



The Messenger

April 2025

We live to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ!

Memorial United Methodist Church, 1920 Lake Shore Drive, Gladstone, Michigan 49837

Office: (906) 428-9311

www.gladstonechurch.org

mumc@gladstonechurch.org

Mon. – Thur.. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Pastor Terri Branstrom

(906) 280-2993

tlbran@hotmail.com

Mon. and Thur.. 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As I am writing this article, I am trying to imagine myself 2000 or so years ago after witnessing the crucifixion of the man they called Jesus. Was I one of His followers or was I one of the crowd that yelled, “Crucify Him!”? Did I watch from the crowd as He carried that heavy wooden cross to Golgotha or did I head home after he was sentenced to death? Was I there to watch as they pounded the spikes into his hands and his feet before they unceremoniously dropped the cross into its hole? Did I watch as life slowly drained from his body as the crowd taunted him about being King of the Jews? Was I one who taunted him? When He cried to God for abandoning him and as He gave up his spirit into God’s hands, did my heart feel anything?

Then we come to Holy Saturday. I wonder what I would have been doing that day? Was it a “business as usual day” for me or did I hide behind barred doors in fear waiting for the soldier to carry me away as one of His followers? Did I feel empty at the loss of the greatest man I had ever known, or did I cry until I had no more tears to shed, or did I try to stay busy to keep my mind off all the events of the past few days?

As we end the season of Lent, we celebrate the greatest sacrifice anyone could make for you and me. We can look back to see how people reacted 2000 years ago to Jesus’ ministry. Some loved him for His message of love, peace, kindness, and inclusiveness. Others hated him because he shook up the status quo, the rules of religion, and the rules of society.

Today we serve a risen Savior. We have become His body, His church in this needy world. Sometimes we stumble and fall, but Jesus picks us up, dusts us off and gives us what we need to continue His ministry here and now. May God bless us with the Spirit of Jesus as we bring the good news of Jesus Christ to our world.

Shalom,

Pastor Terri

Links to Worship

Find an up-to-date schedule for activities, links to on-line worship, and our current prayer list on the church website: www.gladstonechurch.org. You're welcome to call the office with questions: 428-9311, or email: mumc@gladstonechurch.org. Worship information, links, livestreaming, and videos are also on YouTube and Facebook:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBY-ZTh99gQBtHG3n2kbyuQ>

<https://www.facebook.com/Memorial-United-Methodist-Church-of-Gladstone-MI-117593394926699/>

Sunday Volunteers

Please sign up on the bulletin board to:

- Serve communion
- Usher & Greet
- Bring a treat
- Host coffee hour
- Read scripture

If you could help with projection on Palm Sunday (April 13) or Easter (April 20), please sign up on the bulletin board.

Holy Week

- April 13 Palm Sunday service at 10:30
Kids processes with palms.
Breakfast, bake sale and food sale at 11:30.
- April 17 Maundy Thursday & Communion 7 p.m.
- April 18 Good Friday 7 p.m. at First Lutheran
- April 19 Easter Caroling 1 p.m.
- April 20 Easter 6:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Spring Flowers

If you would like to honor or remember someone this Easter with spring flowers, please fill out a pink form by the front door and give it to the office **by Wed., Apr. 16**. Then bring your flowers to the church by Easter.



Prayer List

Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine
Judy and Jim DeGrand and family
Mindy A. Jon Anderson
Lisa Richer Barta Lorna Benson
Tom Butch Beth and Sarah Benson
Nancy Campbell Bud and Pat Clark
Kristin Cutcher Bette DeRoeck
Ian Goldi Nancy Grondine
Shannon Hagen Nancy Harger
Jim Hubbard Hueneman family
Gail Johnivan Dorell Kirschner
Christopher Lund Toni Marchese
Rebecca Marchak Louis Martin
David McCarley Jeanette Mineau
Josiah Pryor Rodney Potvin & family
Kris R. Jordan R.
Debbie Rosen Mrs. Craig Seckinger
Maxine Vallier

**newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, April 23**

Vacation Bible School

June 23-26 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

First Lutheran Church just down the street on Minneapolis Ave. has invited us to do V.B.S. together again. Their Fortune Lake Camp Staff will lead V.B.S. while volunteers from both of our churches assist. Since the Fortune Lake Staff is only prepared for children going into 1st grade and up, we are discussing hosting a PreK / K class here at Memorial where our youngest children can have their own space. If you are available to lead or help with our preK / K Vacation Bible School, please speak with Lisa in the office as soon as possible. Also let Lisa know if you might bring children, grandchildren, or neighbor children. We want to decide soon whether or not to have a PreK / K Vacation Bible School.

Renting Space in the Church Building

Peggy French is diligently working on putting together a rental brochure for the various rooms in our building. If you would be willing to help with deciding on reasonable rates and policies, please speak with Peggy.

Fundraiser: MARSP Dinner

The Michigan Area Retired School Personnel will have their dinner & meeting here at noon on Tuesday, May 6. This is a good fundraiser for us. Many hands are needed in the kitchen on the evening of May 5 and in the morning & afternoon of May 6.

Spring Cleaning

While you are cleaning your house and garage this spring, please remember the church **rummage sale** (May 8-10) and the **metal drive** (May 2-11). If you are just "itching" to get items out of your house and can't wait until May, you can bring them to the church now. Put clean indoor things in room 5. Dirty, outdoor items will have to go in the church shed. There is limited room in there, so talk to Lisa about where we can put it. Please do not put dirty things or things that could give off oil/grease like bike chains in room 5.

Scrap Metal Drive

Start saving your metal now. We will have a receptacle here May 2 - 11.

Acceptable Items Include:

- Stoves, Dryers, Appliances, etc.
 - Not TVs or refrigerators though.*
- Lawn equipment (lawn mowers, snowblowers, tillers)
- Metal piping, sheet metal, siding
- Car parts (i.e. rotors/springs/doors)
- Filing cabinets, metal desks
- Steel doors, garage doors, & metal tracks
- Copper piping/fixtures
- Brass doorknobs/household items
- Air fittings
- Aluminum
 - o Cast
 - o Extruded
 - o Sheet
 - o Soffit & Fascia
- Bronze
- Strings of Christmas lights

The **Bay de Noc Choral Society** will present their spring concert on Sunday, April 13, at 1:30 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Escanaba. They will be joined by brass, handbells, piano, and organ. Freewill offering.

On April 13, we will have a **Fundraiser BREAKFAST and FOOD SALE / BAKE SALE** after Palm Sunday worship to benefit a refugee family that we are helping. Anyone wishing to help cook or bake, please talk to Lisa. You can cook items at home for the sale, or you can cook with us in the church kitchen the morning or afternoon of Saturday, April 12.

Items which do not sell on Palm Sunday will be used for the Bay Area Campus Ministry meal on April 14.



Easter Caroling

If you love singing or if you just love smiling and waving and spreading cheer, please consider joining us at 1:00 on Saturday, April 19, for Easter caroling. We will be visiting some of our cherished elders in Gladstone. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we have an idea of how many to expect.

Game Night -- 5 p.m. Saturday, Apr. 12

Terri will bring a large chicken casserole dish. Please bring a side dish, a dessert, or maybe even another main dish if you wish . . . and bring your favorite game. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.



4/1 Christine Morrow	4/15 Rand Reynolds
Thomas Viau	Carolyn Taylor
4/5 Laura Doneau	4/17 Gabriel Gaudino
Melvin Marlett	4/18 Ryan Juhola
4/8 Daytona Johnivan	Kyra Keeker
4/10 Peter Jensen	4/19 Matthew Hampton
Emily Klotz	4/28 Jamie Hoehn
4/13 Breanne Johnson	Rachel Johnson
Jeff Moore	Janice Watson

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:30-7:30 Gym	2 9:00 Knit 10-6 Gym in use 5:30 Soup Supper Special Speaker 7:00 Choir	3 8:30-3 Gym in use 5:30-7:30 Gym 6:00 Band	4 8-4 Gym in use	5
6 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells 12:00 Pickleball 1:30 Girl Scouts	7 10-7 Gym in use 5:30 Bible study	8 8:30-7:30 Gym	9 9:00 Knit 10-6 Gym in use 5:30 Soup Supper Special Speaker 7:00 Choir	10 8:30-3 Gym in use 4:30 Church Council 5:30-7:30 Gym 6:00 Band	11 8-4 Gym in use	12 Baking and cooking for Palm Sunday fundraiser 5:00 Game Night
13 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells; Breakfast and bake / food sale 12:00 Pickleball 1:30 Girl Scouts	14 10-7 Gym in use 4:00 Girl Scouts BACM meal 5:30 Bible study	15 8:30-7:30 Gym	16 9:00 Knit 10-6 Gym in use 6:00 Band 7:00 Choir	17 8:30-3 Gym in use 7:00 Maundy Thr.	18 8-4 Gym in use Good Friday at First Lutheran 7 p.m.	19 Easter caroling 1:00
20 <i>Easter</i> 6:30 Sunrise Service 10:30 Worship Noisy Offering	21 10-7 Gym in use 5:30 Bible study	22 8:30-7:30 Gym	23 9:00 Knit 10-6 Gym in use 6:00 Band 7:00 Choir	24 8:30-3 Gym in use 5:30-7:30 Gym	25 8-4 Gym in use	26
27 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells 12:00 Pickleball 1:30 Girl Scouts	28 10-7 Gym in use 5:30 Bible study	29 8:30-7:30 Gym	30 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 10-6 Gym in use 6:00 Band 7:00 Choir			