

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

First Lutheran Church of Iron River, Michigan / August 2026



RAISE & PRAISE

*On Sunday, June 28th, a powerful rendition of **God Bless America** rang throughout our sanctuary thanks to the Raise and Praise Ringers.*



*Pray about
it as much
as you
think about
it.*



HOLY BAPTISM

All gathered on the warm and sunny Sunday of July 5th to witness the Holy Baptism of Hattie Jo Crevier. Bishop Katherine Finegan presided, family and friends attended and Hattie was a vision of joyous, peaceful repose. Welcome Hattie Jo as our newest member here at First Lutheran Church.



Greetings Congregation,

August always feels like a month of transition. The long days of summer are still with us, but there are signs that a new season is approaching. Gardens produce the harvest, children prepare to return to school, and before long the brilliant colors of autumn begin to appear. The rhythm of creation reminds us that life is always moving through seasons of growth, change, rest, and renewal.

In the church, we experience seasons too. There are times of celebration and times of grief, seasons when faith feels effortless and seasons when it requires perseverance. Through every season, however, one thing remains constant: God's faithfulness.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us:

"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose" (Isaiah 55:11).

That promise is deeply comforting. We often measure our lives by what we can see: attendance, full calendars, answered prayers, or visible results. God, however, is always at work in ways we cannot see. Every Scripture read, every prayer offered, every hymn sung, every act of kindness, every shared meal, every word of encouragement, and every invitation extended becomes part of the work God is doing among us.

As we move toward the hustle and bustle of fall, I invite you to remain rooted in the simple practices that nurture faith. Worship faithfully, open the Scriptures, pray often, reach out to someone who may need encouragement, invite a friend or neighbor to join you for worship. God's kingdom often grows not through dramatic moments, but through ordinary acts of faithfulness repeated over time.

As many of you know, my family has also been enjoying precious time together following the birth of our newest daughter. We are deeply grateful for the prayers, cards, and kindness you have shown us. Your care has been a wonderful reminder that the Church is more than a congregation, it is a family gathered around Christ.

With that I would like to remind the congregation I am taking time for paternity leave starting at the end August running through the beginning of October (Aug. 24 - Oct. 4). I am working diligently to prepare for this time of leave and hoping things will continue to run smoothly.

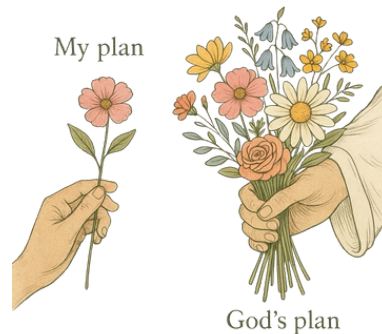
I also want to call your attention to the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering happening next summer, 2027, in Minneapolis, MN. That may be as close as it can get! There is another article in the newsletter highlighting this opportunity, please read it and follow up with the interest form if you have youth who are curious and/or plan on attending!

Lastly, I want to let you know about something coming up late in the fall. On Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25, we will be having a special Sunday worship service commemorating the 100 years of First Lutheran's grand building! Please plan to join us for worship that morning. More plans will be shared in the coming months.

May God continue to bless you during these remaining weeks of summer. Whether you find yourself on vacation, working hard, spending time with family, or simply enjoying the beauty of God's creation, may you know the peace of Christ, who walks with you through every season.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lance



West Iron County Middle/High School Honor Roll 2025-2026 Semester 2

A Honor Roll

10th Grade: Haden Bunes, Zoe Donati, Kinsley Economy, Alexzander Ghiggia, Lakota Hunborg, Calyn Jukkala, Haleigh LaMay, Joel McWethy, Seth Oberlin, Nickalas Perlongo, Gabrielle Porier, Adeline Rummelhoff, Harmony Scott, Grace Smith, Eriana Sucholl

8th Grade: Addison Brzoznowski, Adrianna Dallavalle, Trinity Dye, Brianna Gill, Lily Hawke, Hadley Heissner, Amelia LaMay, Noah Luckey, Mycah McNamee, Lillian Morgan, Nevin Porier, Samuel Rummelhoff, Thor Rypstra, Hannah Schandel, Emma Simpson-Sabotta, Magnolia Spencer, Sophia Thoun, Jaxson Wright, Kinsley Zimmerman

6th Grade: Cameron Aldegarie, Ethan Anderson, Jude Cheney, Jordi Chernach, Lucy Christensen, Blake Clements, Carmine Dallavalle, Brooklyn Davis, Lauren Fales, Jaxson Hansen, Landon Jacobs, Ashtyn LaMay, Hunter Leonoff, Selena Lombardi, Merci Luckey, Nala Meske, Stella Mottes, Khloe Nichols, Colt Polich, Colin Porier, Kaitlyn Robles, Delilah Spencer, Teagan Stapleton, Joy Strom, Addisyn Zimmerman

B Honor Roll

9th Grade: Reese Ahola, Lydia Anderson, Sean Battye, Chevy Carlson, Braylee Chernach, Nicholas Featherly, Krissalynn Jines, Jaxson Leonoff, Aria Lewis, Parker Lutes, Chaselynn Olson, Brodi Pelkola, Genesis Robles, Lexxi Schandel, Tessa Stapleton

8th Grade: Isabelle Benson, Shayleigh Brozak, Riley Cronkright, Karter Erickson, Morgan Hansen, Mikayla Kunick, Isabella Laird, Cali Reed, Ethan Rivard, Bryce Shamion, Rebel Tousignant, Khloe Woodard, Marlaina Woodard

NMU announces Dean's List Winter 2026 semester

**SOMEBODY,
SOMEWHERE IS
DEPENDING ON
YOU
TO DO WHAT GOD
HAS CALLED YOU
TO DO.**

MARQUETTE — Several Iron County students qualified for the Northern Michigan University Dean's List.

Ten students qualified with a 4.0 grade point average: Rayven Jacobson of Amasa; Allen Dobson, Leah Feldhausen and Charlotte Strom of Crystal Falls; Julia Swenski of Gaastra; Haiden Gill, Hannah Guzowski, Reed Jubie, Estella Ramirez and Seanna Stine of Iron River.



It is difficult to imagine that summer is nearly 2/3 over. With that comes transitions. Days are already getting noticeably shorter although the summer heat is still blasting on most days. At the last Council meeting, we're starting to prepare for Pr Lance's much deserved leave scheduled for August 24 through October 4. The Council will also be taking the month of August off from its regularly scheduled monthly meetings. What transition are you experiencing?

Have you noticed the new layout of the Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletter?

Kristina has employed a new application called Canva. In the past, Kristina used Microsoft Publisher but that program is being phased out hence the need to find an alternative. Please, let Kristina know what you think of the new format.

At the July Council meeting we also discussed planning for the 100th anniversary of the church building. The actual anniversary date was in May, I believe, but we chose to formally recognize the landmark date later in the year and have selected Reformation Sunday (Oct 25). A committee consisting of Deb Sitkoski, Donna Lord, Curt Poulos and Pr Lance will plan some activities. Many of you grew up in the church from childhood Sunday school, confirmation, marriage and more. If you have a memory that you'd like to share then please contact one of the committee members. We'd also like to use Reformation Sunday to invite others to our church so watch for some short media releases and reach out to your friend to come visit us! More on this to come later but reserve the date!

Sandee and I have also been transitioning. Many of you have followed the progress of our new home and we are pleased to say that we are finally in it! Okay, we're in it but don't ask about all the boxes that populate our house! It seems like the size and number grew during the move but eventually, we'll get items put away and call it a home. And it will always be a home built with the love of God and respect for all.

In Christ,

Dave Schumacher



ancient greek word of the day: **κακοθερής**
(kakotherēs), *unfitted to endure summer heat*
this literally means "bad at summer"

Remember, Shadrach,
Meshasch, and Abednego.
God didn't put out the fire.
He just put Jesus in there
with them and they
came out without smoke.
It's not about God stopping
all the things that look
bad; it's about who is in
there with you.



REGISTER NOW!

Join us for the 2026 Fall
Lifelong Faith Formation Classes

Register for ONE or ALL of the Classes

The Church's Role in a Divided Society: Public Deliberative Dialog

With Rev. Sharolyn Swenson and Rev. J. Michael Mills

One Session on Thursday, September 24, 2026

Held in-person at Bethany, Ishpeming, MI with Zoom curated space also available.
6:30-8:30 pm Eastern / 5:30-7:30 pm Central

Encountering God in the Modern Middle East

With Todd Holmstrom – Mondays, September 21, 28, and October 5, 12
7:00-8:00 pm Eastern / 6:00-7:00 pm Central

Lutheranism 101: Lens, God's Grace, and Essentials

With Bishop Katherine Finegan, Rev. Tim Johnston, and Rev. J. Michael Mills

7:00-8:00 pm Eastern / 6:00-7:00 pm Central

Thursday, October 29 – The Lutheran Lens

Wednesday, November 4 – God's Grace

Wednesday, November 11 – Essential Lutheran Tidbits

The Pollinator Garden

With members of the NE MN Synod Pollinator Plot Steering Committee
and Good Shepherd, Peshtigo, WI

One Session on Thursday, September 17

7:00 – 8:30 pm Eastern / 6:00 – 7:30 pm Central

The Prophets: Their Voice, Context, and Significance

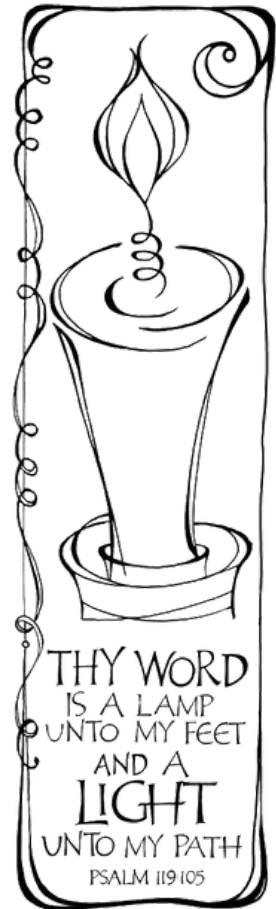
With Rev. Philip Johnson - Tuesdays, October 20, 27, and November 3, 10

7:00-8:15 pm Eastern, 6:00-7:15 pm Central

Walking through Mark: Preparing for Year B

With Rev. Nicole Hanson-Lynn - Sundays, September 20 – November 15

7:00-8:00 pm Eastern, 6:00-7:00 pm Central



It's a
bookmark!



Robbie Quayle
summer intern at the
Iron County Museum.
Submitted photo.

**Iron County Museum
welcomes summer
intern Robert Quayle**



Lord, heal the places in
my memory that still
replay the hurt.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 *Keith Aho*
Barbara Sheill
- 7 *Peter & Janet Nocerini*
- 12 *Michael Brozak*
Kendra Leonoff
- 15 *Juniper Crevier*
- 16 *Courtney Leonoff*
James & Michele Quayle
- 19 *Clovis Capadagli*
- 20 *Rylee Crevier*
Curt & Jill Poulos
- 21 *Jane Maki*
- 25 *Lisa Masnova Burk*
- 27 *Kara Secrist*
Colin Porier
- 30 *Tom & Lynn Karvala*



SUNDAY READERS

Curt Poulos and his grandson, Liam, shared the lectern as joint readers twice this month! It was thoroughly enjoyable- thank you. If you are interested in reading, check the bulletin board for the sign-up sheet or talk to the office to get you started.

THANK YOU

When you were made a leader you weren't given a crown, you were given the responsibility to bring out the best in others.

Thank you, Jo Holm, for being the Cheer person at First Lutheran for the last several years. The Cheer person sends out the birthday and anniversary cards to members of First. Thank you, JoAnn Wedegartner, for stepping in to take Jo's place as First Lutheran's Cheer person. It is a privilege to have such wonderful people in a position to brighten our day as well as the days of those around us. If you are interested in other ways you can make a difference in our church and in our community, reach out to a member of council, WELCA or Pastor Lance.

Dear Families,

Grace and peace to you!

I'm writing to see if there is interest among the youth of First Lutheran in attending the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering, which will take place June 28-July 2, 2027, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The ELCA Youth Gathering is one of the most meaningful opportunities our church offers for young people. Every three years, thousands of Lutheran youth from across the country gather for five days of worship, service, learning, music, fellowship, and fun. It's an incredible opportunity to grow in faith, build friendships, and experience what it means to be part of the larger church.

This event holds a special place in my own faith journey. I had the privilege of attending the Youth Gatherings in 2012 and 2015, and those experiences were truly life-changing. They deepened my faith, broadened my understanding of God's work in the world, and gave me a sense of belonging to something much bigger than my own congregation. Looking back, those Gatherings played an important role in shaping the person, and eventually the pastor I am today.

Because of that, it would be a tremendous joy to bring a group of youth from Iron County to Minneapolis in 2027. I would love the opportunity to accompany our young people as they experience this incredible event, grow in their faith, and discover that they are part of a church that stretches far beyond our own community.

At this point, I am simply trying to gauge interest. There is no commitment by responding. If we have enough interested youth, we'll begin organizing a group and sharing more information as the Gathering approaches.

Youth who are eligible to attend must be in grades 8-12 at the time of registration in the fall of 2026. If your child will be in one of those grades, I encourage you to let me know if they might be interested, even if you're not yet certain.

For planning purposes, it's also helpful to know that the Gathering registration fee ranges from \$450-\$575 per participant, depending on when registration is completed. Additional costs include transportation, lodging, and some meals.

With that I want to stress that First Lutheran has resources designated to support youth faith formation, and I am confident that members of our congregation would also be eager to help make this experience possible. We would pursue fundraising opportunities together and work with families individually so that every young person who wants to attend has the opportunity to do so.

If your child is interested, I encourage you to let me know, and we can work through the financial details together.

If your family has any interest, or if you simply have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Knowing who may be interested now will help us determine whether we have enough participants to begin planning.

I sincerely hope we'll have the opportunity to represent First Lutheran and our Iron County community at this incredible event. It would be a blessing to experience this journey of faith together.

God's peace,

Pastor Lance Crevier

Interest Response

Please return this portion to the church office or contact Pastor Lance - email - pastor@firstlutheranironriver.com

Family Name: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Youth's Name(s): _____

Youth's Grade in Fall 2026: _____

- ☐ Our family is interested in learning more about the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering.
- ☐ We would like to receive additional information as plans develop.
- ☐ We have questions and would appreciate a conversation with Pastor Lance.

Questions or comments:

Please respond by August 31, 2026. This is not a commitment to attend—it's simply a way for us to gauge interest and begin planning.





HOW TO WRITE A SINCERE *just because letter*

01. start with a thoughtful greeting
02. let them know why you're writing
03. share personal updates or stories
04. ask about their life
05. include a thoughtful encouragement
06. end with a warm closing
07. optional: add a personal touch



Checking In

Have you had someone on your mind?
Has it been a while since you've heard
from someone you care about? Maybe it
is time to check in.

Take inspiration from our Cheer
Person and send a card or letter. It
doesn't have to wait until a birthday or
anniversary. Chances are good that you
care for people all year and not just on
special occasions. Let them know you
care. It doesn't have to be fancy or
complicated (though there a few ideas
here on how you can). Just a note to let
them know that they have been on
your mind. Sometimes a kind word
makes all the difference in someone's
day (or week or more...).

30 (MOSTLY-FLAT) THINGS TO SEND YOUR PENPAL

stickers	a map
a postcard	recipe cards
fun Band-Aids	paper clips
tea	glow-in-the-dark stars
journaling cards	ribbon
washi tape	an interesting article
seed packets	bookmarks
paper garlands	a small notebook
Post-It notes	gel pens
photos	glow sticks
a balloon	a newspaper cartoon
candy	pressed flowers
Mad Libs	sticks of gum
a temporary tattoo	a small cross-stitch
pencils	a charm on a necklace



THE BIG WHITE FARMHOUSE

It's a bookmark!



if you want creative envelopes, go to #Google
Maps, map the route from your letter to the
other person's mailbox. Print them up, fold
them into 8 by 11 envelopes #crafts

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	AUGUST 2026					1
2 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	3	4 9:00 Quilting	5	6	7	8
9 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	10	11 9:00 Quilting	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Noisy Offering	17	18 9:00 Quilting	19	20	21 8:30 Men's Group 8:30 Women's Group	22
23 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	24	25 9:00 Quilting	26	27	28	29
30 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Pr. Jim Duehring	31					