



January 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, Pastor

pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com

Vicar Melissa Salminen

vicar.melissas@gmail.com

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Our Mission Statement ...

First Lutheran Church is God's people inviting, involving equipping and empowering to serve, that all may know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.



FLC Family,



Merry Christmas! We are in the midst of the 12 days of Christmas! Christmas Day and the celebration of the birth of Christ seems so long ago already. Many trees are already down. Decorations are being put away. Yet there is more to this season. Christmas ends at Epiphany. January 6th is the day we remember the revelation of Christ to the gentiles in the telling of the wise from the east following the star.

This year we will again be blessing our sanctuary with the Epiphany Blessing +20+CMB+23+ Christus Mansionem Benedicat “May Christ bless this home.” As we ask God to bless our worshiping home, I hope you will take time to ask for God’s blessings upon the place where you dwell. The prayer that we often share is,

“Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. “

Our homes are a gift from God. It is a space worthy of intentionally inviting God into, but before we get to inviting Christ’s light into our homes, we can still do some Christmas activity.

I’ve seen a few 12 days of Christmas workout schedules and with all the cookies I’ve had this season that makes sense, but I did read that the song 12 Days of Christmas has theological meaning. So, starting on January 1, and following we would finish our seasonal focus with:

January 1, 2023: 8 Maids A-milking = the 8 beatitudes

January 2, 2023: 9 Ladies Dancing = the 9 Fruits of the Holy Spirit

January 3, 2023: 10 Lords A-leaping = the Ten Commandments

January 4, 2023: 11 Pipers Piping = the 11 faithful apostles

January 5, 2023: 12 Drummers Drumming = the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostle’s Creed

What if instead of getting back to normal for the first week of January we focus on getting back to our faith. We still have time to celebrate Christ’s birth with good theology and care, what will that look like for you? How can that intentionality help you prepare to see Christ’s light better? There is one way to answer those questions and that’s by diving in.

God’s peace, Pastor Elisabeth

Ubiquitous Unknowns



Greetings Siblings in Christ

The Girl Scout friendship circle song's line "make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver and the other's gold"¹ resonates with me as the calendar year changes. As we turn our thoughts to 2023, we are bombarded with advertisements and questions about our 2023 resolutions. Let us re-envision this process and a new way to embrace resolutions, with three types.

The first is considering what in 2022 would you like to continue. What went well for you in the past year? What did you enjoy doing? What was a time of happiness or peace in your life? For me it was discovering podcasts and the array of information available at the touch of a button. Not a new technology by any means but one I had not taken the time to discover until 2022.

The second is looking at what from 2022 you would like to change or adjust. What sounded like a good idea but didn't quite work out as you expected? What did you try, not keep up with, and would like to try again. For me, it is meal planning. At a recent craft show I saw an almost perfect set up, the only downfall was no recipes were included. Even keeping to a schedule of easy, quick, not take-out meals, would be wonderful with some variety. If you have any ideas or what works for you and your family, I would love to hear about the options.

The third is dreaming. What is something you always wanted to try? For me, I am going to plan one day a month with nothing scheduled, nothing planned. Just a day to either spend with family: device free and adventuring, or alone: a day to stay in sweatpants and read a book for pleasure or binge watch a tv series.

The world bombards us with what should be done. Like the song refers to "make new friends", plan something new to bring joy to your life, "but keep the old", what brought you joy this past year and hang on to the traditions, "one is silver and the other's gold", they both have value. The one in need of revisiting is a bonus as it is honed into an asset in your life.

In Christ,
Vicar Melissa

Upcoming Scriptures

January 1 – First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

January 8 – Baptism of our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 15 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40: 1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

January 22 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

January 29 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12



More New Member Introductions

Hi! My name is Paul Strom, and my wife's name is Gretchen. We have entered retirement after 26 years of Ordained ministry, and have moved back to

Gladstone from our last call in Iron Mountain, Michigan at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Both Gretchen and I grew up at First Lutheran here in Gladstone, her parents are Ron and Dora Jane Swanson, former pastor here. I was baptized, confirmed, married and ordained here in 1996. We were sponsored by First Lutheran church throughout our time at Luther Seminary, St. Paul Minnesota. We have served several different churches across the U.P. and Northern Wisconsin. We have two (adult) children, Anna who lives in Escanaba, and our son Marky who resides in Stephenson Michigan. Anna is

engaged and plans to marry next October. Gretchen enjoys gardening and her new job as a daycare worker at the YMCA in Escanaba. I have become a full-time "House-Husband" and enjoy putting around the house that my Dad built for us in 1949. We are looking forward to becoming active members at First Lutheran and offering our talents as God sees fit. We have already had our hearts warmed by the familiar faces that we remember from years past, and have enjoyed worshipping with all of them. It is good to be home.



IN SEARCH OF...

- The finance committee is seeking 1-2 people to join them on Monday mornings at 9:00am to count the Sunday offerings. They also meet periodically throughout the year and work on the church budget. People interested should have a background in handling business finances.



- We have many areas in the church where help is needed. Especially during our worship services. These areas include;

***USHERS
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
READERS
SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS***

These are important parts of our worship to run smoothly. Contact Pastor or the office to help in these areas.

Bible Study

Bible study will meet on Wednesdays at 9:30am in the Youth Room. They are discussing the book of Job.

Love Circle & Faith Circle

Meets on Thursday's at 9:30 am.

Sewing Circle

The sewing circle meets every Tuesday at 9:00am in the fellowship hall. Any questions, call Connie at 428-1696

Book Club

All are welcome to read January's book, then meet with the Book Club on Monday, January 30th for a full discussion.

Christian Education

The Sunday School is in need of a teacher for the 1st-2nd grade class. Let the office know if you are able to teach.



Special Giving Envelope

January Special Giving will go towards
Walk for Warmth

This fund financially supports those in the community struggling to pay their heating bills

December Special Giving -Seminarian/Intern Fund: Thank you to all who contributed to Seminarian/Intern fund. As of December 20th, you raised \$270.00.

Council Meeting

The next council meeting will be in person in the double room on January 18th at 7:00 pm

Stewardship

Being Alone

“Being alone sucks!” Forgive the slang, but that gut level comment gives the sharp edges needed to do justice to how awful it is to be alone. This is especially true around the holidays. It could also be said that loneliness is just as bad, maybe worse. Even if we are not alone, we can be lonely. Being lonely in a crowd, in fact, sometimes makes our feeling of being alone more painful.

If we feel alone, lonely and/or isolated it is often caused by a loss of some kind. We grieve the loss of someone or something dear to us. We can feel disconnected and the loss seems magnified during time we should be celebrating.

God never wants us to be alone. In Matthew 1:23 it says, “Look the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel”, which means “God is with us”.

By the time you read this, we may have already celebrated the birth of the Christ Child. We have the promise that God IS with us – ALWAYS.

While God is with us as our constant companion, we still experience loneliness. That’s where stewardship comes in. Sometimes the best gift we can give is our time. We can take the time to be with those who are lonely, disconnected and isolated. We don’t necessarily have to do or say the right thing, just our presence is enough.

We are blessed to be a flesh and blood, real life “carrier” of God’s love. By holding a hand, putting an arm around someone’s shoulder or writing a note, we convey God’s love.

Let’s resolve to be watchful stewards. God loves us and wants us to love one another. We can pray that God will “tune us in” to those for whom we can just “be there”. We are never alone. God has come to us in our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ comes because God longs to be with us.

Thanks be to God,
Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair



Thanks to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year. We sent 111 boxes and the U.P. total this year was 8703 boxes. Special thanks to Dr. John Skellenger, Dr. Mike Ballard, Thrivent, Walmart, Meijer and our Mission Endowment Fund for their donations.

Our shoeboxes are going to Mozambique, Namibia, Trinidad and Tobago. Some fun facts about Mozambique are that it's population is 31 million people, the capital is Maputo, the government is a presidential republic, the official language is portuguese and it is 60% Christian or 20% Muslim. If you used Mozambique in a scrabble game, it would score 34 points. Namibia has the world's largest population of free roaming cheetahs, it is home to desert elephants, it has the largest underwater lake and the highest sand dunes in the world. Trinidad and Tobago is a dual island in the Caribbean near Venezuela. with creole traditions and cuisine. It is the most developed Caribbean Nation. The world's largest natural deposit of asphalt is located in Trinidad. One of the hottest chilies in the world is native there. Its the Trinidad scorpion and has a mean heat of over 1.2 million SHU (Scoville heat units) Now that's HOT!!

Thanks for all your support!
Ann Christiansen



*For every ones safety, make sure
Doors are locked when leaving.*

Safety Task Force

Doors are constantly being left open/unlocked. If you are using the building, please double check ALL doors are locked from the outside and completely latched closed.

NEXT SAFETY MEETING
February 7th at 1:00pm

ELCA & Synod Events

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO
the table

BE

MYLE
Young Adult Gathering

July 16-20, 2024

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering planning team recently announced its theme of “Created to Be” centered on Psalm 139:14 “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.” The ELCA Youth Gathering will take place in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024. If you have

high-school youth who will be eligible to attend in 2024, now is a great time to plant the seed and invite them to join other ELCA youth from across the country for this faith-forming event.



Christ's Kaleidoscope Challenge

A new group of Northern Great Lakes Synod people who are passionate about leading our Synod's efforts to see others through the eyes

of Jesus. The **Kaleidoscope Challenge** for Lent 2023 focuses on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community. For the Challenge, each week participants listen, read, and watch various resources to engage the subject matter. Then, you are invited to a weekly discussion to process your experience of these resources with a zoom cohort of your choosing. A variety of facilitators, days, and times will be available.

The Year 2023 begins a year when we focus on **Love**. This Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge puts love into action as we make the effort to see others more clearly. The goal is greater awareness and deeper understanding. The Challenge begins February 23 and runs through April 3. Visit <https://nglsynod.org/christ-kaleidoscope-challenge/> for more information

Offering Envelopes ...

Offering envelopes for 2023 will be available on the tables in the narthex during the next couple of weeks. Please pick yours up. Remember, those who use **eGiving** also have envelopes.



Change of Address



For those who leave town to spend the winter in warmer, sunnier places please remember to let the office know your warmer, sunnier address. Thank you

Please Notice This



DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

Written and financial reports to be included in the 2022 Annual Report of the Congregation are due in the office ***no later than Thursday, January 5th, 2022.***

If at all possible, please send your report via e-mail to office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org. Thank you!

Hope at the Inn

Our New Coordinators!!

Our new Hope at the Inn Co-ordinators are Tiffany Olsick and Amanda Kippola. Thanks to these ladies First Lutheran is able to continue this much needed ministry serving those in need of shelter. Pat Casteel will continue to help out where needed. We encourage you to volunteer when we host **January 8 – 15**. Tiffany and Amanda will be signing up people in the narthex before and after the 10:30 worship service. Volunteers are very needed and much appreciated.



If you are in need of homeless services, please contact the Community Action intake line at 1-800-562-9762 x207.

Fortune Lake News

Senior Days 2023

Fortune Lake is proud to continue the tradition of Senior Days for the elders in our region. This year's dates have been selected. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us!

Monday, January 9

Monday, March 13

Monday, May 8

The day begins at 10:00am and wraps up by 2:00pm CT.

The day includes, coffee and fellowship time, devotion and announcements, presentation in the morning, lunch, and an afternoon presentation. It's not too early to sign up.

"I Care About Fortune Lake" Fundraiser Update

(Received via email on 12/16/22)

Greetings!

We have some great news from Fortune Lake this morning! Our CoVantage Cares Giving Tuesday Campaign totals are in, and we're overwhelmed by the support we've received!

Drumroll please...

Together we raised \$141,409.89 through our fundraising efforts CoVantage Cares Foundation is matching \$77,107.51 for a TOTAL OF \$218,517.40!!!

As Fortune Lake Association congregations, you have been a HUGE part of these efforts! Many of you hosted regional events, held special offerings, informed your community about the opportunity, and gave generously toward this campaign.

THANKS BE TO GOD! And thank you all for your efforts in helping us to surpass our goal! This money will have a tremendous impact on our highest use facilities so that we can continue to share the place of grace with all people for generations to come. If you'd like to view

and/or share our thank you video, follow this link:
<https://youtu.be/8aClnjyji8>

Grace & Peace,
Amanda Rasner, Camp Director

Winter Wonderland Retreat

January 13-15, 2023

Join us for a weekend filled with good food, hot saunas, camp games and songs, and time spent outdoors in a snowy northwoods! This event is open to everyone. Youth, under 9 years old, must be accompanied by an adult. Contact the Fortune Lake Office for additional information. 906-241-2267

Thank you to Lloyd and Mary Tuskan for their help folding the bulletins each week and to their son, Lloyd, for helping fold bulletins for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. To Mary BJORQUIST, Judy Hammond, Judy Haulotte, Paula LaCrosse and Jane Coyne Smith for their help in assembling the December newsletter.



To the Lovely Folks of First Gladstone,
Thank you so much for hosting the “I Care About Fortune Lake” event. Your ongoing support of our ministry has made all the difference. Blessings to your congregation during this holiday season and so much gratitude for your continued generosity.

Grace & Peace, Charlotte and Sam

Shout out to everyone from First Lutheran who helped to make the “I Care About Fortune Lake” event happen!! Thank You!!



Week 1:

Abel Ellison
Iris Ellison
Lisa Zuehlke

Benson Ellison
Gail McEachern

Deb Koski
Lisa Thomas

Week 2:

Norah Dahlgren
Sally Hillman

David Gobert

Leah Minto

Week 3:

Elisabeth Daniels
Kelly Westerberg
Ruth Botbyl

Pat Hewitt
Peggy Austin

Dustin Lucier
Jane Coyne-Smith

Week 4:

Jared Larson
Bonnie Anderson

Ellen Swenson
Carlene Otis

Raymond Brandt

Week 5:

Mary Plante

Derek Weide

Ava Menard



Dewey & Avis Fairchild
Derek & Collette Weide

49 years
53 years



Lakeview

Laila Whitfield
 Carole Wedell
 Everett Robinson

Bishop Noa

Betty Erickson

At Home

Arla Pearson
 Lorraine Moreau
 Gen Morley

Murray's Country View

Pat Shampo

Serving Us in January

Readers	8:00 am	10:30 am
January 1	Cindy Sjoquist	Carolyn Nelson
January 8	Nora Smith	Laura Coleman
January 15	Ellen Swenson	Jane Coyne-Smith
January 22	Pam Durbin	Dirk Manson
January 29	Judy Hammond	Bruce Movalson

Communion Assistance

January 1	Communion Kits	Jane Coyne-Smith & Carol Kocsis
January 8	Communion Kits	Kathy Gudwer & Jo Skogman
January 15	Communion Kits	Jo Skogman & Cindy Sjoquist
January 22	Communion Kits	Cindy Sjoquist & Carol Kocsis
January 29	Communion Kits	Pam Durbin & Jane Coyne-Smith

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

Altar Guild: Sally Pouliot & Lisa Thomas

Council Highlights

The Congregational Council met on December 20th. At this meeting the council; discussed implementing a parental leave policy and are exploring a new position to the office staff to assist with community engagement. Some congregation members have requested intinction come back. The council discussed the option and decided to keep the communion kits at 8:00 am worship and handing out wafers and cups at the 10:30 worship. Financially First is stable at the moment, however, the general fund is shrinking. The next council meeting will be on January 18th at 7:00pm in person.



Contact Us:

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Rev. Elisabeth Daniels, Pastor

pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com

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

Vicar Melissa Salminen

vicar.melissas@gmail.com

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

Office Administrator: Rhonda Husbye

office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org

Director of Music: Stacie Carter

staciecarter717@gmail.com

Musicians: Paul Rajala

Christian Ed Coordinator: Cindy Sjoquist (temporary volunteer)

Custodian: Hope Thompson

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

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

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



First Lutheran Church
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