

February 2024

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.





How come we never use the lament psalms anymore? Because we were seduced into thinking that the church ought to be the happiest place in town. The church doesn't need to be the happiest place in town. The church needs to be the most honest place in town. Out of such honesty, happiness arises. There is nothing more emancipatory than being able to tell the truth in a safe place.

-An On-Going Imagination: A Conversation about Scripture, Faith, and the Thickness of Relationship by Walter Brueggemann and Clover Reuter Beal

FLC Family,

This year, for our midweek Lenten Worship Series, we will prayerfully engage with lament. It is a practice that we often want to shy away from, but having the opportunity to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside is important.

The quote at the beginning of this page invites us to be an honest place. First Lutheran Church can work to create a space where people can tell hard truths and know that it is the place to do it. We can be vulnerable. We can be angry. We can be sad. We can even be political when we leave space and care for others who do not agree with our politics to do so as well.

In these honest exchanges, we may grieve. The world is not as it once was. Our homes are not the places they once were. We long for different times and ways. Lent is when we deepen our relationship with Christ. All parts of us are included in this deepening. As we carefully remember Christ's journey to the cross, we do so with hope. This memory and story have darkness and pain, but happiness also arises. Easter comes and keeps coming. It is here now.

Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day reminds me of the story John Pavlovitz wrote after his dad died.¹ "He said to himself, "This is insane. Your dad just died. Why the he{ck} are you buying bananas?" We lament and live with grief, and life and love keep happening. John ended his article with, "There are grieving people all around you go easy." As we ease into this season of renewal and repentance let's do so with gentle resolve. We do not travel alone.

God's peace, Pastor Elisabeth

¹ <https://johnpavlovitz.com/2019/02/21/everyone-around-you-is-grieving-go-easy/>

Upcoming Scriptures

February 4 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23,
Mark 1:29-39

February 11 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

February 18 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm, 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:19-15

February 25 – Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans, 4:13-25,
Mark 8:31-38

ANNUAL MEETING

**ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
Following the 10:30 service
Lunch will be served**

Please Notice This



The Annual meeting has been scheduled *for Sunday, February 5th at approximately 11:45am* following the 10:30 am worship service. Items that will be voted on include: elections of Congregational Council Members, Mission Endowment Fund Committee, Synod Assembly Voting Members, Tri-County (formerly Delta) Conference Representatives, Fortune Lake Camp Representatives, Nominating Committee, the MEF Grant Recipients, and the 2024 Budget. If you have concerns about attending, please contact the church office.

HOLY LAMENT

Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross – the place to which the season of Lent leads us – is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.



WEDNESDAY LENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ash Wednesday – February 14 th	7:00pm
Mid-Week Lent – February 21 st	7:00pm
Mid-Week Lent – February 28 th	7:00pm
Mid-Week Lent – March 6 th	7:00pm
Mid-Week Lent – March 13 th	7:00pm
Mid-Week Lent – March 20 th	7:00pm

Lenten Soup Suppers

Each Wednesday at 6:00 pm February 14th – March 20th
Midweek Worship service to follow at 7:00 pm

Soup Suppers are back again this year. Our Confirmation Students are going to help serve, but their numbers are few. We need soup bread, desserts, side items and kitchen help. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Lent offerings will go towards World Hunger.

Lenten Devotionals are available in the narthex on a table by the bulletin board.

OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT

Ways you can give during the Lent/Easter Season.

LENT 2024 MISSION ABC


A is for Almsgiving the way we share with one another.

B is for Being able to Bless with Books.

C is Care for the Children at Cameron Elementary School

Our Lenten practice will be fasting from indulgences and using that money to gift each student at Cameron a book.

DONATE TODAY

 1-906-428-4565

 <https://www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org>



Soup supper free will offerings will go towards World Hunger

Piggy Bank offerings will go towards Synod Assembly



The Sunday School children will be collecting funds for the ELCA Global Barnyard.

We will be raising funds for books for each student at Cameron Elementary.





HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Palm Sunday – March 24th 8:00am & 10:30am

Maundy Thursday – March 28th 7:00pm

Good Friday – March 29th 7:00pm *

*Worship will be at Memorial United Methodist Church

Easter Sunday – March 31st 8:00am & 10:30am

COMMITTEE & CIRCLE NEWS

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

Valentine's Day – the day to show love and appreciation. The Bible says a LOT about love. A favorite comes to mind: 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, *"So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."*

In our bible study on Wednesday morning, we are studying the Book of Isaiah. Here, the prophet reveals the Love coming to us in Jesus. Come and see.

Note: When Gladstone Schools are closed because of inclement weather, we will not meet.

Book Club

The book February is *"Bicycling with Butterflies: My 10,201 Mile Journey Following the Monarch Migration"* by Sara Dykman. The group will meet on **February 23rd at 1:00pm** to discuss the book.

Christian Education

The Christian education team is planning an Easter Egg Hunt with games and door prizes for ***Saturday, March 30th at 1:00pm***. More details to follow in the March newsletter.

Confirmation students will meet on Wednesday nights during Lent, instead of Sunday's, and help out with the Soup Suppers.

Sunday School Schedule

February 11th – Sunday School Children sing at the 10:30 worship service.

10:30 Worship Acolyte Schedule

02/04	Londyn Koski
02/11	Ethan LaCrosse
02/18	Violet Rose
02/25	Braylin Carter

WELCOME TO THE TABLE CLASS

All those interested in receiving their first communion are invited to join this class. First graders and up are encouraged to attend.

Class Schedule (during Sunday School)

March 3rd – March 10th – March 17th – March 24th

Sign up in the office.

Maundy Thursday “Welcome to the Table” hospitality gathering at 6:00 pm with First Grade Families. All are welcome.

Worship at 7:00 pm.



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 **February 15th** gathering **at 9:30am**.

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 season of Lent is almost upon us. We will bury Alleluia, mark our foreheads with ashes, and begin the 40-day journey. Our music will look a little different for this season; more somber perhaps. What song of this season is the most profound for you?



I would like to take a moment and say thank you! To my wonderful choir, you make my “job” easy; to Paul, for rolling with the punches (there are a lot of them); and to the Sunday School ladies and Sue Christiansen, for humoring all of my ideas! The music at First wouldn't be what it is without all of you!

I am also happy to report that we now have new music folders for each choir member. This is very exciting for us! As always, you are welcome to join us. Let me know if I can set a folder aside for you. Blessings,
Stacie

Policy Committee

The Policy committee has continued updating policies. They are trying to establish existing procedures and harmonize them with various synod and church-wide examples and suggestions. The next meeting is **February 6th at 1:30 pm**.

Property Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 4th at 9:00 am** in the double classroom.

Safety Task Force

The next Safety Committee Meeting will be on **March 12th, at 1:00 pm.**

Sewing Circle

Again, thank you for your donations of material, towels, sheets, mattress pads, yarn, quilt tops (80x60) and money donations. If you have any questions about donations contact either Paula LaCrosse or Connie Salmi. We have cloth squares to be sewn into quilt tops. This is a very good way to practice your sewing, even for first time sewers. They don't have to be perfect, as our saying goes, "They are not going to the fair." They are all beautiful and warm for someone with nothing. Please help if you can and remember coffee is served at 10:00am each Tuesday. Come join us and see what we do.



Happy New Year from the Sewing Circle. If you would like to stop by on a **Tuesday** morning at **9:00am** and check out this ministry, please come.

Tried-N-True

Here's another good plan. You who are 55 years young or older have been welcome every time we met. Invite a friend to come with you. No age checking necessary. You will be treated to a fabulous lunch, dessert, short devotion, and a program. This month's program will be about Suicide Prevention with a Special focus on the elderly. Presentation by Dan Doyle and Cindy Bitner. Sign up by the Wednesday before the luncheon date. We abide by Gladstone snow day closing. Church number 906-428-4565.

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 **February 13th at noon**. "If you see someone you may not recognize, introduce yourself. Between the two services, we may lose touch with one another. If they happen to be a visitor, pass the information along to the office. Let us make everyone feel welcome at First!"

- We have many areas in the church where help is needed. Especially during our worship services. These areas include; **USHERS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, READERS, and SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS**. These are important parts of our worship to run smoothly. Contact Reverend Melissa Salminen, CEC or the office to help in these areas.

Godparent Sunday

On the first Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2023, we will bless Godparents. Please invite your Godparent or Godchild to join you for worship at 8:00 am or 10:30 am. We are also looking for pictures for our slideshow. If you have a picture from your baptism or with your godparent or godchild, send it to cec.firstgladsotne@gmail.com for our slideshow collage.



STEWARDSHIP

BE A LISTENER!

My boss, at my last job before I retired, had a boatload of sayings that he would trot out often during our discussions. Among those that I can recall, the one that keeps popping up most frequently over 30 years later is "be a listener!" He would use this adage when he was trying to shut me up and take control of the narrative.

"Be a listener, Manson"! This used to irk me to no end and always did the trick. It didn't take the form of a suggestion and him being my

boss, and all, well, you know how that goes. Reflecting back on our time together, though, his sayings became wiser as I became older.

Being a listener, especially a good one, is one of those often-undervalued gifts that God has entrusted to us that we can steward well with practice. Obviously the “goodness” of listening will vary with the situation and be in the eye of the beholder, but it still has power and really positive potential.

If we team this up with another adage that goes something like, “I never learn anything when I am talking”—well, you get the idea.

Many times, all a person in need wants is someone to talk to. They may need a non-judgmental, good listener to just be there. This is easier said than done. I’m usually stressed searching for just the right response and, in doing so, miss so much of what’s being said. I hear the words, but in trying to fashion a good response, I miss the feeling behind the words.

What an awful lost chance to miss out on the emotion confided in us. The good news is that all of us can be good listeners. It doesn’t take some innate ability, but it is a difficult skill to master. Perhaps we will never master this skill. Mastery is too high a bar. We just need to be satisfied with improving our listening and not throw out the good in search of the perfect.

Then there’s the best news of all. We have lots of help showing love for our neighbors who need a good listener. We can pray, often, for God’s help and we can count on the Holy Spirit to be there with us when a sympathetic ear is all that’s needed.

Still working on listening and In Christ,
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair

Special Giving Envelope

February Special Giving will go towards;

**‘End the Silence Walk’
Suicide Awareness & Prevention**

January Special Giving, you raised \$533.00 for
Walk for Warmth as of January 21st.



LIFE LINE HEALTH SCREENINGS

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at First Lutheran Church on ***Saturday, March 16, 2024.***

A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

- Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

- Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation

- A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/HC>

SYNOD EVENTS

U.P. Wild Church

February 17, 2024: U.P. Wild Keweenaw Wilderness Walk at Lily Creek. For more information head on over to www.upwild.org

Lifelong Faith Formation 2024 Registration Now Open for Winter Semester

Synod's Winter Classes Now Open for Registration

Registration is now open for the winter classes offered by the Northern Great Synod. Continuing in February, the Lifelong Faith Formation program will offer another diverse schedule of online learning opportunities. Special thanks to the pastors and lay people who are teaching this winter. In alphabetical order, the upcoming courses are:



Native America and the Stewardship of the Land: Land Acknowledgments and Beyond with Pastor Bucky Beach, Nancy Heykes, and Pastor Dave Van Kley;

Open to Interpretation: Insights into Translating the Bible with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn, Zion and Salem, Ironwood;

Stewards of Children, with Pastor Kari Vadis, Trinity, Rhinelander;

Stewardship of Animals with Cindy Sjoquist and guest speakers, meeting in-person at First Lutheran with limited online option;

The Book of Proverbs Part One with Pastor Tommy Richter, Zion, Manistique; and

The Way of the Dream: God's Forgotten Language with Pastor Jon Magnuson, Barb Ojibway, and Will Sharp, carpenter, bookbinder, and writer.

Go to the synod website -- <https://nglsynod.org> -- for details and to sign-up for classes. Contact Deacon Lori Ward at 615-519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynd.org if you have any questions.



Thank you to Spencer Husbye and his friends who helped assemble the December newsletter. Thank you to Lloyd and Mary Tuskan for folding the bulletins each week.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$3,039.50 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund!

This kindness and love you show your neighbors in Christ is trully transformational...Whether a quilt or kit reaches a family in a refugee camp, a new mother in an urban slum or a child in a remote village, your kindness brings comfort and hope to people when they need it most....

Thank You, Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard,
President & CEO

Dear First Lutheran Church Congregation,

On behalf of all the Gladstone Public Libarary's patrons and staff, thank you so much for thinking of the library for your "Special Giving" for the month of December... We are trully thankful for the generous gift of \$420 for the library during these tough financial times. The money will be put toward new books as that has been the budget line that has taken the largest hit over these past few years.

We wish you all a very happy and blessed new year.

Sincerely, Lori Wells, Library Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for generous evergency gift of \$195.00 to provide lifesaving services to families and individuals devastated by disaster and civic unrest...You are reaching your global neighbors with your generosity and warming their hearts with Christ's love during the most tumultuous time of their lives.

Yours always in Christ, Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President & CEO

Thank you Pastor Elisabeth, Paul, Max, Cindy, Lloyd, Andy, Charlie, Dirk and luncheon committee for the beautiful service and luncheon for our brother Mark Christiansen's funeral. You all helped us through a very difficult time.

Gratefully, Ann Christiansen and Amy Dyer

Fortune Lake

Radiating Grace: Young Adult Winter Retreat

For Young Adults (Ages 18-26, must be HS grad)

Care for yourself and your body with sessions on mindfulness, mental and physical self-care, healthy movement, and more to help you feel rested and ready to return to your busy life. *Only 25/person with code YA2024.

February 2-4, 2024

Summer Camp Registration Is Open

Summer Camp 2024 registration opened on January 2! Registrations are coming in faster than ever, with a never-before-seen emphasis on our intergenerational programs. While we are thrilled to have so many people already registered for camp, we don't want our association members to miss out!

Brochures are on the Sunday School bulletin board as well as a poster with tear-off schedules.

In addition to the return of our classic camp programs, Summer 2024 will bring a couple new additions.

- Treehouse Adventures for youth completed grades 7-12:
June 16-21
- Evergreen Camp for adults age 55+ years: July 14-17

******First Lutheran has camp scholarships available in the office. Fill one out today and return it to the office.******

Exciting Fortune Lake News

We are honored to announce that after years of prayer, discernment, study, conversation, and diligent work, **Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is now officially part of the Reconciling in Christ community!** This recognition comes after the Board of Directors officially adopted a

public statement of welcome for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and a commitment to anti-racism.

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) recognition means that our camp will be listed on a roster of congregations, organizations and synods in the United States and Canada, which follow the RIC Partner Public Commitments found at:
<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/aboutric/>

A LETTER FROM LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE

On behalf of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service Board of Directors, I want to extend heartfelt thanks for your strong support of our crucial mission as we work to realize a world where all immigrants and refugees are protected, embraced, and empowered in just a welcoming communities.

With more than 100 million people around the world displaced from their homes, we have seen tremendous growth in the need for our essential serves. As part of our mission to build a bigger table to welcome and serve newcomers, we have made a decision to allow our organization to meet this historic moment.

Starting this year, we have adopted a new name – **Global Refuge**.

We understand this may feel like a big change. But rest assured, our new name in no way alters our mission.....

****To read the full letter visit the narthex bulletin board.****

BAY CLIFF HEALTH CAMP IS HIRING FOR SUMMER 2024

Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay is now hiring for all positions for summer 2024. We are seeking camp counselors, lifeguards, leadership staff, professional and support staff. For more information, or to apply online, go to www.baycliff.org. Dates of employment for most roles are June 7-August 5, 2024.

February Birthdays

Week 1:

Constance Lorenson	Jesse Olsick
Sarah Soderman	Lou Watchko
Joe Durbin	Violet Smith
Amy Miron	Deegan Miron
Jack Soderman	



Week 2:

David Nivison	Sophia Smith	Gabby Movalson
Reyna Rose	Fred Sundstrom	Lori Marmalick
Finlee Carter		

Week 3:

Braidyn Miron	Michael Coyne	Alyssa Ellison
Wanda Kloet		

Week 4:

Emma Verbeek	Kayla Martinucci	Gayle Sigan
Betty Setter	Ed Walker	William Olsick

February Anniversaries

Ray & Maggie Miller	9 years
Gary & Mary Bjorkquist	54 years
Dennis & Barb Filizetti	55 years
Art & Rosie Spindler	59 years





Lakeview

Carole Wedell
Everett Robinson

Bishop Noa

Betty Erickson

Murray's Country View

Pat Shampo

at Home

Arla Pearson
Mary Plante

D.J Jacobetti Veteran's Home

Robert Hasselbom

New Dawn

Gen Morley

Christian Park

Lake House (Northwoods)

Jolane Nelson

Council Highlights

The Congregational Council meet Wednesday, January 17th in person with one attending via Zoom. At this meeting the council: discussed having the Synod do a financial audit in the next couple of years. Decided Cindy Sjoquist should continue possession of a church entrance key for emergencies and to let in Pulpit Supply Ministers since she lives close to church. Reminded everyone of the Congregational Annual Report Meeting and talked briefly about having Calvary Lutheran confirmation students be taught at First Lutheran. The funding of the CEC position has been taken care of by the office. Two policies were updated and approved. The year end expenses were examined by Bill and he gave an oral report on the overages. Pastor Elisabeth stated we had around 300 attend Christmas Eve worship and some familiar faces are coming back since COVID. Online use continues to be robust. All financial reports were accepted pending audit. All committee reports were accepted. The next meeting is February 4th following the Annual Meeting and on Tuesday, February 20th at 6:00pm via Zoom.



Serving Us in February

Readers

8:00 am

10:30 am

February 4	Ellen Swenson	Connie Salmi
February 11	Pam Durbin	Lynn Thomas
February 18	Judy Hammond	
February 25	Chris Mineau	Dennis Landwehr

Communion Assistance

8:00 am

10:30 am

February 4	Dotti Ford	Jane Coyne-Smith
February 11	Ellen Swenson	Julie Landwehr
February 18	Judy Hammond	Nora Smith
February 25	Sally Pouliot	Carol Kocsis

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

Altar Guild: Judy Hammond & Tiffany Olsick

Change of Address



As some of you leave town to spend the winter in warmer, sunnier places please remember to let the office know your warmer, sunnier address. Thank you

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.

Worship Cancellation

In case of inclement weather this winter, any announcement regarding the cancellation of Sunday School or Worship will be on WLUC TV 6.



SERVICE CANCELED

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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Community Engagement Coordinator: Rev. Melissa Salminen

cec.firstgladstone@gmail.com

Director of Music: Stacie Carter

Musician: 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

Reyna Rose

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



First Lutheran Church
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FEBRUARY

A decorative graphic consisting of a horizontal line of colorful hearts and dots in shades of red, pink, orange, and purple, positioned above the word 'FEBRUARY'.