

# October 2024

1212 Minneapolis Ave.  
Gladstone, MI 49837  
906-428-4565

[www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org](http://www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org)  
[office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto: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](mailto: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,

October is Stewardship Month at First Lutheran Church. It is a time to thank you for your gifts and celebrate the bountiful harvest present in this place through the lives and ministry you participate in. Thank you.

Unfortunately, when I think of a bountiful harvest this year, my mind goes to the dismal garden haul at the Daniels' house. Our garden was pitiful! There is nothing to freeze this year. We had a taste of veggies, and that was it. Last year's harvest is still in the freezer! We had tomatoes coming out of our ears. Not this time.

Isn't that how life is, too? In some harvests, we have more to offer and more to share, encouraging our generous spirits. Other years, our carrots are sparse, a measly scant offering, not enough for a meal, let alone for sharing. Carrots are just an example, but sometimes it's more like our energy is sparse; our good health is in meager supply. Finances can get tight. This is why I have been listening to the 1977 Supertramp song "Give a Little Bit" on repeat. The lyrics to the chorus are

*Give a little bit*

*Oh, give a little bit of your love to me*

*I'll give a little bit*

*I'll give a little bit of my love to you*

*There's so much that we need to share*

It's a feel-good song, and what drew me in this time was the implied mutuality and community.

There are times when we are the ones taking in the prayers and offerings, and there are times when we are the ones gifting them. Through our community, we share in God's goodness. Sharing isn't something we need to do for the church; sharing is what we need to do as humans living in community.

For us, our give-and-take is a part of the inherent communal experience. We need both. Sometimes, receiving is more challenging than giving, but we are blessed to be able to work together on this. Thank you for giving, cultivating your gifts, and prayerfully engaging with this community. God bless you and your presence in this place. You are already a little bit of love to your fellow worshipers. May we be a little bit of love to you.

God's peace, Pastor Elisabeth

## **Upcoming Scriptures**

**October 6** – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

**October 13** – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

**October 20** – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

**October 27** – Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

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## **SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES**

### **\*OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> – BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

**Blessing of Pets:** Bring in your pets, big or small, First Lutheran is blessing them all. If you cannot bring in your animal, a photo of your pet, or stuffy will do.

### **\*OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> - Blessing of LWR Quilts and Kits**

### **\*OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> – BIBLE SUNDAY**

Bibles will be blessed and distributed to our Second Graders.

### **\*OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> – REFORAMTION SUNDAY & TRUNK OR TREAT**

Wear red or a costume to worship.

**Sunday School Children Sing during 10:30 worship**

### **\*NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

## Tri-County Conference

Mark your calendar. The Tri-County Conference is scheduled for Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Escanaba. Those on the committee, and need to attend, are Paula L., Barb T., Dotti F., and Chuck T.

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## Lutheran Social Services

Lutheran Social Services will join us for our October 20<sup>th</sup> coffee hour following the 10:30 worship service to present, "Superior Futures for Youth", a youth homeless program. This program could be a potential ministry held here at First Lutheran.

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## All Saints Day

All Saints Day this year falls on **Sunday, November 3<sup>RD</sup>**. During worship that day we will lift up in prayer the saints who have gone before us, who have witnessed God's love, and who now celebrate eternal life with Jesus.

If you have a loved one to add to the All Saints Day list, please contact the office so they can also be lifted up on All Saints Day.



## Operation Christmas Child

Merry Christmas 🎄. Yes, it's a little early but it's not too early to begin packing your boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Collection week is November 18-25 at Grace Church this year. If you bring your boxes to First, please have them there by November 24<sup>th</sup>. If you need ideas of what to put in boxes, contact Ann Christiansen. If you don't want to shop, we can shop for you too. School items, hygiene items and some fun things are good options. No liquids, toothpaste or food items are allowed. Thanks for your participation! Check out the October Tried-n-True for more information, too!



## **COMMITTEE & CIRCLE NEWS**

### **Altar Guild**

Anita Stauffer writes, "Flowers are part of the beauty and frailty of creation and are thus symbolic of our joy in Christ and earthly finitude. Fresh cut flowers symbolize life, joy, and human frailty." Examples of the way we use flowers in worship are in honor of celebrations like births, anniversaries, and milestones and in memory of those we have loved. But joy in the Lord and a bounteous harvest are also reasons to share the offering of your garden flowers. We stopped using a flower chart in the narthex because it was underutilized, but there are sheets pinned to the bulletin board. Call 1-906-428-4565 or email the office at [office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org](mailto:office@firstlutheran-gladstone.org) by 9:00 am on Wednesday to let us know you will be offering flowers for the coming Sunday. This offering enhances worship. Think about it: the hydrangeas were great this year. They were a glimpse of the glory of God. This flower offering would enhance our worship experience.

### **Bible Study**

God tells us who are true prophets and who are false prophets. It's right there in Deuteronomy 18:18. He picked Jeremiah, who was a true prophet. Join us to learn more about Jeremiah, in the Bible book that bears his name, Wednesday mornings: 9:30 a.m. in the youth room.

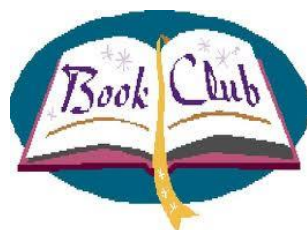
### **Book Club:**

Book Club is reading "*Anxious People*" by Franklin Backman. They will meet on **October 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**.

#### **Upcoming Books**

November – "*The Prayer Box*"  
by Lisa Wingate

December – "*The Book of Lost Names*"  
by Kristin Harmel



## **Christian Education**

### **Trunk or Treat**

*Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>*

*9:15 am* in the front parking lot

Come in costume. You'll have loads of fun. Parents and congregation, decorate your vehicle and arrive ready to go at 9:15 am to hand out treats to the kids. If you are unable to be outside in the U.P. weather but would like to help, you can bring candy/treats to the office, offer your vehicle to be decorated and the confirmation students will decorate and hand out candy for you. The congregation is invited to dress up in a Halloween costume or wear Red for Reformation.



### **Sunday School Schedule**

10/06 Blessing of the Animals

(bring your pet, or photo of pet, or stuffy to church)

10/20 Second Graders receive Bibles

10/27 Trunk o Treat & Sunday Schoolers sing at 10:30 worship

### **Confirmation Reminders**

10/06 Class

10/13 Class/Ten Commandments Quiz

10/19 LWR Quilt Shipping 9:00am (Service Point opportunity)

10/20 Class

10/27 Class/Trunk o Treat: wear a costume, decorate a vehicle, pass out candy.

### **10:30 Worship Acolyte Schedule**

10/06 Summer Schwartz

10/13 Kaleb Kuehl

10/20 Londyn Koski

10/27 Braylin Carter



## Sewing Circle

Sewing is on **Tuesday** mornings at **9:00am** here at church. All are welcome, come check us out.



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SHIPPING DATE

Lutheran World Relief Shipping Day is **October 19, 2024**. Please check ways to help on the bulletin board in the narthex.

\* Our boxes and any boxes dropped off at First the week prior will be loaded from 8:00 - 9:00 am.

\*Boxes from other churches will arrive from 9:00 - 10:30 am.

You may sign up for either or both shifts.

Other ways to help with this outreach ministry----share treats for those working and those bringing boxes from other churches. Be a part of the kitchen team helping with serving and cleaning up. Take pictures to post on our web site or share with the Daily Press.

Quilts and kits will be blessed before they are shipped on **Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**.

If you cannot help with this ministry on the 19th, please lift up prayers for all those taking part.

## Property Committee

The property committee welcomed Rick as a new member and is continuing to explore installing solar panels. They requested an estimate for a dimmer switch for the ceiling lights in the sanctuary from Rock Electric and are waiting for DTE to schedule an energy assessment for gas customers. The baseboard material in the newly refurbished office was installed. And they are addressing doors that have peeling paint or gaps at the bottom of the doors. The next meeting is scheduled for **October 6<sup>th</sup>** at **9:00am** in the double classroom. All are welcome.

## Music



### CHRISTMAS MUSICIANS

I am looking for extra voices and instruments for our



Christmas Program on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Join us

in remembering the true reason for the season with “This Is Christmas”! We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:15. Other rehearsal times can be arranged if necessary.

Rest assured; this is not a full-time commitment. If you have any interest or any questions, please contact me directly.

Stacie Carter

906-420-6448

## Safety Task Force

The next Safety Committee Meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 1st, at 2:00 pm.**

## Tried-N-True

Welcome back, to our seniors 55 and over and guests. Join Tried-N-True in October as we learn more about Operation Christmas Child. We will gather on **October 18th, 2024**, at noon for a meal together and be treated to a program presented by Joyce Guindon afterwards.



Better Impact, our Volunteer Software, is a great way to switch your dates assigned as a worship volunteer or to sign up ahead of

time for dates you know you are available. We are blessed to have ushers step up in a pinch but would appreciate anyone interested to sign up online or let Reverend Melissa know you are interested.

If you have an email address but are not receiving the reminders, please leave an updated address for Rev. Melissa in the office. Thank you!



## Military Appreciation

Attention all Veterans, Families of Veterans, and Current Military Personnel

Community Engagement Coordinator, Rev. Melissa Salminen, is coordinating a collection of pictures and information to honor all those who have been in military service from First Lutheran over the years. The video will be presented around Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Please Submit the following information via email [cec.firstgladstone@gmail.com](mailto:cec.firstgladstone@gmail.com) or hard copy in the office **before November 1<sup>st</sup>**.

1. Photo of the person at the time of service (if available)
2. Current photo (if available)
3. For deceased members, the birth and death years (or dates)
4. Branch(es) of Military Service with years
5. A short biography if you wish.

I look forward to honoring your loved ones who are currently serving in the military or who are veterans.

--Pastor Melissa

# *Gifts to the Congregation*

## **In Honor of Connie S's Birthday**

*For Sewing*

From Gina S.

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Reminder: Our Nursery and Quiet Rooms have TVs set up for livestreaming the service. If your little one needs a break from the sanctuary, feel free to watch the service from one of those spaces until they are ready to join us again in the sanctuary. Children and their noises are always welcome during church. They

are growing and learning with us. We want them to feel welcome but understand that they may need a break. Come and go as you are comfortable. We have some toys in the sanctuary. They can play there too! Busy Bags are available in the Narthex for quiet play in the pews. Help us, help them learn to worship.

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*Thank  
You!*



Thank you to Mary B., Chris J., Sue M., and Cindy S., who helped assemble the August newsletter. Thank you to Lloyd and Mary T. for folding the bulletins each week.

THANK YOU to all who were a part of August 13th at the water tent at the State Fair. Pastor Elisabeth used my Thrivent Action Team gift card of \$250.00 to buy water and ice. Those who made sweet treats were Lisa T., Jane C-S., Connie S., Pam D., Kathy G., Paula LC., Rachel C., Eric & Rhonda H., Ruth B. and me. Those handing out water and sweet treats, taking in money, making sure water was put on ice and wiping tables were Kathy G. & Vicki M. (they also transported the sweet treats to the Fair), Dolly S. & Pam D., Dennis & Julie L., Jeff & Kathy G., Connie S. & Nora S., Pastor

Elisabeth & Wesley D. \$631.25 was collected on Tuesday and we got some awesome memories. Nora

Thank you to the folks of First Lutheran who help with lay leadership in worship. We've had a few unforeseen circumstances come up lately, and when there was a need, people stepped up, no questions asked. Jumping up to read, usher, assist with communion, acolyte, run the AV equipment, click slides, or provide last-minute Altar Guild assistance... It all miraculously just gets done. What a blessing it is to serve in a community that takes care of things and takes care of each other.

Thank you, Pastor Elisabeth

Dear Pastor Elisabeth & the People of First, Gladstone,

Thank you so much for your gracious hospitality and providing a welcoming space for our Synod Council meeting. Everything was perfect, including the delicious breakfast. I am grateful for your partnership in ministry and all you contribute to our efforts together.

Peace be with you, Bishop Katherine Finnegan



### **Special Giving Envelope**

October Special Giving will go towards:  
**Operation Christmas Child**

September Special Giving – Gladstone Public Library  
you raised \$45.00 as of September 22, 2024

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### **Stewardship**

#### **A REALLY BIG CHALLENGE**

The early church had its celebrations and tension, joys and challenges. Some things don't change. We, too, have our share of joys and challenges.

While it's infinitely more satisfying talking about the joys, let's concentrate on what's become a really big challenge over the course of

the last two to three years. Put simply, we have been budgeting for and spending more than we have been taking in. We have been able to meet this challenge by tapping into our fund balance (*unrestricted*) to make up the difference.

This fund balance has gotten smaller over the past handful of years as our income has regularly fallen short of our expenditure. This, despite of our efforts to increase our income each year.

This has become a really big challenge as we look to build a budget for 2025 while anticipating another shortfall that may bring our balance down to zero.

Obviously, we are at a point where we need to find ways to effectively increase income or decrease spending or both. Perhaps our income in the current year will be large enough so the fund balance will not be depleted, but “the handwriting is on the wall” over the long term, so to speak.

The trend is clear. Unless we are able to significantly increase giving and/or make significant cuts, our mission and ministries can’t be achieved.

The good people of First Lutheran have always been up to the challenge and have brought great joy to being a part of our community of faith.

So, how about we forget about making deep cuts in our spending and put our faith (and hard work) in significantly increasing our giving. I’m told that we have about 140 families or individuals that currently give to support our ministries. If each of these faithful givers increase their giving, we can make a big dent in our big challenge. Increasing the number of givers would also help.

This is not a challenge that will go away, but it can be managed. What can you do to be part of meeting this challenge? Here are a few possibilities:

- Make an estimate of giving when asked
- Try tithing if you don’t already do so

- If tithing is not for you, give a percentage of your disposable income
- If you already give a percentage, increase it. (ex: if you give 4% try 4.5%)
- Give electronically. (ex: give a fixed amount drawn automatically from your bank account or credit card)
- Pray about your stewardship. In fact, this should come first!

We have work to do. God's work. Our treasure is a critical part of what it takes to get that work done.



Thank you for all that you do to make our community of faith such a joyful, Christ-centered place. Thanks be to God.

Dirk Manson, Stewardship Chair & The Congregation Council

### **Did You Know?**

If you have an individual retirement account (IRA) and are having to take required minimum distributions (RMD), you can make a tax-free donation to church called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). It must go directly from your IRA to the church and there will be no taxes for you to pay on it. It's a win win for you and the church!!!

If you have any questions, you can contact Ann Christiansen or your financial advisor.



### **New Members Welcome**

First Lutheran would like to welcome New and Transfer Members during worship on **October 27th**. Please contact the office if you have officially transferred or would like to become a member. We can set up a new member class and prepare a welcome for our transfer members.

## **Volunteers Needed**

- Occasionally fill-in as our **Sound System Tech**
- Men and women to serve as **Ushers**
- Readers & Communion Assistants



Sign up on *Better Impact* and choose your own dates.

*Better Impact* works great for those who want to preplan or to try volunteering once to get a feel for the service.

If you would like to help in any of these areas, please sign up on *Better Impact*: [app.betterimpact.com](http://app.betterimpact.com) or call Pr. Melissa at 906-428-4565!



### **Lakeview**

Everett Robinson

### **Westridge Heights**

Jolane Nelson

### **D.J Jacobetti Veteran's Home**

Robert Hasselbom

### **at Home**

Arla Pearson

Jean Hellman

David & Mya Nivison

Gen Morley





## **SYNOD EVENTS**

### **Congregational Resource Fair:**

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is sponsoring a Congregational Resource Fair, from a grant for the NGLS Equipping the Saint Endowment Fund, at two locations. Both events will feature workshops, fellowship, lunch, resources and you will receive a “All Creations Sing” hymnal. The cost of the event is \$25.00 for either event. The narthex bulletin board has more information on each event.

Emmanuel Lutheran, Menominee Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>  
Bethel Lutheran, Ishpeming Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>



### **Life Long Faith Formation**

**Synod’s Lifelong Faith Formation Classes have begun.**

Enjoy the conversation and fellowship, as you learn more about the Bible, church history, and Christian mission. Beginning in September, classes meet online via Zoom for two to ten sessions.

**For more information and to register, visit the Northern Great Lakes Synod website: [nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation](https://nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation)**

**To sign-up for Lifelong Faith Formation emails, contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or [lori.ward@nglsynod.org](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynod.org)**

### **Synod Office Administrator Position**

We are looking for an Office Administrator to join our office staff. In this role, duties will include administrative support, producing Synod communications, event planning, and maintenance of essential records. For more information and to send applications visit:

[ngls@nglsynod.org](mailto:ngls@nglsynod.org)

# **FORTUNE LAKE**

## **SACRED WATERS YOUTH RETREAT**

Fortune Lake invites all current 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders to their Waters Retreat this October 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Join them for a weekend of faith-building fun and a full schedule of camp favorites.

There will also be a workshop for adult church staff and volunteers who work with youth.

For more information and to register, go to [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org). Registration is now open through October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **FALL FEST 2024 QUILT AUCTION**

9:30 – 11:00 am CT

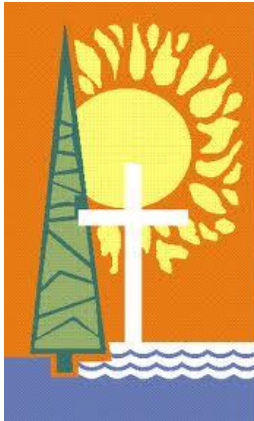
**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

At Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

- Continental breakfast & bake sale
  - Beautiful quilts for auction
- Draffle tickets & handcrafted items for sale

Online auction begins September 25<sup>th</sup>.

[www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org)



# October Birthdays



## Week 1

Nicholas T. \* Judy L. \* Chuck S.\* Carol K. \* Ginny M.

## Week 2

Troy P.\* Vicki M. \* Alice V.\* John N.\* Bryce D.\* Linda E.

## Week 3

Vera R.\* Nora S.\* Katherine K.\* Diane M.

## Week 4

Maggie M.\* John T.\* Clinton S. \* Kayla V.\* Dianne L.

## Week 5

Lukas O.\* Chandler H.\* Russell MC.\* Nancy B.\* Jim O.\*  
Mary C.\* Evolette E.\* Judy H.\* Dale S.



## October Anniversaries

Scot & Reyna	24 years
Eric & Rhonda	28 years
Kelly & Lori	38 years
Ron & Michelle	43 years
Jeff & Kathy	45 years
Rick & Paula	48 years

## **Council Highlights**



The Congregational Council meet Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting: The council approved the Portico Gold Plus plan for Pastor's Health & Retirement package. They supported the stewardship letter, and the Temple Talk speaking points as presented by the Stewardship Committee. The council accepted changes to the Newsletter and Website. Those being, no last names will be used on either and the newsletter will no longer be archived. They were notified that Lutheran Social Services may utilize the newly refurbished office space for helping homeless youth. The treasurer reported the August income was down again, and expenses continue to be in deficit but are on budget. Income needs improvement. The council supported Bill and Dirk to show on a PowerPoint slide, the 2024 Revenue Budget Sheet and the Asset/Balance Sheet Summary to the congregation during a Temple Talk. The next meeting is Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm via Zoom.

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## Serving Us in October

### Readers

8:00 am

10:30 am

October 6	Nora S.	Jane C.S.
October 13	Ellen S.	Cindy S.
October 20	Dale S.	Dirk M.
October 27	Judy H.	Bruce M.

### Communion Assistance

8:00 am

10:30 am

October 6	Nora S.	Jane C. S.
October 13	Ellen S.	Carolyn N.
October 20	Dale S.	Julie L.
October 27	Vicki M.	Collette W.

### Ushers

8:00 am

10:30 am

Oct. 6	Howard H. & Raino M.	Chuck S.
Oct. 13	Steve B. & Bill O.	NEEDED
Oct. 20	Howard H. & Raino M.	Dennis L. & Emma L.
Oct. 27	Steve B. & Rick L.	Lloyd T.

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:

**October:** Ruth B., Sue S., Donna S.

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### All-Staff Meeting

The next All-Staff meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 2nd at 8:30 am.**

## **Contact Us:**

### **First Lutheran Church**

1212 Minneapolis Ave.

Gladstone, MI 49837

906-428-4565

[www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org](http://www.firstlutheran-gladstone.org) or find us on facebook.com

### **Rev. Elisabeth Daniels, Pastor**

[pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.firstgladstone@gmail.com)

Office: 906-428-4565

Cell: 773-419-2892

### **Office Administrator:** Rhonda Husbye

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

### **Community Engagement Coordinator:** Rev. Melissa Salminen

[cec.firstgladstone@gmail.com](mailto:cec.firstgladstone@gmail.com)

### **Director of Music:** Stacie Carter

### **Musician:** Paul Rajala

### **Christian Ed Coordinator:** Pam Brown & Suzanne Dahlke

### **Custodian:** Hope Thompson

### **AV Tech:** Violet Smith

### **Congregation Council:**

Ann Christiansen, President

Ray Miller, Vice President

Chris Mineau, Secretary

Bill Ehrhardt, Treasurer

Rachel Coyne

Reyna Rose

Paula LaCrosse

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





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