

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

235 E GENESEE ST.
IRON RIVER, MI 49935
906-265-9518

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 8a-4p

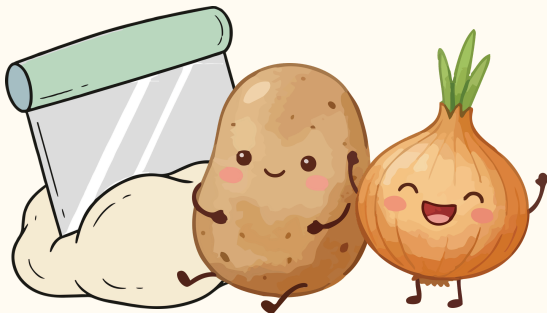
PASTOR LANCE CREVIER

Pastor@FirstLutheranIronRiver.com

WELCOME TO OUR

September Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!



Fall Pasty Sale

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Bob and Marla Busakowski are heading up our Fall Pasty Sale. They are looking forward to having our usual support team of volunteers and invite everyone else to join in the fun November 6th and 7th. They are hoping to have order forms available sometime in September and they want everyone to know that more information will be forthcoming.

100 Year Celebration

SO MANY MEMORIES

You may have heard it mentioned a few times this year already, but 2026 is the 100 year anniversary of our beautiful building. There have been several upgrades and additions over the years, but the original, red brick church was built in 1926! We are hoping to commemorate this milestone with a celebration on Reformation Sunday (October 25th). More details will be forthcoming; however, we are looking to make a book out of all of the memories we can muster about our lovely church. In fact, we thought that if we could gather 100 stories (one for each year), it would be ideal. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex; if you would like to share a memory, a story, an anecdote, a note or a even just a passing thought. Whether you are a long-time member or new to the congregation, there is so much to share, we hope you can find inspiration and a willingness to participate in what could be an incredible opportunity to grow as a church family and community. Whatever you can gather is welcome and can be brought to the office or emailed to secretary@FirstLutheranIronRiver.com

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Tristan Nelson
- 2 Jeannine Watt
- 3 Helen Berglund
Pr. Lance & Rylee Crevier
- 5 Tracey & Angie
- 9 Denise Spelgatti
Bob & Marla Busakowski
- 11 Ken & Jane Maki
- 14 Steven & Tammy Pietila
- 17 Sandee Schumacher
- 18 Seanna Stine
- 21 Kust Markkola
- 23 Dale & Jo Holm
- 25 Tim Braunel



Harvest and Haunt

SIGN UP TO HELP OUT

Volunteers needed for this year's Harvest and Haunt.

September 26th

4:00-9:00

Games, candy, hotdogs, raffle, set up and take down...

We can't do it without your help. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

New Home Blessing

CONGRATULATIONS! AND WELCOME HOME, DAVE AND SANDEE SCHUMACHER



Food and fun were had for an afternoon of house warming where Dave and Sandee were joined in celebration by family and friends in their new home on August 26th

-
Pastor Lance gave a blessing over the residence



pastor@FirstLutheranIronRiver.com | secretary@FirstLutheranIronRiver.com

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Council President's Message

PREPARE FOR UPCOMING MONTH

The Church Council did not meet in August. It's been tradition to take one month off in the summer so we agreed to take a hiatus in August. In many ways it was refreshing to break the cycle of monthly meetings although current issues are still bouncing around in my head searching for answers.

I'm on Facebook (sometimes I wonder why) but I do enjoy the original purpose of the application – to connect with friends and share life events whether it be birthdays, travels, graduations or other. I dislike negativity whether it be towards individuals, local governments, ethnic groups or politics. The discourse I see is overwhelming at times and just takes me down. I will unfollow those that continually post negativity as I much prefer to look at the good side of things. I enjoy having my spirits lifted which is one of many reasons I love First Lutheran. We have a great congregation and Pastor! I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday, Bible Study and certainly special events. Last Friday, I met the men's group for our monthly breakfast at Main Street Café. The conversation was light-hearted at times wondering about the conversation at the other end of town where our spouses were gathered. We also had serious discussion about the recent closing of some churches and what to do about our parking lot. We certainly grieve with those churches that can no longer function and want to welcome them to FLC. We're still exploring options on the parking lot and hope to have more information on that and other major expenditures for the congregation later. Reminder to all. It is not too early to start thinking about next year's budget. So far, this year, we have been holding our own but next year can present some challenges. Please voice your opinion as we begin to formulate the next budget.

Save the date! November 6-7 will be our pasty sale under the leadership of Marla and Bob Busakowski. More on that later but mark the calendar and hope everyone can jump in for a group effort of making pasties for the community and certainly great fellowship.

Pr Lance is officially on paternity leave through October 4. With prayer, we wish he and his family well as he shifts his focus to taking care of Hattie, Juniper and certainly, Rylee.

In Christ,
Dave Schumacher



Émerveillement

a feeling of wonder and amazement,
something that you feel when
something is so beautiful or magical
that it makes you stop and smile.



Lay Readers

SIGN UP ON THE BOARD!

Thank you, Kora Poulos,
for joining in as lay
reader.

Holy Baptism of Peyton Jane Secrist



The sanctuary at First was full of smiling, happy people welcoming Peyton Jane, daughter of Andy and Kara Secrist, into our congregation. Pastor Lance Crevier presided over the baptism on August 16th.



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

As we enter September, I find myself especially grateful for the gift of time.

This month I will be on paternity leave, taking time away from my regular pastoral responsibilities to be with my family as we continue adjusting to life with a new baby, Hattie. This season has already brought plenty of joy, learning, sleepless nights, and new routines, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be present for it. Rylee will also be returning to work during this time, which brings another transition for our family as we figure out life as a family of four.

Paternity leave is, at its heart, an opportunity for a parent to be present during an important and often overwhelming season of family life. It creates space to care for a new child, to support a spouse, to learn new rhythms, and simply to be there for the ordinary moments that can so easily pass by. There is no way to know exactly what this season will hold, but I am grateful that I have been given the opportunity to experience it fully rather than trying to fit it around the demands of work.

I am deeply grateful to First Lutheran for making this time possible. The ability to step away from my regular responsibilities and spend this extended time with my family is a gift, and I do not take it for granted. Family is one of the places where God so often meets us in the ordinary things of life—in midnight feedings, tired mornings, new routines, laughter, uncertainty, and the countless small moments that make up a growing family. I am thankful for the opportunity to be present for those moments with Hattie, Rylee, and Juniper.

I am also grateful for the members of our congregation and others who have offered their encouragement, prayers, and willingness to help provide for the ministry of the congregation while I am away. I know that the life of the church does not stop simply because the pastor is away. There is worship to be led, pastoral care to be offered, questions to be answered, and the ordinary life of the congregation to continue. I am thankful for the many people who will help make sure that happens during this time.

One of the things I appreciate most about this congregation is that we understand that the ministry of the church belongs to all of us. The pastor is only one part of the larger body of Christ. While I am away, I trust that God will continue to work through First Lutheran, through those who lead worship and provide care, and through each of you in your daily lives and vocations.

Continued...

...continued.

For me, this leave is a reminder that our lives are made up of different seasons, and each season carries its own gifts and responsibilities. There is a time to work, a time to rest, a time to serve, and a time to be present with the people God has entrusted to us. Right now, I am especially grateful that I have been given the time to be present with my family.

I look forward to returning and hearing about what has happened in the life of the congregation while I have been away. In the meantime, please know that you remain in my prayers, just as I am grateful to know that my family and I remain in yours.

May God bless you and your families this September, and may God give us all the grace to recognize and receive the gifts of the seasons of life into which God calls us.

Trinity to Conclude 124 Years of Ministry

BY DONNA AHLBERG

Since April, I have been honored and humbled to serve with Trinity as a synodically authorized minister (SAM) through the Northern Great Lakes Synod. In this capacity, I have walked with the congregation and the Council as they discerned the future viability of their church and the direction of God's call for them.

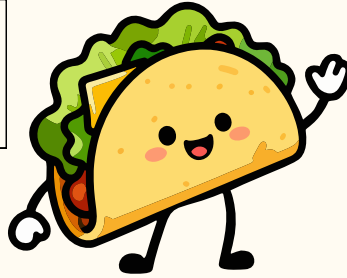
On August 16, 2026, the congregation of Trinity Lutheran voted to approve a resolution of Closure and Thanksgiving after 124 years of faithful service. The decision for closure is never an easy one and is characterized by mixed feelings. I am reminded of Jesus's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane: "Father, take this cup from me if that is your will but, if not, thy will be done."

Closure is something to grieve and to mourn as an end to a chapter. But, like all things in life, we trust in faith and in confidence that God makes all things new. We ask at this time for your continued prayers for the members of Trinity as they walk forward with grace and love through the closure process. For this loving, caring and faithful community of believers, this is a difficult time.

A worship service of word and sacrament will be held on Saturday October 3, 2026 at 3 pm to mark closure of the congregation. The public is cordially invited to join us in our final call as a congregation.



May Jesus be seen in me
in spite of me.



You're
Invited!

SEPTEMBER 6TH

Join us in
celebration of Helen
Berglund's 80th
birthday with a taco
lunch after service
on Sunday,
September 6th !

In the News

LOOK WHO WE SAW IN OUR LOCAL PAPER!

Yoooper Sweets



Present at the Yoooper Sweets Ribbon Cutting were as follows, from left, Daniel Yoder (Regional Director, Michigan Small Business Development Center), Louisa Kniivila (Office/RV Park Manager, ICECA), Brett Smithson (Assistant Director, ICECA), Helen Berglund, Tracey Stine, Brooke Stine (Owner/Operator, Yoooper Sweets, LLC), Angie Stine, Cathy Richardson (Trustee, ICECA), Greg Scott (Owner/Operator, Bump's Burgers and Iron River DDA Member), Harmony Scott, Zach Hautala (Executive Director, ICECA) and Tony Dallavalle (Trustee, ICECA).

New Parking

Thank you, Tom, for
the super-fun sign
you made for some
of our youngest
members. We are
sure that Juniper
and Hattie would
invite anyone
walking to church to
safely park their
buggies/ strollers
with them in the
grassy stretch near
the main door.

Class of 1966 celebrate 60 years



The Iron River Redskins Class of 1966 celebrated their 60th class reunion Aug. 15 at the Miners' 9. Present at the celebration were, front row from left, Tom Lundberg, Linda Hanson, Susan (Tass) Wensel and Karen Polley. Second row, from left, Joe Trepasso, Phyllis (Dent) Mangone, Terry Stoychoff, Kay (Meneguzzo) Christensen, Jane (Kohl) Wayne, Bonnie (Gross) Evanoff, Pat (Melstrom) Turner, Margaret (Banks) Henschel, Pat (Stafford) Robinson, Gail (Baker) Lindahl, Linda (Scalcucci) Savings, Caroline (Johnson) Fredlund, Noralee (Angeli) Petrucelli, Melvin Robinson and Cheryl (Stetz) Ehlinger. Third row, from left, Larry Zdunek, Charlie Christensen, Karin (Lindbeck) Roff, Jan (Polley) Marcell, Linda (Tousignant) Smith, Dave Frailing, Andy McIntosh, Alex Cameron, Gust Hanold and Nancy (Soderbloom) Burcar. Fourth row, from left, Tony Bongli, Dale Melstrom, Tom Bregger, Darrel Ehlinger, Keith Aho and Willard Olson. Photo by Kevin Zini



Fortune Lake Fall Fest 2026

: QUILT & FINE ARTS AUCTION FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Mark your calendars! Our Sisters of the Cloth and other generous artisans and quilters are hard at work to provide the beautiful, high quality items you have come to expect from this event. Join us in support of the ministry of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp!

Daily schedule of events:

9:30-10:30 am CT

Continental Breakfast & Bake Sale (Dining Hall)

Quilt Preview (Chapel)

11:00 am CT

Opening of LIVE Auction (Chapel)

All morning

Draffle ticket sales and Country Store hand (Chapel)

Can't make it in-person? Join us for our VIRTUAL Auction beginning on Wednesday, September 23 and closing on Saturday, October 3 at 5pm CT: auctria.events/fortunelake

Sunday School Is Back!



Dear Families,

Sunday School begins at 9:00 am on September 13th! We look forward to welcoming back our returning students and greeting new students from Pre-K through 5th grade.

Our theme this year is "Jesus is our light." We have many exciting activities planned, beginning with our welcome back party!

We hope to see you there.

Best regards,
Sandi Scalcucci



September 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 Quilting	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Pr. S. Reshan	7	8 9:00 Quilting	9	10	11	12
13 9:00 Sunday School Begins 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Pr. S. Swensen	14	15 9:00 Quilting	16	17	18 8:30 Men's Group 8:30 Women's Group	19
20 9:00 S. School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	21	22 9:00 Quilting	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 S. School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Curt Poulos	28	29 9:00 Quilting	30	It's SOUP - tember!		