouliot	Julie Landwehr
	December 17	Nora Smith	Kathy Gudwer
	December 24 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Dotti Ford	
	December 24 <sup>th</sup> 4pm	Judy Hammond,	
		Carol Knauf, Sally	
		Pouliot	
	December 24 <sup>th</sup> 7pm		Dennis Landwehr
			& Carol Kocsis
	December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Nora Smith	Jane Coyne-Smith

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

**<u>Altar Guild:</u>** Jan Gustafson and Amber Soderman



#### **Contact Us:**

First Lutheran Church

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Gladstone, MI 49837

906-428-4565

www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org or find us on facebook.com

#### Rev. Elisabeth Daniels, Pastor

pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com

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

Office Administrator: Rhonda Husbye

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Community Engagement Coordinator: Rev. Melissa Salminen

cec.firstgladstone@gmail.com

**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

Ann Christiansen

Rachel Coyne

Kathy Gobert

Dirk Manson

Ray Miller

Lynn Thomas

Reyna Rose



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



If you would like to have a Poinsettia in church for Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and bring it to the church office. In order to be included in the bulletin, **forms** 

must be received no later than Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Poinsettias must be delivered by noon Friday, December 22nd.

**NOTE:** Poinsettias *CANNOT* be in the building prior to Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> due to allergies and picked up by December 26<sup>th</sup>. Please be respectful of this change.

The Altar Guild suggests you consider purchasing 6" pots as we have stands to hold the flowers and they have openings for 6" pots.

In Memory	/Honor Of:	(circle one)

Given By:



1212 Minneapolis Avenue Gladstone, Michigan 49837 Address Service Requested First Lutheran Church

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