

March 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.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

FLC Family,

During the season of Lent this year, we are focusing on Lament during our midweek worship services. With Ash Wednesday and our first themed service already under our belts, we have discovered that Lament is uncomfortable. Naming life's difficult, sad, frustrating, and/or devastating parts out loud is tricky because it feels like whining. It's as if we are ungrateful for the gifts God has given us.

Ultimately, complaining does not seem like it is faithful. Yet God asks for our communication. God wants to have a relationship with God's people. Real, meaningful relationships are more than skipping to the good parts. Relationships are hanging in there for all the parts. Jesus came and walked among us. He wept. He lamented that the cup be taken from him. He called his friends names. Peter, one of his closest friends, the rock for whom the church was built, was called a snake and Satan.

Jesus is in it with us for the long haul, "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39)." Our woes aren't specified on this list, but do not separate us away from God. They help us explore our faith in God. We learn and grow surrounded by God's love on good and bad days.



As we think about the disciplines of Lent: praying, fasting, and giving alms, Lament is woven into that process. If you gave up sweets this year, you know how it feels. Lament is the day the Girl Scout cookies are delivered. Waiting is hard and frustrating, and eating healthy is less fun than being bad, regardless of what the health experts tell you! Yet the fast and the frustrations are meant to fuel something more.

Instead of walking past the Thin Mints with decreasing willpower and increasing resentment, turn to the other parts of the practice to refocus your energy. Prayerfully consider how you can give locally and globally. Our ABC Mission to give a book to every kid at Cameron may help the scout who sold you the cookies in the first place! Can you imagine praying every time you walked through the kitchen instead of impulsively opening the refrigerator?

Retraining our brains can be an exhausting endeavor, but we are capable. Someday, the cookie might not be such a great temptation, and a Lament to God may feel natural and normal on another day. It may reveal through discomfort a faithful connection we didn't perceive before.

God's peace, Pastor Elisabeth

Upcoming Scriptures

March 3 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 10 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 17 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-2; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:2-33

March 24 – Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

March 31 – Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11,
Mark 16:1-8

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



WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
— for —
LENT

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 21st – 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 Hunger Offering



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





Holy Week Schedule

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

Community Engagement Coordinator Column



Thank you to all who have logged in, signed up online for worship assistant spots, and opted in for text messages

and/or emails. If you have any questions or need help logging in, please see Rev. Melissa our Community Engagement Coordinator during her office hours on Wednesday and Friday morning or through email.

During March, Pastor Melissa will be putting all committees and groups into the volunteer software so we can see the impact your volunteer hours have on our community. You are encouraged to log in and indicate areas of interest, like worship assistants, and activities or qualifications like a member of the Sewing Ladies, Love Circle, Men's Group, or one of the many committees here at First.

Email reminders will be sent automatically of upcoming meetings and events, if you opt in. **Please contact Pastor Melissa in the office either in person, by phone, or by email by March 31, Easter Sunday** if you DO NOT want to be included in the email reminders.

You may change your username if you so choose. It is under the contact information tab.

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

The “Weeping Prophet” – that was Jeremiah, and we are now studying the Book of Jeremiah. Because God’s people would not listen to God, God’s judgment came. But God spoke through Jeremiah of a New Covenant. It is in Jeremiah 29:10-11. Check it out.

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

Book Club

The book for March is “*Sisters Under the Rising Sun*” by Heather Morris. The group will meet on **March 22nd at 1:00pm** to discuss the book.

Christian Education

The Christian education team is planning an Easter Egg Hunt with games, cookie decorating, and door prizes for **Saturday, March 30th at 1:00pm**. The confirmation class will help with activities. They will meet on **March 5th at 5:15pm** to complete planning.



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

Sunday School Schedule

MARCH 10 TH	Sunday School Children sing at the 10:30 worship service.
MARCH 24 th	NO Sunday School
MARCH 28 TH	Welcome to the Table/First Communion at 7:00pm Worship
MARCH 30 TH	Easter Egg Hunt 1:00pm
MARCH 31 ST	NO Sunday School

10:30 Worship Acolyte Schedule

	03/03	Londyn Koski
	03/10	Ethan LaCrosse
	03/17	Violet Rose
Palm Sunday	03/24	Braylin Carter
Maundy Thursday	03/28	Londyn Koski
Easter Sunday	03/31	Ethan LaCrosse

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 **March 21st**.

Men's Group

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

Mutual Ministry

Mutual ministry met on February 11th. At this meeting, they discussed how the Community Engagement Coordinator position is going and brainstormed for future “visions of hope” for First Lutheran. They will meet again on **April 28th at 11:45am**.

Personnel Committee

The committee met to do a 90-day review of the work of Pastor Melissa Salminen and her work as the Community Engagement Coordinator.

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 **March 5th at 1:30 pm**.

Property Committee

The property met in February and decided to continue exploring installation of solar panels. The electronic control panel, to control lighting in the sanctuary, is functional. Rock Electric is still tweaking a few things. The wall around the men's urinal needs refurbishing; this remains in progress. There are unpainted areas around the skylight in the sewing room; work in progress. The rusty air conditioner mounts will be addressed in the spring. They have been talking with Rock Electric on a quote for new LED bulbs in the high ceiling of the

sanctuary. The committee purchased a DR edge trimmer. And, they discussed the roof scupper on the North side of the church which needs better draining, evaluated the need for a more comfortable backrest on the bench seating in the narthex and decided to schedule a free DTE Business Energy Assessment for the church. The next meeting is scheduled for ***Sunday, March 3rd 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

Come join us and see what we do. If you would like to stop by on a ***Tuesday*** morning at ***9:00am*** and check out this ministry, please come.

Tried-N-True

Join us on the 3rd Friday of March (15th) in the fellowship hall, at noon. You who are 55 years young, or older are welcome, and bring a guest. Please sign up in the narthex, or call 428-4565, by Wednesday, the 13th. Enjoy the fellowship during a great lunch, dessert, short devotion, and program. The March program will be a focused presentation on World Hunger by the NGLS Hunger Committee Chairperson, Rev. Tommy Richter. We abide by Gladstone snow day closing.

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 ***March 12th at noon.***

Special Giving Envelope



March Special Giving will go towards;

'Synod Assembly-World Hunger Appeal'

More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. Learn More.

Hunger facts

- 821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives. [1]
- According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population. [2]
- At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from. [3]
- 39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094. [4]

[1] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2018

[2] The World Bank, 2018

[3] USDA, 2018

[4] US Census Bureau, 2018

(copied from the ELCA website)

February Special Giving, you raised \$304.00 for End the Silence Walk: Suicide Awareness & Prevention as of February 25th.

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>

First Lutheran has two coupons for a complimentary screening, a value of \$85.00, on the narthex bulletin board, for anyone who could use one.

SYNOD EVENTS

Stewardship of Animals



Picture of Sue Gartland and her dog Whiskey. Sue is the retired executive manager of the Delta Animal Shelter. Whiskey is a dog that she adopted who was rescued from a puppy mill several years ago. Sue was a guest speaker at the Stewardship of Animals class here at First Lutheran. The class was put on by the Synod's Lifelong Faith Formation committee.

Dwelling in the Word

You are invited to join the whole Synod as we *Dwell in the Word* together. The March scripture is a focus on 1 Corinthians 11:17-33 "Holy communion". Join them each third Thursday of the month at 7:30pm via Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on the NGLS home page.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Each year, eligible Thrivent benefit members are designated Choice Dollars, based on qualifying insurance premiums, contract value, and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. When eligible members direct Choice Dollars, they make a request as to where they wish to have Thrivent distribute a portion of its charitable grant funds.

Are you an eligible benefit member of Thrivent Financial? Have you been told you have Choice Dollars available to direct? If so, directing those Choice Dollars to First Lutheran can be a meaningful way to help our congregation.

Not eligible or not a Thrivent member yet? Contact Brian Pahnke at Thrivent in Escanaba, 906-786-9000.

Gifts to the Congregation

In Memory of *Mary Ellen Plante*

For Sewing

Al & Dolly Salmi

Gary & Judy Larson

David & Melia Nivison

For Kitchen fund

David & Mya Nivison

For Altar Guild

Robert & Cathy Nivison

For Undesignated Memorials

Gen Morley

Vincent Plante

Nora Smith

Paul & Dale Rajala

For On the Road with Jesus

Donna McShane

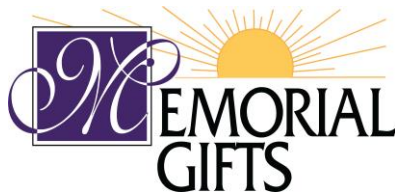
In Memory of *Violet Christiansen's Birthday*

For Adult Ministries – Tried-N-True

Ann Christiansen

Amy Dyer

Linda Attar



Thank You

Thank you to Mary Bjorkquist, Ann Christiansen, Avis Fairchild, Geri George, Judy Haulotte and Sue Snoaert who helped assemble the February newsletter. Thank you to Lloyd and Mary Tuskan for folding the bulletins each week.

A big thank you to Dirk Manson for his Thrivent Action Team grant to purchase costumes for Sunday School kids. We got some really cute Donkeys, Cows, Camels, Sheep and Angel costumes. It was greatly appreciated!!

Ann Christiansen

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$603.00 to our Delta County Walk for Warmth fund. We appreciate your continued support through the years...We assure you that your donation will go directly to support local families and senior citizens struggling to pay their heat bills in the winter. We thank you again for your support of Walk for Warmth.

Sincerely yours, Diane Gartland

Administrative Assistant, MDS Community Action Agency

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in November 2023...Because of your generous gifts people all over the world, including the US, are receiving food, water, health care, livestock, peace, and justice. Through your gifts you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed. Thank you....

In Christ, Amanda White

Director, Congregational Generosity

Fortune Lake

Summer Camp Registration Is Open

Summer Camp 2024 registration opened on January 2nd! 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.******

Senior Day

March 11th 10:00am – 2:00pm (central time). RSVP by the Friday before to 906-241-2267 or hospitality@fortunelake.org.

Here I Am: Jr/Sr High Retreat

April 19th – 20th. For grades 7-12. The weekend will feature familiar camp favorites like, songs, games, campfire, hot saunas, Bible Studies, and more. Our one-night retreats are great for both longtime campers and those who are just trying it out for the first time. Our theme, Here I Am, will explore our God-given gifts and how we are called to use them in hopes that campers come away with a clearer understanding of how god calls them to act in their everyday lives. Registration deadline is April 12th @ 11:50pm CT. You can register online at fortunelake.org.

March Birthdays



Week 1:

Jeanne Hoegh
Tiffany Olsick
Mary Tuskan
Rachel Soderman
Tom Otis

Easton Groleau
Rhonda Husbye

Stacie Carter

Week 2:

Audra Steinhoff

Paul Geiken

Jenna Steinhoff

Week 3:

Christine Johnson
Taylor Trudeau
Arla Pearson

Maxine Maki
Max Westerberg

Myra Skorupski
Anne Movalson

Week 4:

Vicki Ottensman
Jeffrey Gudwer

Mack McDonald
Evora Schaefer

Sophie Scholer



March Anniversaries

Michael & Susan Snowaert	50 years
Betty and Harvey Setter	60 years

Offering Envelopes

Many offering envelopes remain in the narthex and will remain out only until the end of the March. Please note: Offering Envelopes will *NOT* be delivered or mailed this year. If you need help in getting your envelopes, please call the church office or a council member.



Lakeview

Carole Wedell
Everett Robinson

Bishop Noa

Betty Erickson

Murray's Country View

Pat Shampo

at Home

Arla Pearson
Jean Hellman

D.J Jacobetti Veteran's Home

Robert Hasselbom

New Dawn

Gen Morley

Christian Park

William Shine

Lake House (Northwoods)

Jolane Nelson

Council Highlights

The Congregational Council meet Tuesday, February 20th via Zoom. At this meeting the council: discussed helping Memorial United Methodist Church with a Community Ecumenical Christmas dinner. They talked about hiring a new AV Tech and other businesses to aid in our cyber security and sound system issues when they occur. Passed a motion to have the policy committee form a policy for cancelling eGiving subscriptions when multiple declines of the credit card have been made. The council is seeking another member. Updates were made on 'in the works' policies. Further discussion took place on renaming the Hope at the Inn Fund to the Homeless Initiatives Fund and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund be renamed to On the Road with Jesus Fund. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 20th at 6:00pm.



Annual Meeting Highlights

Changes were made to the agenda and corrections to the report. The 2023 annual meeting minutes were approved. A unanimous ballot of all the Nominating Committee nominees were approved. All reports

were approved, including financial reports with the corrections. Resolutions were presented and approved. The next Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 2, 2025.

Serving Us in March

Readers	8:00 am	10:30 am
March 3	Nora Smith	Dirk Manson
March 10	Ellen Swenson	Julie Landwehr
March 17	Pam Durbin	Andy Nelson
March 24	Chris Mineau	Carolyn Nelson
March 28 - 7pm	Nora Smith	
March 31	Ellen Swenson	Dolly Salmi

Communion Assistance	8:00 am	10:30 am
March 3	Nora Smith	Carol Kocsis
March 10	Kathy Gobert	Carolyn Nelson
March 17	Kathy Gobert	Paul Strom
March 24	Kathy Gobert	Julie Landwehr
March 28 – 7pm	Kathy Gobert	
March 31	Kathy Gobert	Jane Coyne-Smith

Ushers	8:00 am	10:30 am
March 3	Kathy & Tom Gobert	Lloyd Tuskan
March 10	Kathy & Tom Gobert	
March 17	Kathy & Tom Gobert	
March 24	Kathy & Tom Gobert	Dennis & Emma Landwehr
March 28 – 7pm	Kathy & Tom Gobert	
March 31	Kathy & Tom Gobert	Paul & Chuck Strom

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: Ruth Botbyl, Sue Snowaert, Donna Schlemmer

Contact Us:

First Lutheran Church

1212 Minneapolis Ave.

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906-428-4565

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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:

Ann Christiansen, President

Ray Miller, Vice President

Chris Mineau, Secretary

Bill Ehrhardt, Treasurer

Rachel Coyne

Reyna Rose

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



Easter Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one for Easter, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office by **Wednesday, March 20th**. All flowers must be delivered to the church on **Friday, March 29th** between **9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.**



_____ I will provide flowers (**NO LILIES, HYACINTHS or TULIPS!**) to be delivered on Friday, March 29th between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. *I will take the flowers after worship.*

_____ I will provide flowers (**NO LILIES, HYACINTH or TULIPS!**) to be delivered. on Friday, March 29th between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. *The flowers will be distributed by the Altar Guild.*

In memory/honor of: _____

Given by: _____



First Lutheran Church
1212 Minneapolis Avenue
Gladstone, Michigan 49837

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