

A message from our Pastor

Dear Church,

February always feels like a hinge month.

We are still deep in winter, days short, routines steady, patience sometimes thin, and yet the light is unmistakably changing. The sun lingers a little longer. The promise of spring quietly insists on being heard. In the church year, we are also living in this in-between space: still in the season of Epiphany, watching the light of Christ made known in the world, even as we begin to turn our hearts toward the road that leads to Lent.

I would like to report that the confirmation program is off to a great start. We have 3 students, and will look forward to celebrating the confirmation of one of them in the Spring! Bible study is continuing its charge through the Hebrew Bible, diving deeper into the Pentateuch (first five books of the Hebrew Bible). As I write, I am preparing for the group to wrap up Exodus as we see where the Israelites' journey through the wilderness leads them. The annual congregation meeting was a successful event and I am grateful for those who stepped up to take on leadership positions in the church. Strong leadership and willing volunteers are necessary for the stewardship of this congregation and its ministry.

Later this month, on February 18, we will enter the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is not about punishment or shame, but about honesty and hope. It is a season that invites us to slow down, to tell the truth about what weighs on us, and to listen again for God's promise of life that refuses to let death have the final word. As we move toward that season together, I encourage you to begin asking gently: What is God inviting me to notice? What might I need to release? Where might new life be stirring, even now?

In the present time there is something that is weighing on me heavily. Across our country — and not far from here, communities are grieving and struggling with fear, confusion, grief, and deep questions about safety, belonging, and justice. This past month, in Minneapolis and beyond, dangerous situations have tragically led to death, and these events have sparked protests, sorrow, and debate across the nation.

These incidents have brought to the surface profound pain, especially among those who already live with fear of loss of home, separation from family, or being treated as less than fully valued neighbors. Many are grieving the loss of life, others are anxious for their families and still more are tired of conflict and division that seems to take our focus away from what it means to love God and love neighbor.

Continued on page 3...



PRAYER

God, thank You for the chance to serve others as a reflection of Your love. Help me see the needs around me and respond with compassion. Use my actions to draw closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FLC Choir sang and Jill Poulos played piano (not pictured) on the first Sunday of January.

Psalm 95

- ¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
- ² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.



Hjertevarme

the warmth that comes from kindness, compassion, and genuine human connection.

Welcome our new council members. Greet them, shake their hand and thank them for stepping up. **Donna Lord, Denise Spelgatti, Curt Poulos** and **Lois Brozak** will be on FLC Council for the next three years.

Remember to give a **BIG** thank you, too, to our off-coming council members – **Tracey Nelson, Tom Karvala,** and **Karen Kallio.**

Our remaining council members are **Donna Ahlberg, Marla Busakowski** and **Dave Schumacher.**

Annual Meeting 2026

In the midst of our latest cold spell, members of FLC gathered in the warmth of the Fellowship Hall for our regular Sunday service, followed by our Annual Meeting and a scrumptious potato bar luncheon. Lots of items were discussed and voted upon as well as new members being elected for Council. Thank you to everyone who showed up in order to meet our quorum. May God bless FLC in 2026.



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As followers of Jesus, how do we respond? I remind myself of the need to respond rather than react. In a world that defines itself immediately in the next moment, reactions dominate. However, careful response is necessary to not only process the feelings you feel, but to acknowledge your experiences. This is done not with simple answers or easy slogans, but with a prayerful commitment to healing, truth, and holy presence.

We know Jesus walked among people who were fearful, marginalized, and hurting. He did not ignore their pain, nor did he turn away from the places where suffering was greatest. He met people where they were, grieving with them, blessing them with compassion, and calling them into life. That same Jesus meets *us* in our fear, our questions, and our longing for peace. In times like these, the church is called to be a place of refuge, where people of all backgrounds can bring their hurt, sit in honest lament, and find space to pray for peace that goes deeper than the headlines. The church is also a place where brokenness can be named, without a proposed solution in the next breath. The world's brokenness is complicated, and my prayer is for God to enter in and be present.

As we move through February and prepare our hearts for Lent, may our prayers be earnest, our conversations gentle, and our actions grounded in the peace that Christ gives, a peace that calls us to love courageously, speak truth compassionately, and stand with those who bear heavy burdens.

Thank you for the ways you embody Christ's love in this community, in your prayers, your presence, and your care for one another. It's a privilege to walk this journey with you.

In Christ's peace and hope,
Pastor Lance Crevier

Wednesday Lenten Soup Supper

Join us each Wednesday at 5:30 (beginning February 28th) for food and fellowship. Each night will be sponsored by a group that will provide a selection of soups, breads and desserts. Stay for our evening service.

Lenten Service

Join us every Wednesday throughout Lent at 6:00 for our Holden Evening Prayer Service.



Don't just invite people to Church.
 Invite them to lunch, invite them to
 your home, invite them into your
 heart. tell them you love them. Tell
 them you'll always be there for
 them. You are the Church, not a
 building.



Special viewing of the film **Green and Gold**

February 14, 2026 matinee

Windsor Center

FREE—sponsored by Community Christian Women

Gary Scalcucci retires from First National Bank & Trust

IRON RIVER – Gary Scalcucci, Assistant Vice President/Loan Officer for 14 years at First National Bank & Trust – Iron River office, has retired after 25 total years of dedicated service in banking.

Mr. Scalcucci's banking knowledge and professionalism, as well as his genuine care for people made a lasting impression in his community. When First National Bank & Trust expanded into the Iron River market in 2011, Gary played an important role in building the clientele and helping establish the bank as a trusted part of the Iron River community. His commitment and hard work did not go unnoticed.

In addition to his banking career, he was well known in the community as the radio voice for the West Iron County Wykons high school sports teams for many, many years on WIKB. His involvement in both banking and local radio shows his tremendous dedication to the Iron River community.

As Gary begins his new chapter, we wish him all the best as he enjoys spending time with his wife, Sandi, and his family, including four grandchildren. We expect his retirement to be filled with enjoyable travel, adventures and well-earned relaxation. He will be greatly missed as he leaves behind a strong legacy.

Congratulations, Gary! Best wishes from all of us at First National Bank & Trust.



Gary Scalcucci retired from First National Bank & Trust after 25 years in banking.
Submitted photo

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Bruce and Ruth Nelson
- 2 Michael Dedo
- 4 Oliver Froland
- 5 Brenda Markkola
- 6 Jackson Secord
- 9 Ardis Gagnea
- Joan Varney
- 16 Sandra Carlson
- 18 Sherry Garavet
- 19 Jon Ahlberg
- Tracey Nelson
- 20 Alisa Porier
- 22 Debby Masnova
- 26 Marla Busakowski
- Michael Nelson
- 27 Kole Pollock

Lenten Devotionals

Be sure to look for our Lenten Devotional booklets February 11th in the Narthex. Daily devotions will be posted on Facebook each morning from Ash Wednesday– February 18th through Easter Sunday– April 5th. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's edition.

Just going to church
 doesn't make you a Christian any more
 than standing in your garage makes you
 a car. ~G. K. Chesterton

**YOUR LIFE IS A MINISTRY.
 PEOPLE ARE WATCHING YOU
 WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT.**

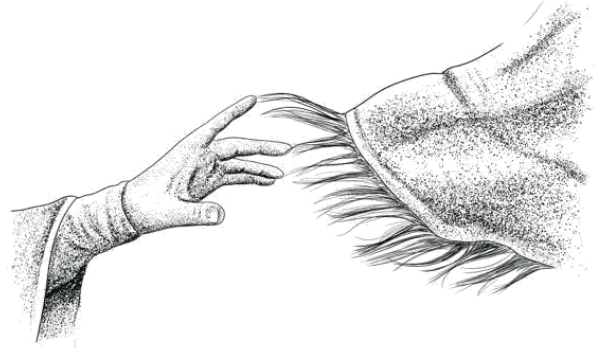
New Member Sunday

We will be welcoming new members on Sunday, February 8th.
Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the FLC Family.

God's plan > Mine.

Ash Wednesday

We will be holding a joint worship service for Ash Wednesday, February 18th at 6:00pm with our friends from Grace Covenant. Please come and join in the Fellowship.



Notice:

There will be no Sunday School
on February 8th.

"Love each other with
genuine affection, and
take delight in honoring
each other."

~ Romans 12:10

SOME PEOPLE
WILL NEVER COME
TO CHURCH,
LISTEN TO A MINISTER
OR READ THEIR BIBLE.
THEY'RE READING
YOUR LIFE
AND WATCHING HOW
YOU LIVE. BE THE
LIGHT GOD CALLED
YOU TO BE!

"IT'S FUNNY BECAUSE
WE ASK GOD
TO CHANGE OUR SITUATION,
NOT KNOWING HE PUT US
IN THE SITUATION
TO CHANGE US."

"It was only a sunny smile,
and little it cost in the
giving,
but like morning light
it scattered the night
and made the day worth
living."

~F. Scott Fitzgerald

Thank you.

Over the last year, my family and I have been through a number of challenges and, if it weren't for the grace of God and the family of folks here at First Lutheran, I am unsure if we would have made it through with our heads still above water. The community of love, tenderness, understanding, prayer and charity of everyone here at First Lutheran has been nothing short of a miracle and, in fact, the most impressive example of loving your neighbors as yourself as we've ever seen. We cannot thank everyone enough for the support you have shown us. You have been beacons of light in our darkest days. Truly, words cannot express the gratitude we feel for every act of kindness you have given us; but, please know that we are eternally grateful.—With all our love, the Bunes Family ♥

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	2	3 9:00 Quilting	4 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Confirmation	5	6	7
8 NO Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Camp Sunday New Member	9 10:00 WELCA	10 9:00 Quilting	11 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Confirmation	12	13	14
15 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Noisy Offering	16	17 9:00 Quilting	18 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Confirmation 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service	19	20 8:30 Men's Group	21
22 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	23	24 9:00 Quilting	25 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Confirmation 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Service	26	27	28 