

FIRST MIDWEST BANCORP INC

Form S-4

September 03, 2014

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 3, 2014.

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-4

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

FIRST MIDWEST BANCORP, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

6021
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)

36-3161078
(IRS Employer
Identification Number)

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One Pierce Place, Suite 1500

Itasca, Illinois 60143

(630) 875-7450

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Nicholas J. Chulos

Executive Vice President, Corporate Secretary and General Counsel

First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.
One Pierce Place, Suite 1500

Itasca, Illinois 60143

(630) 875-7345

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

Copies to:

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(708) 283-5800

Edward J. Karlin

Seyfarth Shaw LLP
131 South Dearborn Street Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 460-5875

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after this Registration Statement becomes effective and upon completion of the merger described in the enclosed document.

If the securities being registered on this form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box:

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering:

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If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering:

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
 Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

If applicable, place an X in the box to designate the appropriate rule provision relied upon in conducting this transaction:

Exchange Act Rule 13e-4(i) (Cross-Border Issuer Tender Offer)

Exchange Act Rule 14d-1(d) (Cross-Border Third-Party Tender Offer)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per share	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, par value \$0.01	2,728,054 shares(1)	N/A \$	36,785,067.00(2) \$	4,737.92(3)
Preferred Share Purchase Rights (4)				

(1) Represents the estimated maximum number of shares of common stock of the registrant to be issued upon completion of the merger described in the proxy statement/prospectus contained herein. This number is based upon the product of (x) 155,100 shares of common stock, par value \$12.50 per share, of Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc. outstanding as of September 2, 2014, times (y) 17.589, which is the maximum number of shares of the registrant's common stock to be issued per share of Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc. common stock under the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 7, 2014, between Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc. and First Midwest Bancorp, Inc., which is attached to the proxy statement/prospectus as Appendix A. Under certain circumstances as described herein, First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. could issue a larger number of shares the exact number of which is not determinable at this time. Such additional indeterminate number of shares are also hereby registered.

(2) Pursuant to Rules 457(f)(2) and 457(f)(3) promulgated under the Securities Act and solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee, the proposed aggregate maximum offering price is (i) the product of (x) 155,100 shares of common stock, par value \$12.50 per share, of Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc. outstanding as of September 2, 2014 times (y) \$349.67 (the book value per share of Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc. common stock as of September 2, 2014, the latest practicable date prior to the date of filing this Registration Statement), minus (ii) \$17,448,750.00 (the estimated aggregate amount of cash to be paid by the registrant to Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc. stockholders in connection with the transaction).

(3) Computed in accordance with Rule 457(f) under the Securities Act to be \$4,737.92, which is equal to 0.0001288 multiplied by the proposed maximum aggregate offering price of \$36,785,067.00.

(4) The registrant is also registering Preferred Share Purchase Rights which are evidenced by the certificates of the common stock being registered in a ratio of one Preferred Share Purchase Right for each share of common stock.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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Information contained herein is subject to completion or amendment. A registration statement relating to First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.'s common stock to be offered in this transaction has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These securities may not be sold, nor may offers to buy be accepted, prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This document shall not constitute an offer to sell, or the solicitation of an offer to buy, in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful.

PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

[•], 2014

Dear Great Lakes Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting of the stockholders of Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc. (Great Lakes), which will be held at [•], located at [•], on [•], 2014, at [•] local time. At the meeting, you will be asked to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 7, 2014, that Great Lakes has entered into with First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. (First Midwest) and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger of Great Lakes with and into First Midwest. This document provides you with detailed information about the merger. In addition to being a proxy statement of Great Lakes, this document is also the prospectus of First Midwest for First Midwest common stock that will be issued to you in connection with the merger.

If the merger is completed, you will receive \$112.50 in cash plus shares of First Midwest common stock in exchange for each share of Great Lakes common stock you hold immediately prior to the completion of the merger, other than in certain circumstances described in this proxy statement/prospectus. The number of shares of First Midwest common stock you will receive in exchange for each share of Great Lakes common stock is based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on the NASDAQ Stock Market over a ten trading day period ending on and including the third trading day prior to completion of the merger. First Midwest common stock trades on the NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol FMBI. The following table shows the implied value of the merger consideration that would be received by Great Lakes stockholders in exchange for each share of Great Lakes common stock if such per share volume weighted average price was \$17.17, which was the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on the NASDAQ Stock Market for the ten trading days ending on and including July 7, 2014, the last trading day before the announcement of the merger, and if such volume weighted average price was \$[•], which was the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on the NASDAQ Stock Market for the ten trading days ending on and including [•], 2014, the latest practicable date before the printing of this proxy statement/prospectus.

	Closing Price of First Midwest Common Stock on NASDAQ	Number of Shares of First Midwest Common Stock Per Great Lakes Common Share(1)	Cash Consideration Per Great Lakes Common Share	Total Consideration Per Great Lakes Common Share (2)
July 7, 2014	\$17.43	15.737	\$112.50	\$386.80

[•], 2014

[•]

[•]

[•]

[•]

(1) Computed based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock for the ten trading days ending on and including the date specified.

(2) Computed as the sum of (i) the product of (a) the closing price of First Midwest Common Stock on the NASDAQ Stock Market for the date specified and (b) the number of shares of First Midwest common stock per Great Lakes common share and (ii) the cash consideration per Great Lakes common share.

The actual value of cash and the number of shares of First Midwest common stock that you will receive in exchange for each share of Great Lakes common stock you own at the time of the merger will depend on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock prior to the merger and the price of First Midwest common stock at the time you receive your shares in connection with the merger. These prices are impossible to know at this time and will not be known at the time of the special meeting. The price per share of First Midwest common stock on the date you receive the shares may be different than the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock used to compute the consideration you will receive in connection with the merger. Therefore, the actual value of the merger consideration may be different than the estimated value based on the current price or the price at the time of the special meeting. See The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration on page [•] for additional information concerning calculation of the consideration you will receive upon completion of the merger.

To complete the merger, holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock must approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger. **Your vote is very important.** Whether or not you expect to attend the special meeting, please vote as soon as possible to ensure that your shares are represented at the meeting. Registered and many broker-managed stockholders can vote their shares by using a toll-free number or the Internet. Instructions for using these services are provided on the proxy card. You may also vote your shares by marking your votes on the proxy card, signing and dating it and mailing it with the envelope provided. If you sign and return your proxy card without specifying your choice, it will be understood that you wish to have your shares voted in favor of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger.

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After careful consideration, Great Lakes board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger.

We encourage you to read the entire document carefully. Please pay particular attention to Risk Factors beginning on page [•] for a discussion of the risks related to the merger and owning First Midwest common stock after the merger.

I look forward to seeing you on [•], 2014 in [•].

Sincerely,

LOUIS J. HOEKSTRA
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved the securities to be issued in the merger or determined if this document is accurate or adequate. It is illegal to tell you otherwise. The securities to be issued in the merger are not savings or deposit accounts and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

The date of this proxy statement/prospectus is [•], and it is first being mailed or otherwise delivered to the stockholders of Great Lakes on or about [•].

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This proxy statement/prospectus incorporates by reference important business and financial information about First Midwest from documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) that are not included in or delivered with this proxy statement/prospectus. You can obtain any of the documents filed with or furnished to the SEC by First Midwest at no cost from the SEC's website maintained at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also request copies of these documents, including documents incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus, at no cost by contacting First Midwest in writing at the address or by telephone as specified below:

First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.
Attention: Assistant Corporate Secretary
One Pierce Place, Suite 1500
Itasca, IL 60143
(630) 875-7463

You will not be charged for any of these documents that you request. If you would like to request documents, please do so by [•], 2014 in order to receive them before Great Lakes special meeting.

You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this proxy statement/prospectus. No one has been authorized to provide you with information that is different from that contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this proxy statement/prospectus. This proxy statement/prospectus is dated September [•], 2014, and you should assume that the information in this proxy statement/prospectus is accurate only as of such date. You should assume that the information incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus is accurate as of the date of such incorporated document. Neither the mailing of this proxy statement/prospectus to Great Lakes stockholders nor the issuance by First Midwest of shares of First Midwest common stock in connection with the merger will create any implication to the contrary.

This document does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities, or the solicitation of a proxy, in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom it is unlawful to make any such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction.

See Where You Can Find More Information.

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**GREAT LAKES FINANCIAL RESOURCES, INC.
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON [•], 2014**

**To the Stockholders of
Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc.:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of stockholders of Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc., a Delaware corporation (Great Lakes), will be held at [•] located at [•], on [•], 2014 at [•] local time, for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following matters:

- Approval of the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated July 7, 2014, between First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. (First Midwest) and Great Lakes and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger of Great Lakes with and into First Midwest, as more fully described in this proxy statement/prospectus (which we refer to as the First Midwest merger proposal);
- Approval of one or more adjournments of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including adjournments to permit the further solicitation of proxies in favor of the First Midwest merger proposal (which we refer to as the Adjournment proposal); and
- Transaction of such other business as may properly come before the special meeting and any adjournments thereof.

We have fixed the close of business on [•], 2014, as the record date for determining those stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments of the special meeting. Only Great Lakes stockholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to notice of the special meeting and any adjournments of the special meeting, and only Great Lakes common stockholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments of the special meeting. Approval of the First Midwest merger proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock. As a result, abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as votes against approval of the First Midwest merger proposal. Approval of the Adjournment proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast at the special meeting.

If you wish to attend the special meeting and your shares are held in the name of a broker, trust, bank or other nominee, you must bring with you a proxy or letter from the broker, trustee, bank or nominee to confirm your beneficial ownership of the shares.

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Under Delaware law, Great Lakes stockholders who do not vote in favor of the First Midwest merger proposal will have the right to seek appraisal of the fair value of their shares of Great Lakes common stock as determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery if the merger of Great Lakes with and into First Midwest is completed, but only if they submit a written demand for such an appraisal prior to the vote on the adoption of the First Midwest merger proposal and comply with the other Delaware law procedures explained in the accompanying proxy statement/prospectus. Great Lakes stockholders who do not vote in favor of the First Midwest merger proposal and who submit a written demand for such an appraisal prior to the vote on the adoption of the First Midwest merger proposal and comply with the other Delaware law procedures will not receive the merger consideration.

Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting in person, please complete, date, sign and return the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed envelope to ensure that your shares of Great Lakes common stock will be represented at the special meeting if you are unable to attend. The enclosed envelope requires no postage if mailed in the United States. If you attend the special meeting and vote in person, your vote by ballot will revoke any proxy previously submitted.

Great Lakes board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, and FOR the adjournment proposal.

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By Order of the Board of Directors,

LOUIS J. HOEKSTRA
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Matteson, Illinois
[•], 2014

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SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this proxy statement/prospectus and may not contain all the information that is important to you. We urge you to read carefully this entire document, and the documents referenced herein, for a more complete understanding of the merger between First Midwest and Great Lakes. In addition, we incorporate by reference into this document important business and financial information about First Midwest. You may obtain the information incorporated by reference in this document without charge by following the instructions in the section entitled "Where You Can Find More Information." Each item in this summary includes a page reference directing you to a more complete description of that item.

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this proxy statement/prospectus to "First Midwest" refer to First Midwest Bancorp, Inc., a Delaware corporation; references to "First Midwest Bank" refer to First Midwest Bank, an Illinois-state chartered bank and wholly owned subsidiary of First Midwest; references to "Great Lakes" refer to Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc., a Delaware corporation; references to "Great Lakes Bank" refer to Great Lakes Bank, N.A., a national bank and wholly owned subsidiary of Great Lakes; references to the "merger agreement" refer to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated July 7, 2014, between First Midwest and Great Lakes; references to "we," "our" or "us" refer to First Midwest and Great Lakes.

We Propose a Merger of Great Lakes and First Midwest (Page ●)

We propose that Great Lakes merge with and into First Midwest, with First Midwest as the surviving corporation. As a result of the merger, the separate existence of Great Lakes will terminate. Following this merger, Great Lakes' wholly owned bank subsidiary, Great Lakes Bank, will merge with and into First Midwest's wholly owned bank subsidiary, First Midwest Bank (the "bank merger"). We expect to complete the merger and the bank merger in the fourth quarter of 2014, although delays may occur.

Special Meeting of Great Lakes (Page ●)

Great Lakes plans to hold its special meeting of stockholders on [●], 2014, at [●], local time, at [●], located at [●]. At the meeting you will be asked to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger of Great Lakes into First Midwest.

You can vote at the Great Lakes special meeting of stockholders if you owned Great Lakes common stock at the close of business on [●], 2014. As of that date, there were 155,100 shares of Great Lakes common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. You can cast one vote for each share of Great Lakes common stock that you owned on that date.

Great Lakes Board Recommends That You Vote FOR the Merger (Page ●)

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Great Lakes board of directors believes that the merger is in the best interests of Great Lakes and its stockholders and that the merger consideration is fair to Great Lakes stockholders, and unanimously recommends that Great Lakes stockholders vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger.

You Will Receive Cash and Shares of First Midwest Common Stock in the Merger (Page ●)

If the merger is completed, you will receive for each share of Great Lakes common stock you hold immediately prior to the completion of the merger \$112.50 in cash (without interest thereon) plus a number of fully paid and non-assessable shares of First Midwest common stock based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on the NASDAQ Stock Market (NASDAQ) from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the ten NASDAQ trading days ending on and including the third trading day prior to the consummation of the merger, as set forth below:

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- A. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$20.01, a number of shares of First Midwest common stock equal to \$287.50 divided by such per share volume weighted average price;
- B. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$19.18 but less than or equal to \$20.01, 14,369 shares of First Midwest common stock;
- C. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$17.51 but less than or equal to \$19.18, a number of shares of First Midwest common stock equal to \$275.63 divided by such per share volume weighted average price;
- D. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$15.85 but less than or equal to \$17.51, 15,737 shares of First Midwest common stock;
- E. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$14.18 but less than or equal to \$15.85, a number of shares of First Midwest common stock equal to \$249.38 divided by such per share volume weighted average price; and
- F. If such per share volume weighted average price is an amount less than or equal to \$14.18, 17,589 shares of First Midwest common stock.

Under certain circumstances, if the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock based on the per share volume weighted average price described above is less than \$330.00, the Great Lakes board of directors may elect to fix the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock at \$330.00, which may consist of (a) cash; (b) shares of First Midwest common stock; or (c) a mix of cash and shares of First Midwest common stock, to be determined by First Midwest in its sole discretion. For these purposes, the value of First Midwest common stock and as a result the number of shares of First Midwest common stock issued per share of Great Lakes common stock will be based upon such per share volume weighted average price.

The value of the merger consideration to be received by Great Lakes stockholders will fluctuate with the market price of First Midwest common stock and the number of shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock which will be determined by the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ for the ten trading days ending on and including the third trading day prior to the completion date of the merger. (Page •)

The following table shows the implied value of the merger consideration that would be received by Great Lakes stockholders in exchange for each share of Great Lakes common stock if the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the ten NASDAQ trading days ending on and including the third trading day prior to the consummation of the merger was \$17.17, which was such per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ for the ten trading days ending on and including July 7, 2014, the last trading day before the announcement of the merger, and if such volume weighted

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average price was \$[•], which was the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ for the ten trading days ending on and including [•], 2014, the latest practicable date before the printing of this proxy statement/prospectus.

	Closing Price of First Midwest Common Stock on NASDAQ	Number of Shares of First Midwest Common Stock Per Great Lakes Common Share(1)	Cash Consideration Per Great Lakes Common Share	Total Consideration Per Great Lakes Common Share (2)
July 7, 2014	\$17.43	15.737	\$112.50	\$386.80
[•], 2014	[•]	[•]	[•]	[•]

(1) Computed based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock for the ten trading days ending on and including the date specified.

(2) Computed as the sum of (i) the product of (a) the closing price of First Midwest Common Stock on NASDAQ for the date specified and (b) the number of shares of First Midwest common stock per Great Lakes common share and (ii) the cash consideration per Great Lakes common share.

Set forth below is a table showing a hypothetical range of ten-day per share volume weighted average prices for a share of First Midwest common stock and the corresponding consideration that a Great Lakes stockholder would receive in connection with the merger. The table does not reflect the fact that cash will be paid instead of fractional shares. The per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ for the ten trading days ending on and including July 7, 2014 (the last trading day before the merger was announced) was \$17.17. The per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ for the ten trading days ending on and including [•], 2014, the last practicable date before the printing of this proxy statement/prospectus, was \$[•]. However, the actual number of shares of First Midwest common stock you will receive in the merger will be computed based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock for the ten trading days ending on and including the third trading day immediately prior to the completion date of the merger using the formula contained in the merger agreement and cannot be determined until the close of trading on the third trading day immediately prior to the completion date of the merger. We intend to announce this amount when known.

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First Midwest Hypothetical 10-day Per Share Volume Weighted Average Price	Change in First Midwest Hypothetical 10-day Volume Weighted Average Price (1)	Number of Shares of First Midwest Common Stock Per Great Lakes Common Share	Cash Consideration Per Great Lakes Common Share	Total Consideration Per Great Lakes Common Share (2)
\$ 21.46	+ 25%	13.395	\$ 112.50	\$ 400.00
\$ 20.60	+ 20%	13.954	\$ 112.50	\$ 400.00
\$ 19.75	+ 15%	14.369	\$ 112.50	\$ 396.22
\$ 18.89	+ 10%	14.594	\$ 112.50	\$ 388.13
\$ 18.03	+ 5%	15.289	\$ 112.50	\$ 388.13
\$ 17.17	0%	15.737	\$ 112.50	\$ 382.70
\$ 16.31	- 5%	15.737	\$ 112.50	\$ 369.19
\$ 15.45	- 10%	16.138	\$ 112.50	\$ 361.88
\$ 14.59	- 15%	17.087	\$ 112.50	\$ 361.88
\$ 13.74	- 20%	17.589	\$ 112.50	\$ 354.10
\$ 12.88	- 25%	17.589	\$ 112.50	\$ 339.00

(1) Based on a reference price of \$17.17, which was the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock for the ten trading days ending on and including July 7, 2014 (the last trading day before the merger was announced).

(2) Computed as the sum of (i) the product of (a) the First Midwest hypothetical per share volume weighted average price and (b) the number of shares of First Midwest common stock per Great Lakes common share and (ii) the cash consideration per Great Lakes common share.

Tax Consequences of the Merger (Page •)

Subject to certain circumstances described below, in the opinion of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and Seyfarth Shaw LLP, for United States federal income tax purposes, the merger will be treated as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code).

Provided that the merger qualifies as a reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes, you may recognize gain, but you will not recognize loss, upon the exchange of your shares of Great Lakes common stock for shares of First Midwest common stock and cash. If the sum of the fair market value of the First Midwest common stock and the amount of cash you receive in exchange for your shares of Great Lakes common stock exceeds the adjusted basis of your shares of Great Lakes common stock, you will recognize taxable gain equal to the lesser of the amount of such excess or the amount of cash you receive in the exchange. Generally, any gain recognized upon the exchange will be capital gain, and any such capital gain will be long-term capital gain if you have established a holding period of more than one year for your shares of Great Lakes common stock. Depending on certain facts specific to you, any gain could instead be characterized as ordinary dividend income.

As described above, if the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock in connection with the merger is less than \$330.00, the Great Lakes board of directors may elect to fix the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock at \$330.00, which may consist of (a) cash; (b) shares of First Midwest common stock; or (c) a mix of cash and shares of First Midwest common stock, to be determined by First Midwest in its sole discretion. If the Great Lakes board of directors makes such election, it is possible that the amount of cash received by you in exchange for your shares of Great Lakes common stock will cause the merger to not meet the requirements of Section 368(a) of the Code. If such election is chosen and the merger fails to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code, then the exchange of shares of Great Lakes common stock pursuant to the merger will be a taxable transaction for United States federal income tax purposes. In the event such election is made, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of the merger in your particular situation.

For a complete description of the material United States federal income tax consequences of the transaction, including the consequences in the event of such an election, see "The Merger - Material Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger" on page [●]. You should consult your own tax advisor for a full understanding of the tax consequences of the merger to you. If you are a participant in the Great Lakes Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("Great Lakes ESOP"), please also refer to the ESOP Participant Voting Instruction Statement that will be

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provided to you by GreatBanc Trust Company, the Trustee of the Great Lakes ESOP (ESOP Participant Voting Instruction Statement), for a discussion of the tax consequences of the merger to you.

Prohibition on Great Lakes Dividends; First Midwest's Dividend Policy Will Continue After the Merger (Page •)

Great Lakes is generally prohibited from paying cash dividends to stockholders of its common stock prior to completion of the merger. If the merger has not closed by March 1, 2015, Great Lakes may pay a one-time cash dividend to stockholders of its common stock of \$2.00 per share, not to exceed \$310,200 in the aggregate. In the first quarter of 2014, Great Lakes declared an annual dividend of \$2.00 per share of Great Lakes common stock.

First Midwest expects to continue its common stock dividend policy after the merger, but this policy is subject to the determination of First Midwest's board of directors and may change at any time. In the second quarter of 2014, First Midwest declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.08 per share of First Midwest common stock. For comparison, Great Lakes stockholders would therefore receive a quarterly dividend following the merger equivalent to \$1.2590 per share of Great Lakes common stock, based on First Midwest's current quarterly dividend rate of \$0.08 per share and assuming for the purpose of this example that the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest's common stock on NASDAQ on the ten trading days ending on and including the third trading day preceding the completion of the merger is \$17.17, which was the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest's common stock for the ten trading days ending on and including July 7, 2014 (the last trading day prior to the announcement of the merger).

The payment of dividends by First Midwest or Great Lakes on their common stock in the future, either before or after the merger is completed, is subject to the determination of our respective boards of directors and depends on a variety of factors, including cash requirements, our financial condition and earnings, legal and regulatory considerations and other factors.

The Merger Will Be Accounted for as a Purchase (Page •)

The merger will be treated as a purchase by First Midwest of Great Lakes under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Great Lakes' Reasons for the Merger (Page •)

For a discussion of the factors considered by the Great Lakes board of directors in reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, see The Merger Great Lakes' Reasons for the Merger and Recommendations of the Board of Great Lakes.

Austin Associates, LLC Provided an Opinion to Great Lakes Board Stating that, as of July 7, 2014 and Based Upon and Subject to the Factors and Assumptions Set Forth in the Opinion, the Terms of the Merger Agreement Were Fair From a Financial Point of View to Great Lakes and Great Lakes Stockholders (Page •)

Great Lakes jointly engaged Austin Associates, LLC (Austin Associates) and Investment Bank Services (IBS), a registered broker-dealer, to provide financial advisory services in connection with the potential sale of Great Lakes. Austin Associates is an investment banking and consulting firm specializing in community bank mergers and acquisitions. Principals of Austin Associates investment banking team that assisted Great Lakes are also registered representatives of IBS. Great Lakes selected Austin Associates and IBS as its financial advisors on the basis of their experience and expertise in representing community banks in similar transactions and their familiarity with Great Lakes.

On June 30, 2014, the date the Great Lakes board of directors approved the merger, Austin Associates provided its oral opinion to Great Lakes board of directors that, as of that date and subject to a number of factors and assumptions, the terms of the merger agreement were fair from a financial point of view to Great Lakes and Great Lakes stockholders. This opinion was subsequently confirmed by Austin Associates in writing on July 7,

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2014. The full text of Austin Associates' written opinion is attached to this proxy statement/prospectus as *Appendix B*. We encourage you to read this opinion carefully and in its entirety. The Austin Associates opinion is not a recommendation as to how any Great Lakes stockholders should vote or act with respect to the merger.

Great Lakes, Austin Associates and IBS have entered into an agreement relating to the services to be provided by Austin Associates and IBS in connection with the merger. Great Lakes paid Austin Associates a cash fee of \$15,000 upon execution of their engagement letter. Great Lakes paid Austin Associates a cash fee of \$50,000 upon the issuance of the Austin Associates fairness opinion. Great Lakes has agreed to pay IBS a cash transaction fee of 1.25% of the transaction value with 20% paid at the signing of the definitive agreement and the balance payable at the closing of the merger. Great Lakes has also agreed to reimburse Austin Associates and IBS for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, and to indemnify Austin Associates and IBS against certain liabilities, including liabilities under securities laws.

Great Lakes' Directors and Executive Officers May Have Interests in the Merger that Differ from Your Interests (Page 9)

Some of Great Lakes' directors and executive officers have interests in the merger other than their interests as stockholders, including:

- Great Lakes entered into change of control agreements with Thomas S. Agler and Paul Van Zee on September 12, 2013 and July 1, 2013, respectively. Mr. Agler serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Great Lakes, and also serves as a director on the boards of directors of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank. Mr. Van Zee serves as Chief Financial Officer of Great Lakes Bank. These change of control agreements entitle Mr. Agler and Mr. Van Zee to payments upon the occurrence of certain specified change in control events, which include the consummation of the merger and the transactions contemplated thereby. Upon the occurrence of these specified change in control events, Mr. Agler is entitled to a single lump sum cash payment equivalent to 200% of his current annual base salary, which payment will equal \$470,500.00 and Mr. Van Zee is entitled to a single lump sum cash payment equivalent to 100% of his current annual base salary, which payment will equal \$135,000.00. Under the terms of his agreement with Great Lakes, Mr. Van Zee is also entitled to a severance payment equal to \$135,000.00 if his employment is terminated other than for cause or by reason of death or disability during the two years following the consummation of the merger and the transactions contemplated thereby.
- Great Lakes entered into a retirement and consulting agreement with Ronald T. Shropshire on December 19, 2013. Mr. Shropshire serves as President of Great Lakes Bank and also serves as a director on the boards of directors of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank. Under the terms of his retirement and consulting agreement, if Mr. Shropshire is terminated from his position as President of Great Lakes Bank following the completion of the merger at any time prior to December 31, 2014 other than for cause or by reason of death or disability, Mr. Shropshire is entitled to a lump sum payment equal to the sum of (i) \$150,000 and (ii) the product of (a) \$198,650.00 and (b) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days from the date of his termination until December 31, 2014, and the denominator of which is 377.
- Under the merger agreement, First Midwest has agreed to indemnify the directors and officers of Great Lakes against liabilities arising out of actions or omissions occurring at or before the completion of the merger.
- The merger agreement also provides that, subject to certain limitations, First Midwest will maintain directors' and officers' liability insurance for a period of six years after the merger is completed that provides at least the same coverage and amounts, and contains terms and

conditions no less advantageous, as that coverage currently provided by Great Lakes.

Great Lakes board of directors knew about these additional interests and considered them when they adopted the merger agreement and the merger.

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Great Lakes Stockholders Have Dissenters' Rights of Appraisal (Page •)

If you are a stockholder of Great Lakes, you may elect to dissent from the merger by following the procedures set forth in Section 262 of the Delaware General Corporations Law (the "DGCL"). For more information regarding your right to dissent from the merger, please read "The Merger Agreement - Dissenters' Rights of Appraisal of Great Lakes Stockholders." We have also attached a copy of the relevant provisions of Section 262 of the DGCL as *Appendix C* to this proxy statement/prospectus.

We Have Agreed When and How Great Lakes Can Consider Third-Party Acquisition Proposals (Page •)

We have agreed that Great Lakes will not initiate or solicit proposals from other parties regarding acquiring Great Lakes or its businesses. In addition, we have agreed that Great Lakes will not engage in negotiations with or provide confidential information to a third party regarding acquiring Great Lakes or its businesses. However, if Great Lakes receives an acquisition proposal from a third party, Great Lakes can participate in negotiations with and provide confidential information to the third party if, among other steps, Great Lakes' board of directors concludes in good faith that the proposal is superior to First Midwest's merger proposal. Great Lakes' receipt of a superior proposal or participation in such negotiations does not give Great Lakes the right to terminate the merger agreement.

Merger Approval Requires the Affirmative Vote of a Majority of Great Lakes Stockholders (Page •)

In order to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, the holders of a majority of Great Lakes' common shares outstanding as of [•], 2014 must vote in favor of those matters. As of that date, Great Lakes directors and executive officers and their affiliates held approximately 8% of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. All of the directors and certain executive officers of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank holding an aggregate 12,443 shares of Great Lakes common stock (or approximately 8% of the outstanding shares) as of the record date have signed voting agreements with First Midwest agreeing to vote for approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger.

Great Lakes is calling a special meeting of stockholders to consider and vote on the proposal to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger.

Certain Stockholders of Great Lakes Have Agreed to Vote Their Shares FOR the Merger (Page • and Appendix A, Annex 1-B)

As an inducement to and condition of First Midwest's willingness to enter into the merger agreement, directors and executive officers of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank who beneficially own in the aggregate approximately 8% of Great Lakes' outstanding common stock as of [•] entered into voting agreements, pursuant to which, among other things, they agreed to vote all of their shares of Great Lakes common stock in favor of the merger agreement, other matters required to be approved or adopted to effect the merger and any other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

We Must Meet Several Conditions to Complete the Merger (Page •)

Our obligations to complete the merger depend on a number of conditions being met. These include:

- the approval of the merger agreement and the merger by Great Lakes stockholders;
- the receipt of the required approvals of federal and state regulatory authorities;
- the listing on NASDAQ of the shares of First Midwest common stock to be issued in the merger;
- the absence of any government action or other legal restraint or prohibition that would prohibit the merger or make it illegal;
- the representations and warranties of the other party to the merger agreement being true and correct in all material respects (except for representations and warranties qualified by the words "material" or "Material Adverse Effect," which are required to be true in all respects), and the other party to the

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merger agreement having performed in all material respects all its obligations under the merger agreement;

- the receipt of legal opinions that, for United States federal income tax purposes, the merger will be treated as a reorganization and that both Great Lakes and First Midwest will be a party to that reorganization. These opinions will be based on customary assumptions and on factual representations made by First Midwest and Great Lakes and will be subject to various limitations;
- with regard to First Midwest's obligation (but not Great Lakes'), the receipt of a legal opinion from Great Lakes' outside counsel, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, as to certain corporate matters, including Great Lakes' due incorporation and legal standing, the legal status of Great Lakes' capital stock and the due authorization and execution of the merger agreement;
- with regard to Great Lakes' obligation (but not First Midwest's), the receipt of a legal opinion from First Midwest's general counsel as to certain corporate matters, including First Midwest's due incorporation and legal standing and the due authorization and issuance of First Midwest common stock in connection with the merger;
- with regard to First Midwest's obligation (but not Great Lakes'), the number of dissenting shares must not exceed 7.5% of Great Lakes common stock.
- with regard to First Midwest's obligation (but not Great Lakes'), Great Lakes' closing tangible equity, as defined in the merger agreement, must be greater than or equal to \$48,327,000;
- with regard to First Midwest's obligation (but not Great Lakes'), there must be no more than 155,100 shares of Great Lakes common stock outstanding; and
- with regard to First Midwest's obligation (but not Great Lakes'), the 30-day average balance of Great Lakes Bank's consolidated deposits must be no less than \$387,000,000 for the 30-day period ending on the day immediately prior to the closing date.

Where the law permits, either of First Midwest or Great Lakes could choose to waive a condition to its obligation to complete the merger even when that condition has not been satisfied. We cannot be certain when, or if, the conditions to the merger will be satisfied or waived, or that the merger will be completed. Although the merger agreement allows us to waive the tax opinion condition, we do not currently anticipate doing so.

We Must Obtain Regulatory Approvals to Complete the Merger (Page ●)

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The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the Federal Reserve) must approve the merger and related transactions before the merger can be completed, including the merger of Great Lakes Bank into First Midwest Bank. The merger of Great Lakes Bank into First Midwest Bank must also be approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (the IDFPFR), and notice must be given to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the OCC).

We May Terminate the Merger Agreement (Page •)

We can mutually agree at any time to terminate the merger agreement without completing the merger, even if Great Lakes stockholders have approved the merger agreement and the merger. Also, either of us can decide, without the consent of the other, to terminate the merger agreement in certain circumstances, including:

- if there is a final denial of a required regulatory approval;
- if the merger is not completed on or before July 7, 2015;

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- if there is a continuing breach of the merger agreement by the other party, after 60 days written notice to the breaching party, as long as that breach would allow the non-breaching party not to complete the merger; or
- if we are unable to agree on a purchase price adjustment arising out of a disagreement regarding certain environmental contamination or title insurance matters, as set forth in the merger agreement.

Also, First Midwest may terminate the merger agreement:

- if Great Lakes stockholders fail to approve the merger agreement, and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger;
- if Great Lakes board of directors fails to recommend approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, to its stockholders, or withdraws or materially and adversely modifies its recommendation;
- if Great Lakes board of directors recommends an acquisition proposal other than the merger, or if Great Lakes board of directors negotiates or authorizes negotiations with a third party regarding an acquisition proposal other than the merger and those negotiations continue for at least 10 business days;
- if any named fiduciary of the Great Lakes ESOP or the trustee of the Great Lakes Employee Stock Ownership Trust (ESOT) recommends a vote against, or an abstention with respect to, the approval of the merger agreement, and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, or votes against, or abstains with respect to, approval of any of the foregoing (subject to certain limitations) or fails to facilitate the pass-through voting of shares of Great Lakes common stock held by participants in the Great Lakes ESOP;
- if Great Lakes has breached its covenant not to solicit or encourage inquiries or proposals with respect to any acquisition proposal, in circumstances not permitted under the merger agreement; or
- if the number of dissenting shares exceeds 7.5% of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock.

Whether or not the merger is completed, we will each pay our own fees and expenses, except that we will each pay one-half of the costs and expenses that we incur in preparing, printing and mailing this proxy statement/prospectus and filing fees paid in connection with the registration statement and all applications for government approvals, except fees paid to counsel, financial advisors and accountants.

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The merger agreement also provides that Great Lakes must pay First Midwest a fee in certain situations. In particular, Great Lakes will pay First Midwest a fee of \$2,900,000 if the following occurs:

- Great Lakes' board of directors submits the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, to Great Lakes' stockholders without a recommendation for approval or with material and adverse conditions on such approval, or withdraws or materially and adversely modifies its recommendation;
- Great Lakes enters into an agreement to engage in a competing acquisition proposal with any person other than First Midwest or any of First Midwest's subsidiaries;
- Great Lakes authorizes, recommends or proposes (or publicly announces its intention to authorize, recommend or propose) an agreement to engage in a competing acquisition proposal with any such person or its board of directors recommends that Great Lakes stockholders approve or accept such competing acquisition proposal;

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- any person, other than First Midwest or its subsidiaries, acquires beneficial ownership or the right to acquire beneficial ownership of 25% or more of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock;
- Great Lakes fails to convene a stockholder meeting to approve the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, within 60 days of the effectiveness of this Registration Statement; or
- Great Lakes has breached its covenant not to solicit or encourage inquiries or proposals with respect to any acquisition proposal, in circumstances not permitted under the merger agreement, which covenant is described below under The Merger Agreement Acquisition Proposals by Third Parties.

In addition, Great Lakes will pay First Midwest a fee of \$1,500,000 if the following occurs:

- Any named fiduciary of the Great Lakes ESOP or the trustee of the Great Lakes ESOT recommends a vote against, or an abstention with respect to, the approval of the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, or votes against, or abstains with respect to, approval of any of the foregoing (subject to certain limitations) or fails to facilitate the pass-through voting of shares of Great Lakes common stock held by participants in the Great Lakes ESOP.

We May Amend or Waive Merger Agreement Provisions (Page •)

We may jointly amend the merger agreement, and each of us may waive our right to require the other party to follow particular provisions of the merger agreement.

First Midwest may also change the structure of the merger, as long as any change does not change the amount or type of consideration to be received by Great Lakes stockholders, does not adversely affect the timing of completion of the merger, does not adversely affect the tax consequences of the merger to Great Lakes stockholders and does not cause any of the conditions to complete the merger to be incapable of being satisfied.

The Rights of Great Lakes Stockholders Following the Merger Will be Different (Page •)

The rights of First Midwest's stockholders are governed by Delaware law and by First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated by-laws. The rights of Great Lakes stockholders are also governed by Delaware law, and by Great Lakes' amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws. Upon our completion of the merger, the rights of both stockholder groups will be governed by Delaware law and First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated by-laws.

Information About First Midwest and Great Lakes (Page •)

*First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.
One Pierce Place, Suite 1500
Itasca, Illinois 60143
(630) 875-7450*

First Midwest is a Delaware business corporation and bank holding company headquartered in the Chicago suburb of Itasca, Illinois with operations throughout the greater Chicago metropolitan area, including northwest Indiana, as well as central and western Illinois and eastern Iowa. First Midwest is one of the Chicago metropolitan area's largest independent bank holding companies and its principal subsidiary, First Midwest Bank, provides a broad range of commercial and retail banking and wealth management services to consumer, commercial and industrial, and public or governmental customers. At June 30, 2014, First Midwest had consolidated total assets of \$8.3 billion. First Midwest common stock trades on the NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol FMBI.

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Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc.
4600 West Lincoln Highway
Matteson, Illinois 60443
(708) 283-0400

Great Lakes is a bank holding company headquartered in Matteson, Illinois. Its primary business is operating its bank subsidiary, Great Lakes Bank, with eight locations serving the southern suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. The predecessor to Great Lakes Bank was founded in 1896 and since its founding, Great Lakes Bank has served local business and individuals, offering a full range of financial services. At June 30, 2014, Great Lakes Bank had more than \$583 million in assets, deposits of \$479 million and \$243 million in loans. Great Lakes shares are not registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and, accordingly, there is no active public market and a lack of liquidity for Great Lakes stock.

See [Information about First Midwest and Great Lakes](#) for more information.

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF FIRST MIDWEST**

You should read the selected consolidated financial data set forth below in conjunction with First Midwest Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the First Midwest Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. The financial data as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 is derived from First Midwest's audited financial statements. The financial data as of and for the 6 month-periods ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 is derived from First Midwest's unaudited financial statements incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus, which have been prepared on the same basis as First Midwest's audited financial statements. First Midwest's historical results may not be indicative of First Midwest's future performance. In addition, results for the six-month periods ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 may not be indicative of the results that may be expected for the full fiscal year.

	As of and for the 6 months ended June 30,		As of and for the years ended December 31,					
	2014	2013	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	
	(dollars in thousands, except per share information)							
Operating Results								
Net income (loss)	\$ 36,164	\$ 30,818	\$ 79,306	\$ (21,054)	\$ 36,563	\$ (9,684)	\$ (25,750)	
Net income (loss) applicable to common shares	35,709	30,387	78,199	(20,748)	25,437	(19,717)	(35,551)	
Per Common Share Data								
Basic earnings (loss) per common shares	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.41	\$ 1.06	\$ (0.28)	\$ 0.35	\$ (0.27)	\$ (0.71)	
Diluted earnings (loss) per common shares	0.48	0.41	1.06	(0.28)	0.35	(0.27)	(0.71)	
Common dividends declared	0.15	0.05	0.16	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	
Book value	13.81	12.98	13.34	12.57	12.93	12.40	13.66	
Market price	17.03	13.72	17.53	12.52	10.13	11.52	10.89	
Performance Ratios								
Return on average common equity	7.03%	6.42%	8.04%	(2.14)%	2.69%	(2.06)%	(4.84)%	
Return on average assets	0.87%	0.76%	0.96%	(0.26)%	0.45%	(0.12)%	(0.32)%	
Net interest margin tax-equivalent	3.63%	3.73%	3.68%	3.86%	4.04%	4.13%	3.72%	
Non-performing loans to total loans, excluding covered loans	1.20%	1.76%	1.14%	1.80%	3.86%	4.24%	4.77%	
Non-performing assets to total loans plus OREO, excluding covered loans and covered OREO	1.81%	2.64%	2.13%	2.68%	4.85%	5.25%	6.39%	
Balance Sheet Highlights								
Total assets	\$ 8,305,247	\$ 8,343,325	\$ 8,253,407	\$ 8,099,839	\$ 7,973,594	\$ 8,138,302	\$ 7,710,672	

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Total loans, including covered loans	5,948,324	5,459,426	5,714,360	5,387,570	5,348,615	5,472,289	5,349,565
Deposits	6,895,250	6,866,747	6,766,101	6,672,255	6,479,175	6,511,476	5,885,279
Senior and subordinated debt	190,996	214,843	190,932	214,779	252,153	137,744	137,735
Stockholders equity	1,039,438	974,653	1,001,442	940,893	962,587	1,112,045	941,521

Financial Ratios

Allowance for credit losses as a percent of loans, including covered loans	1.34%	1.78%	1.52%	1.91%	2.28%	2.65%	2.71%
Net loan charge-offs to average loans, excluding covered loans, annualized	0.51%	0.55%	0.48%	3.32%	1.84%	2.80%	3.08%
Total capital to risk-weighted assets	12.20%	12.10%	12.39%	11.90%	13.68%	16.27%	13.94%
Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets	10.97%	10.61%	10.91%	10.28%	11.61%	14.20%	11.88%
Tier 1 leverage to average assets	9.61%	8.77%	9.18%	8.40%	9.28%	11.21%	10.18%

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF GREAT LAKES**

You should read the selected consolidated financial data set forth below in conjunction with Great Lakes Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes included elsewhere in this proxy statement/prospectus. The financial data as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 is derived from Great Lakes audited financial statements. The financial data as of and for the 6 month-periods ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 is derived from Great Lakes unaudited financial statements, which have been prepared on the same basis as Great Lakes audited financial statements. Great Lakes historical results may not be indicative of Great Lakes future performance. In addition, results for the six-month periods ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 may not be indicative of the results that may be expected for the full fiscal year.

	As of and for the 6 months ended June 30,		As of and for the years ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
	(dollars in thousands, except per share information)						
Operating Results							
Net income	\$ 1,325	\$ 1,352	\$ 3,284	\$ 1,831	\$ 562	\$ 1,035	\$ 100
Per Common Share Data							
Basic and Diluted earnings							
per average common share	\$ 8.54	\$ 8.57	\$ 21.00	\$ 11.40	\$ 3.45	\$ 6.31	\$ 0.60
Common dividends declared	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.75
Book value	343.64	314.17	308.44	333.26	315.01	293.46	287.26
Performance Ratios							
Return on average common equity							
	5.10%	4.47%	6.50%	3.52%	1.13%	2.08%	0.21%
Return on average assets							
	0.45%	0.37%	0.54%	0.29%	0.09%	0.15%	0.01%
Net interest margin tax-equivalent							
	3.17%	3.06%	3.05%	3.12%	3.29%	3.40%	3.53%
Non-performing loans to total loans							
	3.96%	2.88%	4.32%	2.32%	4.39%	4.52%	3.30%
Non-performing assets to total loans plus OREO							
	5.96%	7.34%	6.65%	5.92%	6.42%	5.30%	3.66%
Balance Sheet Highlights							
Total assets	\$ 583,947	\$ 602,210	\$ 581,057	\$ 628,421	\$ 633,316	\$ 647,625	\$ 674,080
Total loans net	243,206	231,381	229,135	246,804	270,287	334,416	406,684
Deposits	478,583	486,808	479,606	499,737	500,864	504,653	523,668
Senior and subordinated debt	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Long-term debt	7,125	7,375	7,250	7,500	22,500	23,000	27,100
Stockholder equity	53,299	48,727	47,839	53,188	51,346	47,834	47,739
Financial Ratios							
Allowance for credit losses as a percent of loans							
	3.14%	3.45%	3.46%	3.42%	3.05%	2.54%	1.71%
Net loan charge-off to average loans, annualized							
	0.27%	0.38%	0.21%	0.14%	1.73%	1.79%	1.32%
Total capital to risk-weighted assets							
	18.94%	18.16%	19.02%	17.24%	15.73%	14.00%	12.16%
Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets							
	17.68%	16.90%	17.76%	15.98%	14.47%	12.74%	10.91%
	10.83%	9.93%	10.52%	9.66%	9.07%	8.85%	8.59%

Tier 1 leverage to average
assets

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RISK FACTORS

*In addition to the other information contained in or incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus, including the matters addressed under the heading **Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**, you should carefully consider the following risk factors in deciding how to vote on the proposals presented in this proxy statement/prospectus. You should also consider the other information in, and the other documents incorporated by reference into, this proxy statement/prospectus, including in particular the risk factors associated with First Midwest's business contained under the heading **Risk Factors** in First Midwest's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013. See **Where You Can Find More Information**.*

Because the market price of First Midwest common stock will fluctuate, Great Lakes stockholders cannot be certain of the market value of the merger consideration they will receive.

Upon completion of the merger, you will receive for each share of Great Lakes common stock you hold immediately prior to the completion of the merger \$112.50 in cash (without interest thereon) plus a number of fully paid and non-assessable shares of First Midwest common stock based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the ten trading days ending on and including the third trading day prior to the completion of the merger. This per share volume weighted average price may vary from the closing price of First Midwest common stock on the date we announced the merger, on the date that this proxy statement/prospectus is distributed to Great Lakes stockholders, on the date of the special meeting of Great Lakes stockholders and on the date that the merger is completed. Any change in the market price of First Midwest common stock prior to completion of the merger will affect the value of any shares of First Midwest common stock you receive as consideration in the merger. The market price of First Midwest common stock may fluctuate as a result of a variety of factors, including general market and economic conditions, changes in our respective businesses, operations and prospects, and regulatory considerations. Many of these factors are outside our control. Accordingly, at the time of the special meeting, you will not know or be able to calculate the exact number of shares, or the market price, of First Midwest common stock you will receive upon completion of the merger.

In addition, under certain circumstances, if the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock based on such per share volume weighted average price is less than \$330.00, the Great Lakes board of directors may elect to fix the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock at \$330.00, which may consist of (a) cash; (b) shares of First Midwest common stock; or (c) a mix of cash and shares of First Midwest common stock, to be determined by First Midwest in its sole discretion. For these purposes, the value of First Midwest common stock and as a result the number of shares of First Midwest common stock issued per share of Great Lakes common stock will be based upon such per share volume weighted average price. See **The Merger Agreement** **Merger Consideration**.

Great Lakes will be subject to business uncertainties and contractual restrictions while the merger is pending.

Uncertainty about the effect of the merger on employees and customers may have an adverse effect on Great Lakes and consequently on First Midwest. These uncertainties may impair Great Lakes' ability to attract, retain and motivate key personnel until the merger is consummated, and could cause customers and others that deal with Great Lakes to seek to change existing business relationships with Great Lakes. Retention of certain employees may be challenging during the pendency of the merger, as employees may experience uncertainty about their future roles with First Midwest. If key employees depart because of issues relating to the uncertainty and difficulty of integration or a desire not to remain with First Midwest, First Midwest's business following the merger could be harmed. In addition, the merger agreement restricts Great Lakes from making certain acquisitions and taking other specified actions without the consent of First Midwest, and generally requires Great Lakes to

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continue its operations in the ordinary course, until the merger occurs. These restrictions may prevent Great Lakes from pursuing attractive business opportunities that may arise prior to the completion of the merger. Please see the section entitled "The Merger Agreement - Conduct of Business Pending the Merger" for a description of the restrictive covenants to which Great Lakes is subject.

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Combining our two companies may be more difficult, costly or time-consuming than we currently expect, and we may fail to realize the anticipated benefits and cost savings of the merger.

First Midwest and Great Lakes have operated and, until the completion of the merger, will continue to operate, independently. The success of the merger, including anticipated benefits and cost savings, will depend, in part, on First Midwest's ability to successfully combine and integrate the Great Lakes business into its own in a manner that permits growth opportunities and does not materially disrupt existing customer relationships nor result in decreased revenues due to loss of customers. It is possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees, the disruption of either company's ongoing business or inconsistencies in standards, controls, procedures and policies that adversely affect our ability to maintain relationships with customers and employees. As with any merger of banking institutions, there also may be business disruptions that cause us to lose customers or cause customers to take their deposits out of our banks. The success of the combined company following the merger may depend in part on the ability of First Midwest to integrate the two businesses, business models and cultures. If First Midwest experiences difficulties in the integration process, including those listed above, First Midwest may fail to realize the anticipated benefits of the merger in a timely manner or at all. First Midwest's business or results of operations or the value of its common stock may be materially and adversely affected as a result.

The market price of First Midwest common stock after the merger may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting First Midwest common stock.

The businesses of First Midwest and Great Lakes differ in some respects and, accordingly, the results of operations of the combined company and the market price of First Midwest's shares of common stock after the merger may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the independent results of operations of each of First Midwest or Great Lakes. For a discussion of the business of First Midwest and of certain factors to consider in connection with the business of First Midwest, see the documents incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus and referred to under "Where You Can Find More Information," including in particular the section titled "Risk Factors" in First Midwest's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Regulatory approvals may not be received, may take longer than expected or may impose conditions that are not presently anticipated or that could have an adverse effect on the combined company following the merger.

Before the merger and the bank merger may be completed, First Midwest and Great Lakes must obtain approvals from the Federal Reserve and the IDFP. In addition, notice of the merger must be filed with the OCC. Other approvals, waivers or consents from regulators may also be required. In determining whether to grant these approvals the regulators consider a variety of factors, including the regulatory standing of each party and the factors described under "The Merger Regulatory Approvals Required for the Completion of the Merger." An adverse development in either party's regulatory standing or these factors could result in an inability to obtain approval or delay their receipt. These regulators may impose conditions on the completion of the merger or the bank merger or require changes to the terms of the merger or the bank merger. Such conditions or changes could have the effect of delaying or preventing completion of the merger or the bank merger or imposing additional costs on or limiting the revenues of the combined company following the merger and the bank merger, any of which might have an adverse effect on the combined company following the merger. See "The Merger Agreement Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger." Regulatory approvals could also be adversely impacted based on the status of any ongoing investigation of either party or its customers, including subpoenas to provide information or investigations, by a federal, state or local governmental agency. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to obtain all required regulatory approvals, the timing of those approvals or whether any conditions will be imposed.

Some Great Lakes directors and officers may have interests and arrangements that may have influenced their decisions to support or recommend that you approve the merger.

The interests of some of the directors and officers of Great Lakes may be different from those of Great Lakes stockholders generally, and directors and officers of Great Lakes may be participants in arrangements that are different from, or in addition to, those of Great Lakes stockholders. Great Lakes entered into change of control agreements with Thomas S. Agler and Paul Van Zee on September 12, 2013 and July 1, 2013, respectively. Mr. Agler serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Great Lakes, and also serves as a director on the boards of

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directors of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank. Mr. Van Zee serves as Chief Financial Officer of Great Lakes Bank. These change of control agreements entitle Mr. Agler and Mr. Van Zee to payments upon the occurrence of certain specified change in control events, which include the consummation of the merger and the transactions contemplated thereby. Upon the occurrence of these specified change in control events, Mr. Agler is entitled to a single lump sum cash payment equivalent to 200% of his current annual base salary, which payment will equal \$470,500.00 and Mr. Van Zee is entitled to a single lump sum cash payment equivalent to 100% of his current annual base salary, which payment will equal \$135,000.00. Under the terms of his agreement with Great Lakes, Mr. Van Zee is also entitled to a severance payment equal to \$135,000.00 if his employment is terminated other than for cause or by reason of death or disability during the two years following the consummation of the merger and the transactions contemplated thereby. Great Lakes also entered into a retirement and consulting agreement with Ronald T. Shropshire on December 19, 2013. Mr. Shropshire serves as President of Great Lakes Bank and also serves as a director on the boards of directors of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank. Under the terms of his retirement and consulting agreement, if Mr. Shropshire is terminated from his position as President of Great Lakes Bank following the completion of the merger at any time prior to December 31, 2014 other than for cause or by reason of death or disability, Mr. Shropshire is entitled to a lump sum payment equal to the sum of (i) \$150,000 and (ii) the product of (a) \$198,650.00 and (b) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days from the date of his termination until December 31, 2014, and the denominator of which is 377.

Additionally, upon completion of the merger, First Midwest has agreed that it will indemnify, defend and hold harmless the directors and officers of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank (when acting in such capacity) against all costs and liabilities arising out of actions or omissions occurring at or before the completion of the merger, and will maintain directors and officers liability insurance that provides at least the same coverage and amounts, and contains terms and conditions no less advantageous, as that coverage currently provided by Great Lakes, provided that the annual premium therefor is not in excess of 200% of the last annual premium paid prior to the date of the merger agreement.

These interests are described in more detail in the section of this proxy statement/prospectus entitled "The Merger - Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger."

The merger agreement limits Great Lakes' ability to pursue alternatives to the merger.

The merger agreement contains provisions that limit Great Lakes' ability to solicit, encourage or discuss competing third-party proposals to acquire all or a significant part of Great Lakes. These provisions, which include a \$2,900,000 termination fee, might discourage a potential competing acquiror that might have an interest in acquiring all or a significant part of Great Lakes from considering or proposing that acquisition even if it were prepared to pay consideration with a higher per share market price than that proposed in the Merger, or might result in a potential competing acquiror proposing to pay a lower per share price to acquire Great Lakes than it might otherwise have proposed to pay.

Termination of the merger agreement could negatively impact First Midwest or Great Lakes.

In the event the merger agreement is terminated, First Midwest's or Great Lakes' business may have been adversely impacted by the failure to pursue other beneficial opportunities due to the focus of management on the merger, and the market price of First Midwest common stock might decline to the extent that the current market price reflects a market assumption that the merger will be completed. If the merger agreement is terminated and Great Lakes' board of directors seeks another merger or business combination, Great Lakes stockholders cannot be certain that Great Lakes will be able to find a party willing to offer equivalent or more attractive consideration than the merger consideration provided in the merger. If the merger agreement is terminated under certain circumstances, Great Lakes may be required to pay First Midwest a termination fee of either \$2.9 million or \$1.5 million. See "The Merger Agreement - Termination of the Merger Agreement."

If the merger is not completed, First Midwest and Great Lakes will have incurred substantial expenses without realizing the expected benefits of the merger.

Each of First Midwest and Great Lakes has incurred and will incur substantial expenses in connection with the negotiation and completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, as well as the costs and

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expenses of filing, printing and mailing this proxy statement/prospectus and all filing and other fees paid to the SEC in connection with the merger. If the merger is not completed, First Midwest and Great Lakes would have to recognize these expenses without realizing the expected benefits of the merger.

Holders of Great Lakes common stock will have a reduced ownership and voting interest after the merger and will exercise less influence over management.

Great Lakes stockholders currently have the right to vote in the election of the board of directors of Great Lakes and on other matters affecting Great Lakes. Upon the completion of the merger, each Great Lakes stockholder who receives shares of First Midwest common stock will become a stockholder of First Midwest with a percentage ownership of First Midwest that is smaller than the stockholder's current percentage ownership of Great Lakes. Based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ for the ten trading days ending on and including [●], 2014, the latest practicable date before the printing of this proxy statement/prospectus, the former stockholders of Great Lakes as a group would receive shares in the merger constituting approximately between [●]% of the outstanding shares of First Midwest common stock immediately after the merger. Because of this, Great Lakes stockholders may have less influence on the management and policies of First Midwest than they now have on the management and policies of Great Lakes.

The opinion of Great Lakes' financial advisor will not reflect changes in circumstances between the signing of the merger agreement and the completion of the merger.

Great Lakes has not obtained an updated opinion from Austin Associates, its financial advisor, as of the date of this proxy statement/prospectus. Changes in the operations and prospects of First Midwest or Great Lakes, general market and economic conditions and other factors that may be beyond the control of First Midwest or Great Lakes, and on which Austin Associates' opinion was based, may significantly alter the value of First Midwest or Great Lakes, the prices of the shares of First Midwest common stock by the time the merger is completed or the future price at which First Midwest's common stock trades. Austin Associates' opinion does not speak as of the time the merger will be completed or as of any date other than the date of such opinion. The opinion will not address the fairness of the merger consideration from a financial point of view at the time a Great Lakes stockholder votes or at the time the merger is completed. However, Great Lakes' Board of Directors' recommendation that Great Lakes stockholders vote FOR adoption of the merger agreement is made as of the date of this proxy statement/prospectus. For a description of the opinion that Great Lakes received from Austin Associates, please refer to The Merger Opinion of Great Lakes' Financial Advisor.

The shares of First Midwest common stock you will receive as a result of the merger will have different rights from your shares of Great Lakes common stock.

The rights associated with Great Lakes common stock are different from the rights associated with First Midwest common stock. See the section of this proxy statement/prospectus entitled Comparison of Stockholder Rights for a discussion of the different rights associated with First Midwest common stock.

Under certain circumstances, the merger may fail to meet the requirements of Section 368(a) of the Code.

Under certain circumstances, if the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock is less than \$330.00 as otherwise described herein, the Great Lakes board of directors may elect to fix the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock at \$330.00, which may consist of (a) cash; (b) shares of First Midwest common stock; or (c) a mix of cash and shares of First Midwest common stock, to be determined by First Midwest in its sole discretion. If the Great Lakes board of directors makes such election, it is possible that the amount of cash received by U.S. holders (as defined below) of Great Lakes common stock in exchange for their shares of Great Lakes common stock will cause the merger to not meet the requirements of Section 368(a) of the Code. If such election is chosen and the merger fails to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code, then the exchange of shares of Great Lakes common stock pursuant to the merger will be a taxable transaction for United States federal income tax purposes. In the event such election is made, U.S. holders of Great Lakes common stock should consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of the merger in their particular situation. See [The Merger Material Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger](#) for additional information.

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First Midwest will be subject to heightened regulatory requirements if it exceeds \$10 billion in assets.

At June 30, 2014, and giving effect to First Midwest Bank's recent acquisition of the Chicago banking operations of Popular Community Bank, First Midwest and First Midwest Bank each had approximately \$9.0 billion in total consolidated assets. Each of First Midwest and First Midwest Bank may exceed \$10 billion in total consolidated assets in the future if they continue to grow. Any additional acquisitions could significantly accelerate the time when First Midwest and First Midwest Bank exceed this threshold.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act) and its implementing regulations impose various additional requirements on bank holding companies with \$10 billion or more in total assets, including compliance with portions of the Federal Reserve's enhanced prudential oversight requirements and annual stress testing requirements. In addition, banks with \$10 billion or more in total assets are primarily examined by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) with respect to various federal consumer financial protection laws and regulations. As a relatively new agency with evolving regulations and practices, there is uncertainty as to how the CFPB's examination and regulatory authority might impact First Midwest and First Midwest Bank's business.

Compliance with these requirements may require First Midwest to hire additional compliance or other personnel, design and implement additional internal controls, or incur other significant expenses, any of which could have a material adverse effect on First Midwest's business, financial condition or results of operations. Compliance with the annual stress testing requirements, part of which must be publicly disclosed, may also be misinterpreted by the market generally or First Midwest's customers and, as a result, may adversely affect First Midwest's stock price or First Midwest's ability to retain its customers or effectively compete for new business opportunities. To ensure compliance with these heightened requirements when effective, First Midwest's regulators may require it to fully comply with these requirements or take actions to prepare for compliance even before First Midwest's or First Midwest Bank's total assets equal or exceed \$10 billion. As a result, First Midwest may incur compliance-related costs before it might otherwise be required, including if First Midwest does not continue to grow at the rate it expects or at all. First Midwest's regulators may also consider its preparation for compliance with these regulatory requirements when examining its operations generally or considering any request for regulatory approval First Midwest may make, even requests for approvals on unrelated matters.

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GREAT LAKES SPECIAL MEETING

This section contains information from Great Lakes for Great Lakes stockholders about the special meeting Great Lakes has called to consider and approve the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger. We are mailing this proxy statement/prospectus to you, as a Great Lakes stockholder, on or about [•], 2014. Together with this proxy statement/prospectus, we are also sending to you a notice of the Great Lakes special meeting and a form of proxy card that the Great Lakes board of directors is soliciting for use at the special meeting of Great Lakes stockholders and at any adjournments of the meeting.

This proxy statement/prospectus is also being furnished by First Midwest to Great Lakes stockholders as a prospectus in connection with the issuance of shares of First Midwest common stock upon consummation of the merger.

Date, Time and Place

The special meeting of Great Lakes stockholders will be held on [•], 2014, at [•] local time, at [•], located at [•].

Matters To Be Considered

At the special meeting, Great Lakes stockholders as of the record date will be asked to consider and vote on the following proposals:

- To approve the merger agreement, pursuant to which Great Lakes will merge with and into First Midwest, with First Midwest as the surviving entity of the merger, and to approve the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger.
- To approve one or more adjournments of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, including adjournments to permit further solicitation of proxies in favor of approving the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger (which we refer to as the Adjournment proposal).
- To act upon such other business as may properly come before the special meeting and any adjournments thereof.

Recommendation of Great Lakes Board

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The Great Lakes board of directors believes that the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, are in the best interests of Great Lakes and its stockholders, has unanimously approved and adopted the merger agreement, and unanimously recommends that Great Lakes stockholders vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, and FOR the Adjournment proposal. See The Merger Great Lakes Reasons for the Merger and Recommendations of the Board of Great Lakes for a more detailed discussion of the Great Lakes board of directors recommendation with regard to the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger.

Record Date and Quorum

The Great Lakes board of directors has fixed the close of business on [●], 2014 as the record date for determining the Great Lakes stockholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the special meeting. Great Lakes stockholders are entitled to one vote on each matter considered and voted on at the special meeting for each share of Great Lakes common stock held on record at the close of business on the record date. Only Great Lakes stockholders of record as of the record date are entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting. As of the record date, 155,100 shares of Great Lakes common stock were issued and outstanding and held by approximately [●] record holders. The presence at the special meeting, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All shares of Great Lakes common stock present in person or represented by proxy, including abstentions, will be treated as present for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for all matters voted on at the Great Lakes special meeting but shares represented by a proxy from a broker, bank or

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nominee indicating that such person has not received instructions from the beneficial owner or other person entitled to vote the shares, which we refer to as broker non-votes, will not be counted as shares present.

Vote Required; Treatment of Abstentions and Failure to Vote

Approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, requires the affirmative vote of Great Lakes stockholders representing a majority of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock as of the record date. The merger agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated thereby will not require the approval of the holders of First Midwest common stock under the DGCL or applicable NASDAQ rules. If you fail to submit a proxy card or vote in person at the Great Lakes special meeting, mark

ABSTAIN on your proxy card or fail to instruct your bank or broker with respect to the proposal to approve the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, it will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger.

Approval of the Adjournment proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast at the special meeting. If you mark ABSTAIN with respect to the Adjournment proposal it will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the Adjournment proposal. If you fail to submit a proxy card or vote in person at the Great Lakes special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the Adjournment proposal, it will have no effect on such proposal.

Shares Held by Directors and Officers

As of the record date, Great Lakes directors and executive officers and their affiliates held approximately 8% of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting. All of the directors and certain executive officers of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank holding an aggregate 12,443 shares of Great Lakes common stock (or approximately 8% of the outstanding shares) as of the record date have signed voting agreements with First Midwest agreeing to vote for approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger.

As of the record date, First Midwest held no shares of Great Lakes common stock (other than shares held as fiduciary, custodian or agent as described below) and none of its directors and executive officers or their affiliates held any shares of Great Lakes common stock. See The Merger Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger. As of the record date, subsidiaries of First Midwest, as fiduciaries, custodians or agents, held a total of approximately [●] shares of Great Lakes common stock, representing approximately [●]% of the shares entitled to vote at the Great Lakes special meeting, and maintained sole or shared voting power over approximately [●] of these shares.

Participants in the Great Lakes ESOP

As of the record date, participants in the Great Lakes ESOP held approximately [●]% of the shares entitled to vote at the Great Lakes special meeting. Participants in the Great Lakes ESOP have the right to direct the voting of Great Lakes common stock held in their plan accounts but do not have the right to vote those shares personally at the special meeting. Great Lakes ESOP participants are also receiving an ESOP

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Participant Voting Instruction Statement from GreatBanc Trust Company, the ESOP Trustee, which will include a copy of this proxy statement/prospectus and a confidential voting card (Confidential Voting Card) which will direct the ESOP Trustee how to vote the shares of Great Lakes common stock allocated to such participant s ESOP account. If you are a Great Lakes ESOP participant, you will need to return the Confidential Voting Card relating to the shares held in your plan account as described in the ESOP Participant Voting Instruction Statement, in addition to voting any other shares of Great Lakes common stock that you hold directly. Each participant s Confidential Voting Card will be kept strictly confidential and neither Great Lakes nor First Midwest will have access to individual Confidential Voting Cards even after the matters to be voted on have been decided.

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Solicitation of Proxies; Payment of Solicitation Expenses

Proxies are being solicited by the Great Lakes board of directors from Great Lakes stockholders. Shares of Great Lakes common stock represented by properly executed proxies, and that have not been revoked, will be voted in accordance with the instructions indicated on the proxies. If no instructions are indicated, such proxies will be voted FOR approval of the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, FOR the Adjournment proposal, and in the discretion of the individuals named as proxies as to any other matter that may come before the special meeting.

First Midwest and Great Lakes have agreed to each pay for one-half of the costs and expenses (excluding the fees and disbursements of counsel, financial advisors and accountants) of copying, printing and distributing this proxy statement/prospectus and all listing, filing or registration fees, including fees paid for filing the registration statement of which this proxy statement/prospectus is a part with the SEC and any other fees paid for filings with governmental authorities. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by mail, solicitation may be made by certain directors, officers or employees of Great Lakes or its affiliates telephonically, electronically or by other means of communication. Directors, officers and employees will receive no additional compensation for such solicitation. Great Lakes has also hired Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. to assist in the distribution, collection and tabulation of proxies for the merger and the special meeting. Great Lakes will pay Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. a fee of approximately \$10,000 for its services. Great Lakes will reimburse brokers and other nominees for costs incurred by them in mailing proxy materials to beneficial owners in accordance with applicable rules.

Voting via Telephone, Internet or Mail

You have three ways you may vote your proxy:

- *Option 1 Vote by Telephone:*

Call toll free [•] before midnight (EST) on [•], 2014 and follow the instructions on the enclosed proxy card.

- *Option 2 Vote on the Internet:*

Access the proxy form at [www.\[•\].com](http://www.[•].com) before midnight (EST) on [•], 2014. Follow the instructions for Internet voting found there and on the enclosed proxy card. If you vote via the Internet, please be advised that there may be costs involved, including possibly access charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies. You will have to bear these costs.

If your shares are registered in the name of a brokerage, bank or other nominee, you may not be able to use telephone and Internet voting procedures. Please refer to the voting materials you receive, or contact your broker, bank or other nominee, to determine your options.

- *Option 3 Mail your Proxy Card:*

If you do not wish to vote by telephone or the Internet, please complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card as described under Solicitation of Proxies.

In order to be effective, proxy instructions must be received before the times indicated above to allow for processing the results.

The voting procedures used by Great Lakes proxy service, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., are designed to properly authenticate stockholders' identities and to accurately record and count their proxies.

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Revocability of Proxies and Changes to a Great Lakes Stockholder's Vote

A Great Lakes stockholder who has given a proxy may revoke it at any time before its exercise at the special meeting by (i) giving a written notice of revocation to Louis J. Hoekstra, Chairman of the Board of Great Lakes, (ii) attending the special meeting in person and voting by ballot at the special meeting, or (iii) by properly submitting to Great Lakes a duly executed proxy bearing a later date. All written notices of revocation and other communications with respect to revocation of proxies should be addressed to Great Lakes as follows: 4600 West Lincoln Highway, Matteson, Illinois 60443, Attention: Louis J. Hoekstra, Chairman of the Board.

Attending the Meeting

All Great Lakes stockholders, including stockholders of record and stockholders who hold their shares through banks, brokers, nominees, the Great Lakes ESOP or any other holder of record, are invited to attend the Great Lakes special meeting. Stockholders of record can vote in person at the special meeting. If you are not a stockholder of record, you must obtain a proxy executed in your favor from the record holder of your shares, such as a broker, bank or other nominee, to be able to vote in person at the special meeting. If you are a participant in the Great Lakes ESOP, you cannot vote your shares in person at the special meeting, rather you will direct the ESOP Trustee on how to vote your shares and if you decide to attend the special meeting, you will not be permitted to participate. See Participants in the Great Lakes ESOP above. If you plan to attend the special meeting, you must hold your shares in your own name or have a letter from the record holder of your shares confirming your ownership. In addition, you must bring a form of personal photo identification with you in order to be admitted. Great Lakes reserves the right to refuse admittance to anyone without proper proof of share ownership and without proper photo identification.

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THE MERGER

The following discussion describes certain material information about the merger. We urge you to read carefully this entire document, including the merger agreement and the financial advisor opinion attached as Appendices A and B, respectively, to this proxy statement/prospectus, for a more complete understanding of the merger.

Great Lakes' board of directors has unanimously adopted and approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger. The merger agreement provides for combining our companies through the merger of Great Lakes with and into First Midwest, with First Midwest as the surviving corporation. As a result, the separate existence of Great Lakes will terminate. Following the merger at a time yet to be determined, Great Lakes Bank, Great Lakes' wholly owned bank subsidiary, will merge with and into First Midwest Bank, First Midwest's wholly owned bank subsidiary. We expect to complete the mergers in the fourth quarter of 2014, although delays may occur.

Upon completion of the merger, Great Lakes stockholders will receive for each share of Great Lakes common stock that they own immediately prior to the completion of the merger \$112.50 in cash, without interest, plus a number of fully paid and non-assessable shares of First Midwest common stock based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ over a ten day trading period ending on and including the third day prior to the completion of the merger. If the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest's common stock during this ten trading day period would cause the total consideration per share of Great Lakes common stock to equal less than \$330.00 (valuing the First Midwest common stock based on such per share volume weighted average price), the Great Lakes board of directors can elect to fix the consideration to be received by Great Lakes stockholders at \$330.00 per share, provided that First Midwest will then have the right to set the merger consideration as all stock, all cash or a mix of stock and cash. If the Great Lakes board of directors makes such an election and the amount of cash included as part of the merger consideration would cause the merger to not meet the requirements of Section 368(a) of the Code, the merger will be restructured such that (i) a newly formed subsidiary of First Midwest will be merged with and into Great Lakes, with Great Lakes as the surviving corporation, and (ii) following, and as part of the same plan with such interim merger, Great Lakes will be merged with and into First Midwest, with First Midwest as the surviving corporation.

Shares of First Midwest common stock issued and outstanding at the completion of the merger will remain outstanding and those stock certificates will be unaffected by the merger. First Midwest's common stock will continue to trade on NASDAQ following the merger under the First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. name with the symbol FMBI.

Please see *The Merger Agreement* for additional and more detailed information regarding the legal documents that govern the merger, including information about the conditions to the merger and the provisions for terminating or amending the merger agreement.

Background of the Merger

Over the last several years, the Great Lakes board of directors has evaluated the strategic alternatives available to the company. The discussions included the challenges facing Great Lakes as an independent institution. On several occasions, the board of directors discussed these challenges and alternatives, the merger market in general, and the Chicago merger market with Austin Associates.

Management of Great Lakes and representatives of Austin Associates held casual conversations with other banking companies during 2013 and early 2014. First Midwest and Great Lakes conceptually discussed a merger transaction in 2013 but nothing materialized. In late 2013, the Great Lakes board of directors determined not to pursue the sale of the company and was moving forward with interviews for a potential successor bank president with the intention of remaining an independent community bank for the foreseeable future. From late 2013 until March 2014, several prospective candidates for the Great Lakes Bank president position were interviewed.

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In March 2014, First Midwest contacted Austin Associates and asked if Great Lakes would entertain a merger proposal. First Midwest had verbally indicated that the offer would approximate 140% of Great Lakes' year-end 2013 tangible book value per share. In view of the substantial premium suggested by this communication, the Great Lakes board of directors believed it was appropriate to allow First Midwest to make a formal proposal. First Midwest submitted its non-binding preliminary indication of interest to Great Lakes on March 25, 2014. The general terms of the offer outlined a combination of stock and cash at \$375 per share. After receiving the offer, the Great Lakes board of directors met to consider the proposal on March 28, 2014. A representative of Austin Associates attended the meeting and presented a preliminary analysis of the offer. At that meeting, the Great Lakes board of directors determined it was in the best interest of the Great Lakes stockholders to proceed with further discussions with First Midwest. On March 31, 2014, Great Lakes hired Austin Associates as its financial advisor for the potential merger transaction. In this engagement, Austin Associates was involved in evaluating and negotiating the offer and issuing a fairness opinion.

On April 4, 2014, First Midwest and Great Lakes entered into a confidentiality and exclusivity agreement. This allowed First Midwest to conduct its due diligence during the months of April, May and June 2014. Throughout the due diligence process, Austin Associates remained in contact with First Midwest to assist in the due diligence process, including by providing requested information and by participating in the negotiation of the terms of the merger agreement.

On May 8, 2014, Great Lakes and Seyfarth Shaw LLP (Seyfarth Shaw), Great Lakes outside counsel, received an initial draft of the merger agreement from Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (Sullivan & Cromwell), First Midwest's outside counsel. From that time until July 7, 2014, First Midwest continued its due diligence process and Great Lakes, Austin Associates and Seyfarth Shaw negotiated the terms of the merger agreement and related documents with First Midwest, Sullivan & Cromwell and Sandler O'Neill and Partners, L.P., (Sandler O'Neill), First Midwest's financial advisor.

On June 5, 2014, members of the senior management of First Midwest and Great Lakes, along with representatives of Austin Associates and Sandler O'Neill, met at First Midwest's headquarters in order for First Midwest to conduct interviews with members of Great Lakes' management, and to allow First Midwest to hold discussions with Austin Associates regarding interim financial results and analyst earnings expectations for 2014 and 2015.

The boards of directors of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank held a joint meeting on June 26, 2014. Representatives of Seyfarth Shaw and Austin Associates reviewed with the boards of directors the process leading to the proposed transaction and the course of negotiations with First Midwest. Representatives of Seyfarth Shaw reviewed in detail with the boards of directors the terms of the then current draft of the merger agreement including the scope of the representations and warranties and the fact that there will be no post-merger escrow or indemnification period, the nature of Great Lakes' operating covenants prior to closing, the proposed closing conditions and termination provisions, including an explanation regarding the break-up fee and no shop provisions. Austin Associates provided to the boards of directors a financial analysis of the proposed transactions with First Midwest and reviewed in detail with the boards the terms of the merger consideration, including a discussion of the floor and cap to the exchange ratio. At that meeting, Austin Associates provided its oral opinion that the financial terms of the Agreement were fair to Great Lakes and its stockholders from a financial point of view. That opinion was subsequently provided in writing on July 7, 2014. The joint boards engaged in a long discussion among themselves and with Great Lakes' advisors regarding the proposed draft of the merger agreement, including the final business terms of the transaction.

After the conclusion of the presentations and discussions at the June 26 meeting, the joint boards of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank recessed until June 30, 2014 so that all board members would have sufficient time to reflect on the matters presented to them and to formulate any additional questions that they might have of Great Lakes' legal and financial advisors prior to voting to approve the merger agreement. The boards reconvened on June 30, whereby the Great Lakes board of directors unanimously approved the merger agreement, the merger and related documents, adopted resolutions recommending that Great Lakes stockholders approve the merger agreement and the merger, and authorized the

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Great Lakes officers to execute the merger agreement on behalf of Great Lakes in substantially the form reviewed by the board subject to such changes agreed to be the officers of Great Lakes. On

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the same day, the Great Lakes Bank board of directors unanimously approved the merger of the bank with and into First Midwest Bank and recommended to its sole stockholder, Great Lakes, that it approve the merger.

On July 7, 2014, the merger agreement and related documents were finalized and executed by Great Lakes and First Midwest. First Midwest issued a press release the morning of July 8, 2014 announcing the execution of the merger agreement.

Great Lakes Reasons for the Merger and Recommendations of the Board of Great Lakes

The Great Lakes board of directors has determined that the merger with First Midwest under the merger agreement is fair to, and in the best interests of, Great Lakes and its stockholders. In reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement and to recommend adoption of the merger agreement to its stockholders, the Great Lakes board of directors consulted with management, as well as its financial and legal advisors, and considered a number of factors, including the following:

- the challenges facing Great Lakes as an independent institution and the Great Lakes board of directors' belief that combining with a larger financial institution will benefit stockholders and customers in that First Midwest is better equipped to respond to economic and industry developments and should be better positioned to develop and build on its position in existing markets;
- the substantial premium that the merger consideration to be paid by First Midwest represented as compared to the Great Lakes stock price immediately prior to the execution of the merger agreement;
- the merger should provide Great Lakes stockholders with immediate liquidity with respect to the shares of Great Lakes common stock exchanged for cash;
- the merger will provide Great Lakes stockholders with potentially greater liquidity with respect to the portion of their shares of Great Lakes to be exchanged for First Midwest common shares in the merger because First Midwest is a larger corporation and has, historically, had a more active trading market for its shares;
- the long-term interests of Great Lakes and its stockholders, as well as the long-term interests of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank employees, depositors, borrowers, and the communities served by Great Lakes Bank;
- the increased level of future cash dividends anticipated to be received by stockholders of Great Lakes;

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- the structure of the merger and the terms of the merger agreement, including the fact that the exchange of First Midwest common shares for shares of Great Lakes common stock in the merger should recognize no taxable gain or loss;
- the financial analyses presented by Austin Associates to the Great Lakes board of directors, and the fairness opinion dated as of July 7, 2014, delivered to Great Lakes by Austin Associates to the effect that, as of that date, and subject to and based on the qualifications and assumptions set forth in the opinion, the consideration to be received by the holders of shares of Great Lakes common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such stockholders;
- Great Lakes directors belief that First Midwest has the capital strength, favorable asset quality and access to secondary market lending outlets to potentially increase credit availability and improve competition in markets currently served by Great Lakes Bank; and
- First Midwest is anticipated to expand product and service availability to customers of Great Lakes Bank.

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The Great Lakes board of directors also considered a variety of risks and other potentially negative factors in deliberations concerning the merger, including:

- the costs associated with the negotiation process, the costs associated with the regulatory approval process, the costs associated with the special meeting of stockholders, and other transaction-related costs;
- the risk of a decline in the market price of First Midwest shares prior to and after the consummation of the merger;
- acceptance of the change by the communities served by Great Lakes;
- the loss of Great Lakes independence as a separate financial institution and the potential impact to Great Lakes employees; and
- the size of the break-up fee in relation to the overall deal size and Great Lakes ability to consider unsolicited offers from third parties.

The foregoing discussion of the factors considered by the Great Lakes board of directors is not intended to be exhaustive, but, rather, includes the material factors considered by the Great Lakes board of directors. In reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement, the Great Lakes board of directors did not quantify or assign any relative weights to the factors considered, and individual directors may have given different weights to different factors.

After considering the foregoing and other relevant factors and risks, and their overall impact on the stockholders and other constituencies of Great Lakes, the Great Lakes board of directors concluded that the anticipated benefits of the merger outweighed the anticipated risks of the transaction. Accordingly, all members of the Great Lakes board of directors approved the merger agreement and the merger, and the board of directors unanimously recommends that Great Lakes stockholders vote FOR the proposal to approve the merger agreement and the merger.

Opinion of Great Lakes Financial Advisor

In March 2014, Great Lakes jointly engaged Austin Associates and IBS to provide financial advisory services in connection with the potential merger of Great Lakes. Austin Associates is an investment banking and consulting firm specializing in community bank mergers and acquisitions. Principals of Austin Associates investment banking team that assisted Great Lakes are also registered representatives of IBS. Great Lakes selected Austin Associates and IBS as its financial advisors on the basis of their experience and expertise in representing community banks in similar transactions and their familiarity with Great Lakes.

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Austin Associates acted as financial advisor to Great Lakes in connection with the proposed merger with First Midwest and participated in the negotiations leading to the merger agreement. As part of its engagement, Austin Associates assessed the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration being received by the stockholders of Great Lakes. Austin Associates attended the June 26, 2014 meeting at which Great Lakes board of directors considered the merger agreement. At that meeting, Austin Associates presented its financial analysis of the transaction and delivered to the board of directors its oral opinion, subsequently confirmed in writing on July 7, 2014, that the terms of the merger agreement were fair to Great Lakes, and its stockholders, from a financial point of view. Austin Associates also attended the board meeting reconvened on June 30, 2014 at which Great Lakes board of directors approved the merger agreement. The full text of Austin Associates opinion is attached as is attached to this proxy statement/prospectus as *Appendix B*. The description of the opinion set forth below is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the opinion.

You should consider the following when reading the discussion of Austin Associates opinion in this proxy statement/prospectus:

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- The opinion letter details the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered, and qualifications and limitations of the review undertaken by Austin Associates in connection with its opinion, and should be read in its entirety;
- Austin Associates expressed no opinion as to the price at which Great Lakes or First Midwest's common stock would actually be trading at any given time;
- Austin Associates' opinion does not address the relative merits of the merger and the other business strategies considered by Great Lakes board of directors, nor does it address the board of directors' decision to proceed with the merger; and
- Austin Associates' opinion rendered in connection with the merger does not constitute a recommendation to any Great Lakes stockholder as to how he or she should vote at the special meeting.

The preparation of a fairness opinion involves various determinations as to the most appropriate methods of financial analysis and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances. It is, therefore, not readily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. In performing its analyses, Austin Associates made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, business and economic conditions, and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of Great Lakes and First Midwest and may not be realized. Any estimates contained in Austin Associates' analyses are not necessarily predictive of future results or values, and may be significantly more or less favorable than the estimates. Estimates of values of companies do not purport to be appraisals or necessarily reflect the prices at which the companies or their securities may actually be sold. Unless specifically noted, none of the analyses performed by Austin Associates was assigned a greater significance by Austin Associates than any other. The relative importance or weight given to these analyses is not affected by the order of the analyses or the corresponding results. The summaries of financial analyses include information presented in tabular format. The tables should be read together with the text of those summaries.

With respect to the internal projections and estimates for Great Lakes, and the expected costs, cost savings and purchase accounting adjustments associated with the transaction, Great Lakes' management and advisors confirmed to Austin Associates that they reflected the best currently available estimates and judgments of management of the future financial performance of Great Lakes, and Austin Associates assumed that such performance would be achieved. Austin Associates has expressed no opinion as to such financial projections and estimates or the assumptions on which they are based. Austin Associates has also assumed that there has been no material change in Great Lakes or First Midwest's assets, financial condition, results of operations, business or prospects since the date of the most recent financial statements made available to it. Austin Associates has assumed in all respects material to its analysis that Great Lakes and First Midwest will remain as going concerns for all periods relevant to its analyses, that all of the representations and warranties contained in the merger agreement are true and correct, that each party to the merger agreement will perform all of the covenants required to be performed by such party under the merger agreement, and that the conditions precedent in the merger agreement are not waived. Finally, Austin Associates has relied upon the advice Great Lakes has received from its legal, accounting and tax advisors as to all legal, accounting and tax matters relating to the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

In rendering its opinion, Austin Associates has relied upon and assumed, without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of the information it reviewed for the purpose of rendering its opinion. Austin Associates did not undertake any independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets and liabilities of Great Lakes or First Midwest, nor was it furnished with any appraisals. Austin Associates has not reviewed any individual credit files of Great Lakes or First Midwest, and has assumed that Great Lakes' and First Midwest's allowances are, in the aggregate, adequate to cover inherent credit losses. In addition, Austin Associates has assumed that in the course of obtaining the necessary approvals for

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the transaction, no condition will be imposed that will have a material adverse effect on the contemplated benefits of the transaction to Great Lakes and its shareholders. Austin Associates' opinion is based on economic, market and other conditions existing on the date of its opinion. No limitations were imposed by Great Lakes' board of directors or its management upon Austin Associates with respect to the investigations made or the procedures followed by Austin Associates in rendering its opinion.

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In connection with its opinion, Austin Associates reviewed:

- (i) the merger agreement dated as of July 7, 2014;
- (ii) certain publicly available financial statements and other historical financial information of Great Lakes and First Midwest that Austin Associates deemed relevant;
- (iii) certain non-public financial and operating data of Great Lakes that was prepared and provided to Austin Associates by the management of Great Lakes;
- (iv) internal financial projections for Great Lakes for the year ending December 31, 2014 prepared by and reviewed with management of Great Lakes;
- (v) the pro forma financial impact of the merger on First Midwest, based on assumptions relating to transaction expenses, preliminary purchase accounting adjustments and cost savings;
- (vi) publicly reported historical price and trading activity for First Midwest's common stock, including an analysis of certain financial and stock market information of First Midwest compared to certain other publicly traded companies;
- (vii) the financial terms of certain recent business combinations in the commercial banking industry, to the extent publicly available;
- (viii) the current market environment generally and the banking environment in particular; and,
- (ix) such other information, financial studies, analyses and investigations and financial, economic and market criteria as Austin Associates considered relevant.

Austin Associates also discussed with certain members of senior management of Great Lakes the business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects of Great Lakes, including certain operating, regulatory and other financial matters. Austin Associates held similar discussions with certain members of senior management of First Midwest regarding the business, financial condition and results of operations of First Midwest.

The following is a summary of the material factors considered and analyses performed by Austin Associates in connection with its opinion dated July 7, 2014. The summary does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses performed by Austin Associates. Capitalized terms used herein without definition shall have the meanings given to such terms in the merger agreement.

Summary of Financial Terms of Agreement. Austin Associates reviewed the financial terms of the merger agreement, including the form of consideration, the pricing formula of the exchange ratio for the stock portion of the consideration, and the resulting value per share to be received by Great Lakes stockholders pursuant to the proposed merger.

As detailed in Section 3.1(a) of the merger agreement, Great Lakes stockholders will receive for each share of Great Lakes common stock they hold immediately prior to the completion of the merger \$112.50 in cash (without interest thereon) plus a number of fully paid and non-assessable shares of First Midwest common stock based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the ten NASDAQ trading days ending on and including the third trading day prior to the consummation of the merger, as set forth below:

A. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$20.01, a number of shares of First Midwest common stock equal to \$287.50 divided by such per share volume weighted average price;

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B. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$19.18 but less than or equal to \$20.01, 14.369 shares of First Midwest common stock;

C. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$17.51 but less than or equal to \$19.18, a number of shares of First Midwest common stock equal to \$275.63 divided by such per share volume weighted average price;

D. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$15.85 but less than or equal to \$17.51, 15.737 shares of First Midwest common stock;

E. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$14.18 but less than or equal to \$15.85, a number of shares of First Midwest common stock equal to \$249.38 divided by such per share volume weighted average price; and

F. If such per share volume weighted average price is an amount less than or equal to \$14.18, 17.589 shares of First Midwest common stock.

Under certain circumstances, if the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received based on the per share volume weighted average price described above is less than \$330.00 per share of Great Lakes common stock, the Great Lakes board of directors may elect to fix the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock at \$330.00, which may consist of (a) cash; (b) shares of First Midwest common stock; or (c) a combination of cash and shares of First Midwest common stock, to be determined by First Midwest in its sole discretion. For these purposes, the value of First Midwest common stock and as a result the number of shares of First Midwest common stock issued per share of Great Lakes common stock will be based upon such per share volume weighted average price.

The aggregate value of the merger consideration will fluctuate with the market price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ and will be determined in substantial part based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ for the ten trading days ending on and including the third trading day prior to the completion of the merger.

In its analysis, Austin Associates utilized an initial exchange ratio of 15.737 shares of First Midwest common stock in exchange for each share of Great Lakes common stock based on an assumed average price for First Midwest of \$16.68. This would have resulted in a stock value per share of \$262.50 and cash value per share of \$112.50 for total value per share of \$375.00. The exchange ratio for the stock consideration may vary until closing based on changes in per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest's common stock.

Based on 155,100 common shares of Great Lakes stock outstanding and a per share value of \$375.00, the aggregate value of the transaction approximated \$58.2 million. Austin Associates calculated that the value of \$58.2 million represented, as of March 31, 2014:

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- 115% of book value;
- 132% of tangible book value;
- 19.0 times last twelve months net income;
- 22.3 times last twelve months normalized net income ending March 31, 2014;
- 3.0% premium above tangible equity as a percent of core deposits; and
- 97.4% premium to Great Lakes last reported market transaction (based on \$190.00 per share which represents the most recent reported Great Lakes stock price as reported by SNL Financial on March 12, 2014).

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Comparable Transaction Analysis. Austin Associates compared the financial performance of certain selling institutions and the prices paid in selected transactions to Great Lakes' financial performance and the transaction multiples being paid by First Midwest for Great Lakes. Specifically, Austin Associates reviewed certain information relating to selected Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) bank and thrift transactions since January 1, 2011 involving sellers with total assets of greater than \$100 million and Midwest Region bank and thrift sale transactions from January 1, 2011 to June 20, 2014 involving sellers with total assets between \$250 million and \$1.0 billion and positive last twelve-month (LTM) return on average assets (ROAA). Eight transactions were included in the Chicago MSA while fourteen transactions met the Midwest Region criterion.

Chicago MSA Guideline Transactions

Buyer Name	State	Seller Name	City	State
Auto Club Insurance Assoc.	MI	National Bancorp Inc.	Schaumburg	IL
Wintrust Financial Corp.	IL	Diamond Bancorp Inc.	Schaumburg	IL
MB Financial Inc.	IL	Taylor Capital Group Inc.	Rosemont	IL
First Merchants Corp.	IN	CFS Bancorp Inc.	Munster	IN
BBCN Bancorp Inc.	CA	Foster Bankshares Inc.	Rolling Meadows	IL
Wintrust Financial Corp.	IL	First Lansing Bancorp Inc.	Lansing	IL
Wintrust Financial Corp.	IL	HPK Financial Corp.	Chicago	IL
Wintrust Financial Corp.	IL	Elgin State Bancorp, Inc.	Elgin	IL

The following table highlights the results of the Chicago MSA guideline transactions comparison:

<u>Seller's Financial Performance</u>	Chicago MSA Median Guideline	Great Lakes (1)
Total Assets (\$mils)	\$ 401	\$ 582
Tangible Equity / Tangible Assets	9.05%	7.67%
Return on Average Assets	0.38%	0.43%
Return on Average Equity	4.14%	5.17%
Efficiency Ratio	80.8%	80.8%
Nonperforming Assets/Assets(2)	5.59%	2.80%
<u>Deal Transaction Multiples</u>		
Price/Tangible Book Value Ratio	100%	132%
Price/LTM Earnings	14.6	22.3
Premium/Core Deposits	0.0%	3.0%

(1) Great Lakes' financial performance and deal transaction multiples based on LTM normalized March 31, 2014 data.

(2) Nonperforming Assets include nonaccrual loans, restructured loans and other real estate owned.

The median last twelve-month Return on Average Assets of the Chicago MSA selling banks was 0.38%. Further, the median nonperforming assets to assets ratio measured 5.59%. Great Lakes reported a last twelve-month Return on Average Assets of 0.43% and a nonperforming assets to assets ratio of 2.80%. The indicated price to tangible book ratio being paid by First Midwest for Great Lakes of 132% was higher than

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the median price to tangible book ratio of 100% for this guideline transaction group. The price-to-earnings multiple for Great Lakes of 22.3 was higher than the median multiple of 14.6. The indicated core deposit premium being paid by First Midwest for Great Lakes of 3.0% was higher than the median premium paid for the transaction group of zero percent.

Midwest Region Guideline Transactions

Buyer Name	State	Seller Name	City	State
Old National Bancorp	IN	LSB Financial Corp.	Lafayette	IN
Community Bank Shares of IN	IN	First Financial Service Corp.	Elizabethtown	KY

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Buyer Name	State	Seller Name	City	State
Peoples Bancorp Inc.	IN	Ohio Heritage Bancorp Inc.	Cochocton	OH
Auto Club Insurance Assoc.	MI	National Bancorp Inc.	Schaumburg	IL
Southern Missouri Bancorp	MO	Peoples Service Co.	Nixa	MO
Old National Bancorp	IN	United Bancorp Inc.	Ann Arbor	MI
First Financial Bancorp	OH	First Bexley Bank	Bexley	OH
Huntington Bancshares Inc.	OH	Camco Financial Corp.	Cambridge	OH
Old National Bancorp	IN	Tower Financial Corp.	Fort Wayne	IN
Heartland Financial USA Inc.	IA	Morrill Bancshares Inc.	Merriam	KS
CNB Financial Corp.	PA	FC Banc Corp.	Bucyrus	OH
F.N.B. Corp.	PA	PVF Capital Corp.	Solon	OH
QCR Holdings Inc.	IL	Community Nat l. Bancorp	Waterloo	IA
Wintrust Financial Corp.	IL	First Lansing Bancorp Inc.	Lansing	IL

The following table highlights the results of the Midwest Region guideline transactions comparison:

<u>Seller s Financial Performance</u>	Midwest Region		Great Lakes (1)	
	Median Guideline			
Total Assets (\$mils)	\$	418	\$	582
Tangible Equity / Tangible Assets		9.57%		7.67%
Return on Average Assets		0.72%		0.43%
Return on Average Equity		7.39%		5.17%
Efficiency Ratio		72.0%		80.8%
Nonperforming Assets/Assets		2.79%		2.80%
<u>Deal Transaction Multiples</u>				
Price/Tangible Book Value Ratio		129%		132%
Price/LTM Earnings		18.5		22.3
Premium/Core Deposits		2.3%		3.0%

(1) Great Lakes financial performance and deal transaction multiples based on LTM normalized March 31, 2014 data.

The median last twelve-month Return on Average Assets of the Midwest Region selling banks was 0.72%. Further, the median nonperforming assets to assets ratio measured 2.79%. Great Lakes reported a last twelve-month Return on Average Assets of 0.43% and a nonperforming assets to assets ratio of 2.80%. The indicated price to tangible book ratio being paid by First Midwest for Great Lakes of 132% was slightly higher than the median price to tangible book ratio of 129% for this guideline transactions group. The price-to-earnings multiple for Great Lakes of 22.3 was higher than the median multiple of 18.5. The indicated core deposit premium being paid by First Midwest for Great Lakes of 3.0% was higher than the median premium paid for the guideline transaction group of 2.3%.

Great Lakes Financial Performance and Peer Analysis. Austin Associates compared selected results of Great Lakes Bank's operating performance to those of 16 selected Chicago MSA headquartered banks with total assets between \$300 million and \$1.2 billion. Austin Associates considered this group of financial institutions comparable to Great Lakes Bank on the basis of asset size and geographic location.

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This peer group consisted of the following banks:

Bank Name	City/State	Bank Name	City/State
Lakeside Bank	Chicago, IL	American Community B&T	Woodstock, IL
First Bank & Trust	Evanston, IL	Signature Bank	Chicago, IL
Peoples Bank, SB	Munster, IN	Providence Bank	South Holland, IL
Home State Bank, NA	Crystal Lake, IL	Cornerstone NB&T	Palatine, IL
State Bank of Countryside	Countryside, IL	First Eagle Bank	Chicago, IL

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Bank Name	City/State	Bank Name	City/State
Albany B&T Co., NA	Chicago, IL	ABC Bank	Chicago, IL
Evergreen Bank Group	Oak Brook, IL	First NB of La Grange	La Grange, IL
Suburban B&T Co.	Elmhurst, IL	Union National Bank	Elgin, IL

Austin Associates noted the following selected financial measures for the peer group as compared to Great Lakes Bank:

	Peer Financial Performance (1)			
	25th Pct	Median	75th Pct	Great Lakes Bank (1)
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio	9.23%	10.33%	11.99%	10.80%
Total Risk-Based Ratio	13.23%	15.06%	17.68%	19.41%
LTM PTPP / Average Assets	1.11%	1.36%	2.08%	0.77%
LTM Return on Average Assets	0.50%	0.84%	1.18%	0.59%
LTM Return on Average Equity	4.23%	7.75%	11.81%	6.04%
NPAs / Total Assets	4.83%	3.04%	1.96%	2.83%
NPAs / (Tangible Equity + ALLL)	42.7%	23.0%	17.8%	24.7%

Pre-Tax Pre-Provision (PTPP) equals Net Interest Income plus Noninterest Income minus Noninterest Expense

(1) Peer and Great Lakes Bank financial performance as of March 31, 2014.

This comparison indicated that Great Lakes Bank was between the 25th percentile and the median of the peer group in profitability (Return on Average Assets and Return on Average Equity) while approximating the peer median in asset quality (nonperforming assets to assets). Great Lakes Bank's Tier 1 leverage ratio equaled between the median and 75th percentile of the peer group while the Total Risk-Based ratio exceeded the peer 75th percentile.

First Midwest Financial Performance and Market Trading Data versus Peer. Austin Associates compared selected results of First Midwest's operating performance to 12 selected Chicago MSA and Midwest Region publicly traded banks listed below. Austin Associates considered this group of financial institutions comparable to First Midwest on the basis of asset size and geographic location.

This peer group consisted of the following companies:

Company Name	Symbol	Company Name	Symbol
Associated Banc-Corp	ASBC	FirstMerit Corp.	FMER
TCF Financial Corp.	TCB	Wintrust Financial Corp.	WTFC
PrivateBancorp Inc.	PVTB	Old National Bancorp	ONB
MB Financial Inc.	MBFI	Chemical Financial Corp.	CHFC
First Merchants Corp.	FRME	Talmer Bancorp Inc.	TLMR

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1st Source Corp.

SRCE

Old Second Bancorp Inc.

OSBC

Austin Associates noted the following selected financial measures for the peer group as compared to First Midwest:

	Peer Financial Performance (1)			
	25th Pct	Median	75th Pct	First Midwest (1)
Total Assets (\$bils)	\$ 5,444	\$ 9,491	\$ 18,356	\$ 8,329
Tangible Equity / Tangible Assets	8.48%	8.78%	9.74%	9.25%
LTM PTPP / Average Assets	1.45%	1.63%	1.75%	1.53%
LTM Core Return on Average Assets	0.96%	1.02%	1.10%	0.78%
LTM Core Return on Average Equity	8.03%	8.96%	9.64%	6.58%
NPAs / Total Assets	1.82%	1.34%	1.12%	1.21%
NPAs / (Tangible Equity + ALLL)	17.2%	13.6%	10.3%	12.2%

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PTPP = Pre-Tax Pre-Provision = Net Interest Income + Noninterest Income - Noninterest Expense

(1) Peer and First Midwest's financial performance as of March 31, 2014.

This comparison indicated that First Midwest was below the 25th percentile of the peer group in profitability (core Return on Average Assets and Return on Average Equity) while approximating the median in asset quality (nonperforming assets to assets). First Midwest ranked between the median and 75th percentile in tangible equity to assets. The following presents a summary of the market trading data of First Midwest compared to this same peer group as of June 20, 2014:

	Peer Market Trading Data			
	25th Pct	Median	75th Pct	First Midwest
Price / Tangible Book Value per Share	148%	159%	178%	174%
Price / LTM Core Earnings per Share	13.6	14.8	16.7	19.6
Dividend Yield	0.69%	1.48%	2.40%	1.63%
Average Monthly Volume to Shares	7.0%	12.1%	14.6%	10.3%

First Midwest traded slightly below the 75th percentile of the peer group as measured by price to tangible book and above the 75th percentile as measured by price to last twelve-month Core Earnings per Share. First Midwest approximated the median of the guideline group in dividend yield. First Midwest was between the guideline group 25th percentile and median average monthly trading volume to shares.

Pro Forma Merger Analysis. Austin Associates analyzed the potential pro forma effect of the merger assuming the merger was completed on December 31, 2014. Assumptions were made regarding the accounting adjustments, costs savings and other acquisition adjustments based on discussions with management of Great Lakes and First Midwest and their representatives. Based on 75% phased in cost savings in the first year and 2015 earnings estimates of Austin Associates, the analysis indicated that the merger is expected to be accretive to First Midwest's estimated stand-alone Earnings per Share. Austin Associates calculated that First Midwest's tangible book value per share would be diluted at closing, but recovered within approximately three years depending on the final exchange ratio.

Pro Forma Dividends Per Share to Great Lakes. Based on the assumed 15.737 exchange ratio and First Midwest's current annual cash dividend rate of \$0.32 per share, Great Lakes' common stockholders would have received \$5.04 in equivalent cash dividends per share. Great Lakes' current annual cash dividend for 2014 is \$2.00 per share. As a result, Great Lakes stockholders would have received a 152.0% increase in annual cash dividends.

Stand-Alone Net Present Value Analysis. Austin Associates performed an analysis that estimated the stand-alone net present value of Great Lakes through December 31, 2017. Austin Associates based the analysis on Great Lakes' projected earnings stream as derived from the internal projections provided by Great Lakes management for the years ending December 31, 2013 through 2017 along with projected dividends per share. In determining the terminal value of Great Lakes' common stock at December 31, 2017, Austin Associates applied price to forward earnings multiples of 11.0x to 15.0x. The dividend stream and terminal values were then discounted to present values using different discount rates ranging from 11.0% to 15.0%. The following table illustrates the net present value of Great Lakes based on the above assumptions:

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Discount Rate Range	2017 Terminal EPS Multiples									
	11.0		12.0		13.0		14.0		15.0	
11.0%	\$	176.28	\$	191.77	\$	207.26	\$	222.75	\$	238.24
12.0%	\$	171.66	\$	186.73	\$	201.81	\$	216.89	\$	231.97
13.0%	\$	167.19	\$	181.87	\$	196.55	\$	211.24	\$	225.92
14.0%	\$	162.88	\$	177.18	\$	191.48	\$	205.78	\$	220.08

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Discount Rate Range	2017 Terminal EPS Multiples									
	11.0		12.0		13.0		14.0		15.0	
15.0%	\$	158.72	\$	172.65	\$	186.57	\$	200.50	\$	214.43

From this analysis, the net present value of a share of Great Lakes would range from \$158.72 to \$238.24.

Austin Associates also considered the impact to the net present value results from changes in the underlying assumptions, including variations with respect to net income. To illustrate this impact, Austin Associates performed a similar analysis assuming Great Lakes net income varied +/- 20% from the baseline projections. This analysis resulted in the following per share value range using a discount rate of 13.0%.

% Change	Implied 2017 EPS	2017 Terminal EPS Multiples									
		11.0		12.0		13.0		14.0		15.0	
20.0%	\$ 25.42	\$ 199.49	\$ 217.11	\$ 234.73	\$ 252.35	\$ 269.96					
10.0%	\$ 23.30	\$ 183.34	\$ 199.49	\$ 215.64	\$ 231.79	\$ 247.94					
0.0%	\$ 21.18	\$ 167.19	\$ 181.87	\$ 196.55	\$ 211.24	\$ 225.92					
-10.0%	\$ 19.07	\$ 151.04	\$ 164.25	\$ 177.47	\$ 190.68	\$ 203.90					
-20.0%	\$ 16.95	\$ 134.89	\$ 146.64	\$ 158.38	\$ 170.13	\$ 181.87					

From this analysis, the net present value of a share of Great Lakes would range from \$134.89 to \$269.96.

Summary. Based on the preceding summary discussion and analysis, and subject to the qualifications described herein, Austin Associates determined the terms of the merger agreement to be fair, from a financial point of view, to Great Lakes and its stockholders.

The opinion expressed by Austin Associates was based on market, economic and other relevant considerations as they existed and could be evaluated as of the date of the opinion. Events occurring after the date of issuance of the opinion, including, but not limited to, changes affecting the securities markets, the results of operations or material changes in the financial condition of either First Midwest or Great Lakes could materially affect the assumptions used in preparing this opinion.

Miscellaneous

Great Lakes agreed to pay Austin Associates and IBS certain fees for their financial advisory services in connection with the merger. Great Lakes paid Austin Associates a cash fee of \$15,000 upon execution of their engagement letter. Great Lakes paid Austin Associates a cash fee of \$50,000 upon the issuance of the Austin Associates fairness opinion. Great Lakes has agreed to pay IBS a cash transaction fee of 1.25% of the transaction value with 20% paid at the signing of the definitive agreement and the balance payable at the closing of the merger. Great Lakes agreed to reimburse Austin Associates and IBS for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, and to indemnify Austin Associates and IBS against

certain liabilities, including liabilities under securities laws. Austin Associates has provided various consulting services to Great Lakes in the past. These fees were not material to Austin Associates' overall business. Austin Associates does not have any prior, existing or pending engagements with First Midwest.

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Material Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger

The following discussion (including the limitations and qualifications set forth therein) is based on the opinion of Seyfarth Shaw LLP received by Great Lakes and the opinion of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP received by First Midwest, in each case, in connection with the filing of the registration statement of which this document is a part.

This discussion addresses the material United States federal income tax consequences of the merger to U.S. holders (as defined below) of Great Lakes common stock. The discussion is based on the provisions of the Code, U.S. Treasury regulations, administrative rulings and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect and all of which are subject to change (possibly with retroactive effect) and to differing interpretations.

For purposes of this discussion, we use the term "U.S. holder" to mean:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;

- a corporation (or other entity taxable as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized under the laws of the United States or any of its political subdivisions;

- a trust that (i) is subject to the supervision of a court within the United States and the control of one or more U.S. persons or (ii) has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person; or

- an estate that is subject to United States federal income taxation on its income regardless of its source.

This discussion applies only to Great Lakes stockholders that hold their Great Lakes common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code, and does not address all aspects of United States federal taxation that may be relevant to a particular U.S. holder in light of its personal circumstances or to U.S. holders subject to special treatment under the United States federal income tax laws, including:

- financial institutions;

- investors in pass-through entities;

- insurance companies;
- tax-exempt organizations;
- dealers in securities or currencies;
- traders in securities that elect to use a mark to market method of accounting;
- persons that hold Great Lakes common stock as part of a straddle, hedge, constructive sale or conversion transaction;
- regulated investment companies;
- real estate investment trusts;
- persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;
- persons who are not citizens or residents of the United States;

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- stockholders who acquired their shares of Great Lakes common stock through the exercise of an employee stock option or otherwise as compensation; and
- participants in the Great lakes ESOP.

If a partnership or other entity taxed as a partnership holds Great Lakes common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships and partners in such a partnership should consult their tax advisors about the tax consequences of the merger to them.

Except as described in the Alternative Consideration Election section, the discussion below assumes that the Alternative Consideration Election will not be chosen. The actual tax consequences of the merger to you may be complex and will depend on your specific situation and on factors that are not within our control. You should consult with your own tax advisor as to the tax consequences of the merger in your particular circumstances, including the applicability and effect of the alternative minimum tax and any state, local or foreign and other tax laws and of changes in those laws.

Tax Consequences of the Merger. Based upon the facts and representations contained in the representation letters received from Great Lakes and First Midwest in connection with the filing of the registration statement on Form S-4 of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part, it is the opinion of Seyfarth Shaw LLP and Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code, and accordingly, the material United States federal income tax consequences will be as follows:

- no gain or loss will be recognized by First Midwest or Great Lakes as a result of the merger;
- gain (but not loss) will be recognized by U.S. holders of Great Lakes common stock who receive shares of First Midwest common stock and cash in exchange for shares of Great Lakes common stock pursuant to the merger, in an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the amount by which the sum of the fair market value of the First Midwest common stock and cash received by a U.S. holder of Great Lakes common stock exceeds such U.S. holder's basis in its Great Lakes common stock and (ii) the amount of cash received by such U.S. holder of Great Lakes common stock (except with respect to any cash received instead of fractional share interests in First Midwest common stock, which is discussed below under Cash Received Instead of a Fractional Share.);
- the aggregate basis of the First Midwest common stock received by a U.S. holder of Great Lakes common stock in the merger (including fractional shares of First Midwest common stock deemed received and redeemed as described below) will be the same as the aggregate basis of the Great Lakes common stock for which it is exchanged, decreased by the amount of cash received in the merger (other than cash received instead of fractional share interests in First Midwest common stock), and increased by the amount of gain recognized on the exchange, other than with respect to cash received instead of fractional share interests in First Midwest common stock (regardless of whether such gain is classified as capital gain or as dividend income, as discussed below under Possible Recharacterization of Gain as a Dividend); and

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- the holding period of First Midwest common stock received in exchange for shares of Great Lakes common stock (including fractional shares of First Midwest common stock deemed received and redeemed as described below) will include the holding period of the Great Lakes common stock for which it is exchanged.

If a U.S. holder of Great Lakes common stock acquired different blocks of Great Lakes common stock at different times or at different prices, any gain will be determined separately with respect to each block of Great Lakes common stock, and the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock received will be allocated pro rata to each such block of stock.

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It is a condition to Great Lakes's obligation to complete the merger that Great Lakes receives a written opinion of its counsel, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, dated as of the closing date, to the effect that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. It is a condition to First Midwest's obligation to complete the merger that First Midwest receives an opinion of its counsel, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, dated as of the closing date, to the effect that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. These opinions will be based on the assumption that the merger will be completed in the manner set forth in the merger agreement and the registration statement on Form S-4 of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part, and on representation letters provided by First Midwest and Great Lakes to be delivered at the time of the closing. Those opinions will also be based on the assumption that the representations found in the representation letters are, as of the effective time, true and complete without qualification and that the representation letters are executed by appropriate and authorized officers of First Midwest and Great Lakes. If any of the assumptions or representations upon which such opinions are based is inconsistent with the actual facts with respect to the merger, the United States federal income tax consequences of the merger could be adversely affected.

In addition, neither of the tax opinions given in connection with the merger or in connection with the filing of this registration statement will be binding on the Internal Revenue Service. Neither First Midwest nor Great Lakes intends to request any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service as to the United States federal income tax consequences of the merger, and consequently, there is no guarantee that the Internal Revenue Service will treat the merger as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code.

Taxation of Capital Gain. Except as described under *Possible Recharacterization of Gain as a Dividend* below, gain that U.S. holders of Great Lakes common stock recognize in connection with the merger will constitute capital gain and will constitute long-term capital gain if, as of the closing date, the U.S. holder's holding period for the relevant shares of Great Lakes common stock is greater than one year. Long-term capital gain of a noncorporate U.S. holder is generally subject to tax at preferential rates.

Possible Recharacterization of Gain as a Dividend. All or part of the gain that a particular U.S. holder of Great Lakes common stock recognizes could be treated as dividend income rather than capital gain if (i) such U.S. holder is a significant stockholder of First Midwest or (ii) such U.S. holder's percentage ownership, taking into account constructive ownership rules, in First Midwest after the merger is not meaningfully reduced from what its percentage ownership would have been if it had received solely shares of First Midwest common stock rather than a combination of cash and shares of First Midwest common stock in the merger. This could happen, for example, because of ownership of additional shares of First Midwest common stock by such holder, ownership of shares of First Midwest common stock by a person related to such holder or a share repurchase by First Midwest from other holders of First Midwest common stock. The Internal Revenue Service has indicated in rulings that any reduction in the interest of a minority stockholder that owns a small number of shares in a publicly and widely held corporation and that exercises no control over corporate affairs would result in capital gain as opposed to dividend treatment. Because the possibility of dividend treatment depends primarily upon the particular circumstances of a holder of Great Lakes common stock, including the application of certain constructive ownership rules, holders of Great Lakes common stock should consult their own tax advisors regarding the potential tax consequences of the merger to them.

Cash Received Instead of a Fractional Share. A U.S. holder who receives cash instead of a fractional share of First Midwest common stock will generally be treated as having received such fractional share and then as having received such cash in redemption of the fractional share. Gain or loss generally will be recognized based on the difference between the amount of cash received instead of the fractional share of First Midwest common stock and the portion of the U.S. holder's aggregate adjusted tax basis of the shares of Great Lakes common stock exchanged in the merger that is allocable to the fractional share of First Midwest common stock. Such gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if the holding period for such shares of Great Lakes common stock is more than one year at the effective time of the merger.

Alternative Consideration Election. Under certain circumstances, it is possible that the Alternative Consideration Election may be chosen, in which case it is possible that the amount of cash received by U.S. holders of Great Lakes common stock in exchange for shares of Great Lakes

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common stock will cause the merger to not meet the requirements of Section 368(a) of the Code. If the Alternative Consideration Election is chosen and the merger fails to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code, then the exchange of

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shares of Great Lakes common stock for shares of First Midwest common stock and cash will be a taxable transaction for United States federal income tax purposes. As a result, for United States federal income tax purposes, a U.S. holder whose Great Lakes common stock is converted into the right to receive First Midwest common stock and cash in the merger will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between (1) the sum of (i) the fair market value of the First Midwest common stock received by such U.S. holder in the merger and (ii) the amount of cash received by such holder in the merger, including any cash received in lieu of fractional shares of First Midwest common stock, and (2) the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in its Great Lakes common stock. A U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis generally will equal the price the U.S. holder paid for such Great Lakes common stock. If the holding period in Great Lakes common stock surrendered in the merger is greater than one year as of the date of the merger, the gain or loss will generally be long-term capital gain or loss. The deductibility of a capital loss recognized on the merger is subject to limitations under the Code. If a U.S. holder acquired different blocks of Great Lakes common stock at different times and different prices, such holder must determine its adjusted tax basis and holding period separately with respect to each block of Great Lakes common stock. A U.S. holder's tax basis in its First Midwest common stock received in the merger will equal the fair market value of such stock at the effective time of the merger (as determined for United States federal income tax purposes), and the U.S. holder's holding period for such First Midwest common stock will begin on the day after the merger. You should consult with your own tax advisor as to the tax consequences of the merger in the event the Alternative Consideration Election is chosen.

Reporting Requirements. A U.S. holder of Great Lakes common stock receiving First Midwest common stock as a result of the merger is required to retain records pertaining to the merger. Each U.S. holder of Great Lakes common stock who is required to file a United States federal income tax return and who is a significant holder that receives First Midwest common stock in the merger will be required to file a statement with such United States federal income tax return setting forth such holder's basis in the Great Lakes common stock surrendered and the fair market value of the First Midwest common stock and cash received in the merger. A significant holder is a holder of Great Lakes common stock, who, immediately before the merger, owned at least 5% of the total combined voting power or value of the outstanding stock of Great Lakes.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting. Payments of cash to a U.S. holder of Great Lakes common stock may, under certain circumstances, be subject to information reporting and backup withholding unless the U.S. holder provides proof of an applicable exemption satisfactory to First Midwest and the exchange agent or, in the case of backup withholding, furnishes its taxpayer identification number, and otherwise complies with all applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. Any amounts withheld from payments to a U.S. holder under the backup withholding rules are not additional tax and will be allowed as a refund or credit against the U.S. holder's United States federal income tax liability, provided the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Accounting Treatment

First Midwest will account for the merger as a purchase by First Midwest of Great Lakes under GAAP. Under the purchase method of accounting, the total consideration paid in connection with the merger is allocated among Great Lakes' assets, liabilities and identified intangibles based on the fair values of the assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and the identified intangibles. The difference between the total consideration paid in connection with the merger and the fair values of the assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and the identified intangibles, if any, is allocated to goodwill. The results of operations of Great Lakes will be included in First Midwest's results of operations from the date of acquisition.

Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger

Change in Control Agreements

Great Lakes entered into change of control agreements with Thomas S. Agler and Paul Van Zee on September 12, 2013 and July 1, 2013, respectively. Mr. Agler serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Great Lakes, and also serves as a director on the boards of directors of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank. Mr. Van Zee serves as Chief Financial Officer of Great Lakes Bank. These change of control agreements entitle Mr. Agler and Mr. Van Zee to payments upon the occurrence of certain specified change in control events, which include the

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consummation of the merger and the transactions contemplated thereby. Upon the occurrence of these specified change in control events, Mr. Agler is entitled to a single lump sum cash payment equivalent to 200% of his current annual base salary, which payment will equal \$470,500.00 and Mr. Van Zee is entitled to a single lump sum cash payment equivalent to 100% of his current annual base salary, which payment will equal \$135,000.00. Under the terms of his agreement with Great Lakes, Mr. Van Zee is also entitled to a severance payment equal to \$135,000.00 if his employment is terminated other than for cause or by reason of death or disability during the two years following the consummation of the merger and the transactions contemplated thereby.

Retirement/Consulting Agreement

On December 19, 2013, Great Lakes entered into a retirement and consulting agreement with Ronald T. Shropshire, who serves as President of Great Lakes Bank and also serves as a director on the boards of directors of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank. Under the terms of his retirement and consulting agreement, if Mr. Shropshire is terminated from his position as President of Great Lakes Bank following the completion of the merger at any time prior to December 31, 2014 other than for cause or by reason of death or disability, Mr. Shropshire is entitled to a lump sum payment equal to the sum of (i) \$150,000 and (ii) the product of (a) \$198,650.00 and (b) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days from the date of his termination until December 31, 2014, and the denominator of which is 377.

Indemnification and Insurance

The merger agreement provides that, upon completion of the merger, First Midwest will indemnify, defend and hold harmless the directors and officers of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank (when acting in such capacity) against all costs and liabilities arising out of actions or omissions occurring at or before the completion of the merger, in accordance with First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws to the extent permitted by law.

The merger agreement also provides that for a period of six years after the merger is completed, First Midwest will maintain directors' and officers' liability insurance that provides at least the same coverage and amounts, and contains terms and conditions no less advantageous, as that coverage currently provided by Great Lakes, provided that the annual premium therefor is not in excess of 200% of the last annual premium paid prior to the date of the merger agreement.

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THE MERGER AGREEMENT

The following discussion describes the material provisions of the merger agreement. We urge you to read the merger agreement, which is attached as Appendix A and incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/prospectus, carefully and in its entirety. The description of the merger agreement in this proxy statement/prospectus has been included to provide you with information regarding its terms. The merger agreement contains representations and warranties made by and to the parties thereto as of specific dates. The statements embodied in those representations and warranties were made for purposes of that contract between the parties and are subject to qualifications and limitations agreed by the parties in connection with negotiating the terms of that contract. In addition, certain representations and warranties were made as of a specified date, may be subject to a contractual standard of materiality different from those generally applicable to stockholders, or may have been used for the purpose of allocating risk between the parties rather than establishing matters as facts.

Structure

Subject to the terms and conditions of the merger agreement, at the completion of the merger, Great Lakes will merge with and into First Midwest, with First Midwest as the surviving corporation. As a result, the separate existence of Great Lakes will terminate. After the merger at a time yet to be determined, First Midwest will cause Great Lakes Bank, a wholly owned bank subsidiary of Great Lakes, to merge with and into First Midwest Bank, a wholly owned bank subsidiary of First Midwest. First Midwest Bank will be the surviving corporation and will continue its corporate existence as a commercial bank organized under the laws of the state of Illinois.

Under certain circumstances as described in the Merger Consideration section below, if the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest's common stock during the ten trading day period ending on and including the third day prior to the completion of the merger would cause the total consideration per share of Great Lakes common stock to equal less than \$330.00, the Great Lakes board of directors can elect to fix the consideration to be received by Great Lakes stockholders at \$330.00 per share, provided that First Midwest will then have the right to set the merger consideration as all stock, all cash or a mix of stock and cash. If the Great Lakes board of directors makes such an election and the amount of cash included as part of the merger consideration would cause the merger to not meet the requirements of Section 368(a) of the Code, the merger will be restructured such that (i) a newly formed subsidiary of First Midwest will be merged with and into Great Lakes, with Great Lakes as the surviving corporation, and (ii) following, and as part of the same plan with such interim merger, Great Lakes will be merged with and into First Midwest, with First Midwest as the surviving corporation.

Merger Consideration

In connection with the merger, Great Lakes stockholders will receive for each share of Great Lakes common stock they hold immediately prior to the completion of the merger \$112.50 in cash (without interest thereon) plus a number of fully paid and non-assessable shares of First Midwest common stock based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the ten NASDAQ trading days ending on and including the third trading day prior to the consummation of the merger, as set forth below:

A. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$20.01, a number of shares of First Midwest common stock equal to \$287.50 divided by such per share volume weighted average price;

B. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$19.18 but less than or equal to \$20.01, 14.369 shares of First Midwest common stock;

C. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$17.51 but less than or equal to \$19.18, a number of shares of First Midwest common stock equal to \$275.63 divided by such per share volume weighted average price;

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D. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$15.85 but less than or equal to \$17.51, 15.737 shares of First Midwest common stock;

E. If such per share volume weighted average price is greater than \$14.18 but less than or equal to \$15.85, a number of shares of First Midwest common stock equal to \$249.38 divided by such per share volume weighted average price; and

F. If such per share volume weighted average price is an amount less than or equal to \$14.18, 17.589 shares of First Midwest common stock.

Under certain circumstances, if the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock based on the per share volume weighted average price described above is less than \$330.00, the Great Lakes board of directors may elect to fix the value of the cash and shares of First Midwest common stock to be received per share of Great Lakes common stock at \$330.00, which may consist of (a) cash; (b) shares of First Midwest common stock; or (c) a mix of cash and shares of First Midwest common stock, to be determined by First Midwest in its sole discretion. For these purposes, the value of First Midwest common stock and as a result the number of shares of First Midwest common stock issued per share of Great Lakes common stock will be based upon such per share volume weighted average price.

The aggregate value of the merger consideration will fluctuate with the market price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ and will be determined in substantial part based on the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ for the ten trading days ending on and including the third trading day prior to the completion of the merger.

A chart showing the cash and stock merger consideration at various per share volume weighted average prices of First Midwest common stock is provided in Summary.

Conversion of Shares; Exchange of Certificates; Fractional Shares

Conversion. The conversion of Great Lakes common stock into the right to receive the merger consideration will occur automatically at the effective time of the merger.

Exchange Procedures. Prior to the completion of the merger, First Midwest will deposit with its transfer agent or with a depository or trust institution of recognized standing selected by it and reasonably satisfactory to Great Lakes, which we refer to as the exchange agent, (1) certificates or, at First Midwest's option, evidence of shares in book-entry form, representing the shares of First Midwest common stock to be issued under the merger agreement and (2) cash payable as part of the merger consideration and instead of any fractional shares of First Midwest common stock to be issued under the merger agreement. As promptly as reasonably practicable after the effective time of the merger, the exchange agent will exchange certificates representing shares of Great Lakes common stock for merger consideration to be received in the merger pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement. No interest will accrue or be paid with respect to any property to be delivered upon

surrender of Great Lakes stock certificates.

If any First Midwest stock certificate is to be issued, or cash payment made, in a name other than that in which the Great Lakes stock certificate surrendered in exchange for the merger consideration is registered, the person requesting the exchange must pay any transfer or other taxes required by reason of the issuance of the new First Midwest certificate or the payment of the cash consideration in a name other than that of the registered holder of the Great Lakes stock certificate surrendered, or must establish to the satisfaction of First Midwest and the exchange agent that any such taxes have been paid or are not applicable.

Dividends and Distributions. Until your Great Lakes common stock certificates are surrendered for exchange, any dividends or other distributions declared after the effective time with respect to First Midwest common stock into which shares of Great Lakes common stock may have been converted will accrue but will not be paid. When such certificates have been duly surrendered, First Midwest will pay any unpaid dividends or other distributions, without interest. After the effective time, there will be no transfers on the stock transfer books of

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Great Lakes of any shares of Great Lakes stock. If certificates representing shares of Great Lakes stock are presented for transfer after the completion of the merger, they will be cancelled and exchanged for the merger consideration into which the shares of Great Lakes common stock represented by that certificate have been converted.

Withholding. The exchange agent will be entitled to deduct and withhold from the merger consideration payable to any Great Lakes stockholder the amounts it is required to deduct and withhold under any federal, state, local or foreign tax law. If the exchange agent withholds any amounts, these amounts will be treated for all purposes of the merger as having been paid to the stockholders from whom they were withheld.

No Fractional Shares Will Be Issued. First Midwest will not issue fractional shares of First Midwest common stock in the merger. There will be no dividends or voting rights with respect to any fractional common shares. For each fractional share of common stock that would otherwise be issued, First Midwest will pay cash in an amount equal to the fraction of a whole share that would otherwise have been issued, multiplied by the last reported per share sale price of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ for the last NASDAQ trading day immediately preceding the date the merger is completed. No interest will be paid or accrued on the cash.

Lost, Stolen or Destroyed Great Lakes Common Stock Certificates. If you have lost a certificate representing Great Lakes common stock, or it has been stolen or destroyed, First Midwest will issue to you the common stock or cash payable under the merger agreement if you submit an affidavit of that fact and, if requested by First Midwest, if you post bond in a customary amount as indemnity against any claim that may be made against First Midwest about ownership of the lost, stolen or destroyed certificate.

For a description of First Midwest common stock and a description of the differences between the rights of Great Lakes stockholders and First Midwest stockholders, see [Description of First Midwest Capital Stock](#) and [Comparison of Stockholder Rights](#).

Effective Time

We plan to complete the merger on a business day designated by First Midwest that is (a) within 45 days after the later of (i) the expiration of all applicable waiting periods associated with the required regulatory approvals and (ii) the approval of the stockholders of Great Lakes and (b) after the satisfaction or waiver of the last remaining conditions to the merger, other than those routine conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the closing, but subject to the fulfillment or waiver of those conditions. The time the merger is completed is the effective time of the merger. See [Conditions to Completion of the Merger](#).

We anticipate that we will complete the merger during the quarter ending December 31, 2014. However, completion could be delayed if there is a delay in obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals or for other reasons. There can be no assurances as to if or when these approvals will be obtained or as to whether or when the merger will be completed. If we do not complete the merger by July 7, 2015 either party may terminate the merger agreement without penalty unless the failure to complete the merger by this date is due to the failure of the party seeking to terminate the merger agreement to perform or observe its obligations under the merger agreement. See [Conditions to Completion of the Merger](#) and [Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger](#).

Representations and Warranties

The merger agreement contains representations and warranties of First Midwest and Great Lakes, to each other, as to, among other things:

- the corporate organization and existence of each party and its subsidiaries and the valid ownership of its significant subsidiaries;
- the capitalization of each party;

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- the authority of each party and its subsidiaries to enter into the merger agreement and make it valid and binding;
- the fact that the merger agreement does not breach:
- the certificate of incorporation and by-laws of each party,
- applicable law, and
- agreements, instruments or obligations of each party;
- governmental approvals;
- regulatory investigations and orders;
- each party's financial statements and filings with applicable regulatory authorities;
- the absence of material changes in each party's business since December 31, 2013;
- the absence of litigation;
- each party's compliance with applicable law;
- the accuracy of each party's books and records; sufficiency of each party's internal controls; and

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- each party's relationships with financial advisors.

In addition, the merger agreement contains representations and warranties of Great Lakes to First Midwest as to, among other things:

- the absence of undisclosed obligations or liabilities;
- the validity of, and the absence of material defaults under its material contracts;
- the inapplicability to the merger and voting agreements and the transactions contemplated thereby of state anti-takeover laws;
- title and interest in property;
- material contracts;
- intellectual property;
- its trust business;
- material interests of officers and directors or their associates;
- adequacy of insurance coverage;
- enforceability and validity of extensions of credit and interest rate risk management instruments;
- its employment contracts;

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- labor matters;
- environmental matters;
- the filing and accuracy of tax returns, and the tax treatment of the merger; and
- employee benefit plans and related matters.

Conduct of Business Pending the Merger

Great Lakes has agreed that, except as expressly contemplated by the merger agreement or as disclosed in writing prior to the signing of the merger agreement, it will not, and will not agree to, without First Midwest's consent:

- conduct its business other than in the ordinary and usual course;
- fail to use commercially reasonable efforts to preserve intact its business organizations, assets and other rights, and its existing relations with customers and other parties;
- take any action reasonably likely to impair materially its ability to perform its obligations under the merger agreement or complete the transactions described in those documents;
- enter into any new line of business or materially change its banking and operating policies, except as required by law or policies imposed by regulatory authorities;
- make any capital expenditures in excess of \$50,000 individually or \$75,000 in the aggregate;
- terminate, enter into, amend, modify or renew any material contract;

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- make, renew or amend any extension of credit in excess of \$750,000;
- enter into, renew or amend any interest rate swaps, caps, floors and option agreements and other interest rate risk management arrangements;
- make, change or revoke any tax election, file any amended tax return, enter into any closing agreement, settle any tax claim or assessment, or surrender any right to claim a refund of taxes;
- settle any action, suit, claim or proceeding against it, other than in the ordinary course of business in an amount not in excess of \$50,000 and that would not (1) impose any material restriction on Great Lakes or its subsidiaries business or (2) create precedent for claims that are reasonably likely to be material to it or its subsidiaries;
- adjust, split, combine, redeem, reclassify, purchase or otherwise acquire any of its own stock;
- make, declare or pay any dividend or distribution on any shares of its stock, except for (i) cash dividends from Great Lakes subsidiary to Great Lakes to cover operating expenses and (ii) the right to pay a one-time dividend to holders of Great Lakes common stock of \$2.00 per share (not to exceed \$310,200 in the aggregate) if the merger has not been completed prior to March 1, 2015;
- permit any additional shares of stock to become subject to new grants of rights to acquire stock;
- issue, sell or dispose of or encumber, or authorize or propose the creation of, any additional shares of capital stock;

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- sell, transfer, mortgage, encumber or otherwise dispose of any assets, deposits, business or properties, except in a nonmaterial transaction in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;
- acquire the assets, business, deposits or properties of any other entity except in various specified transactions in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;
- communicate with its directors, officers or employees regarding compensation or benefits matters affected by the transaction;
- knowingly take, or knowingly omit to take, any action that would, or is reasonably likely to, prevent or impede the merger from qualifying as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code or knowingly take, or knowingly omit to take, any action that is reasonably likely to result in any of the conditions to the merger not being satisfied in a timely manner, or any action that is reasonably likely to materially impair its ability to perform its obligations under the merger agreement or to consummate the transactions contemplated thereby, except as required by applicable law;
- amend its certificate of incorporation or by-laws;
- change its accounting principles, practices or methods, except as required by GAAP;
- terminate, enter into, amend, modify or renew any employment agreements or grant salary increases or employee benefit increases except as required by applicable law, to satisfy previously existing and disclosed contractual obligations or for certain changes that are in the ordinary course of business; or
- terminate, enter into, establish, adopt or amend any employee benefit plans, except as contemplated by the merger agreement, as required by applicable law, to satisfy previously existing and disclosed contractual obligations or for any amendments that do not increase benefits or administrative costs.

Acquisition Proposals by Third Parties

Great Lakes has agreed that it will not solicit or encourage inquiries or proposals with respect to any other acquisition proposal. Great Lakes has also agreed that it will not engage in any negotiations concerning any other acquisition proposal, or provide any confidential or nonpublic information or data to, or have any discussions with, any person relating to any other acquisition proposal.

However, if Great Lakes receives an unsolicited *bona fide* acquisition proposal and Great Lakes board of directors concludes in good faith that it constitutes a superior proposal, Great Lakes may furnish nonpublic information and participate in negotiations or discussions to the extent that its board of directors concludes in good faith (and based on the advice of its financial and legal advisors) that failure to take those actions would result in a violation of its fiduciary duties. Before providing any nonpublic information, Great Lakes must enter into a confidentiality agreement with the third party no less favorable to it than the confidentiality agreement with First Midwest. While Great Lakes has the right to enter into negotiations regarding a superior proposal under the foregoing circumstances, the merger agreement does not allow Great Lakes to terminate the merger agreement solely because it has received a superior proposal, entered into such negotiations or decided to accept such offer.

For purposes of the merger agreement, the terms acquisition proposal and superior proposal have the following meanings:

- The term acquisition proposal means, other than the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement:
 - a tender or exchange offer to acquire more than 15% of the voting power in Great Lakes;
 - a proposal for a merger, consolidation or other business combination involving Great Lakes; or

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- any other proposal to acquire more than 15% of the voting power in, or more than 15% of the business, assets or deposits of, Great Lakes.
- The term superior proposal means a *bona fide* written acquisition proposal that the Great Lakes board of directors concludes in good faith to be more favorable from a financial point of view to its stockholders than the First Midwest merger after:
 - receiving the advice of Austin Associates, its financial advisor;
 - taking into account the likelihood of completion of the proposed transaction; and
 - taking into account legal, financial, regulatory and other aspects of such proposal.

Great Lakes has agreed to cease immediately any activities, negotiations or discussions conducted before the date of the merger agreement with any other persons with respect to acquisition proposals and to use commercially reasonable efforts to enforce any confidentiality or similar agreement relating to such acquisition proposals. Great Lakes has also agreed to notify First Midwest within one business day of receiving any acquisition proposal and the substance of the proposal.

In addition, Great Lakes has agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to obtain from its stockholders approval of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger. However, if Great Lakes board of directors (after consultation with, and based on the advice of, counsel) determines in good faith that, because of an acquisition proposal that Great Lakes board of directors concludes in good faith constitutes a superior proposal, to continue to recommend such items to its stockholders would violate its fiduciary duties, it may submit such items without recommendation and communicate the basis for its lack of recommendation to its stockholders. Great Lakes agreed that before taking such action with respect to an acquisition proposal, it will give First Midwest at least 10 business days to respond to the proposal and will consider any amendment or modification to the merger agreement proposed by First Midwest.

Under certain circumstances, including if the merger agreement is terminated after Great Lakes breaches certain obligations described above, Great Lakes must pay First Midwest a fee equal to \$2,900,000. See Termination of the Merger Agreement.

Other Agreements

In addition to the agreements we have described above, we have also agreed in the merger agreement to take several other actions, such as:

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- we agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to complete the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement;
- we agreed that First Midwest and Great Lakes will give notice to the other party of any fact, event or circumstance that is reasonably likely to result in any material adverse effect or that would constitute a material breach of any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement;
- we agreed that Great Lakes will convene a special meeting of its stockholders as promptly as practicable to consider and vote on the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger;
- we agreed that First Midwest will use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause the shares to be issued in the Merger to be approved for listing on NASDAQ (subject to official notice of issuance) as promptly as practicable, and in any event before the effective time of the merger;

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- we agreed that, subject to applicable law, First Midwest and Great Lakes will cooperate with each other and to prepare promptly and file all necessary documentation to obtain all required permits, consents, approvals and authorizations of third parties and governmental entities, including this proxy statement/prospectus and the registration statement for the First Midwest common stock to be issued in the merger;

- we agreed that Great Lakes will provide First Midwest, and First Midwest's officers, employees, counsel, accountants and other authorized representatives, access during normal business hours throughout the period prior to the effective time of the merger to the books, records, properties, personnel and other information of Great Lakes as First Midwest may reasonably request;

- we agreed that Great Lakes will provide First Midwest with copies of documents filed by Great Lakes pursuant to the requirements of federal or state banking or securities laws and all other information concerning the business, properties and personnel of Great Lakes as First Midwest may reasonably request, including providing First Midwest with final biweekly general ledger reports for biweekly period beginning with July 1, 2014 until the effective time of the merger;

- we agreed to cooperate on stockholder and employee communications and press releases;

- we agreed that Great Lakes will not take any actions that would cause the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement to be subject to any takeover laws;

- we agreed to keep any nonpublic information confidential;

- we agreed that Great Lakes will take all action necessary to merge the Great Lakes ESOP into Great Lakes' 401(k) plan, and will terminate the Great Lakes 401(k) plan prior to the closing of the merger;

- we agreed that First Midwest will cause each employee benefit plan of First Midwest in which Great Lakes employees are eligible to participate to take into account for purposes of eligibility and vesting thereunder the service of such employees with Great Lakes as if such service were with First Midwest, to the same extent that such service was credited under a comparable plan of Great Lakes, and, with respect to welfare benefit plans of First Midwest in which employees of Great Lakes are eligible to participate, First Midwest agreed to waive any preexisting conditions, waiting periods and actively at work requirements under such plans;

- we agreed that for purposes of each First Midwest health plan, First Midwest shall cause any eligible expenses incurred by employees of Great Lakes and their covered dependents during the portion of the plan year of the comparable plan of Great Lakes ending on the date such employee's participation in the corresponding First Midwest plan begins to be taken into account under such First Midwest plan for purposes of satisfying all deductible, coinsurance and maximum out-of-pocket requirements applicable to such employee and his or her covered dependents for the applicable plan year of the First Midwest plan;

- we agreed First Midwest would honor and pay all severance, compensation or other benefits to specific employees of Great Lakes or any of its subsidiaries to the extent previously disclosed in the merger agreement;
- we agreed that, upon completion of the merger, First Midwest will indemnify, defend and hold harmless the directors and officers of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank (when acting in such capacity) against all costs and liabilities arising out of actions or omissions occurring at or before the completion of the Merger, in accordance with First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated by-laws to the extent permitted by law;
- we agreed that, for a period of six years after the effective time of the merger, First Midwest will maintain Great Lakes' existing director's and officer's liability insurance if the annual premium therefor

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is not in excess of 200% of the last annual premium paid prior to the date of the merger agreement. See The Merger Interests of Certain Persons ; and

- we agreed to use our commercially reasonable efforts to plan, execute and complete the conversion of the processing, computing, payment and other operating systems of Great Lakes Bank to those of First Midwest Bank by the closing of the merger, or at such later time as First Midwest may determine, provided that such conversion shall not become effective prior to the closing of the merger.

Conditions to Completion of the Merger

The obligations of First Midwest and Great Lakes to complete the merger are subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

- the merger agreement and the merger must be approved by the requisite vote of holders of Great Lakes common stock;
- the required regulatory approvals must be obtained without any conditions that could have a material adverse effect on First Midwest or materially restrict First Midwest or any of its subsidiaries in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or with respect to the business or operations of First Midwest or any of its subsidiaries, and any waiting periods required by law must expire;
- the First Midwest common stock that is to be issued in the merger must be approved for listing on NASDAQ and the registration statement filed with the SEC of which this proxy statement/prospectus is a part must be effective; and
- there must be no government action or other legal restraint or prohibition preventing completion of the merger or the other mergers contemplated by the merger agreement.

The obligation of Great Lakes to complete the merger is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

- the representations and warranties of First Midwest contained in the merger agreement must be true and correct (except for representations and warranties qualified by the words material or Material Adverse Effect , which are required to be true in all respects) and First Midwest must have performed in all material respects all obligations required to be performed by it under the merger agreement;

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- receipt of a legal opinion from Seyfarth Shaw LLP, dated as of the date the merger is completed, that, on the basis of facts, representations and assumptions set forth in each of the opinion, the merger will be treated as a tax-free reorganization under federal tax laws; and

- receipt of a legal opinion from First Midwest's general counsel as to certain corporate matters, including First Midwest's due incorporation and legal standing and the due authorization and issuance of First Midwest common stock in connection with the merger.

In addition, the obligation of First Midwest to complete the merger is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

- the representations and warranties of Great Lakes contained in the merger agreement must be true and correct (except for representations and warranties qualified by the words "material" or "Material Adverse Effect", which are required to be true in all respects) and Great Lakes must have performed in all material respects all obligations required to be performed by it under the merger agreement;

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- receipt of a legal opinion from Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, dated as of the date the merger is completed, that, on the basis of facts, representations and assumptions set forth in each of the opinion, the merger will be treated as a tax-free reorganization under federal tax laws; and
- receipt of a legal opinion from Seyfarth Shaw LLP as to certain corporate matters, including Great Lakes' due incorporation and legal standing, the legal status of Great Lakes' capital stock and the due authorization and execution of the merger agreement;
- The number of dissenting shares shall not exceed 7.5% of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock;
- Great Lakes shall have obtained all required third party consents, as defined in the merger agreement;
- Great Lakes' closing tangible equity, as defined in the merger agreement, must be greater than or equal to \$48,327,000;
- there must be no more than 155,100 shares of Great Lakes common stock outstanding; and
- the 30-day average balance of Great Lakes Bank's consolidated deposits must be no less than \$387,000,000 for the 30-day period ending on the day immediately prior to the closing date.

No assurance can be provided as to if, or when, the required regulatory approvals necessary to consummate the merger will be obtained, or whether all of the other conditions to the merger will be satisfied or waived by the party permitted to do so. As discussed below, if the merger is not completed on or before July 7, 2015, either First Midwest or Great Lakes may terminate the merger agreement, unless the failure to complete the merger by that date is due to the failure of the party seeking to terminate the merger agreement to comply with any of the provisions of the merger agreement.

Termination of the Merger Agreement

The merger agreement may be terminated by either First Midwest or Great Lakes at any time before or after the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby are approved by Great Lakes stockholders:

- by our mutual consent;

- if any governmental entity that must grant a regulatory approval has denied approval of the merger, bank merger or the other transactions contemplated thereby by final and nonappealable action, but not by a party whose failure to comply with any provision of the merger agreement caused, or materially contributed to, such denial;
- if the merger is not completed on or before July 7, 2015, unless the failure to complete the merger by this date is due to the failure of the party seeking to terminate the merger agreement to comply with any of the provisions of the merger agreement;
- if the other party is in a continuing breach of a representation, warranty or covenant contained in the merger agreement, after 60 days written notice to the breaching party, as long as that breach has not been cured within 30 days and that breach would also allow the non-breaching party not to complete the merger; or
- if we are unable to agree on a purchase price adjustment arising out of a disagreement regarding certain environmental contamination or title insurance matters, as set forth in the merger agreement.

The merger agreement may also be terminated by First Midwest at any time before or after the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby are approved by Great Lakes stockholders:

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- if Great Lakes stockholders fail to approve the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger;
- if Great Lakes board of directors submits the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby to its stockholders without a recommendation for approval or with special and materially adverse qualifications on the approval, or if the board of directors otherwise withdraws or materially and adversely modifies its recommendation for approval;
- if Great Lakes board of directors recommends an acquisition proposal other than the merger, or if Great Lakes board of directors negotiates or authorizes negotiations with a third party regarding an acquisition proposal other than the merger and those negotiations continue for at least 10 business days, except that negotiations will not include the request and receipt of information from any person that submits an acquisition proposal, or discussions regarding such information for the sole purpose of ascertaining the terms of the acquisition proposal and determining whether Great Lakes board of directors will in fact engage in or authorize negotiations;
- if any named fiduciary of the Great Lakes ESOP or the trustee of the Great Lakes ESOT recommends a vote against, or an abstention with respect to, the approval of the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, or votes against, or abstains with respect to, approval of any of the foregoing (subject to certain limitations) or fails to facilitate the pass-through voting of shares of Great Lakes common stock held by participants in the Great Lakes ESOP;
- if Great Lakes has breached its covenant not to solicit or encourage inquiries or proposals with respect to any acquisition proposal, in circumstances not permitted under the merger agreement, as described above under Acquisition Proposals by Third Parties ; or
- if the number of dissenting shares exceeds 7.5% of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock.

The merger agreement also provides that Great Lakes must pay First Midwest a fee equal to \$2,900,000 or \$1,500,000 in the following circumstances:

- The fee will equal \$2,900,000 if one of the following situations occurs on or before certain specified dates:
- if Great Lakes board of directors submits the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, to Great Lakes stockholders without a recommendation for approval or with material and adverse conditions on such approval, or withdraws or materially and adversely modifies its recommendation;

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- if Great Lakes enters into an agreement to engage in a competing acquisition proposal with any person other than First Midwest or any of First Midwest's subsidiaries;
- if Great Lakes authorizes, recommends or proposes (or publicly announces its intention to authorize, recommend or propose) an agreement to engage in a competing acquisition proposal with any such person or its board of directors recommends that Great Lakes stockholders approve or accept such competing acquisition proposal;
- if any person, other than First Midwest or its subsidiaries, acquires beneficial ownership or the right to acquire beneficial ownership of 25% or more of the outstanding shares of Great Lakes common stock;
- if Great Lakes fails to convene a stockholder meeting to approve the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, within 60 days of the effectiveness of this Registration Statement; or

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- Great Lakes has breached its covenant not to solicit or encourage inquiries or proposals with respect to any acquisition proposal, in circumstances not permitted under the merger agreement, which covenant is described below under Acquisition Proposals by Third Parties.
- The fee will equal \$1,500,000 if the following occurs on or before certain specified dates:
 - if any named fiduciary of the Great Lakes ESOP or the trustee of the Great Lakes ESOT recommends a vote against, or an abstention with respect to, the approval of the merger agreement and the other transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, or votes against, or abstains with respect to, approval of any of the foregoing (subject to certain limitations) or fails to facilitate the pass-through voting of shares of Great Lakes common stock held by participants in the Great Lakes ESOP.

Waiver and Amendment of the Merger Agreement

At any time before completion of the merger, either First Midwest or Great Lakes may, to the extent legally allowed, waive in writing compliance by the other with any provision contained in the merger agreement. First Midwest may also change the structure of merger, as long as any change does not change the amount or type of consideration to be received by Great Lakes stockholders, does not adversely affect the timing of completion of the merger, does not adversely affect the tax consequences of the merger to Great Lakes stockholders and does not cause any of the conditions to complete the merger to be incapable of being satisfied.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger

We have agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain the regulatory approvals required for the merger. We refer to these approvals, along with the expiration of any statutory waiting periods related to these approvals, as the requisite regulatory approvals. These include approval from the Federal Reserve and approval from the IDFP. We have filed the applications and notifications to obtain the requisite regulatory approvals. The merger cannot proceed in the absence of the requisite regulatory approvals. We cannot assure you as to whether or when the requisite regulatory approvals will be obtained, and, if obtained, we cannot assure you as to the date of receipt of any of these approvals, the terms thereof or the absence of any litigation challenging them. Likewise, we cannot assure you that the U.S. Department of Justice or a state attorney general will not attempt to challenge the merger on antitrust grounds, or, if such a challenge is made, as to the result of that challenge. Consummation of the merger also requires prior notice to the OCC.

We are not aware of any other material governmental approvals or actions that are required prior to the parties' completion of the merger other than those described below. We presently contemplate that if any additional governmental approvals or actions are required, these approvals or actions will be sought. However, we cannot assure you that any of these additional approvals or actions will be obtained.

Federal Reserve. Completion of the merger is subject to approval by the Federal Reserve pursuant to Section 3 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (BHC Act)

The Federal Reserve is prohibited from approving any merger transaction under Section 3 of the BHC Act (1) that would result in a monopoly or be in furtherance of any combination or conspiracy to monopolize, or to attempt to monopolize, the business of banking in any part of the United States, or (2) whose effect in any section of the United States may be to substantially lessen competition, or to tend to create a monopoly or in any other manner restrain trade, unless the Federal Reserve finds that the anti-competitive effects of the merger transaction are clearly outweighed in the public interest by the probable effect of the merger transaction in meeting the convenience and needs of the communities to be served.

In addition, among other things, in reviewing the merger, the Federal Reserve must consider (1) the financial condition and future prospects of First Midwest, Great Lakes and their subsidiary banks, (2) the competence, experience, and integrity of the officers, directors and principal shareholders of First Midwest, Great Lakes and their subsidiary banks, (3) the convenience and needs of the communities to be served, including the

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record of performance under the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, as amended, (4) the companies' effectiveness in combating money-laundering activities, (5) First Midwest's and its subsidiaries' record of compliance with applicable community reinvestment laws and (6) the risk to the stability of the United States banking or financial system presented by the merger and the related transactions.

Furthermore, the BHC Act and Federal Reserve regulations require published notice of, and the opportunity for public comment on, the Federal Reserve application and notification, and authorize the Federal Reserve to hold a public hearing or meeting if the Federal Reserve determines that a hearing or meeting would be appropriate. Any hearing or meeting or comments provided by third parties could prolong the period during which the application and notification are under review by the Federal Reserve.

First Midwest has also filed an application with the Federal Reserve to approve the merger of Great Lakes Bank with and into First Midwest Bank under the Bank Merger Act. In evaluating an application filed under the Bank Merger Act, the Federal Reserve uses substantially the same criteria as used when evaluating applications filed pursuant to the BHC Act as described above.

Pursuant to the BHC Act and the Bank Merger Act, a transaction approved by the Federal Reserve is subject to a waiting period ranging from 15 to 30 days, during which time the U.S. Department of Justice may challenge the merger transaction on antitrust grounds and seek appropriate relief. The commencement of an antitrust action would stay the effectiveness of such an approval unless a court specifically ordered otherwise. In reviewing the merger, the U.S. Department of Justice could analyze the merger's effect on competition differently than the Federal Reserve, and thus it is possible that the U.S. Department of Justice could reach a different conclusion than the Federal Reserve regarding the merger's effects on competition. A determination by the U.S. Department of Justice not to object to the merger does not prevent the filing of antitrust actions by private persons or state attorneys general.

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Consummation of the bank merger requires an application to the IDFPR under Section 22 of the Illinois Banking Act.

Among other things, in reviewing the bank merger, the IDFPR must consider (1) the financial condition and future prospects of First Midwest, Great Lakes and their subsidiary banks, (2) the general character, experience and qualifications of the directors and management of the resulting bank, (3) the convenience and needs of the area sought to be served by the resulting bank, (4) the fairness of the proposed merger to all parties involved, and (5) the safety and soundness of the resulting bank following the proposed bank merger.

Dividends

Great Lakes is prohibited from paying cash dividends to stockholders of its common stock, unless the merger has not closed by March 1, 2015. If the merger has not closed by March 1, 2015, Great Lakes may pay a one-time cash dividend to stockholders of its common stock of \$2.00 per share, not to exceed \$310,200 in the aggregate.

For further information, please see [Price Range of Common Stock and Dividends](#).

Stock Exchange Listing

First Midwest has agreed to use its commercially reasonable efforts to list the First Midwest common stock to be issued in the merger on NASDAQ. It is a condition to the completion of the merger that those shares be approved for listing on NASDAQ, subject to official notice of issuance. Following the merger, First Midwest expects that its common stock will continue to trade on NASDAQ under the symbol FMBI.

Restrictions on Resales by Affiliates

First Midwest has registered its common shares to be issued in the merger with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). No restrictions on the sale or other transfer of First

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Midwest common shares issued in the merger will be imposed solely as a result of the merger, except for restrictions on the transfer of First Midwest common shares issued to any Great Lakes shareholder who is or becomes an affiliate of First Midwest for purposes of Rule 144 under the Securities Act. The term affiliate is defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act as a person that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, First Midwest or the combined company, as the case may be, and generally includes executive officers, directors and shareholders beneficially owning 10% or more of First Midwest's outstanding common shares.

Dissenters' Rights of Appraisal of Great Lakes Stockholders

The following discussion is a summary of the material statutory procedures to be followed by a holder of Great Lakes common stock in order to dissent from the merger and perfect appraisal rights. If you want to exercise appraisal rights, you should review carefully Section 262 of the DGCL and are urged to consult a legal advisor before electing or attempting to exercise these rights because the failure to precisely follow all the necessary legal requirements may result in the loss of such appraisal rights. This description is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the relevant provisions of the DGCL, which are reprinted in their entirety as Appendix C to this proxy statement/prospectus. Great Lakes stockholders seeking to exercise appraisal rights must strictly comply with these provisions.

Stockholders of Great Lakes as of the record date may exercise dissenters' rights in connection with the merger by complying with Section 262 of the DGCL. Consummation of the merger is subject to, among other things, the holders of no more than 7.5% of the outstanding Great Lakes common stock electing to exercise their dissenters' rights.

If you hold one or more shares of Great Lakes common stock, you are entitled to appraisal rights under Delaware law and have the right to dissent from the merger, have your shares appraised by the Delaware Court of Chancery and receive the fair value of such shares (exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger) as of completion of the merger in place of the merger consideration, as determined by the court, if you strictly comply with the procedures specified in Section 262 of the DGCL. Any such Great Lakes stockholder awarded fair value for their shares by the court would receive payment of that fair value in cash, together with interest, if any, in lieu of the right to receive the merger consideration, and accordingly, such Great Lakes stockholder awarded fair value for their shares would not receive any shares of First Midwest common stock following the completion of the merger. Such fair value amount may differ from the value of the consideration that you would otherwise receive in the merger.

The following is a summary of the statutory procedures that you must follow if you elect to exercise your dissenters' rights under the DGCL. The following summary does not constitute any legal or other advice, nor does it constitute a recommendation that you exercise your rights to seek appraisal under Section 262 of the DGCL. This summary is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Section 262 of the DGCL, the text of which is set forth in full in Appendix C to this proxy statement/prospectus.

Under Section 262 of the DGCL, when a merger is submitted for approval at a meeting of stockholders as in the case of the adoption of the merger agreement, Great Lakes, not less than 20 days prior to the meeting, must notify each stockholder who was a Great Lakes stockholder on the record date for notice of such meeting and who is entitled to exercise appraisal rights, that appraisal rights are available and include in the notice a copy of Section 262 of the DGCL. This proxy statement/prospectus constitutes the required notice, and the copy of applicable statutory provisions is attached to this proxy statement/prospectus as Appendix C. A holder of Great Lakes common stock who wishes to exercise appraisal rights or who wishes to preserve the right to do so should review the following discussion and Appendix C carefully. Failure to strictly comply with the procedures of Section 262 of the DGCL in a timely and proper manner will result in the loss of appraisal rights. A stockholder who loses his, her or its appraisal rights will be entitled to receive the per share merger consideration.

How to exercise and perfect your right to dissent. Great Lakes stockholders wishing to exercise the rights to seek an appraisal of their shares must do ALL of the following:

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- you must not vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement. Because a proxy that is signed and submitted but does not otherwise contain voting instructions will, unless revoked, be voted in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement, if you vote by proxy and wish to exercise your appraisal rights you must vote against the adoption of the merger agreement or abstain from voting your shares;
- you must deliver to Great Lakes a written demand for appraisal before the vote on the adoption of the merger agreement at the special meeting and all demands for appraisal must be made by you, or in your name, fully and correctly, as your name appears, with respect to shares evidenced by certificates, on your stock certificate, or, with respect to shares held in street name through a bank, brokerage firm or other nominee, on the stock ledger, and such demands must reasonably inform Great Lakes of your identity and your intention to demand appraisal of your shares of common stock;
- you must continuously hold the shares from the date of making the demand through the effective time. You will lose your appraisal rights if you transfer the shares before the effective time; and
- you or the surviving company must file a petition in the Delaware Court of Chancery requesting a determination of the fair value of the shares within 120 days after the effective time. The surviving company is under no obligation to file any such petition in the Delaware Court of Chancery and has no intention of doing so. Accordingly, it is the obligation of the Great Lakes stockholders to initiate all necessary action to perfect their appraisal rights in respect of shares of Great Lakes common stock within the time prescribed in Section 262 of the DGCL.

Voting, in person or by proxy, against, abstaining from voting on or failing to vote on the adoption of the merger agreement will not constitute a written demand for appraisal as required by Section 262 of the DGCL. The written demand for appraisal must be in addition to and separate from any proxy or vote.

Who May Exercise Appraisal Rights. Only a holder of record of shares of Great Lakes common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time may assert appraisal rights for the shares of stock registered in that holder's name. A demand for appraisal must be executed by or on behalf of the stockholder of record, fully and correctly, as the stockholder's name appears on the stock certificates (or in the stock ledger). The demand must reasonably inform Great Lakes of the identity of the stockholder and that the stockholder intends to demand appraisal of his, her or its common stock. Beneficial owners who do not also hold their shares of common stock of record may not directly make appraisal demands to Great Lakes. The beneficial holder must, in such cases, have the owner of record, such as a bank, brokerage firm or other nominee, submit the required demand in respect of those shares of common stock of record. A record owner, such as a bank, brokerage firm or other nominee, who holds shares of Great Lakes common stock as a nominee for others, may exercise his, her or its right of appraisal with respect to the shares of Great Lakes common stock held for one or more beneficial owners, while not exercising this right for other beneficial owners. In that case, the written demand should state the number of shares of Great Lakes common stock as to which appraisal is sought. Where no number of shares of Great Lakes common stock is expressly mentioned, the demand will be presumed to cover all shares of Great Lakes common stock held in the name of the record owner.

IF YOU HOLD YOUR SHARES IN BANK OR BROKERAGE ACCOUNTS OR OTHER NOMINEE FORMS, AND YOU WISH TO EXERCISE APPRAISAL RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH YOUR BANK, BROKERAGE FIRM OR OTHER NOMINEE, AS APPLICABLE, TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES FOR THE BANK, BROKERAGE FIRM OR OTHER NOMINEE TO MAKE A DEMAND FOR APPRAISAL OF THOSE SHARES. IF YOU HAVE A BENEFICIAL INTEREST IN SHARES HELD OF RECORD IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON, SUCH AS A BANK, BROKERAGE FIRM OR OTHER NOMINEE, YOU MUST ACT PROMPTLY TO CAUSE THE RECORD HOLDER TO FOLLOW PROPERLY AND IN A TIMELY

MANNER THE STEPS NECESSARY TO PERFECT YOUR APPRAISAL RIGHTS.

If you own shares of Great Lakes common stock jointly with one or more other persons, as in a joint tenancy or tenancy in common, demand for appraisal must be executed by or for you and all other joint owners. An authorized agent, including an agent for two or more joint owners, may execute the demand for appraisal for a

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stockholder of record; however, the agent must identify the record owner and expressly disclose the fact that, in exercising the demand, such person is acting as agent for the record owner. If you hold shares of Great Lakes common stock through a broker who in turn holds the shares through a central securities depository nominee such as Cede & Co., a demand for appraisal of such shares must be made by or on behalf of the depository nominee and must identify the depository nominee as record holder.

If you elect to exercise appraisal rights under Section 262 of the DGCL, you should mail or deliver a written demand to:

Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc.
Attention: Louis J. Hoekstra
4600 West Lincoln Highway
Matteson, Illinois 60443
(708) 283-5800

You should sign every communication.

First Midwest's actions after completion of the merger. If the merger is completed, the surviving company will give written notice of the effective time within 10 days after the effective time to you if you did not vote in favor of the merger agreement and you made a written demand for appraisal in accordance with Section 262 of the DGCL. At any time within 60 days after the effective time, you have the right to withdraw the demand and to accept the merger consideration in accordance with the merger agreement for your shares of Great Lakes common stock. Within 120 days after the effective time, but not later, either you, provided you have complied with the requirements of Section 262 of the DGCL, or the surviving company may commence an appraisal proceeding by filing a petition in the Delaware Court of Chancery, with a copy served on the surviving company in the case of a petition filed by you, demanding a determination of the value of the shares of Great Lakes common stock held by all dissenting stockholders. The surviving company is under no obligation to file an appraisal petition and has no intention of doing so. If you desire to have your shares appraised, you should initiate any petitions necessary for the perfection of their appraisal rights within the time periods and in the manner prescribed in Section 262 of the DGCL.

Within 120 days after the effective time, provided you have complied with the provisions of Section 262 of the DGCL, you will be entitled to receive from the surviving company, upon written request, a statement setting forth the aggregate number of shares not voted in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement and with respect to which Great Lakes has received demands for appraisal, and the aggregate number of holders of those shares. The surviving company must mail this statement to you within the later of 10 days of receipt of the request or 10 days after expiration of the period for delivery of demands for appraisal. If you are the beneficial owner of shares of stock held in a voting trust or by a nominee on your behalf you may, in your own name, file an appraisal petition or request from the surviving company the statement described in this paragraph.

If a petition for appraisal is duly filed by you or another record holder of Great Lakes common stock who has properly exercised his or her appraisal rights in accordance with the provisions of Section 262 of the DGCL, and a copy of the petition is delivered to the surviving company, the surviving company will then be obligated, within 20 days after receiving service of a copy of the petition, to provide the Chancery Court with a duly verified list containing the names and addresses of all holders who have demanded an appraisal of their shares. The Delaware Court of Chancery will then determine which stockholders are entitled to appraisal rights and may require the stockholders demanding appraisal who hold certificated shares to submit their stock certificates to the Register in Chancery for notation thereon of the pendency of the appraisal proceedings and the Delaware Court of Chancery may dismiss any stockholder who fails to comply with this direction from the proceedings. Where proceedings are not dismissed or the demand for appraisal is not successfully withdrawn, the appraisal proceeding will be conducted as to the shares of Great Lakes common stock owned by such stockholders, in accordance with the rules of the Delaware Court of Chancery,

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including any rules specifically governing appraisal proceedings. The Delaware Court of Chancery will thereafter determine the fair value of the shares of Great Lakes common stock at the effective time held by dissenting stockholders, exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger. Unless the Delaware Court of Chancery in its discretion determines otherwise for good cause shown, interest from the effective time through the date of payment of the judgment will be compounded quarterly and will accrue at 5% over the Federal Reserve discount rate (including any surcharge) as established from time to time

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during the period between the effective time and the date of payment of the judgment. When the value is determined, the Delaware Court of Chancery will direct the payment of such value, with interest thereon, if any, to the stockholders entitled to receive the same, upon surrender by such stockholders of their stock certificates and book-entry shares.

In determining the fair value, the Delaware Court of Chancery is required to take into account all relevant factors. In *Weinberger v. UOP, Inc.*, the Delaware Supreme Court discussed the factors that could be considered in determining fair value in an appraisal proceeding, stating that proof of value by any techniques or methods which are generally considered acceptable in the financial community and otherwise admissible in court should be considered and that [f]air price obviously requires consideration of all relevant factors involving the value of a company. The Delaware Supreme Court has stated that, in making this determination of fair value, the court must consider market value, asset value, dividends, earnings prospects, the nature of the enterprise and any other factors which could be ascertained as of the date of the merger which throw any light on future prospects of the merged corporation. Section 262 of the DGCL provides that fair value is to be exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger. In *Cede & Co. v. Technicolor, Inc.*, the Delaware Supreme Court stated that such exclusion is a narrow exclusion [that] does not encompass known elements of value, but which rather applies only to the speculative elements of value arising from such accomplishment or expectation. In *Weinberger*, the Delaware Supreme Court construed Section 262 of the DGCL to mean that elements of future value, including the nature of the enterprise, which are known or susceptible of proof as of the date of the merger and not the product of speculation, may be considered. In addition, Delaware courts have decided that the statutory appraisal remedy, depending on factual circumstances, may or may not be a dissenter's exclusive remedy. An opinion of an investment banking firm as to the fairness from a financial point of view of the consideration payable in a merger is not an opinion as to, and does not in any manner address, fair value under Section 262 of the DGCL. The fair value of their shares as determined under Section 262 of the DGCL could be greater than, the same as, or less than the value of the merger consideration. We do not anticipate offering more than the per share merger consideration to any stockholder exercising appraisal rights and reserve the right to assert, in any appraisal proceeding, that, for purposes of Section 262, the fair value of a share of Great Lakes common stock is less than the per share merger consideration.

If no party files a petition for appraisal within 120 days after the effective time, then you will lose the right to an appraisal, and will instead receive the merger consideration described in the merger agreement, without interest thereon, less any withholding taxes.

The Delaware Court of Chancery may determine the costs of the appraisal proceeding and may allocate those costs to the parties as the Delaware Court of Chancery determines to be equitable under the circumstances. However, costs do not include attorneys and expert witness fees. Each dissenting stockholder is responsible for its own attorneys and expert witnesses expenses, although, upon application of a stockholder, the Delaware Court of Chancery may order all or a portion of the expenses incurred by any stockholder in connection with the appraisal proceeding, including reasonable attorneys' fees and the fees and expenses of experts, to be charged pro rata against the value of all shares entitled to appraisal.

If you have duly demanded an appraisal in compliance with Section 262 of the DGCL you may not, after the effective time, vote the Great Lakes shares subject to the demand for any purpose or receive any dividends or other distributions on those shares, except dividends or other distributions payable to holders of record of Great Lakes shares as of a record date prior to the effective time.

If you have not commenced an appraisal proceeding or joined such a proceeding as a named party you may withdraw a demand for appraisal and accept the merger consideration by delivering a written withdrawal of the demand for appraisal to the surviving company, except that any attempt to withdraw made more than 60 days after the effective time will require written approval of the surviving company, and no appraisal proceeding in the Delaware Court of Chancery will be dismissed as to any stockholder without the approval of the Delaware Court of Chancery. Such approval may be conditioned on the terms the Delaware Court of Chancery deems just, provided, however, that this provision will not affect the right of any stockholder who has not commenced an appraisal proceeding or joined such proceeding as a named party to withdraw such stockholder's demand for appraisal and to accept the terms offered in the merger within 60 days. If you fail to perfect, successfully

withdraw or lose the

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appraisal right, your shares will be converted into the right to receive the merger consideration, without interest thereon, less any withholding taxes.

Failure to follow the steps required by Section 262 of the DGCL for perfecting appraisal rights may result in the loss of appraisal rights. In that event, you will be entitled to receive the merger consideration for your shares in accordance with the merger agreement. In view of the complexity of the provisions of Section 262 of the DGCL, if you are a Great Lakes stockholder and are considering exercising your appraisal rights under the DGCL, you should consult your own legal advisor.

THE PROCESS OF DEMANDING AND EXERCISING APPRAISAL RIGHTS REQUIRES STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH TECHNICAL PREREQUISITES. IF YOU WISH TO EXERCISE YOUR APPRAISAL RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH YOUR OWN LEGAL COUNSEL IN CONNECTION WITH COMPLIANCE UNDER SECTION 262 OF THE DGCL. TO THE EXTENT THERE ARE ANY INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE FOREGOING SUMMARY AND SECTION 262 OF THE DGCL, THE DGCL WILL GOVERN.

Voting Agreements

In connection with the execution of the merger agreement, and as a condition to First Midwest's willingness to enter into the merger agreement, directors and executive officers of Great Lakes and Great Lakes Bank who beneficially own in the aggregate approximately 8% of Great Lakes outstanding common stock have entered into voting agreements with First Midwest. Copies of the form of these voting agreements are attached as Annex 1-B to the merger agreement included as Appendix A and are incorporated by reference.

Under the voting agreement, each such stockholder has agreed, with respect to the shares of Great Lakes common stock controlled by him or her, including the shares owned by him or her through the Great Lakes ESOP, that at any meeting of the Great Lakes stockholders in relation to the merger agreement and transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and at the special stockholders meeting or any other meeting or action of Great Lakes stockholders called in relation to such matters, he or she shall vote or cause to be voted such shares as follows:

- vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, including the merger; and
- not vote in favor any competing acquisition proposal or any action that is intended or could reasonably be expected to materially impede, interfere with, delay or materially and adversely affect the merger or any other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or the transactions contemplated thereby.

The voting agreement also contains restrictions on the sale, transfer, assignment, pledge or other disposition of the stockholder's shares unless the stockholder receives an irrevocable proxy in a form satisfactory to First Midwest regarding the merger agreement, the merger and any other matters required to be approved to consummate the merger and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or the transferee signs a

voting agreement identical in all material respects.

The voting agreement will terminate the earlier of the effective time of the merger and the termination of the merger agreement.

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First Midwest common stock is traded on NASDAQ under the symbol FMBI. The following table shows the high and low reported intra-day sales prices per share of First Midwest's common stock as reported by NASDAQ and the cash dividends declared per share.

	Sales Price Per Share High	Low	Cash Dividends Per Share
2012			
First Quarter	\$ 12.87	\$ 10.25	\$ 0.01
Second Quarter	\$ 12.25	\$ 9.42	\$ 0.01
Third Quarter	\$ 13.40	\$ 10.43	\$ 0.01
Fourth Quarter	\$ 13.57	\$ 11.62	\$ 0.01
2013			
First Quarter	\$ 13.60	\$ 12.11	\$ 0.01
Second Quarter	\$ 13.87	\$ 11.57	\$ 0.04
Third Quarter	\$ 16.20	\$ 13.81	\$ 0.04
Fourth Quarter	\$ 18.49	\$ 14.90	\$ 0.07
2014			
First Quarter	\$ 17.83	\$ 15.36	\$ 0.07
Second Quarter	\$ 18.19	\$ 15.49	\$ 0.08
Third Quarter (through [•], 2014)	[•]	[•]	[•]

The following table sets forth the closing sale prices per share of First Midwest common stock on NASDAQ on July 7, 2014, the last trading day completed before the public announcement of the signing of the merger agreement, and on [•], 2014, the latest practicable date before the date of this proxy statement/prospectus.

Closing Price Per Share of First Midwest Common Stock on NASDAQ		
July 7, 2014	\$	17.43
[•], 2014		[•]

Past price performance is not necessarily indicative of likely future performance. Because market prices of First Midwest common stock will fluctuate, you are urged to obtain current market prices for shares of First Midwest common stock.

First Midwest may repurchase shares of its common stock in accordance with applicable legal guidelines. The actual amount of shares repurchased will depend on various factors, including: the discretion of First Midwest's board of directors, market conditions; legal limitations and considerations affecting the amount and timing of repurchase activity; the company's capital position; internal capital generation; and alternative potential investment opportunities.

After the merger, First Midwest currently expects to pay (when, as and if declared by First Midwest's board of directors out of funds legally available) regular quarterly cash dividends of \$0.08 per share, in accordance with First Midwest's current practice. The actual payment of future dividends remains subject to the determination of First Midwest's board of directors and may change at any time. In the first quarter of 2014, Great Lakes declared an annual dividend of \$2.00 per share of Great Lakes common stock. In the second quarter of 2014, First Midwest declared a dividend of \$0.08 per share of First Midwest common stock. For comparison, Great Lakes stockholders would therefore receive a quarterly dividend following the merger equivalent to \$1.2590 per share of Great Lakes common stock, based on First Midwest's current quarterly dividend rate of \$0.08 per share and assuming for the purpose of this example that the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest's common stock on NASDAQ on the ten trading days ending on and including the third trading day preceding the completion of the merger is \$17.17, which was the per share volume weighted average price of First Midwest's common stock for the ten trading days ending on and including July 7, 2014 (the last trading day prior to the announcement of the merger). See The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration above for a detailed explanation of how the merger consideration will be calculated.

In the ordinary course of business, First Midwest is dependent upon dividends from its subsidiary, First Midwest Bank, to provide funds for the payment of dividends to stockholders and to provide for other cash requirements. Banking regulations may limit the amount of dividends that may be paid. Approval by regulatory

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authorities is required if the effect of dividends declared would cause the regulatory capital of First Midwest Bank to fall below specified minimum levels. Approval is also required if dividends declared exceed the net profits for that year combined with the retained net profits for the preceding two years. Under Federal Reserve regulations, the Federal Reserve has the authority to prohibit bank holding companies from engaging in activities that the Federal Reserve considers unsafe or unsound banking practices. Under certain circumstances, the Federal Reserve may take the position that payment of dividends by First Midwest would constitute an unsafe or unsound banking practice in light of its financial condition. Under Federal Reserve policies, a bank holding company should pay cash dividends on its common stock only out of income available over the past year and should not pay cash dividends if such payment would undermine its ability to serve as a source of strength to its banking subsidiaries. First Midwest's ability to pay cash dividends is further limited by its obligation to maintain adequate levels of capital in accordance with the Federal Reserve's capital adequacy guidelines.

Great Lakes is generally prohibited from paying cash dividends to stockholders of its common stock prior to completion of the merger. If the merger has not closed by March 1, 2015, Great Lakes may pay a one-time cash dividend to stockholders of its common stock of \$2.00 per share, not to exceed \$310,200 in the aggregate.

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INFORMATION ABOUT FIRST MIDWEST AND GREAT LAKES

First Midwest

First Midwest is a Delaware business corporation and bank holding company headquartered in the Chicago suburb of Itasca, Illinois with operations throughout the greater Chicago metropolitan area, including northwest Indiana, as well as central and western Illinois and eastern Iowa. First Midwest is one of the Chicago metropolitan area's largest independent bank holding companies and its principal subsidiary, First Midwest Bank, provides a broad range of commercial and retail banking and wealth management services to consumer, commercial and industrial, and public or governmental customers. At June 30, 2014, First Midwest had consolidated total assets of \$8.3 billion. First Midwest common stock trades on the NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol FMBI.

First Midwest's executive offices are located at One Pierce Place, Suite 1500, Itasca, Illinois 60143, and its telephone number is (630) 875-7450.

Great Lakes

Great Lakes, a Delaware business corporation incorporated in 1981, is a registered bank holding company headquartered in Matteson, Illinois. Its primary business is operating its bank subsidiary, Great Lakes Bank, with eight locations serving the southern suburbs of Chicago, Illinois.

The predecessor to Great Lakes Bank, a private financial house, was founded in 1896 by John Zacharias, William Werner, and Oliver Bourke, three businessmen from Blue Island, Illinois. These three founders knew that local entrepreneurs would need strong financial backing to grow their business. They registered their entity first as an Illinois state bank in 1905, becoming The Commercial Bank of Blue Island, then as a national bank in 1925 becoming The First National Bank of Blue Island. In 1983, the bank began expansion by first acquiring the Community Bank of Homewood-Flossmoor, followed in 1988 by the acquisition of Bank of Homewood and in 1992 by the acquisition of the First State Bank of Alsip. During the 1990s, the bank opened up additional banking centers in Matteson, Lansing, and Mokena and was renamed Great Lakes Bank in 2001.

Business

Great Lakes Bank offers a variety of traditional financial products and services that are designed to meet the financial needs of the customers and communities it serves. Great Lakes Bank has proudly served its local businesses and individuals, offering a full range of financial services for over 100 years. Great Lakes Bank does not engage in any sub-prime lending, nor does it engage in non-commercial banking activities, such as investment banking services. The banking and financial services industry in the markets in which Great Lakes Bank operates (and particularly the Chicago metropolitan area) is highly competitive. Generally, Great Lakes Bank competes for banking customers and deposits with other local, regional, national, and internet banks and savings and loan associations; personal loan and finance companies; credit unions; mutual funds; and investment brokers.

Deposit and Retail Services

Great Lakes Bank offers a full range of deposit services that are typically available at most commercial banks and financial institutions, including checking accounts, NOW accounts, money market accounts, savings accounts, time deposits of various types ranging from shorter-term to longer-term certificates of deposit and individual retirement accounts. Great Lakes Bank provides online and mobile banking to its deposit customers.

Lending

Great Lakes Bank provides a range of commercial and industrial, commercial real estate, and personal lending products and services for its customers. The majority of Great Lakes Bank's client relationships are based in the south suburban market of Chicago. Great Lakes Bank's largest category of lending is commercial real estate, followed by commercial and industrial, 1-4 family mortgages and home equity loans and lines of credit. Great Lakes Bank utilizes credit underwriting standards to both meet the credit needs of all its customers while protecting

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the bank's asset quality. When extending credit, Great Lakes Bank's decisions are based upon the customer's ability to repay their loan, as well as the value of any collateral securing the loan.

Sources of Funds

Great Lakes Bank maintains stable sources of funding primarily through deposits from its customers. Great Lakes Bank's largest category of deposits are savings and money markets, followed by transactional accounts, and noninterest-bearing deposits. Great Lakes Bank also obtains funds from the amortization, repayment, and prepayment of loans, the sales or maturity of investment securities; advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB); securities sold under agreements to repurchase; federal funds purchased; revolving line of credit; and cash flows generated by operations.

Investment Activities

Great Lakes Bank maintains a securities portfolio to manage risk and provide Great Lakes Bank with asset diversification, income, collateral for its own borrowing and financial stability. Great Lakes Bank administers the securities portfolio in accordance with policies adopted by its board of directors and implemented by Great Lakes Bank's funds management committee. The objectives of the securities portfolio are to diversify and mitigate exposures to credit and interest rate risk, to provide liquidity, and to enhance profitability by fully investing available funds.

Additional Information

Great Lakes shares are not registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and, accordingly, there is no active public market and a lack of liquidity for Great Lakes' stock.

Great Lakes' executive offices are located at 4600 West Lincoln Highway, Matteson, Illinois 60443, and its telephone number is (708) 503-0400.

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DESCRIPTION OF FIRST MIDWEST CAPITAL STOCK

As a result of the merger, Great Lakes stockholders who receive shares of First Midwest common stock in the merger will become stockholders of First Midwest. Your rights as stockholders of First Midwest will be governed by Delaware law and the restated certificate of incorporation and the amended and restated by-laws of First Midwest as may be amended and in effect from time to time. The following description of the material terms of First Midwest's capital stock, including the common stock to be issued in the merger, reflects the anticipated state of affairs upon completion of the merger. We urge you to read the applicable provisions of Delaware law, First Midwest's certificate of incorporation and restated by-laws and federal law governing bank holding companies carefully and in their entirety. Copies of First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation and First Midwest's amended and restated by-laws have been filed with the SEC. To find out where copies of these documents can be obtained, see [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

General

First Midwest's authorized capital stock consists of 150,000,000 shares of First Midwest common stock, par value \$0.01 per share and 1,000,000, shares of preferred stock, without par value. As of the record date of the Great Lakes special meeting, there were [●] shares of First Midwest common stock outstanding and no shares of First Midwest preferred stock outstanding. In addition, as of the record date of the Great Lakes special meeting, [●] shares of First Midwest common stock were reserved for issuance upon conversion or exercise, exercise of stock options and awards, and [●] shares of First Midwest Participating Preferred Stock, without par value, were authorized for issuance upon the exercise of the preferred share purchase rights described under [Stockholder Rights Agreement](#).

Because First Midwest is a holding company, the rights of First Midwest to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary upon its liquidation or reorganization or otherwise (and thus the ability of First Midwest's stockholders to benefit indirectly from such distribution) would be subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent that First Midwest itself may be a creditor of that subsidiary with recognized claims. Claims on First Midwest's subsidiaries by creditors other than First Midwest will include substantial obligations with respect to deposit liabilities and purchased funds.

Preferred Stock

The First Midwest board of directors is authorized to divide the preferred stock into series and, subject to applicable law, to fix for any series of preferred stock the number of shares of such series and the voting powers (if any), designations and preferences, priorities, qualifications, privileges, limitations, restrictions, options, conversion rights, dividend features, retirement features, liquidation features, redemption features and any other special or relative rights that may be desired for any such series. If and when any First Midwest preferred stock is issued, the holders of First Midwest preferred stock may have a preference over holders of First Midwest common stock in the payment of dividends, upon liquidation of First Midwest, in respect of voting rights and in the redemption of the capital stock of First Midwest.

Common Stock

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Dividends. Subject to the rights of any series of preferred stock authorized by the board of directors as provided by First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation, the holders of First Midwest common stock are entitled to dividends as and when declared by the First Midwest board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends.

Voting Rights. Each holder of First Midwest common stock has one vote for each share held on matters presented for consideration by the stockholders. Except as otherwise required by law or provided in any resolution adopted by First Midwest's board of directors with respect to any series of preferred stock, the holders of common stock possess all voting power. First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting in the election of directors.

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Classification of Board of Directors. The First Midwest board of directors is divided into three classes, each serving three-year terms, so that approximately one-third of the directors of First Midwest are elected at each annual meeting of the stockholders of First Midwest. Classification of the First Midwest board of directors has the effect of decreasing the number of directors that could be elected in a single year by any person who seeks to elect its designees to a majority of the seats on the First Midwest board of directors and thereby could impede a change in control of First Midwest.

Preemptive Rights. The holders of First Midwest common stock have no preemptive rights and no right to convert their stock into any other securities.

Redemption and Sinking Fund. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to First Midwest common stock. The holders of First Midwest common stock will have no liability for further calls or assessments and will not be personally liable for the payment of our debts except as they may be liable by reason of their own conduct or acts.

Issuance of Stock. First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation authorizes the First Midwest board of directors to authorize the issuance of shares of First Midwest common stock and First Midwest preferred stock and any other securities without stockholder approval. However, First Midwest common stock is listed on NASDAQ, which requires stockholder approval of the issuance of additional shares of First Midwest common stock under certain circumstances. The DGCL also requires stockholder approval of the issuance of additional shares of First Midwest common stock under certain circumstances.

Liquidation Rights. In the event of liquidation or dissolution, subject to the rights of any outstanding series of preferred stock and creditors of First Midwest, the holders of First Midwest's common stock are entitled to share in all assets remaining for distribution to common stockholders according to their interests.

Stockholder Rights Agreement

First Midwest has a stockholder rights agreement that could discourage unwanted or hostile takeover attempts that are not approved by First Midwest's board of directors. Pursuant to the stockholder rights agreement, each outstanding share of First Midwest common stock has associated with it one preferred share purchase right (each, a "Right"). Each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase from First Midwest one one-thousandth of a share of First Midwest Participating Preferred Stock at an exercise price of \$150, subject to adjustment. The terms of the Rights were originally set forth in a Rights Agreement, dated February 15, 1989, between First Midwest and The First National Bank of Chicago, as rights agent. The terms of the Rights are currently set forth in an Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, dated November 15, 1995, between First Midwest and First Midwest Bank (formerly First Midwest Trust Company) as Rights Agent, as amended by the First Amendment to Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, dated June 18, 1997 between First Midwest and First Midwest Bank, the Second Amendment to Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, dated November 14, 2005 between First Midwest and First Midwest Bank and the Third Amendment to Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, dated December 3, 2008 between First Midwest and First Midwest Bank. The following summary of certain terms of the Rights is qualified in its entirety by reference to the current Rights Agreement, as amended, which is on file with the SEC.

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- The Rights will become exercisable only if a person or group of affiliated or associated persons has acquired beneficial ownership of, or has announced a tender offer for, 10% or more of the outstanding shares of First Midwest's common stock.
- If a person or group of affiliated or associated persons has acquired beneficial ownership of, or has announced a tender offer for, the threshold percentage, each Right will entitle the registered holder, other than such person or group, to buy, at the then current exercise price of the Right, shares of common stock having a market value equal to twice the exercise price of the Right.
- If First Midwest is acquired in a merger or other business combination, each Right will entitle the registered holder, other than such person or group, to purchase, at the then current exercise price of the Right, securities of the surviving company having a market value equal to twice the exercise

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price of the Right. The Rights will expire on November 15, 2015, and First Midwest may redeem or exchange them at any time before they become exercisable.

- Until the Rights become exercisable, they are evidenced by the common stock certificates and are transferred only with such certificates.

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COMPARISON OF STOCKHOLDER RIGHTS

The rights of First Midwest stockholders are governed by the Delaware General Corporation Law, or DGCL, and First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated by-laws. The rights of Great Lakes stockholders are governed by the DGCL and Great Lakes' amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws. After the merger, the rights of Great Lakes' and First Midwest's stockholders will be governed by the DGCL and First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated by-laws. The following discussion summarizes the material differences between the rights of Great Lakes stockholders and the rights of First Midwest stockholders. We urge you to read First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation, First Midwest's amended and restated by-laws, Great Lakes' amended and restated certificate of incorporation, Great Lakes' by-laws, and the DGCL carefully and in their entirety.

Authorized Capital Stock

First Midwest. First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation authorizes it to issue up to 150,000,000 shares of First Midwest common stock, par value \$0.01 per share and 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, without par value. As of the record date of the Great Lakes special meeting, there were [●] shares of First Midwest common stock outstanding and no shares of First Midwest preferred stock outstanding. See Description of First Midwest Capital Stock on page [●]. As of the record date of the Great Lakes special meeting, [●] shares of First Midwest common stock were reserved for issuance upon conversion or exercise, exercise of stock options and awards, and [●] shares of First Midwest Participating Preferred Stock, without par value, were authorized for issuance upon the exercise of the preferred share purchase rights described below under Stockholder Rights Plans.

Great Lakes. Great Lakes' amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that the authorized capital stock of Great Lakes consists of 600,000 shares of common stock, par value \$12.50 per share, and 500,000 shares of preferred stock, without par value. As of the record date of the Great Lakes special meeting, there were [●] shares of Great Lakes common stock outstanding and no shares of Great Lakes preferred stock outstanding.

Size of Board of Directors

First Midwest. First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation provides for First Midwest's board of directors to consist of not less than 3 nor more than 20 directors, with the exact number to be fixed by First Midwest's board of directors from time to time. The First Midwest board of directors currently has 13 directors.

Great Lakes. Great Lakes' amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides for Great Lakes' board of directors to consist of not less than 4 nor more than 15 directors, with the exact number to be fixed by Great Lakes' board of directors from time to time. The Great Lakes board of directors currently has 6 directors.

Classes of Directors

First Midwest. First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation provides that First Midwest's board is divided into three classes of directors as nearly equal in number as possible, with each class being elected to a staggered three-year term. Accordingly, control of the board of directors of First Midwest cannot be changed in one year; at least two annual meetings must be held before a majority of the board of directors may be changed. Holders of shares of First Midwest common stock do not have the right to cumulate their votes in the election of directors.

Great Lakes. Great Lakes' board of directors is not classified. Holders of shares of Great Lakes common stock do not have the right to cumulate their votes in the election of directors. Great Lakes' by-laws provide that each director is elected annually.

Removal of Directors

First Midwest. Under First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation, any First Midwest director may be removed only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of the holders of 67% of the shares then entitled to vote in the election of directors.

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Great Lakes. Under Great Lakes' bylaws, any Great Lakes director or directors may be removed at any duly called and held special meeting of Great Lakes stockholders, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares of stock outstanding and entitled to vote in the election of directors.

Filling Vacancies on the Board of Directors

First Midwest. Under First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation, any vacancy occurring in First Midwest's board of directors shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors.

Great Lakes. Under Great Lakes' bylaws, any vacancy occurring in Great Lakes' board of directors, other than a vacancy occurring by reason of removal by the stockholders, shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors. In the case of a vacancy occurring by reason of removal by the stockholders, the stockholders are entitled to vote for the successor to the removed director and if the stockholders do not fill such vacancy, then such vacancy will be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors.

Nomination of Director Candidates by Stockholders

First Midwest. First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation establishes procedures that stockholders must follow to nominate persons for election to First Midwest's board of directors. The stockholder making the nomination must deliver written notice to First Midwest's Secretary between 120 and 180 days prior to the date of the meeting at which directors will be elected. However, if less than 130-days' notice is given of the meeting date, that written notice by the stockholder must be delivered by the tenth day after the day on which the meeting date notice was given. Notice will be deemed to have been given more than 130 days prior to the annual meeting if First Midwest previously disclosed that the meeting in each year is to be held on a specific date.

The nomination notice must set forth certain information about the person to be nominated, including information that is required pursuant to paragraphs (a), (e) and (f) of Item 401 of Regulation S-K adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and must also include the nominee's written consent to being nominated and to serving as a director if elected. The nomination notice must also set forth certain information about the person submitting the notice, including the stockholder's name and address and the class and number of First Midwest shares that the stockholder owns of record or beneficially. The person presiding at the meeting may, if the facts warrant, determine that a nomination was not made in accordance with the provisions of First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation, and the defective nomination will be disregarded.

Great Lakes. Great Lakes' bylaws establish procedures that stockholders must follow to nominate persons for election to Great Lakes' board of directors. The stockholder making the nomination must deliver written notice to Great Lakes' Secretary between 30 and 75 days before the annual meeting at which directors will be elected. However, if less than 40-days' notice is given of the meeting date, that written notice by the stockholder must be delivered by the tenth day after the day on which the meeting date notice was given.

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The nomination notice must set forth certain information about the person to be nominated similar to information required for disclosure in proxy solicitations for director election pursuant to Exchange Act Regulation 14A, and must also include the nominee's written consent to being nominated and to serving as a director if elected. The nomination notice must also set forth certain information about the person submitting the notice, including the stockholder's name and address and a description of all arrangements or understandings between the stockholder and the nominee and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the nomination or nominations are to be made by the stockholder. The presiding officer of the meeting may, if the facts warrant, determine that a nomination was not made in accordance with the provisions of Great Lakes' bylaws, and the defective nomination will be disregarded.

Calling Special Meetings of Stockholders

First Midwest. A special meeting of stockholders may be called only by First Midwest's board of directors, by First Midwest's Chairman of the board of directors or by First Midwest's President, provided, however, that

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holders of at least 51% of First Midwest's outstanding stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors may also call a special meeting solely for the purpose of removing a director or directors for cause.

Great Lakes. A special meeting of stockholders may be called by Great Lakes' board of directors, by Great Lakes' Chairman of the board of directors or by Great Lakes' President, and shall be called by Great Lakes' Chairman of the board of directors, President or Secretary at the written request of holders of a majority of Great Lakes' outstanding stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors.

Stockholder Proposals

First Midwest. First Midwest's restated bylaws provide that stockholder proposals brought before any stockholder meeting shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast, unless a greater number is required by law or the First Midwest restated certificate of incorporation for the action proposed.

First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation provides that a stockholder must give advance written notice to First Midwest of any proposal for business to be transacted at an annual or special meeting of stockholder. The notice must be in writing and must be delivered to the Secretary of First Midwest between 120 and 180 days before the stockholder meeting. However, if less than 130-days' notice is given of the meeting date, that written notice by the stockholder must be delivered by the tenth day after the day on which the meeting date notice was given.

Stockholder notice for stockholder proposals must set forth, as to each matter such stockholder proposes to bring before the stockholder meeting, (i) a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting and the reasons for why the stockholder favors the proposal, (ii) the name and record address of such stockholder, (iii) the class or series and number of shares of First Midwest capital stock which are owned beneficially or of record of such stockholder, and (iv) any material interest of the stockholder in such proposal.

Great Lakes. Great Lakes' bylaws provide that stockholders proposals brought before any stockholders meeting shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast.

Great Lakes' bylaws provide that a stockholders must give advance written notice to Great Lakes of any proposal for business to be transacted at an annual or special meeting of stockholders. The notice must be in writing and must be delivered to the Secretary of Great Lakes between 30 and 75 days prior to the date of the meeting. However, if less than 40-days' notice is given of the meeting date, that written notice by the stockholder must be delivered by the tenth day after the day on which the meeting date notice was given.

Stockholder notice for proposals must set forth, as to each matter such stockholder proposes to bring before the stockholder meeting, (i) a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting and the reasons for conducting such business at the meeting, (ii) the name and record address of such stockholder, (iii) the number of shares of Great Lakes common stock which are owned beneficially or of record of such stockholder, and (iv) any financial or other interest of the stockholder in the proposal.

Notice of Stockholder Meetings

First Midwest. First Midwest's amended and restated by-laws provide that First Midwest must notify stockholders between 10 and 60 days before any stockholder meeting of the place, day and hour of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be considered at the meeting.

Great Lakes. Great Lakes' by-laws provide that Great Lakes must notify stockholders between 10 and 60 days before any stockholder meeting of the place, day and hour of the meeting and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called.

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Stockholder Rights Plans

First Midwest. While Delaware law does not include a statutory provision expressly validating stockholder rights plans, such plans have generally been upheld by court decisions applying Delaware law.

First Midwest has a stockholder rights agreement, which will be in effect for the combined company after the merger. This plan is described above in the section entitled "Stockholder Protection Agreement" beginning on page [●].

Great Lakes. Great Lakes does not have a stockholder rights plan in place.

Indemnification of Directors and Officers

First Midwest. First Midwest's amended and restated by-laws provide that First Midwest will indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of First Midwest or by reason of the fact that such person is or was serving at the request of the First Midwest as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding, but in each case only if and to the extent permitted under Delaware or federal law.

Great Lakes. Great Lakes' by-laws provide that Great Lakes will indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of Great Lakes or by reason of the fact that such person is or was serving at the request of the Great Lakes as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, and shall (in the case of directors and officers) or may (in the case of employees or agents) advance expenses incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding, but in each case only if and to the extent permitted under Delaware or federal law.

Amendments to Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws

First Midwest. First Midwest's restated certificate of incorporation provides that the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote is required to alter, amend or repeal most provisions of the amended and restated certificate of incorporation; provided, however, if any proposal to alter, amend or repeal any such provision is approved by 80% of the board of directors, then in such case only the affirmative vote as is required by law or as may otherwise be required by the amended and restated certificate of incorporation of the outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote is required to alter, amend or repeal such provision. First Midwest's amended and restated by-laws may be amended only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the directors or upon the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 67% of the voting power of the then outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote.

Great Lakes. Great Lakes' restated certificate of incorporation provides that the corporation reserves the right to amend its certificate of incorporation in the manner prescribed at the time by the DGCL. Great Lakes' by-laws may be amended only upon the affirmative vote of at least 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of all of the directors or upon the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 70% of the voting power all outstanding capital stock of the corporation entitled to vote thereon.

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VALIDITY OF SECURITIES

The validity of the First Midwest common stock to be issued in connection with the merger has been passed upon for First Midwest by Nicholas J. Chulos, Executive Vice President, Corporate Secretary and General Counsel of First Midwest.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. appearing in the First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2013, and the effectiveness of First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. management s assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

With respect to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial information of First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2014 and March 31, 2013, and for the three-month and six-month periods ended June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2013, incorporated by reference in this document, Ernst & Young LLP reported that they have applied limited procedures in accordance with professional standards for a review of such information. However, their separate reports dated May 12, 2014 and August 4, 2014, included in First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. s Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014, and incorporated by reference herein, state that they did not audit and they do not express an opinion on that interim financial information. Accordingly, the degree of reliance on their report on such information should be restricted in light of the limited nature of the review procedures applied. Ernst & Young LLP is not subject to the liability provision of Section 11 of the Securities Act of 1933 for their report on the unaudited interim financial information because that report is not a report or a part of the Registration Statement prepared or certified by Ernst & Young LLP within the meaning of Sections 7 and 11 of the Securities Act of 1933.

The consolidated financial statements of Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc. for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 included herein beginning on page F-3 have been audited by Crowe Horwath LLP, independent auditors, as set forth in their report, included therein. Such consolidated financial statements are included herein in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

OTHER MATTERS

As of the date of this proxy statement/prospectus, Great Lakes board of directors knows of no matters that will be presented for consideration at the special meeting other than as described in this proxy statement/prospectus. If any other matters properly come before the Great Lakes special meeting, or any adjournments of that meeting, and are voted upon, the enclosed proxies will be deemed to confer discretionary authority on the individuals that they name as proxies to vote the shares represented by these proxies as to any of these matters. The individuals named as proxies intend to vote or not to vote in accordance with the recommendation of the board of directors of Great Lakes.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

First Midwest has filed a registration statement with the SEC under the Securities Act that registers the distribution to Great Lakes stockholders of the shares of First Midwest common stock to be issued in the merger. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits and schedules, contains additional relevant information about First Midwest and its common stock, Great Lakes and the combined company.

First Midwest is required to file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any documents filed by First Midwest at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. First Midwest's filings with the SEC are also available to the public through the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You can also find information about First Midwest by visiting First Midwest's web site at www.firstmidwest.com. Information contained in these web sites does not constitute part of this prospectus.

The SEC allows First Midwest to incorporate by reference information into this proxy statement/prospectus. This means that First Midwest can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this proxy statement/prospectus, except for any information that is superseded by information that is included directly in this proxy statement/prospectus.

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This proxy statement/prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below that First Midwest has previously filed with the SEC (other than the portions of those documents not deemed to be filed). They contain important information about First Midwest and First Midwest's financial condition:

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013;
- Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 17, 2014;
- Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed for the quarters ended March 31 and June 30, 2014;
- Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 22, 2014, January 27, 2014, February 12, 2014, April 3, 2014, April 23, 2014, April 28, 2014, May 21, 2014, May 27, 2014, July 8, 2014, July 23, 2014, August 11, 2014 and August 26, 2014;
- The description of First Midwest common stock set forth in First Midwest's registration statement on Form 8-A filed on March 7, 1983 and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating any such description; and
- The description of preferred share purchase rights of First Midwest set forth in Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated November 21, 1995, Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated June 30, 1997, Amendment No. 3 to the Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated November 17, 2005 and Amendment No. 4 to the Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated December 9, 2008, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating this description.

First Midwest incorporates by reference additional documents that it may file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act between the date of this proxy statement/prospectus and the date of Great Lakes' special meeting (other than the portions of those documents not deemed to be filed). These documents include periodic reports, such as Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as proxy statements.

First Midwest has supplied all information contained or incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/prospectus relating to First Midwest.

You can obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/prospectus through First Midwest or from the SEC through the SEC's Internet world wide web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Documents incorporated by reference are available from First Midwest without charge, excluding any exhibits to those documents unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference as an exhibit in this proxy statement/prospectus. You can obtain documents incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/prospectus by requesting them in writing or by telephone as specified below:

First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.
Attention: Assistant Corporate Secretary
One Pierce Place, Suite 1500
Itasca, IL 60143
(630) 875-7463

If you would like to request documents, please do so by [•], 2014 to receive them before the Great Lakes special meeting. If you request any incorporated documents, First Midwest will mail them to you by first-class mail, or another equally prompt means, within one business day after it receives your request.

We have not authorized anyone to give any information or make any representation about the merger agreement or the merger or our companies that is different from, or in addition to, that contained in this proxy statement/prospectus or in any of the materials that First Midwest has incorporated into this proxy statement/prospectus. Therefore, if anyone does give you information of this sort, you should not rely on it. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to exchange or sell, or solicitations of offers to exchange or purchase, the securities offered by this proxy statement/prospectus or the solicitation of proxies is unlawful, or if you are a person to whom

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it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer presented in this proxy statement/prospectus does not extend to you. The information contained in this proxy statement/prospectus speaks only as of the date of this proxy statement/prospectus unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This registration statement, as well as First Midwest's other filings with the SEC and First Midwest's and Great Lakes' other communications with their stockholders, may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the PSLRA). These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any results, levels of activity, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by any forward-looking statement. These factors include, among other things, the factors listed below.

In some cases, we identified forward-looking statements by such words or phrases as will likely result, is confident that, remains optimistic about, expects, should, could, seeks, may, will continue to, believes, anticipates, predicts, forecast, and similar expressions identifying forward-looking statements within the meaning of the PSLRA, including the negative of those words and phrases. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but instead are based on management's current views and assumptions regarding future events, future business conditions, outcomes, and our outlook for First Midwest and Great Lakes based on currently available information. We wish to caution readers not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements as we do not undertake any obligation to update them to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date on which the forward-looking statement is made.

In connection with the safe harbor provisions of the PSLRA, we are hereby identifying important factors that could affect our financial performance and could cause our actual results for future periods to differ materially from any opinions or statements expressed with respect to future periods in any forward-looking statements.

Among the factors that could have an impact on our ability to achieve operating results, growth plan goals, and the beliefs expressed or implied in forward-looking statements are:

- the risk that the businesses of First Midwest and Great Lakes will not be integrated successfully or such integration may be more difficult, time-consuming or costly than expected;
- expected revenue synergies and cost savings from the merger may not be fully realized or realized within the expected time frame;
- revenues following the merger may be lower than expected;

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- deposit attrition, operating costs, customer loss and business disruption following the merger, including, without limitation, difficulties in maintaining relationships with employees, may be greater than expected;
- the ability to obtain governmental approvals of the merger on the proposed terms and schedule;
- the failure of Great Lakes stockholders to approve the merger;
- local, regional, national and international economic conditions and the impact they may have on First Midwest and Great Lakes and their customers and First Midwest's and Great Lakes' assessment of that impact;
- changes in the level of non-performing assets and charge-offs;
- changes in estimates of future reserve requirements based upon the periodic review thereof under relevant regulatory and accounting requirements;

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- inflation, interest rate, securities market and monetary fluctuations;
- changes in the competitive environment among financial holding companies and banks; and
- changes in laws and regulations (including laws and regulations concerning taxes, banking, securities and insurance) with which First Midwest and Great Lakes must comply.

The foregoing list of important factors may not be all-inclusive, and we specifically decline to undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made, or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

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Crowe Horwath LLP

Independent Member Crowe Horwath International

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders and
Board of Directors
Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc.
Matteson, Illinois

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc., which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income (loss), changes in shareholders' equity, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the

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circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc. as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Crowe Horwath LLP

Oak Brook, Illinois
February 10, 2014

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Table of Contents**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

December 31, 2013 and 2012
(Dollars in thousands)

	2013	2012
ASSETS		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 8,814	\$ 11,473
Federal funds sold		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,814	11,473
Securities available-for-sale	301,414	327,865
Loans, net of allowance of \$8,224 and \$8,731	229,135	246,804
Federal Home Loan Bank and Federal Reserve Bank stock, at cost	2,105	2,176
Premises and equipment, net	8,448	8,522
Goodwill	6,377	6,377
Company owned life insurance	10,113	10,455
Real estate owned, net	3,904	8,009
Accrued interest receivable and other assets	10,747	6,740
Total assets	\$ 581,057	\$ 628,421
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY		
Deposits		
Non-interest-bearing	\$ 117,900	\$ 129,083
Interest-bearing	361,706	370,654
Total deposits	479,606	499,737
Federal funds purchased	3,550	7,000
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	27,350	40,237
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	5,000	10,000
Term debt	2,250	2,500
Subordinated debentures	14,000	14,000
Accrued interest payable and other liabilities	1,462	1,759
Total liabilities	533,218	575,233
Shareholders equity		
Common stock 155,100 and 159,600 shares outstanding	2,987	2,987
Additional paid-in capital	2,987	2,987
Retained earnings	64,031	60,907
Treasury stock, at cost, (2013 83,828 shares; 2012 79,328 shares)	(15,301)	(14,351)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(6,865)	658
Total shareholders equity	47,839	53,188
Total liabilities and shareholders equity	\$ 581,057	\$ 628,421

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

Years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012
(Dollars in thousands)

	2013	2012
Interest and dividend income		
Loans, including fees	\$ 11,382	\$ 13,225
Taxable securities	6,919	7,366
Tax-exempt securities	457	549
Federal funds sold and other	41	43
Total interest income	18,799	21,183
Interest expense		
Deposits	765	1,022
Federal funds purchased and repurchase agreements	463	558
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	345	698
Borrowed funds	92	93
Subordinated debentures	277	288
Total interest expense	1,942	2,659
Net interest income	16,857	18,524
Provision for loan losses		600
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	16,857	17,924
Non-interest income		
Service charges on deposit accounts	1,350	1,583
Debit card fees	895	918
Net gains on sale of securities	261	366
Earnings on Company owned life insurance	303	328
Income from death benefit of Company owned life insurance	867	657
Other	997	1,274
Total non-interest income	4,673	5,126
Non-interest expense		
Salaries and employee benefits	8,057	8,970
Occupancy and equipment	3,030	3,395
Data processing	1,042	971
Federal deposit insurance	997	1,082
Professional services	973	1,120
Foreclosed assets, net	142	1,412
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		993
Other	2,787	2,973
Total non-interest expense	17,028	20,916
Income before income tax benefit	4,502	2,134
Income tax expense	1,218	303
Net income	\$ 3,284	\$ 1,831

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)**

Years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012
(Dollars in thousands)

	2013	2012
Net income	\$ 3,284	\$ 1,831
Other comprehensive income (loss)		
Unrealized gains on securities		
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during period	(12,072)	1,507
Reclassification adjustment for gains included in net income	(261)	(366)
Tax effect	4,810	(445)
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	(7,523)	696
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ (4,239)	\$ 2,527

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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Years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)

	Common Stock and Additional Paid-In Capital	Retained Earnings	Treasury Stock	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Total
Balance, January 1, 2012	\$ 5,974	\$ 59,076	\$ (13,666)	\$ (38)	\$ 51,346
Net income		1,831			1,831
Other comprehensive income, net of tax				696	696
Purchase of common treasury stock, 3,400 shares			(685)		(685)
Balance, December 31, 2012	5,974	60,907	(14,351)	658	53,188
Net income		3,284			3,284
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax				(7,523)	(7,523)
Cash dividends (\$1 per share)		(160)			(160)
Purchase of common treasury stock, 4,500 shares			(950)		(950)
Balance, December 31, 2013	\$ 5,974	\$ 64,031	\$ (15,301)	\$ (6,865)	\$ 47,839

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

Years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012
(Dollars in thousands)

	2013	2012
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income	\$ 3,284	\$ 1,831
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash from operating activities		
Net amortization of securities	1,658	1,719
Net gains on sales of securities	(261)	(366)
Depreciation and amortization	785	768
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		993
Provision for loan losses		600
Prepayment penalty on securities sold under repurchase agreement	345	
Prepayment penalty on Federal Home Loan Bank advances		370
Earnings on Company owned life insurance	(303)	(328)
Income from death benefit on Company owned life insurance	(867)	(657)
Net gains on sale of other real estate owned	(394)	(301)
Direct write down expense of other real estate owned	505	979
Deferred income tax benefit	479	(423)
Net change in		
Accrued interest receivable and other assets	86	735
Accrued interest payable and other liabilities	(297)	65
Net cash from operating activities	5,020	5,985
Cash flows from investing activities		
Securities available-for-sale		
Sales	7,507	5,917
Maturities, prepayments, and calls	76,725	78,968
Purchases	(71,510)	(109,763)
Redemption of Federal Home Loan Bank and Federal Reserve Bank stock	71	1,382
Loan originations and payments, net	17,052	14,855
Additions to premises and equipment	(711)	(279)
Disposal of leasehold improvements and equipment		964
Proceeds from death benefits on Company owned life insurance	1,512	982
Sales of other real estate owned	4,611	3,394
Other	237	608
Net cash from investing activities	35,494	(2,972)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net change in deposits	(20,131)	(1,127)
Net change in federal funds purchased	(3,450)	7,000
Net change in securities sold under repurchase agreements	(13,232)	(2,675)
Repayment of Federal Home Loan Bank advances	(5,000)	(10,370)
Repayment of borrowed funds	(250)	
Purchase of treasury stock	(950)	(685)
Dividends paid	(160)	
Net cash from financing activities	(43,173)	(7,857)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(2,659)	(4,844)

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Beginning cash and cash equivalents	11,473	16,317
Ending cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,814	\$ 11,473

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	2013		2012
Supplemental cash flow information			
Interest paid	\$ 2,066	\$	2,728
Income taxes paid	880		657
Transfer of loans to other real estate owned	642		8,028

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Operations and Principles of Consolidation: The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Great Lakes Financial Resources, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary, Great Lakes Bank, National Association (the Bank) (collectively referred to as the Company). Intercompany transactions and balances are eliminated in consolidation.

The Company provides financial services through its offices located in the southern suburbs of Chicago. Its primary deposit products are checking, savings, and term certificate accounts, and its primary lending products are commercial, residential real estate, and consumer loans. Substantially all loans are secured by specific items of collateral, including business assets, consumer assets, and commercial and residential real estate. Commercial loans are expected to be repaid from cash flow from operations of businesses. There are no significant concentrations of loans to any one industry or customer. However, the customers ability to repay their loans is dependent on the real estate and general economic conditions in the area.

Subsequent Events: The Company has evaluated subsequent events for recognition and disclosure through February 10, 2014, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Use of Estimates: To prepare financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, management makes estimates and assumptions based on available information. These estimates and assumptions affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and the disclosures provided, and actual results could differ. The allowance for loan losses, other real estate owned and fair values of financial instruments are particularly subject to change.

Cash Flows: Cash and cash equivalents include cash, deposits with other financial institutions with maturities less than 90 days, and federal funds sold. Net cash flows are reported for customer loan and deposit transactions, and repurchase agreements.

Securities: Debt securities are classified as held to maturity and carried at amortized cost when management has the positive intent and ability to hold them to maturity. Debt securities are classified as available for sale when they might be sold before maturity. Securities available for sale are carried at fair value, with unrealized holding gains and losses reported in other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax.

Interest income includes amortization of purchase premium or discount. Premiums and discounts on securities are amortized on the level-yield method without anticipating prepayments, except for mortgage backed securities where prepayments are anticipated. Gains and losses on sales

are recorded on the trade date and determined using the specific identification method.

Management evaluates securities for other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) periodically, and more frequently when economic or market conditions warrant such an evaluation. For securities in an unrealized loss position, management considers the extent and duration of the unrealized loss, and the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer. Management also assesses whether it intends to sell, or it is more likely than not that it will be required to sell, a security in an unrealized loss position before recovery of its amortized cost basis. If either of the criteria regarding intent or requirement to sell is met, the entire difference between amortized cost and fair value is recognized as impairment through earnings. For debt securities that do not meet the aforementioned criteria, the amount of impairment is split into two components as follows: 1) OTTI related to credit loss, which must be recognized in the income statement and 2) OTTI related to other factors, which is recognized in other comprehensive income. The credit loss is defined as the difference between the present value of the cash flows expected to be collected and the amortized cost basis. For equity securities, the entire amount of impairment is recognized through earnings.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Loans: Loans that management has the intent and ability to hold for the foreseeable future or until maturity or payoff are reported at their principal balance outstanding, net of deferred loan fees and costs and an allowance for loan losses. Interest income is accrued on the unpaid principal balance. Loan origination fees, net of certain direct origination costs, are deferred and recognized in interest income using the level-yield method without anticipating repayments.

Interest income on all classes of loans is discontinued at the time a loan is 90 days delinquent unless the loan is well-secured and in process of collection. Past due status is based on the contractual terms of the loan. In all cases, loans in all classes are placed on nonaccrual status or charged off at an earlier date if collection of principal or interest is considered doubtful. Nonaccrual loans and loans past due 90 days still on accrual include both smaller balance homogeneous loans that are collectively evaluated for impairment and individually classified impaired loans.

For all classes of loans all accrued interest receivable on loans placed on nonaccrual is reversed against interest income. Interest received on such loans is either accounted for on the cash-basis or applied to the recorded investment in the loan until qualifying for return to accrual based on inherent facts and circumstances of the loan. Loans are generally returned to accrual status when all the principal and interest amounts contractually due are brought current and future payments are reasonably assured.

Concentration of Credit Risk: Most of the Company's business activity is with customers located within the southern suburbs of Chicago. Therefore, the Company's exposure to credit risk is significantly affected by changes in the economy in the southern suburbs of Chicago area.

Allowance for Loan Losses: The allowance for loan losses is a valuation allowance for probable incurred credit losses. Loan losses are charged against the allowance when management believes that the uncollectibility of a loan balance is confirmed. Subsequent recoveries, if any, are credited to the allowance. Management estimates the allowance balance required using past loan loss experience, the nature and volume of the portfolio, information about specific borrower situations and estimated collateral values, economic conditions, and other factors. Allocations of the allowance may be made for specific loans, but the entire allowance is available for any loan that, in management's judgment, should be charged off.

The allowance consists of specific and general components. The specific component relates to loans that are individually classified as impaired.

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For all classes of loans a loan is impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Loans for which the terms have been modified, resulting in a concession, and for which the borrower is experiencing financial difficulties are considered troubled debt restructurings and classified as impaired.

Factors considered by management in determining impairment include payment status, collateral value, and the probability of collecting scheduled principal and interest payments when due. Loans that experience insignificant payment delays and payment shortfalls generally are not classified as impaired. Management determines the significance of payment delays and payment shortfalls on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration all of the circumstances surrounding the loan and the borrower, including the length of the delay, the reasons for the delay, the borrower's prior payment record, and the amount of the shortfall in relation to the principal and interest owed.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Commercial, commercial real estate, construction, and multi-family loans are evaluated for impairment on a loan-by-loan basis and certain homogenous loans may be specifically evaluated for impairment based on the loans individual facts and circumstances. If a loan is impaired, a portion of the allowance is allocated so that the loan is reported, net, at the present value of expected future cash flows using the loan's existing rate or at the fair value of the collateral if repayment is expected solely from the collateral. Large groups of smaller balance homogeneous loans, such as personal, home equity, and residential real estate loans, are collectively evaluated for impairment and accordingly, they are not separately identified for impairment disclosures.

Troubled debt restructurings are separately identified for impairment disclosures and are measured at the present value of estimated future cash flows using the loan's effective rate at inception. If a troubled debt restructuring is considered to be a collateral dependent loan, the loan is reported, net, at the fair value of the collateral. For troubled debt restructurings that subsequently default, the Company determines the amount of reserve in accordance with the accounting policy for the allowance for loan losses.

The general component covers non-impaired loans and is based on historical loss experience adjusted for current factors. The historical loss experience is determined by class of loan and is based on the actual loss history experienced by the Company over the most recent two, three or four years (whichever is highest). These economic factors include consideration of the following: levels of and trends in delinquencies and impaired loans; levels of and trends in charge-offs and recoveries; trends in volume and terms of loans; effects of any changes in risk selection and underwriting standards; other changes in lending policies, procedures, and practices; experience, ability, and depth of lending management and other relevant staff; national and local economic trends and conditions; industry conditions; and effects of changes in credit concentrations. The following portfolio segments have been identified: real estate, commercial and industrial, and personal loans. The following classes are included in real estate: commercial real estate, one-to-four family residential, home equity, construction real estate, and multi-family residential. Management considers the following when assessing the risk in the loan portfolio:

- Commercial real estate and construction loans are dependent on the industries tied to these loans as well as the local commercial real estate market. The loans are secured by the real estate, and appraisals are obtained to support the loan amount. An evaluation of the project's cash flows is performed to evaluate the borrower's ability to repay the loan at the time of origination and periodically updated during the life of the loan.
- 1-4 family residential real estate and home equity loans are affected by the local residential real estate market, the local economy, and, for variable rate mortgages, movement in indices tied to these loans. At the time of origination the Bank evaluates the borrower's repayment ability through a review of credit scores and debt to income ratios. Appraisals are obtained to support the loan amount.

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- Multi-family real estate loans are dependent on the industries tied to these loans as well as the local real estate market for the particular property segments. Appraisals are obtained to support the loan amount. Financial information is obtained from the borrowers and/or the individual project to evaluate cash flows sufficiency to service debt at the time of origination and periodically updated during the life of the loan.

- Commercial loans are dependent on the strength of the industries of the related borrowers and the success of their businesses. Commercial loans are advance for equipment purchases or to provide working capital or meet other financing needs of business enterprises. These loans may be secured by accounts receivable, inventory, equipment or other business assets. At the time of origination, financial information is obtained from the borrower to evaluate ability to repay the loans and periodically obtained during the life of the loan.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

- Personal loans are dependent on local economies. Consumer loans are generally secured by consumer assets, but may be unsecured. At the time of origination, the Bank evaluates the borrower's repayment ability through a review of credit scores and an evaluation of debt to income ratios.

Transfers of Financial Assets: Transfers of financial assets are accounted for as sales, when control over the assets has been relinquished. Control over transferred assets is deemed to be surrendered when the assets have been isolated from the Company, the transferee obtains the rights (free of conditions that constrain it from taking advantage of that right) to pledge or exchange the transferred assets, and the Company does not maintain effective control over the transferred assets through an agreement to repurchase them before their maturity.

Real Estate Owned: Assets acquired through or instead of loan foreclosure are initially recorded at fair value less costs to sell when acquired, establishing a new cost basis. These assets are subsequently accounted for at lower of cost or fair value less estimated costs to sell. If fair value declines subsequent to foreclosure, the valuation allowance is recorded through expense. Operating costs after acquisition are expensed.

Premises and Equipment: Land is carried at cost. Premises and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed over the assets estimated useful lives on the straight-line method.

Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) Stock: The Bank is a member of the FHLB Chicago. Members are required to own a certain amount of stock based on the level of borrowings and other factors, and may invest in additional amounts. FHLB stock is carried at cost, classified as a restricted security, and periodically evaluated for impairment based on ultimate recovery of par value. Both cash and stock dividends are reported as income.

Federal Reserve Bank (FRB) Stock: The Bank is a member of its regional Federal Reserve Bank. FRB stock is carried at cost, classified as a restricted security, and periodically evaluated for impairment based on ultimate recovery of par value. Both cash and stock dividends are reported as income.

Company Owned Life Insurance: The Company has purchased life insurance policies on key executives. Company owned life insurance is recorded at the amount that can be realized under the insurance contract at the balance sheet date, which is the cash surrender value adjusted for other charges or other amounts due that are probable at settlement.

Goodwill: Goodwill acquired in a purchase business combination and determined to have an indefinite useful life is not amortized, but tested for impairment at least annually or more frequently if events and circumstances exists that indicate that a goodwill impairment test should be performed. The Company changed the date to perform the annual impairment test from September 30 to December 31 during 2012. Goodwill is the only intangible asset with an indefinite life on the balance sheet and was acquired prior to January 1, 2009.

Long-Term Assets: Premises and equipment, other intangible assets, and other long-term assets are reviewed for impairment when events indicate their carrying amount may not be recoverable from future undiscounted cash flows. If impaired, the assets are recorded at fair value.

Loan Commitments and Related Financial Instruments: Financial instruments include off-balance-sheet credit instruments, such as commitments to make loans and commercial letters of credit, issued to meet customer financing needs. The face amount for these items represents the exposure to loss, before considering customer collateral or ability to repay. Such financial instruments are recorded when they are funded.

Income Taxes: Income tax expense is the sum of the current year income tax due or refundable and the change in deferred tax assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the carrying amounts and tax bases of assets and liabilities, computed using enacted tax rates. A valuation allowance, if needed, reduces deferred tax assets to the amount expected to be realized.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

A tax position is recognized as a benefit only if it is more likely than not that the tax position would be sustained in a tax examination, with a tax examination being presumed to occur. The amount recognized is the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than 50% likely of being realized on examination. For tax positions not meeting the more likely than not test, no tax benefit is recorded.

The Company recognizes interest and/or penalties related to income tax matters in income tax expense.

Retirement Plans: Employee 401(k) plan expense is the amount of matching contributions.

Comprehensive Income (Loss): Comprehensive income (loss) consists of net income and other comprehensive income (loss). Other comprehensive income (loss) includes unrealized gains and losses on securities available-for-sale, net of deferred income taxes, which are also recognized as a separate component of equity.

Loss Contingencies: Loss contingencies, including claims and legal actions arising in the ordinary course of business, are recorded as liabilities when the likelihood of loss is probable and an amount or range of loss can be reasonably estimated. Management does not believe there now are such matters that will have a material effect on the financial statements.

Dividend Restriction: Banking regulations require maintaining certain capital levels and may limit the dividends paid by the bank to the holding company or by the holding company to shareholders. The Company's term loan agreement may limit the amount of dividends that may be paid by the holding company to shareholders in the event of default.

Fair Values of Financial Instruments: Fair values of financial instruments are estimated using relevant market information and other assumptions, as more fully disclosed in a separate note. Fair value estimates involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgment regarding interest rates, credit risk, prepayments, and other factors, especially in the absence of broad markets for particular items. Changes in assumptions or in market conditions could significantly affect the estimates.

Reclassifications: Some items in the prior year financial statements were reclassified to conform to the current presentation. Reclassifications had no effect on prior year net income or shareholders' equity.

Table of Contents**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 2 - SECURITIES

The following table summarizes the amortized cost and fair value of securities available-for-sale at December 31, 2013 and 2012 and the corresponding amounts of gross unrealized gains and losses recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss):

	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
2013				
U.S. government-sponsored entities	\$ 56,697	\$ 414	\$ (1,526)	\$ 55,585
States and political subdivisions	43,936	1,257	(904)	44,289
Mortgage-backed securities: residential	44,416	313	(1,190)	43,539
Collateralized mortgage obligations	156,623	982	(3,806)	153,799
Collateralized debt obligations	10,995		(6,793)	4,202
	\$ 312,667	\$ 2,966	\$ (14,219)	\$ 301,414

Total unrealized losses recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) on securities which OTTI charges have been recognized was \$5,571,000 at December 31, 2013.

	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
2012				
U.S. government-sponsored entities	\$ 72,884	\$ 1,097	\$ (56)	\$ 73,925
States and political subdivisions	43,475	3,353	(66)	46,762
Mortgage-backed securities: residential	43,224	1,551	(56)	44,719
Collateralized mortgage obligations	156,309	3,022	(112)	159,219
Collateralized debt obligations	10,893		(7,653)	3,240
	\$ 326,785	\$ 9,023	\$ (7,943)	\$ 327,865

Total unrealized losses recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income on securities which OTTI charges have been recognized was \$6,278,000 at December 31, 2012.

Net gains on securities as reported in the consolidated statements of income consist of gross gains during 2013 and 2012. There were no impairment losses or securities sold at a realized loss in 2013 and 2012.

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December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 2 - SECURITIES (Continued)

The amortized cost and fair value of securities are shown by contractual maturity. Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities if borrowers have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties. Securities not due at a single maturity date are shown separately.

	December 31, 2013	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 6,572	\$ 6,608
Due after one year through five years	12,164	12,790
Due after five years through ten years	54,681	54,217
Due after ten years	38,211	30,461
	111,628	104,076
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	201,039	197,338
	\$ 312,667	\$ 301,414

Securities pledged at year-end 2013 and 2012 had a carrying amount of \$30,618,000 and \$46,392,000 and were pledged to secure public deposits and repurchase agreements.

At year-end 2013 and 2012, there were no holdings of any issuer, other than U.S. government-sponsored entities, in an amount greater than 10% of shareholders' equity.

The following table summarizes securities with unrealized losses at December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, aggregated by major security type and length of time in a continuous unrealized loss position:

	Less Than 12 Months		12 Months or Longer		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
2013						
U.S. government-sponsored entities	\$ 25,627	\$ (1,053)	\$ 5,547	\$ (473)	\$ 31,174	\$ (1,526)
States and political subdivisions	15,519	(850)	1,021	(54)	16,540	(904)
Mortgage-backed securities:						
residential	28,444	(676)	6,362	(514)	34,806	(1,190)

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Collateralized mortgage obligations	89,770	(3,381)	7,238	(425)	97,008	(3,806)
Collateralized debt obligations			4,202	(6,793)	4,202	(6,793)
Total temporarily impaired	\$ 159,360	\$ (5,960)	\$ 24,370	\$ (8,259)	\$ 183,730	\$ (14,219)

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December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 2 - SECURITIES (Continued)

2012	Less Than 12 Months		12 Months or Longer		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
U.S. government-sponsored entities	\$ 11,989	\$ (56)	\$	\$	\$ 11,989	\$ (56)
States and political subdivisions	3,552	(66)			3,552	(66)
Mortgage-backed securities:						
residential	7,158	(56)			7,158	(56)
Collateralized mortgage obligations	10,543	(112)			10,543	(112)
Collateralized debt obligations			3,240	(7,653)	3,240	(7,653)
Total temporarily impaired	\$ 33,242	\$ (290)	\$ 3,240	\$ (7,653)	\$ 36,482	\$ (7,943)

Unrealized losses on U.S. government-sponsored entities, mortgage-backed securities, collateralized mortgage obligations, and state and political subdivision securities as of December 31, 2013 and 2012 have not been recognized into income because the issuers are of sufficiently high credit quality. All of the Company's mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations are issued by U.S. government-sponsored entities.

As of December 31, 2013, the Company's security portfolio consisted of 225 securities, 111 of which were in an unrealized loss position. The majority of unrealized losses on securities with continuous losses greater than twelve months are related to the Company's collateralized debt obligations (CDOs), as discussed below:

The Company's unrealized losses in CDOs relates solely to investments in pooled trust preferred securities. Due to the illiquidity in the market, it is unlikely that the Company would be able to recover its investment in these securities if the Company sold the securities at this time. The Company does not, however, have the intent to sell these securities and it is more likely than not that it will not have to sell these securities before their maturity or potential recovery.

Our analysis of these twelve investments includes \$11.0 million amortized cost of pooled trust preferred securities (CDOs). At December 31, 2013 these securities are rated from Caa1 to C which is defined as highly speculative and are likely in, or very near default. The issuers of these securities are primarily banks, but some of the pools do include a limited number of insurance companies. The Company uses an independent third-party vendor that specializes in valuations of illiquid assets to provide the other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) evaluation that compares the present value of expected cash flows to the previous estimate to ensure that there are no adverse changes in cash flows during the period. This OTTI model considers the structure and term of the CDO and the financial condition of the underlying issuers. Specifically, the model details the interest rates, principal balances of note classes and underlying issuers, the timing and amount of interest and principal payments of the underlying issuers, and the allocation of the payments to the note classes. The current estimate of expected cash flows is based

on the most recent trustee reports and any other relevant market information including announcements of interest payment deferrals or defaults of underlying issuers.

Table of Contents**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 2 - SECURITIES (Continued)

On December 10, 2013, federal banking agencies jointly issued final rules to implement Section 619 of the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act* (Dodd-Frank), commonly referred to as the Volcker rule. The Volcker rule prohibited any U.S. banking organization from owning, sponsoring, or having certain relationships with investments that were defined as covered funds within the Volcker Rule. The Company's CDOs met the definition of a covered fund and were a prohibited investment as of December 31, 2013. On January 14, 2014, the federal banking agencies issued an interim final rule, *Treatment of Certain Collateralized Debt Obligations Backed Primarily by Trust Preferred Securities With Regard to Prohibitions and Restrictions on Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds*. Under the interim final rule, the federal banking agencies permit the retention of an interest in or sponsorship of covered funds by banking entities if certain qualifications are met. The Company's CDOs meet the qualifications to be a permissible investment, and as a result, it is more likely than not that the Company will not have to sell these securities before their maturity or potential recovery.

Assumptions used in the model include expected future default rates and prepayments. The third-party valuations assume no recoveries on defaults and treat all interest payment deferrals as defaults with a recovery ranging from 10% to 75% of par for depository institutions and 15% of par for insurance companies. In addition, after review of the underlying collateral, defaults higher than historical norms are projected in the next three years and gradually leveling off thereafter. Upon completion of the December 31, 2013 analysis, our model indicated other-than-temporary impairment on none of these securities. These securities remained classified as available for sale at December 31, 2013, and together, these twelve securities accounted for \$6.8 million of the unrealized loss at December 31, 2013.

The table below presents a rollforward for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 of the credit losses recognized in earnings:

	2013		2012	
Beginning balance, January 1,	\$	4,130	\$	4,130
Additions for credit losses on securities for which no previous other-than-temporary impairment was recognized				
Increases to credit losses on securities for which other-than-temporary impairment was previously recognized				
Reductions for previous credit losses due to an increase in cash flows expected to be collected		(102)		
Ending balance, December 31,	\$	4,028	\$	4,130

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December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 3 - LOANS

Loans at year end were as follows:

	2013	2012
Real estate loans		
Commercial	\$ 103,146	\$ 103,215
One-to-four-family residential	55,908	55,182
Home equity	28,678	39,655
Construction	5,263	6,353
Multi-family residential	13,620	14,211
Total real estate loans	206,615	218,616
Commercial and industrial loans	29,140	35,313
Personal loans	1,607	1,601
Total loans	237,362	255,530
Deferred loan fees, net of deferred origination costs	(3)	5
Allowance for loan losses	(8,224)	(8,731)
Loans, net	\$ 229,135	\$ 246,804

Table of Contents**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 3 - LOANS (Continued)

The following table presents the activity in the allowance for loan losses by class for the years ended 2013 and 2012:

	2013							Total
	Commercial Real Estate Loans	One-to-four Family Residential Loans	Home Equity Loans	Construction Real Estate Loans	Multi-family Residential Loans	Commercial and Industrial Loans	Personal Loans	
Allowance for loan losses:								
Beginning balance	\$ 4,581	\$ 1,288	\$ 576	\$ 588	\$ 723	\$ 956	\$ 19	\$ 8,731
Provision for loan losses	109	218	246	(219)	(298)	(54)	(2)	
Loans charged-off	(324)	(236)	(373)				(12)	(945)
Recoveries	231	51	39	103		8	6	438
Total ending allowance balance	\$ 4,597	\$ 1,321	\$ 488	\$ 472	\$ 425	\$ 910	\$ 11	\$ 8,224

	2012							Total
	Commercial Real Estate Loans	One-to-four Family Residential Loans	Home Equity Loans	Construction Real Estate Loans	Multi-family Residential Loans	Commercial and Industrial Loans	Personal Loans	
Allowance for loan losses:								
Beginning balance	\$ 4,676	\$ 1,042	\$ 487	\$ 765	\$ 567	\$ 956	\$ 15	\$ 8,508
Provision for loan losses	303	559	378	(385)	156	(426)	15	600
Loans charged off	(484)	(319)	(414)	(27)			(24)	(1,268)
Recoveries	86	6	125	235		426	13	891
Total ending allowance balance	\$ 4,581	\$ 1,288	\$ 576	\$ 588	\$ 723	\$ 956	\$ 19	\$ 8,731

Table of Contents**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 3 - LOANS (Continued)

The following table represents the balance in the allowance for loan losses and the recorded investment in loans by class and based on impairment method as of year-end 2013:

	Loan Balances			Allowance for Loan Losses		
	Individually Evaluated for Impairment	Collectively Evaluated for Impairment	Total Recorded Investment	Individually Evaluated for Impairment	Collectively Evaluated for Impairment	Total
Commercial real estate	\$ 3,416	\$ 99,730	\$ 103,146	\$ 909	\$ 3,688	\$ 4,597
One-to-four-family residential	2,056	53,852	55,908	372	949	1,321
Home equity	824	27,854	28,678	54	434	488
Construction	4,196	1,067	5,263	403	69	472
Multi-family residential	1,217	12,403	13,620	345	80	425
Commercial and industrial	615	28,525	29,140	354	556	910
Personal		1,607	1,607		11	11
Total	\$ 12,324	\$ 225,038	\$ 237,362	\$ 2,437	\$ 5,787	\$ 8,224

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Table of Contents**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 3 - LOANS (Continued)

The following table represents the balance in the allowance for loan losses and the recorded investment in loans by class and based on impairment method as of year-end 2012:

	Loan Balances			Allowance for Loan Losses		
	Individually Evaluated for Impairment	Collectively Evaluated for Impairment	Total Recorded Investment	Individually Evaluated for Impairment	Collectively Evaluated for Impairment	Total
Commercial real estate	\$ 2,966	\$ 100,249	\$ 103,215	\$ 604	\$ 3,977	\$ 4,581
One-to-four-family residential	2,291	52,891	55,182	323	965	1,288
Home equity	525	39,130	39,655	18	558	576
Construction		6,353	6,353		588	588
Multi-family residential	1,760	12,451	14,211	536	187	723
Commercial and industrial	21	35,292	35,313	21	935	956
Personal		1,601	1,601		19	19
Total	\$ 7,563	\$ 247,967	\$ 255,530	\$ 1,502	\$ 7,229	\$ 8,731

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December 31, 2013 and 2012

(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 3 - LOANS (Continued)

The following table presents information related to loans individually evaluated for impairment by class of loans as of year-ended 2013:

	Unpaid Principal Balance	Recorded Investment	Allowance for Loan Losses Allocated	Average Recorded Investment	Interest Income Recognized
2013					
With no related allowance recorded:					
Commercial real estate	\$ 1,239	\$ 1,099	\$	\$ 1,300	\$ 84
One-to-four-family residential	922	726		1,038	19
Home equity	518	392		525	4
Construction					
Multi-family residential					
Commercial and industrial	25	25		25	1
Personal					
With an allowance recorded:					
Commercial real estate	2,317	2,317	909	2,797	115
One-to-four-family residential	1,388	1,330	372	1,403	62
Home equity	492	432	54	524	12
Construction	4,196	4,196	403	4,271	208
Multi-family residential	1,217	1,217	345	1,347	60
Commercial and industrial	590	590	354	686	22
Personal					
Total	\$ 12,904	\$ 12,324	\$ 2,437	\$ 13,916	\$ 587

The recorded investment in loans excludes accrued interest receivable and loan origination fees, net due to immateriality. For purposes of this disclosure, the unpaid principal balance is not reduced for net charge-offs.

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(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 3 - LOANS (Continued)

The following table presents information related to loans individually evaluated for impairment by class of loans as of year-ended 2012:

	Unpaid Principal Balance	Recorded Investment	Allowance for Loan Losses Allocated	Average Recorded Investment	Interest Income Recognized
2012					
With no related allowance recorded:					
Commercial real estate	\$ 1,282	\$ 1,169	\$	\$ 1,575	\$ 77
One-to-four-family residential	881	779		853	28
Home equity	554	493		721	15
Construction					
Multi-family residential	542	448		551	31
Commercial and industrial					
Personal					
With an allowance recorded:					
Commercial real estate	1,797	1,797	604	2,076	75
One-to-four-family residential	1,512	1,512	323	1,537	79
Home equity	32	32	18	32	1
Construction					
Multi-family residential	1,312	1,312	536	1,393	64
Commercial and industrial	21	21	21	30	2
Personal					
Total	\$ 7,933	\$ 7,563	\$ 1,502	\$ 8,768	\$ 372

The recorded investment in loans excludes accrued interest receivable and loan origination fees, net due to immateriality. For purposes of this disclosure, the unpaid principal balance is not reduced for net charge-offs.

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(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 3 - LOANS (Continued)

Nonaccrual loans and loans past due 90 days still on accrual include both smaller balance homogeneous loans that are collectively evaluated for impairment and individually classified impaired loans.

The following table presents the aging of the recorded investment in past due loans as of December 31, 2013 and 2012 by class of loans:

	31 Days Past Due	60 Days Past Due	90 Days Past Due	Greater than 90 Days Past Due Still on Accrual	Past Due Over 90 Days and on Nonaccrual	Total Past Due	Loans Not Past Due Total	Total
2013								
Commercial real estate	\$	\$	\$	\$	3,162	\$ 3,162	\$ 99,984	\$ 103,146
One-to-four-family residential	221				299	520	55,388	55,908
Home equity			100		666	766	27,912	28,678
Construction					4,196	4,196	1,067	5,263
Multi-family residential					1,305	1,305	12,315	13,620
Commercial and industrial	248				615	863	28,277	29,140
Personal	43	25				68	1,539	1,607
Total	\$ 512	\$ 125	\$	\$	10,243	\$ 10,880	\$ 226,482	\$ 237,362
2012								
Commercial real estate	\$	\$ 1,194	\$	\$	2,963	\$ 4,157	\$ 99,058	\$ 103,215
One-to-four-family residential	3	188			1,008	1,199	53,983	55,182
Home equity	354	25	24		490	893	38,762	39,655
Construction							6,353	6,353
Multi-family residential					1,413	1,413	12,798	14,211
Commercial and industrial	241	213	5		21	480	34,833	35,313
Personal	61	13				74	1,527	1,601
Total	\$ 659	\$ 1,633	\$ 29	\$	5,895	\$ 8,216	\$ 247,314	\$ 255,530

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(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 3 - LOANS (Continued)**Troubled Debt Restructurings:**

At December 31, 2013 and 2012, the Company has modified 37 and 27 loans as troubled debt restructurings totaling \$9.9 million and \$3.5 million. The Company has considered these loans in its allowance for loan losses and has allocated \$1,640,000 and \$872,000 to these loans as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Approximately \$7.8 million and \$1.8 million of these loans were on nonaccrual as of December 31, 2013 and 2012. Troubled debt restructurings are included in the impaired loan table above. The Company has no commitments to lend additional amounts as of December 31, 2013 and 2012 to customers with outstanding loans that are classified as troubled debt restructurings.

During the year ending December 31, 2013, the terms of certain loans were modified as troubled debt restructurings. The modification of the terms of such loans included one or a combination of the following: a reduction of the stated interest rate of the loan; or an extension of the maturity date at a stated rate of interest lower than the current market rate for new debt with similar risk.

Modifications involving a reduction of the stated interest rate of the loan were for periods ranging from 12 months to 25 years. Modifications involving an extension of the maturity date were for periods ranging from 12 months to 25 years.

The following table presents loans by class modified as troubled debt restructurings that occurred during the years ending December 31, 2013 and 2012:

	Number of Relationships	Pre-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Post-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment
2013			
Troubled Debt Restructurings:			
Real estate loans			
Commercial real estate	2	\$ 1,160	\$ 1,160
One-to-four family	4	334	334
Construction	1	4,196	4,196
Multi-family	1	531	531
Commercial and industrial	1	582	582

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Total	9	\$	6,803	\$	6,803
<u>2012</u>					
Troubled Debt Restructurings:					
Real estate loans					
Commercial	1	\$	732	\$	732
One-to-four family	5		411		411
Multi-family					
Total	6	\$	1,143	\$	1,143

The troubled debt restructurings described above increased the allowance for loan losses by \$1,227,000 and \$94,000 and resulted in no charge offs during the years ending December 31, 2013 and 2012.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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NOTE 3 - LOANS (Continued)

During the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 there were no loans modified as troubled debt restructurings for which there was a payment default within twelve months following the modification during the years ending December 31, 2013 and 2012. A loan is considered to be in payment default once it is 90 days contractually past due under the modified terms.

Credit Quality Indicators:

The Company categorizes loans into risk categories based on relevant information about the ability of borrowers to service their debt such as: current financial information, historical payment experience, credit documentation, public information, and current economic trends, among other factors. The Company analyzes loans individually by classifying the loans as to credit risk. This analysis includes non-homogeneous loans, such as commercial and commercial real estate loans. This analysis is performed on a quarterly basis or more frequently as needed.

Special Mention. Loans classified as special mention have a potential weakness that deserves management's close attention. If left uncorrected, these potential weaknesses may result in deterioration of the repayment prospects for the loan or of the institution's credit position at some future date.

Substandard. Loans classified as substandard are inadequately protected by the current net worth and paying capacity of the obligor or of the collateral pledged, if any. Loans so classified have a well-defined weakness or weaknesses that jeopardize the liquidation of the debt. They are characterized by the distinct possibility that the institution will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected.

Doubtful. Loans classified as doubtful have all the weaknesses inherent in those classified as substandard, with the added characteristic that the weaknesses make collection or liquidation in full, on the basis of currently existing facts, conditions, and values, highly questionable and improbable.

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NOTE 3 - LOANS (Continued)

Loans not meeting the criteria above that are analyzed individually as part of the above-described process are considered to be pass rated loans. Included in pass rated loans are homogenous one-to-four family, home equity and personal loans, that are monitored based on the past due status of the loan. Management evaluates the risk category of these loans when the loan becomes delinquent or a borrower requests a concession.

Based on the most recent analysis performed, the risk category of loans by class of loans is as follows at December 31:

	Pass	Special Mention	Substandard	Doubtful	Total
2013					
Commercial real estate	\$ 88,946	\$ 6,498	\$ 7,702	\$	\$ 103,146
One-to-four-family residential	53,772	923	1,213		55,908
Home equity	28,000		678		28,678
Construction	1,067		4,196		5,263
Multi-family residential	10,923		2,697		13,620
Commercial and industrial	27,499	788	853		29,140
Personal	1,607				1,607
Total	\$ 211,814	\$ 8,209	\$ 17,339	\$	\$ 237,362
2012					
Commercial real estate	\$ 87,316	\$ 3,326	\$ 12,573	\$	\$ 103,215
One-to-four-family residential	52,954	73	2,155		55,182
Home equity	39,128		527		39,655
Construction	594		5,759		6,353
Multi-family residential	11,708		2,503		14,211
Commercial and industrial	32,805	671	1,837		35,313
Personal	1,444		157		1,601
Total	\$ 225,949	\$ 4,070	\$ 25,511	\$	\$ 255,530

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NOTE 4 - REAL ESTATE OWNED

Activity in real estate owned for 2013 and 2012 was as follows:

	2013	2012
Beginning of year	\$ 8,009	\$ 4,061
Additions	642	8,028
Impairment	(505)	(979)
Sales proceeds	(4,611)	(3,394)
Net gain on sales	394	301
Other, net	(25)	(8)
End of year	\$ 3,904	\$ 8,009

Expenses related to real estate owned include:

	2013	2012
Net (gain) on sales	\$ (394)	\$ (301)
Impairment charges	505	979
Operating expenses	31	734
	\$ 142	\$ 1,412

NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE

Fair value is the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. There are three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair values:

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the entity has the ability to access as of the measurement date.

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Level 2: Significant other observable inputs other than Level 1 prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs that reflect a reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability.

The Company used the following methods and significant assumptions to estimate the fair value:

Investment Securities: The fair values for investment securities are determined by quoted market prices, if available (Level 1). For securities where quoted prices are not available, fair values are calculated based on market prices of similar securities (Level 2). For securities where quoted prices or market prices of similar securities are not available, fair values are calculated using discounted cash flows or other market indicators (Level 3).

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(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE (Continued)

Collateralized debt obligations that are backed by trust preferred securities issued by financial institutions and insurance companies were historically priced using Level 2 inputs. The decline in the level of observable inputs and market activity in this class of investments by the measurement date has been significant and resulted in unreliable external pricing. Broker pricing and bid/ask spreads, when available, vary widely. The once active market has become comparatively inactive. As such, these investments are priced using Level 3 inputs as of December 31, 2013 and 2012.

Valuations of the Company's collateralized debt obligations backed by trust preferred securities were prepared by an independent third-party specialist. Information such as credit quality for collateral, default probabilities, loss given default, and discounted cash flow forecasts are utilized in determining valuations. Additionally, rating agency and industry research reports as well as defaults and deferrals on individual securities are reviewed and incorporated into the calculations. Due to current market conditions, as well as the limited trading activity of these collateralized debt obligations, the fair value of the securities is highly sensitive to assumption changes and market volatility.

Impaired Loans: The fair value of impaired loans with specific allocations of the allowance for loan losses is generally based on recent real estate appraisals. These appraisals may utilize a single valuation approach or a combination of approaches including comparable sales and the income approach. Adjustments are routinely made in the appraisal process by the independent appraisers to adjust for differences between the comparable sales and income data available. Such adjustments are usually significant and typically result in a Level 3 classification of the inputs for determining fair value. Non-real estate collateral may be valued using an appraisal, net book value per the borrower's financial statements, or aging reports, adjusted or discounted based on management's historical knowledge, changes in market conditions from the time of the valuation, and management's expertise and knowledge of the client and client's business, resulting in a Level 3 fair value classification. Impaired loans are evaluated on a quarterly basis for additional impairment and adjusted accordingly.

Real Estate Owned: Assets acquired through or instead of loan foreclosure are initially recorded at fair value less costs to sell when acquired, establishing a new cost basis. These assets are subsequently accounted for at lower of cost or fair value less estimated costs to sell. Fair value is commonly based on recent real estate appraisals which are updated no less frequently than annually. These appraisals may utilize a single valuation approach or a combination of approaches including comparable sales and the income approach. Adjustments are routinely made in the appraisal process by the independent appraisers to adjust for differences between the comparable sales and income data available. Such adjustments are usually significant and typically result in a Level 3 classification of the inputs for determining fair value. Real estate owned properties are evaluated on a quarterly basis for additional impairment and adjusted accordingly.

Appraisals for both collateral-dependent impaired loans and real estate owned are performed by certified general appraisers (for commercial properties) or certified residential appraisers (for residential properties) whose qualifications and licenses have been reviewed and verified by the Company. Once received, a member of the Appraisal Department reviews the assumptions and approaches utilized in the appraisal as well as the overall resulting fair value in comparison with independent data sources such as recent market data or industry-wide statistics. At least, on

an annual basis, the Company compares the actual selling price of collateral that has been sold to the most recent appraised value to determine what additional adjustment should be made to the appraisal value to arrive at fair value.

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(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE (Continued)

Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

	Carrying Value	Fair Value Measurements Using:		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets in Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
(dollars in thousands)				
Financial assets at December 31, 2013				
Investment securities available for sale				
U.S. government-sponsored entities	\$ 55,585	\$	\$ 55,585	\$
State and political subdivision	44,289		44,289	
Mortgage-backed securities: residential	43,539		43,539	
Collateralized mortgage obligations	153,799		153,799	
Collateralized debt obligations	4,202			4,202
Total investment securities available for sale	\$ 301,414	\$	\$ 297,212	\$ 4,202
Financial assets at December 31, 2012				
Investment securities available for sale				
U.S. government-sponsored entities	\$ 73,925	\$	\$ 73,925	\$
State and political subdivision	46,762		46,762	
Mortgage-backed securities: residential	44,719		44,719	
Collateralized mortgage obligations	159,219		159,219	
Collateralized debt obligations	3,240			3,240
Total investment securities available for sale	\$ 327,865	\$	\$ 324,625	\$ 3,240

The table below presents a reconciliation of all assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the year ended December 31:

	Collateralized Debt Obligations	
	2013	2012
Balance of recurring Level 3 assets at January 1	\$ 3,240	\$ 2,831
Total gains or losses		
Included in earnings	102	
Included in other comprehensive income	860	409
Balance of recurring Level 3 assets at December 31	\$ 4,202	\$ 3,240

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(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE (Continued)

The following table presents quantitative information about recurring Level 3 fair value measurements at December 31, 2013 and 2012:

	Fair Value	Valuation Technique(s)	Unobservable Input(s)	Range (Weighted Average)
<u>2013</u>				
Collateralized debt obligations	\$ 4,202	Discounted cash flow	Collateral default rate	1.1% - 2.7% (1.9%)
			Recovery probability	10.0% - 75.0% (42.1%)
<u>2012</u>				
Collateralized debt obligations	\$ 3,240	Discounted cash flow	Collateral default rate	1.1% - 2.4% (1.8%)
			Recovery probability	10.0% - 75.0% (37.8%)

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(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE (Continued)

Assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis are summarized below:

	Fair Value Measurements Using:				Total Gains (Losses)
	Total at December 31,	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
2013					
Impaired loans:					
Commercial real estate	\$ 1,801	\$	\$	\$ 1,801	\$ (358)
One-to-four family residential	364			364	(87)
Home equity	312			312	(10)
Construction	4,196			4,196	
Multi-family residential	1,265			1,265	191
Other real estate owned, net:					
Commercial	482			482	
One-to-four family residential	127			127	
Construction	3,295			3,295	(450)

	Fair Value Measurements Using:				Total Gains (Losses)
	Total at December 31,	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
2012					
Impaired loans:					
Commercial real estate	\$ 987	\$	\$	\$ 987	\$ (401)
One-to four family residential	308			308	(152)
Home equity	484			484	(339)
Multi-family residential	171			171	(94)
Commercial and industrial					(12)
Other real estate owned, net:					
Commercial	1,110			1,110	(181)
One-to-four family residential	456			456	(72)
Construction	5,130			5,130	(431)
Multi-family residential	\$ 1,313	\$	\$	\$ 1,313	\$ (135)

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NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE (Continued)

	Fair value	Valuation Technique(s)	Unobservable Input(s)	Range (Weighted Average)
December 31, 2013				
<u>Impaired loans</u>				
Commercial real estate	\$ 5,997	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-37.0% to 2.0% (-12.8%)
One-to-four family	\$ 364	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-11.3% to 29.8% (1.4%)
Home equity	\$ 312	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-11.0% to -0.7% (-6.5%)
Multi-family	\$ 1,265	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-47.0% to 57.9% (21.1%)
<u>Other real estate owned</u>				
Commercial	\$ 482	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-32.0% to 29.0% (-1.8%)
One-to-four family residential	\$ 127	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-14.2% to 8.9% (-4.3%)
Construction	\$ 3,295	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-60.0% to 35.0% (-14.0%)

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NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE (Continued)

	Fair value	Valuation Technique(s)	Unobservable Input(s)	Range (Weighted Average)
December 31, 2012				
<u>Impaired loans</u>				
Commercial real estate	\$ 987	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-37.5% to 60.0% (-9.5%)
One-to-four family	\$ 308	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-12.3% to 29.8% (-0.8%)
Home equity	\$ 484	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-31.5% to 50.5% (-4.7%)
Multi-family	\$ 171	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-33.3% to 55.0% (-4.5%)
Commercial and industrial	\$	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	
<u>Other real estate owned</u>				
Commercial	\$ 1,110	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-32.0% to 29.0% (-1.8%)
One-to-four family residential	\$ 456	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-12.4% to 5.4% (-3.8%)
Construction	\$ 5,130	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-50.0% to 90.0% (12.9%)
Multi-family residential	\$ 1,313	Sales comparison approach	Adjustment for differences between the comparable sales	-29.0% to 10.0% (-6.1%)

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NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE (Continued)

The carrying amounts and estimated fair values of financial instruments, at December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012 are as follows:

	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
December 31, 2013		
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,814	\$ 8,814
Securities available-for-sale	301,414	301,414
Loans, net	229,135	234,209
Federal Home Loan Bank and Federal Reserve Bank stock	2,105	N/A
Accrued interest receivable	2,116	2,116
Financial liabilities		
Deposits	\$ 479,606	\$ 479,757
Federal funds purchased	3,550	3,550
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	27,350	27,350
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	5,000	5,469
Term debt	2,250	2,250
Subordinated debentures	14,000	13,090
Accrued interest payable	99	99
December 31, 2012		
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 11,473	\$ 11,473
Securities available-for-sale	327,865	327,865
Loans, net	246,804	251,385
Federal Home Loan Bank and Federal Reserve Bank stock	2,176	N/A
Accrued interest receivable	2,365	2,365
Financial liabilities		
Deposits	\$ 499,737	\$ 500,168
Federal funds purchased	7,000	7,000
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	40,237	40,934
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	10,000	10,893
Term debt	2,500	2,500
Subordinated debentures	14,000	11,625
Accrued interest payable	210	210

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NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE (Continued)

The methods and assumptions, not previously presented, used to estimate fair value are described as follows:

(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents

The carrying amounts of cash and short-term instruments approximate fair values.

(b) FHLB and FRB Stock

It is not practical to determine the fair value of FHLB and FRB stock due to restrictions placed on its transferability.

(c) Loans

Fair values of loans are estimated as follows: For variable rate loans that reprice frequently and with no significant change in credit risk, fair values are based on carrying values. Fair values for other loans are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, using interest rates currently being offered for loans with similar terms to borrowers of similar credit quality. Impaired loans are valued at the lower of cost or fair value as described previously. The methods utilized to estimate the fair value of loans do not necessarily represent an exit price.

(d) Deposits

The fair values disclosed for demand deposits (e.g., interest and non-interest checking, passbook savings, and certain types of money market accounts) are, by definition, equal to the amount payable on demand at the reporting date (i.e., their carrying amount). The carrying amounts of variable rate, fixed-term money market accounts and certificates of deposit approximate their fair values at the reporting date. Fair values for fixed rate certificates of deposit are estimated using a discounted cash flows calculation that applies interest rates currently being offered on

certificates to a schedule of aggregated expected monthly maturities on time deposits.

(e) Short-term Borrowings

The carrying amounts of federal funds purchased, borrowings under repurchase agreements, and other short-term borrowings, generally maturing within ninety days, approximate their fair values.

(f) Other Borrowings

The fair values of the Company's long-term borrowings are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses based on the current borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements.

The fair values of the Company's subordinated debentures are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses based on the current borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements.

(g) Accrued Interest Receivable/Payable

The carrying amounts of accrued interest approximate fair value.

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NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE (Continued)**(h) Off-balance Sheet Instruments**

Fair values for off-balance sheet, credit-related financial instruments are based on fees currently charged to enter into similar agreements, taking into account the remaining terms of the agreements and the counterparties' credit standing. The fair value of commitments is not material.

NOTE 6 - PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT

Premises and equipment were as follows:

	2013	2012
Land	\$ 2,317	\$ 2,317
Premises	15,732	15,251
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	13,871	13,685
	31,920	31,253
Less accumulated depreciation	23,472	22,731
	\$ 8,448	\$ 8,522

Depreciation expense was \$785,000 and \$768,000 for 2013 and 2012. In August 2012, the Ridge Road Branch was sold at a loss of \$727,000. In December 2012, the Hazel Crest Branch was sold at a loss of \$266,000.

NOTE 7 - DEPOSITS

Time deposits of \$100,000 or more totaled \$21,137,000 and \$23,083,000 at year-end 2013 and 2012.

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Scheduled maturities of time deposits for the next five years were as follows:

2014	\$	73,686
2015		9,474
2016		3,843
2017		1,485
2018		1,490
	\$	89,978

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(Table amounts in thousands of dollars)

NOTE 8 - SECURITIES SOLD UNDER AGREEMENTS TO REPURCHASE

At year-end 2013 and 2012, the Company had \$27,350,000 and \$30,237,000 of securities sold under agreement to repurchase (repurchase agreements) with cash management depositors that generally mature within 90 days. Repurchase agreements also include financing arrangements with a correspondent bank totaling \$0 and \$10,000,000 at year-end 2013 and 2012, respectively. This financing arrangement, which was scheduled to mature in July 2014, was terminated in November 2013. Upon prepayment of the financing arrangement, the Company incurred a prepayment penalty totaling \$345,000 which was expensed in other non-interest expense in the consolidated statements of income.

NOTE 9 - FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK ADVANCES

At year end, advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank were as follows.

	2013	2012
Maturity due July 2018, fixed at a rate of 4.00%	\$ 5,000	\$
Maturities September 2013 through July 2018, fixed rates ranging from 4.00% to 4.03%, averaging 4.02%		10,000
Total	\$ 5,000	10,000

Each advance is payable at its maturity date, with a prepayment penalty for fixed rate advances. The advances were collateralized by \$78,311,000 and \$88,456,000 of 1-4 family loans and home equity loans under a blanket lien arrangement at year-end 2013 and 2012. Based on this collateral and the Company's holdings of FHLB stock, the Company is eligible to borrow up to a total of \$24,934,000 at year-end 2013. At December 31, 2013, the advance is not callable at the option of the FHLB. During 2012, the Company prepaid advances totaling \$10,000,000. Upon prepayment of the advances, the Company incurred prepayment penalties totaling \$370,000 which was expensed in other non-interest expense in the consolidated statements of income.

Payments over the next five years are as follows:

2014	\$
2015	
2016	
2017	
2018	5,000

5,000

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NOTE 10 - BORROWED FUNDS

At December 31, 2013 and 2012, the Company has a term loan payable with an outstanding balance of \$2,250,000 and \$2,500,000, respectively, to a correspondent bank that originated December 21, 2012. The term loan agreement requires 11 consecutive quarterly principal payments of \$62,500 beginning March 31, 2013 and one principal payment of \$1,812,500 on December 21, 2015 and requires quarterly interest payments based on 90-day LIBOR plus 3.25%.

The Company has a \$1,000,000 line of credit with the same lender that is renewed annually and matures December 21, 2014. The line of credit requires quarterly interest payments based on 90-day LIBOR plus 3.25%. There was no balance outstanding under the line of credit at year-end 2013 and 2012.

The term loan payable and line of credit are collateralized by all the common stock of the Bank.

The covenants of the agreements include the following:

- Maintain a minimum of a tier 1 leverage capital ratio of 8.00%
- Maintain non-performing loans to tier 1 capital plus allowance for loan losses ratio of no more than 25.00%

The loan agreement also places certain restrictions on the Company unless the Lender otherwise provides permission in writing for the following:

- Incurring or assuming indebtedness except for trade debt in the normal course of business
- Selling or encumbering assets except for permitted liens (as defined)

- Engaging in any business activities substantially different than those currently engaged in
- Ceasing operations, liquidating, or merging, acquiring or consolidating with another entity

As of December 31, 2013 the Company was in compliance with the covenants of the loan agreements.

NOTE 11 - SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES

The Company has two statutory trusts as follows: Trust II formed in December 2005 and Trust III formed in June 2007, for the purpose of issuing floating rate trust preferred securities for \$6,000,000 and \$8,000,000, respectively, as part of pooled offerings of such securities. The Company issued subordinated debentures to each trust in exchange for ownership of all of the common security of the trust and the proceeds of the preferred securities sold by the trust. The Company is not considered the primary beneficiary of this Trust (variable interest entity), therefore the trust is not consolidated in the Company's financial statements, but rather the subordinated debentures are shown as a liability.

The Company may redeem the subordinated debentures, in whole or in part, on or after no later than 30 years from the date of issue at 100% of the principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest. The subordinated debentures mature on December 15, 2035 and September 15, 2037, respectively. The subordinated debentures are also redeemable in whole or in part from time to time, upon the occurrence of specific events defined within the trust indenture. The Company has the option to defer interest payments on the subordinated debentures from time to time for a period not to exceed five consecutive years. The Company would be restricted from paying dividends during any period of interest deferment.

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NOTE 11 - SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES (Continued)

The subordinated debentures may be included in Tier I capital (with certain limitations applicable) under current regulatory guidelines and interpretations. The subordinated debentures have a variable rate of interest equal to the three month London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 1.40% and 1.70%, respectively. The weighted average interest rate for the debentures was 1.98% at December 31, 2013.

NOTE 12 - BENEFIT PLANS

A 401(k) benefit plan allows employee contributions up to the maximum percentage of their compensation permitted by the Internal Revenue Code, which are matched equal to 50% of the first 4% of the compensation contributed. The Company suspended its contribution for 2013 and 2012.

NOTE 13 - ESOP PLAN

The Company maintains a noncontributory employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) covering all eligible employees of the Company and its subsidiaries upon their completion of one year of service. Company contributions to the ESOP are made on a discretionary basis and amounted to \$730,000 in 2013 and \$900,000 in 2012.

ESOP holdings of the Company's common stock amounted to 77,260 and 81,760 allocated shares at December 31, 2013 and 2012. On an annual basis, the Company obtains a third party valuation of the Company's common stock for purposes of determining the fair value of the shares allocated to the ESOP. As of the date of this report, the most recent valuation was performed as of December 31, 2012 which indicated a price of approximately 72% of the tangible book value of the Company. The fair value of ESOP shares allocated to participants at year-end 2013 and 2012 approximated \$16,325,000 and \$17,518,000. At December 31, 2013 and 2012, no shares were committed to be released, and there was no commitment to terminated participants under the ESOP's repurchase obligation to acquire allocated shares.

NOTE 14 - INCOME TAXES

Income tax expense (benefit) consists of the following:

	2013		2012
Income taxes applicable to continuing operations:			
Currently payable tax:			
Federal	\$ 621	\$	604
State	118		122
	739		726
Deferred tax (benefit)	479		(423)
	479		(423)
Total	\$ 1,218	\$	303

The difference between income tax expense and the amount of income tax determined by applying the federal statutory rate to pre-tax income is due primarily to tax-exempt interest income and the increase in the cash surrender value of life insurance.

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NOTE 14 - INCOME TAXES (Continued)

Year-end deferred tax assets and liabilities were due to the following:

	2013	2012
Deferred tax assets		
Allowance for loan losses	\$ 3,217	\$ 3,415
Writedowns of real estate owned	176	458
Net unrealized loss on securities available-for-sale	4,389	
Other	777	726
Total	8,559	4,599
Deferred tax liabilities		
Accumulated depreciation		