

A message from our Pastor

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

Grace and peace to you this May as the signs of new life continue to unfold around us. After a long winter, the changing season feels especially meaningful, a reminder of God's ongoing work of renewal in our lives and in our community.

This month, we celebrate an important milestone in the life of our congregation. On Sunday, May 3rd, we will gather to affirm the faith of Nevin Porier as he is confirmed. Confirmation is not a finish line, but a beginning, a continued journey of faith, rooted in God's promises and lived out in community. I invite you to be present for this joyful moment and to continue supporting Nevin in his walk of faith.

We also look forward to hosting the Synod Assembly here at First Lutheran. It is both an honor and an opportunity to extend hospitality, to welcome others into our shared space, and to remember that we are part of something larger than ourselves. Please keep this gathering in your prayers that it may be guided by the Spirit and marked by faithful discernment.

As we move toward summer, a season that often brings both rest and renewed activity, I find myself wondering together with you:

- Where is God calling First Lutheran Church?
- How are we being invited to be Christ for our neighbors here in Iron River and beyond?
- What would it look like for us to deepen our presence in the community, not just as a church people attend, but as a people who embody Christ's love in tangible ways?

These are not questions with quick answers, but they are faithful questions, ones that can guide our conversations, our prayers, and our shared ministry in the months ahead.

I also want to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you for your patience, grace, and support as I navigated an earlier paternity leave as my family welcomed our daughter, Hattie, during March and April. Your care for my family during that time was deeply felt and appreciated. I am especially grateful to Curt and Jill Poulos, who stepped in to lead and support several aspects of worship life in my absence. Their willingness to serve ensured that our shared ministry continued with faithfulness and strength.

As we enter this new season together, may we remain rooted in Christ, open to the Spirit's leading, and committed to loving our neighbors with courage and compassion.

With gratitude and hope.
Pastor Lance Crevier



Community Outreach request –

I was scrolling on Facebook in late February when I noticed this post:

“In this season of Lent and almsgiving, please consider helping out a community member in need.”

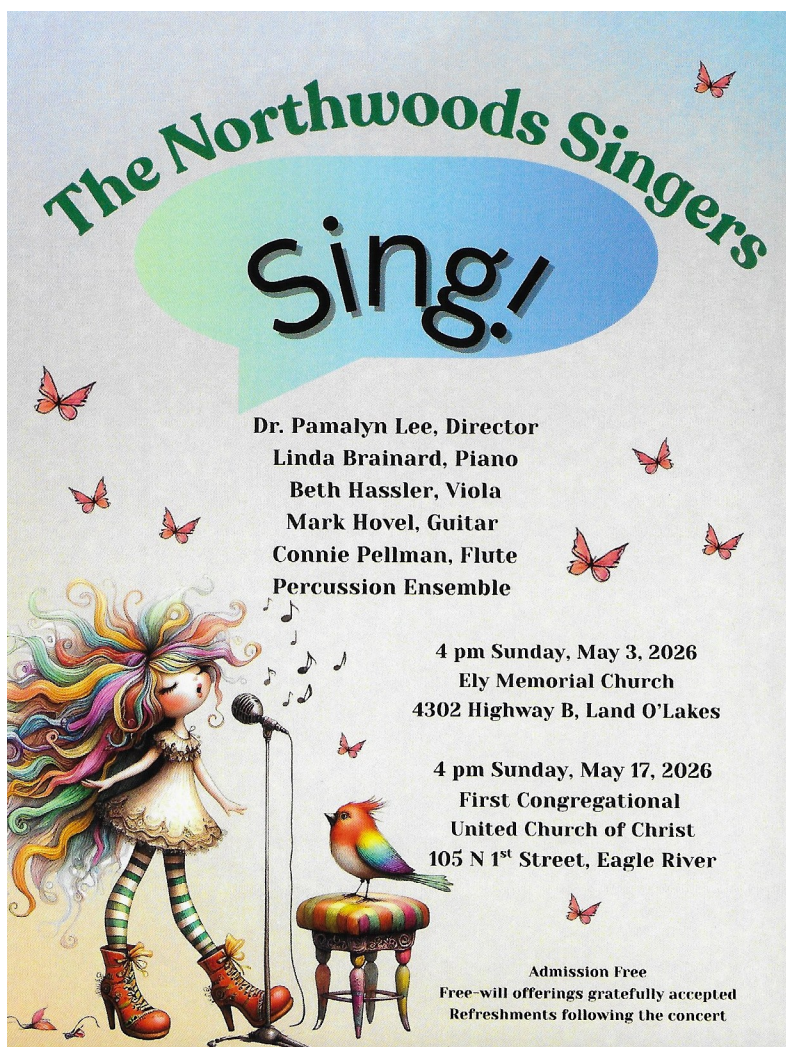
Teresa is a former RN and dialysis nurse who worked at our local hospital for many years. She is now in a position where she is the patient and has on-going need of rides to dialysis in Iron Mountain. She lives on US-2 in Iron River and dialysis is at the Marshfield Medical Center (former Dickinson County Healthcare) next to the hospital on Stephenson Avenue.

She needs transports on Mon/Wed/Fri and has appointments from 11:15 to 3:30 pm.

If you are able to assist on occasion with transports that are convenient to your schedule, please contact Donna Ahlberg at 906-284-1480. Dialysis is literally saving her life. My goal is to share contact information with Teresa to widen her circle of community support.

Attention Thrivent Members:

Please remember to use your full Thrivent membership benefit by directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars allocation to your favorite charity (First Lutheran Church, Iron River is an eligible recipient). Furthermore, Thrivent affords its members the ability to initiate a Thrivent Action Team to support local benevolent opportunities. If you wish to use this benefit but would like some assistance, please contact your Thrivent representative or one of our council members. The money granted by Thrivent is taken from their corporate charity contribution funds. These benefits do not in any way affect your personal investment portfolio. But you are given the blessing of directing a Thrivent charitable gift to a deserving cause.



Bowling News

CRYSTAL BOWLERETTES 3-19

STANDINGS: 1. Logan's Place 25-11; 2. Crystal View 19-17; 3. Snoopy's Strikers 19-17; 4. Marla Shamion State Farm 18½-17½; 5. Elvov Girls 18-18; 6. Idlewild Farm 17½-18½; 7. Loud Acres Farm 17-19; 8. Amsoil 10-26

HIGH SCORES OF THE WEEK: HTG: 1. Snoopy's Strikers 575; HTM: Snoopy's Strikers 1596; HIG: 1. Sophie Fabbri 182; 2. Sandy Jastrzcmiski 181; 3. Char Sikora 149; HIM: 1. Sandy Jastrzcmiski 471; 2. Sophie Fabbri 470; 3. Riki Rouse 414

SPLITS: Riki Rouse 5-10 and 4-7, Dana Kettleson 4-5, Lisa Masnova 4-5, Ruth Raymond 5-8-10, Debbie Burho 3-10 and 3-9-10, Char Sikora 2-7.

HIGH SCORES OF THE WEEK:

HTG: 1. Snoopy's Strikers 556; **HTM:** Logan's Place 1615; **HIG:** 1. Lori Dobson 164; 2. Dana Kittleson 163; 3. Char Sikora 158; **HIM:** 1. Lisa Masnova 457; 2. Char Sikora 422; 3. Dana Kittleson 402

Mission accomplished: 50 States, 145 Hearts



A Grand Slam of Kindness: The students of West Iron Sprouts celebrate a successful "Hearts Across America" mission. To learn about geography and connection, the group set a goal to receive a Valentine from every corner of the country. They exceeded all expectations, collecting 145 letters and postcards representing all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico.

Submitted photo



WELCA

Our next meeting will
be May 4th at 10:00.

And Spring arose on the
garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt
everywhere;
And each flower and herb on
Earth's dark breast
rose from the dreams of it's
wintry rest.

Percy Bysshe Shelley



207. I WILL NOT HURRY

I will not hurry through this day!
Lord, I will listen by the way,
To humming bees and singing birds,
To speaking trees and friendly words;
And for the moments in between
Seek glimpses of Thy great Unseen.

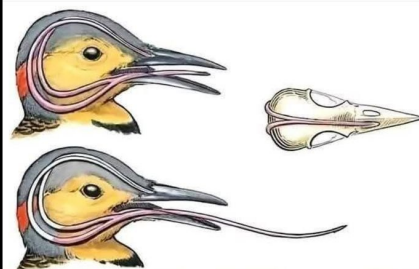
I will not hurry through this day;
I will take time to think and pray;
I will look up into the sky,
Where fleecy clouds and swallows fly;
And somewhere in the day, maybe
I will catch whispers, Lord, from Thee!

Ralph Spaulding Cushman, 1879-

Woodpeckers have a tongue that wraps around their entire skull to stabilize their brain and prevent it from shaking when they peck trees.

The force of a woodpecker's blow is equivalent to hitting your head against a wall at 25 km/h!

It repeats this action about 20 to 25 times per second, which is equivalent to 12,000 times per day.



Thrivent has donated, at the request of its membership, over \$41,000 to the First Lutheran church through the years. 38 church members are also members at Thrivent which affords them these privileges along with the ability to support Action Teams, some of which go unused.





FLC Finances

“Donor advised funds”

The month of April each year brings the specter of tax payments or the windfall of tax refunds. Too often, I’ve found the result to be a surprise with either refunds or payments. More often than not, the current standard deduction exceeds my list of itemized tax deductions. If you’re looking to increase your deductions, you may consider investing in a “donor advised fund” with your financial institution. These investments are relinquished to a financial institution for future charitable contributions. The funds are tax deductible in the year they are invested. The contribution may increase your deductions beyond the standard deduction. The donor advised funds will remain in your control for investing and future charitable donations. Talk with your financial advisor if this sounds like it may be beneficial.

March expenses for First Lutheran were in line with expectations. However, they did exceed our income. We are forecasting our income versus expenses to have a shortfall of \$5000 to \$8000 for the year. Your finance team will work diligently to mitigate this projection, but we need your support also. At our recent council meeting we all agreed that our congregation has responded with overwhelming generosity when faced with clear financial challenges. We need an additional 16% from our regular donations to meet the forecasted expenses.

You may be asking yourself, as I have, why? A few items stand out. First, the cost of healthcare insurance was larger than expected. Second, our building maintenance costs are forecast at a high level due to the age of our building. Third, weekly contributions missed a few Sundays due to poor weather. We all need to understand that our costs do not change when we don’t have worship services. We appreciate your understanding. If your bank or financial institution has a regular giving provision (ACH or EFT) we would appreciate your consideration of this feature.

Thank you for your generosity!

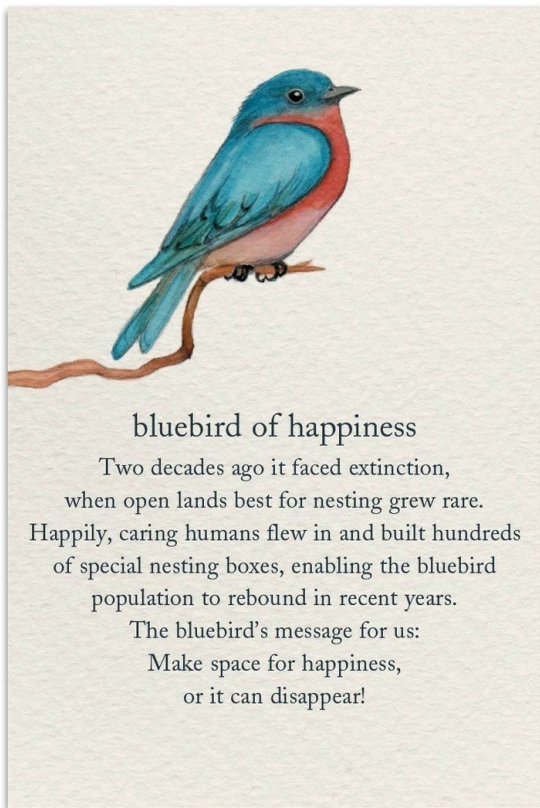
Easter Sunday

We had a full house on Easter Sunday. Take a look at those pretty girls in their Easter dresses!

Wallydrag

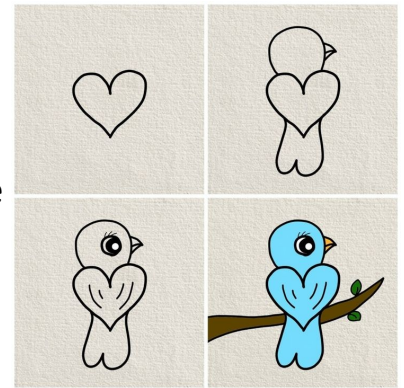
The last-hatched bird in a brood.





Every Child Every Month

Please consider supporting the West Iron County Public Schools in their Every Child Every Month book program. This program places books into homes that may not have other opportunities to improve children's reading achievement, improved vocabulary and greater confidence as readers. Over the past four years, 14,664 books have been placed into the hands of students! Tax-deductible contributions via checks may be made to WIC Public Schools, 601 Nick Baumgartner Way, Iron River, MI 49935 or dropped off at the same address. Be sure to include *Every Child Every Month* in the memo line so it goes to the right program.



Easter Brunch

Sounds of merry fellowship and the tantalizing smells of breakfast infused the whole of our church on Easter morning thanks to the Nelson family. An excellent way to celebrate! Thank you for your generosity of time and spirit.



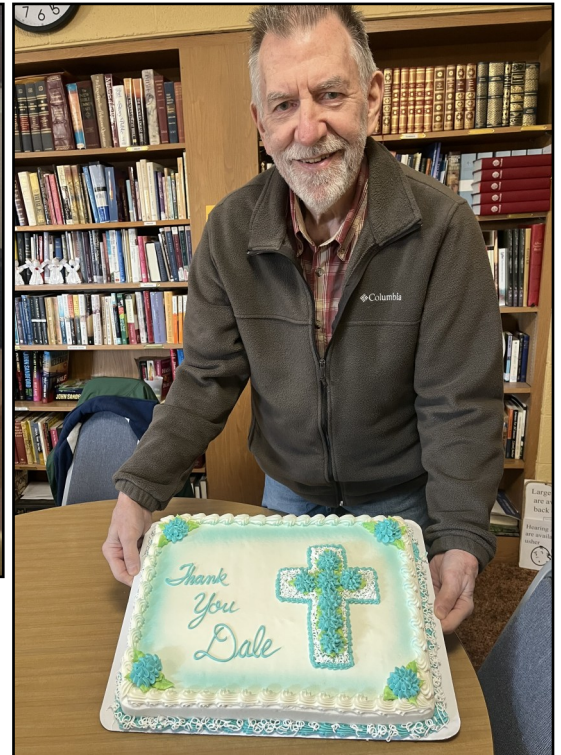
God, You equip us with tools that draw us closer to You and help us stand against schemes created to destroy us. Thank You for Your protection. Thank You for caring for us at all times. Today, help me to intentionally put on all of the armor You freely offer me. Give me the strength to stand firm in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thank you

It's not every person that will fearlessly climb up a ladder to paint the sanctuary ceiling! Big thanks to Duff Ahlberg for touching up the peeling paint in the sanctuary! It looks amazing!

Raise & Praise Ringers

Our talented ringers played a beautiful rendition of *Nearer My God to Thee* during our service on April 26th (not pictured— Helen Berglund)



In 1992, to protect them from Hurricane Andrew, 30 flamingos were moved to the Miami Zoo's bathroom, resulting in an iconic photograph.



Thank you

We give thanks to God for the many ways faithful service strengthens our shared life together. Let us take a moment to celebrate Dale Holm and his decade of dedicated service as Accounts Payable Clerk at First Lutheran Church.

For many years, Dale has quietly and faithfully stewarded the financial details that help sustain our ministry. His diligence, integrity, and commitment have been a gift to this congregation, and we are deeply grateful.

With gratitude,
The Congregation Council

Fundraising success for the Bates Hall Project



Pictured at the presentation are, from left, Sue Passamani (Secretary/Treasurer), Waunetta Seymour (Director), Richard Smith (Representative of Enbridge), Anita Berno (Director), Dale Holm (Director) and Margee Brennan (President). (Not pictured are Vice President Sharon Ryden and Director Fay Frailing.)



Kiwi skeleton showing size of egg in relation to mother's body.



THE BIRDWATCHERWATCHERS

Spring Pasty Sale 2026



President's Message

The Northern Great Lakes Synod will convene across the UP for the annual assembly on Saturday, May 16. Most will join via Zoom while many will travel to Iron River for the in-person meeting. A huge thanks to Pastor Lance and those who have volunteered to fill some of the various roles to assist with other hosting duties.

I'll readily admit that I am terrible with remembering names. Even after nearly three years, I am still learning a few new ones. Forgive me if I must continue to ask for your name. Fortunately, I am not alone in that a few individuals have asked about a church member directory for the same reason. I'm not sure how long ago the last directory was completed but it was quite a while ago. I have an old copy from at least a couple decades ago. Some of you have aged a little bit since that last photo! Pastor Lance had started updating the directory a couple years ago when Sandee and I first joined First Lutheran but with studies and a budding family the directory took a lower responsibility. Perfectly understandable. Pastor and I have discussed a new member directory, and we've briefly researched alternative formats and believe an electronic edition through an app may be the best way to move forward. Printed editions go obsolete rather quickly. An electronic version can be dynamic and updated at any time although we still need to provide a printed version for those few individuals that may have challenges with technology. With that said, Pastor Lance and I agreed that we'd like to investigate an electronic format but will postpone any action on it until later this year. The first half of this year is quite busy so stay tuned for an update as we kick off a new member directory down the road. In the meantime, I'll keep asking for your name!

A big shout out to Tom and Lynn Karvala on a very successful pasty sale! The pasty sale is more than making a few dollars for special projects. To me, it is about fellowship and working alongside with all the others to produce a perfect pasty. Tom and Lynn have taken the lead on the pasty sales for many years but now desire to step back. Oh, I'm sure they will still be around but more in a participant role than organizing. The next pasty sale in the Fall will be organized by Bob and Marla Busakowski. Thanks Bob and Marla for stepping up and to all the other volunteers who make this a fun endeavor!

Over the next few months, I expect the Council to have conversations about, "Is First Lutheran Church a welcoming congregation?" There are changes occurring within our local community regarding other congregations. We want to make sure that we welcome those visitors or any visitors for that matter to our church. When you see someone new do you reach out to them? Please share your ideas on how we can ensure we are indeed a welcoming and growing congregation.

In Christ,
Dave Schumacher



Spring Clean-up Day

Please join us on Saturday, May 2, 8:30 – 11:00 AM, to give our beautiful church a thorough cleaning. In anticipation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly two weeks later, we'd like to spiffy up our facility – inside and out. Bring those dust rags, rakes and other necessary items to help polish the facility. The synod assembly will be using much of the building so it's important to hit all areas. Our custodian, Kim, does a wonderful job but there are probably areas that are out of reach or beyond routine that we can offer an assist. See you Saturday!

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday's Passion Play was in excess of talent! Thank you to our Narrator, Curt Poulos, our cast, Jana Aho, Dave and Sandee Schumacher, and our musicians, Jill Poulos and Tom Karvala. A job well done everybody!

A BIG thank you, too, to Dale and Jo Holm for providing the palms for Palm Sunday. It wouldn't have been the same without your beautiful contribution.

When a crow feels sick, it heads straight to an ant nest... not to eat, but to TEASE the ants. It shakes its body, fluffs its feathers, spreads its wings, and lies still while the ants climb all over it. As they swarm through its feathers, the ANGRY ants release formic acid, a natural chemical that kills bacteria, mites, and parasites hiding in the crow's body.

The crow knows exactly what it's doing. This ritual, called "anting," is their natural way of healing. Sometimes they even pick up ants with their beaks and rub them directly onto their feathers like medicine. No vet, no pills, just instinct. Nature gave them the CURE long before we invented one.



"Once you
have
tasted
flight,
you will
forever
walk the
earth
with your
eyes
turned
skyward,
for there
you have
been, and
there you
will
always
long to
return."

Leonardo
da Vinci



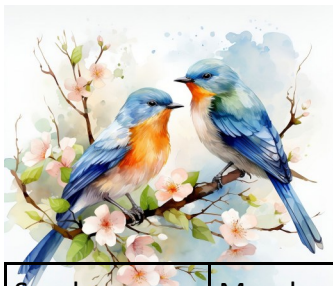
Where do birds go on
vacation?



Somewhere cheep!

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

4 th	David Barry
	Nicole Purkey
6 th	Sandra Richards
7 th	Jennifer Secord
9 th	Landon Geneman
	Livi Geneman
10 th	Peter Wedegartner
13 th	Morgan Labadie
15 th	Gayle Petroski
16 th	Scott and Kristy Lamers
17 th	Ericka Richards
19 th	Daniel Kallio
22 nd	Greg and Sherry Garavet
23 rd	Debra Dobson
27 th	Mike and Tracey Nelson
28 th	Riley Stine



May



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:30-11:00 Work Bee
3 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Confirmation	4 10:00 WELCA	5 9:00 Quilting	6 10:00 Bible Study	7	8	9
10 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Mother's Day	11	12 9:00 Quilting	13 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Council	14	15 8:30 Men's group– Main St. Cafe 8:30 Wom- en's Group– Mr. T's	16 Synod Assembly
17 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Noisy Offering	18	19 9:00 Quilting	20 10:00 Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Donna Ahlberg Baccalaure- ate	25 Memorial Day	26 9:00 Quilting	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service			Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they? <i>Matthew 6:26</i>			