

January 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.





Dear FLC Family,

Merry Christmas! Since becoming your pastor, we have taken the Sunday closest to January 6th (Epiphany) and celebrated Epiphany in worship together as a community. This year, it will be Sunday, January 7, 2024. The 12 Days of Christmas are from December 25 to January 6, and we take time to note this important moment of revelation that concludes our Christmas season.

The Epiphany worship and space blessing (+20+C+M+B+24+) Christus Mansionem Benedicat = Christ Bless this Home has been a great practice in worship and at home. I don't know about you, but my 2023 Star Word, "Amazement," has been perched on my desk for a year, reminding me to seek amazement in my life and through prayer.

One thing we give up by celebrating Epiphany on a Sunday morning rather than by having a special service on the 6th is that we often miss out on the liturgical marking of the Baptism of our Lord. This year, we would have heard from Mark 1:4-11.

The spirit of God descends upon Jesus, and as he comes up out of the water, "a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you, I am well pleased.'" Lifting up the Baptism of our Lord, it would have been a great Sunday to use an aspergillum or pine bough to sprinkle baptismal waters on the congregation to remind us that we are beloved and belong to God, who is well pleased with us. Not only that, but to remember the Spirit is with us helping us live out the promises we accept and make at our baptism.

As we enter this new year, we can do so with Christ's Baptism and Epiphany on our minds. Christ engages us. We know him and his story. We can wade through the baptismal waters, embracing our identity as beloved children of God. We won't get sprinkled with baptismal waters in church, but we can read the words and remember our baptism: in the shower, running water for the coffee pot, or washing a little one's hair. You are loved in the name of the Father, the Son, and + the Holy Spirit. 2024 will be another year of living into that love.

God's peace,

Pastor Elisabeth

Upcoming Scriptures

January 7 – Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

January 14 – Second Sunday After Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20], Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

January 21 –Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5,10, Psalm 62:5-12, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

January 28 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

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.

Please Notice This



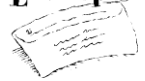
DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

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 are available on the tables in the narthex during the next couple of weeks. Please pick yours up.

**Offering
Envelopes**



Year-End Giving Statements

Year-end giving statements will be available for pick up in the narthex shortly after the New Year.

2025 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, 2024** to order your 2025 envelopes.



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

When friends meet, a plan is not necessary to have in place. Do you think that Bible reading is a good plan? Eleven of us at First Lutheran do just that! On Wednesday morning, 9:30-11:00 am we congregate in the Youth Room. Does reading and discussing an Old Testament Book, like Isaiah, with us sound like a good plan? Come and see.

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

Book Club

Book Club will meet Friday, January 26, 2024 at 1:00 pm in the kitchen. The book to be discussed is: "Educated" by Tara Westover. All are welcome.

Christian Education

Sunday School Schedule

January 7 – Sunday School Children sing at the 10:30 worship service.

10:30 Worship Acolyte Schedule

01/07 Ethan LaCrosse

01/14 Violet Rose

01/21 Londyn Koski

01/28 Braylin Carter

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 **January 18th** 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!

Policy Committee

The next meeting is **January 9th at 2:00 pm**.

Property Committee

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

Sewing Circle

The Quilt Auction raised \$3039.50 and this amount was sent to Lutheran World Relief to help with shipping cost to send quilts, baby care kits and school kits to those in need all over the world. Thank you to all those, guys and women, who made and donated items for the action and those who made purchases. The approximate cost to

deliver a quilt is \$2.25, a school kit is \$1.40 and a baby care kit is \$1.30.

If you would like to stop by on a **Tuesday** morning at **9:00am** and check out this ministry, please come. Coffee is served at 10:00 am.

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 presented by Pastor Melissa Salminen. She will be talking about her travels to Isarel and Palestine. Sign up by the Wednesday before the luncheon date. We abide by Gladstone snow day closing. Church number 906-428-4565.

Safety Task Force

The next Safety Committee Meeting will be on **January 9, 2024, 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 **January 9th** 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!"



Attention Members of First Lutheran Church, Gladstone

Greetings to all! I am excited to announce the launch of our volunteer software through Better Impact. This software will



help us to track our volunteers, allow you to sign up to be a worship assistant when your schedule allows, and will help to track the valuable volunteer equity we have here at First.

When: In the first week or two of January 2024

Who: All with an active email on file with the office

What: You will receive an email with a username and password

If you do not have an email, you are still pre-registered with the software and CEC, Pr. Melissa will track your volunteer time for you. If you have an email not on file at the office, please email Pr. Melissa at cec.firstgladstone@gmail.com.

How:

1. Using any web browser, go to **myimpactpage.com**
2. Enter the username and password from the email you received.
3. You will be prompted to change the password.
4. After logging back in:
 - a. You can complete your profile.
 - b. Add your interests!
 - c. Sign up for volunteer opportunities in worship for March-December 2024.
5. Please, please, please: select to receive the reminder emails. They will automatically be sent on Saturday mornings for the upcoming two weeks.

There will be training opportunities and assistance from Pr. Melissa over the next few weeks and months. Email or call the office to schedule a time to meet with her.

Special Giving Envelope

January Special Giving will go towards;

Walk for Warmth



Living without heat is a dangerous reality for many Michigan residents facing utility shut-offs. Choosing between paying the heat bill and buying groceries is a choice no one should have to make.

Every winter, many of our member agencies hold Walk for Warmth walk-a-thon events to raise funds for emergency utility assistance in counties across Michigan.

These events enjoy support from businesses and Michiganders who are passionate about keeping our neighbors warm during our tough Michigan winters. 100 percent of the proceeds from Walk for Warmth events go directly to helping those in-need.

December Special Giving, you raised \$420.00 for the Gladstone Public Library as of December 24th.

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 Pantrys. 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 Jane Coyne-Smith, Gloria Kanerva, Carol Kocsis, Sue & Dirk Manson, and Cindy Sjoquist who helped assemble the December newsletter. Thank you to Lloyd and Mary Tuskan for folding the bulletins each week.

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$605.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response...Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The Glory of God shines through you.

In Christ, Amanda White, Director, Congregational Generosity

Thank you to Pastor Elisabeth, Paul, Max, singers and luncheon committee for the beautiful funeral service for my brother, Dr. James Irving. Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Judy Haulotte

Thank you for the gift card.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, Paul & Dale Rajala

Dear Congregation,

Your kindness at Christmas touched my heart. Thank you for the monetary gift and thinking of me during the holidays.

Holiday Blessings, Rhonda Husbye, Office Administrator

Thank you to First for the warm welcome back as the Community Engagement Coordinator. Thank you for the generous gift for Christmas and for all your prayers and support.

Pr. Melissa Salminen, Community Engagement Coordinator

Gifts to the Congregation

***In Memory of Dr. James Irving, DVM
For The Kitchen Fund
From: The Family & Friends***

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 games and songs, 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.fortunelake.org/event/winter-wonderland-retreat/ for more information and pricing.

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



Lifelong Faith Formation 2024 Registration Now Open for Winter Semester

Classes Begin January and February

In its fourth year, Lifelong Faith Formation is one way for people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and beyond, to be church together. Join the conversation. Enjoy the fellowship and discover new ways to share the light of Christ with the world.

Please Register at least one week prior to when your selected class begins.

All classes are held online via Zoom. One course is meeting in person, at First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, with an option to "Zoom-in." Classes are FREE but may require the purchase of textbooks or other materials.

Contact Deacon Lori Ward if you have any questions about Lifelong Faith Formation

(615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org

01/28-02/25	<i>Open to Interpretation: Insights into Translating the Bible</i> with Pr. Nicole Hanson-Lynn
02/08-02/22	<i>Stewardship of Animals:</i> with Cindy Sjoquist
01/16-02/13	<i>The Way of the Dream: God's Forgotten Language:</i> with Pr. Jon Magnuson, Barb Ojibway, and Will Sharp
01/16-02/06	<i>Native America and the Stewardship of the Land: Land Acknowledgements and Beyond:</i> with Pr. Bucky Beach, Nancy Heykes, and Pr. Dave Van Kley
01/17-03/20	<i>The Book of Proverbs Part One: Donning a Foreigner's Clothes:</i> with Pr. Tommy Richter
02/29	<i>Stewards of Children:</i> with Pr. Kari Vadis

Upcoming Synod Events- U.P. Wild Church

- Sun. December 31: Centering into 2024 Zoom
- Sat. January 6, 2024 11AM: "Gathering in Nature: A Winter Wonderland" Prayer Service, St. Ignace Straits Park, 720 Church St.
- Sat. January 20, 2024: U.P. Wild Keewenaw Wilderness Walk
- Sun. January 28: MQT Nature Prayer Service TBA
- February 17, 2024: U.P. Wild Keweenaw Wilderness Walk at Lily Creek

For more information head on over to www.upwild.org

January Birthdays

Week 1:

Abel Ellison	Benson Ellison
Deb Koski	Iris Ellison
Gail McEachern	Lisa Thomas
Lisa Zuehlke	Alison Austin
Nick Thomas	

Week 2:

Norah Dahlgren	David Gobert
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Week 3:

Pr. Elisabeth Daniels	Pat Hewitt
Kelly Westerberg	Peggy Austin
Ruth Botbyl	Jared Larson
Ray Brandt	Bonnie Anderson

Week 4:

Holland McEachern	Carlene Otis	Mary Plante
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January Anniversaries

Holland & Gail McEachern
Dewey & Avis Fairchild

21 years
50 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 Tuesday, December 12th via Zoom. At this meeting the council: Set the annual meeting date of February 4th following the 10:30 worship service, with a luncheon to follow. Decided, our outgoing council members will assist the new incoming council members at the annual meeting. The council was informed by Bill Ehrhardt, Treasurer and Rhonda Husbye, Office Administrator of the funds transfer from the Lamberg News Initiatives EJ Money Market account to the General checking and General fund to cover the CEC payroll from October – December 2023. New name plates have been installed for our Senior Pastor and our CEC. The treasurer advised the council to be aware of the dwindling general fund. All financial reports were accepted pending audit. All committee reports were accepted. The next meeting is January 17th at 6:00pm in-person.



The congregational council would like to invite the congregation 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, 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
Intern/Seminarian Fund (FLC)
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services
NGLS Clergy Debt Relief
Gladstone Library
Y.E.S (Youth Empowering Services)
Habit for Humanity

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
United Way

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

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



Serving Us in January

Readers

8:00 am

10:30 am

January 7	Chris Mineau	Dirk Manson
January 14	Judy Hammond	Andy Nelson
January 21	Pam Durbin	Carolyn Nelson
January 28	Nora Smith	Al Salmi

Communion Assistance

8:00 am

10:30 am

January 7	Dotti Ford	Julie Landwehr
January 14	Judy Hammond	Kathy Gudwer
January 21	Sally Pouliot	Lynn Thomas
January 28	Nora Smith	Ann Christiansen

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

Altar Guild: Mary Nelson and Amy Miron

Contact Us:

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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

Musician: Paul Rajala

Christian Ed Coordinator: Pam Brown & Suzanne Dahlke

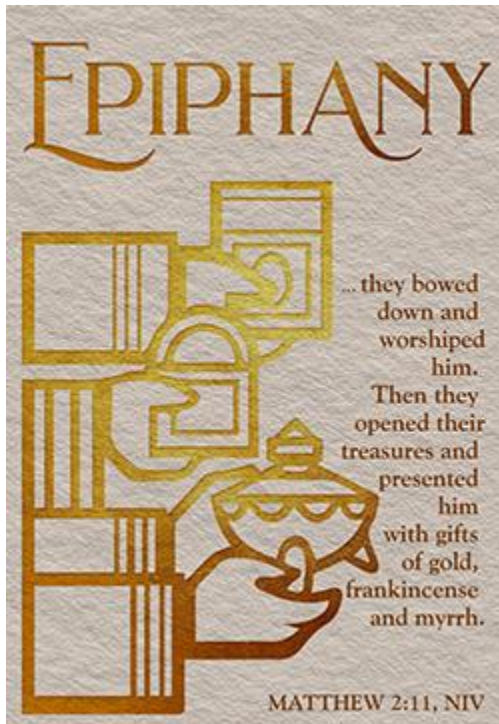
Custodian: Hope Thompson

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.



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