

# NEWSLETTER

## FIRST LUTHERAN

### OCTOBER 2026

#### PASTY SALE NOVEMBER 7TH

Marla and Bob Busakowski are the co-chairs for the fall pasty sale. The dates chosen are November 6 & 7. Friday, November 6th, we will be meeting at 12:00 noon for prepping the potatoes and dough (forming balls and rolling). We are usually done on Friday by 4:00 p.m., however, any time at all volunteering will be appreciated. Saturday morning, November 7th, at 6:00 a.m. we start filling the pasties and baking them. Once they are cooked and cooled for 10-15 minutes the pasties are bagged and ready for pick up. We are usually finished prior to 12:00 noon. Again, any time spent volunteering for this awesome endeavor is greatly appreciated. We provide aprons, gloves, water, coffee, sweet goodies and Lois Brozak's famous cinnamon rolls on Saturday morning!

Mmmmmmmmm!!! We will be placing a sign-up sheet in the narthex for volunteers. The order forms will be available beginning October 1st in the office, the Luther room, or from Marla or Bob. Please mark your calendars for November 6th & 7th, 2026 and join in the fun and fellowship of making pasties together! Marla and Bob thank you in advance!!

#### SPECIAL INVITATION

Trinity Lutheran Church will be closing its doors on Saturday, October 3rd.

Everyone is invited to share in their last service and a celebration of ministry at 3:00 pm on that day. They are planning a joyful service followed by a potluck dinner.



Grandma Paramski helped Scarlett Scalcucci carefully fill her pie crust with apples.



**OCTOBER 2026**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE**

Sunday School successfully kicked off on September 13th, and we were thrilled to welcome 5 students. I would like to extend a big thank you to Courtney Leonoff for stepping in and filling in for me over the last couple of weeks.

Please note that there will be no Sunday School on October 4th, but classes will resume as scheduled on October 11th.

Thank you.  
Sandi Scalcucci



## **NEW TACK**

Sometimes an old problem needs a fresh perspective and new solutions. As money concerns are on the rise, we need to look at what we CAN do rather than what we sometimes can't. Beginning this month, we will be posting new ways to give. Each newsletter will now have a 'Wish List' of items that are needed and can be donated to the church. Maybe you shop at Costco and have enough to share or maybe you spot a sale and take advantage. However you can help, it will be appreciated!



# IN THE NEWS

## WIC Wykons Fall Sports Teams 2026-2027

~ Photos by Kevin Zini ~

### WISH LIST

- \*Stamps
- \*White copy paper
- \*Scotch tape refills
- \*AA batteries
- \*Ice melt
- \*2 ply toilet paper
- \*Paper towels
- \*Kleenex
- \*Hand soap
- \*Lysol Spray
- \*Room deodorizer
- \*Coffee
- \*Napkins
- \*Chinet plates
- \*Chinet bowls
- \*Paper cups
- hot or cold
- no styrofoam



**WIC Wykons Varsity Football** – Pictured are, front row from left, Jaxson Leonoff, Jaden Wallschlaeger, Brady McDonald, Paxton Sapalicio, Alex Ghiggia and Seth Oberlin. Second row from left, Daxton Elenbaas, Chase Norman, Dominic Mottes, Joseph Martin, Joel McWethy and Macintyre MacNamee. Third row from left, John Kolbas, Austin Puckett, Wyatt Brozak, Solomon Stubrud, Jessiah Smith, Donte White, Nathan Camps, Ethan Bofinger and Nick Ghiggia. Back row from left, Jeff Taff, Aaron Risberg (JV Coach), Zach Goodman, Kevin Leonoff (Varsity Coach), Jesse Casari, Jayce Brockhagen and Pete Kolbas.



**WIC Wykons Tennis** – Pictured are, front row from left, Reese Ahola, Rochelle Bear, Grace Smith, Lucy Farley, Anastasiia Dudiak, Marlaina Woodard, Mia Antill and Khloe Woodard. Back row from left, Marlee Benson, Vivian Holm, Jenna Sunn, Zoey Donatim, Haleigh LaMay, Jen Schive (Coach), Brie Porier, Ashlynn Nichols, Tessa Stapleton, Isabella Benson and Cali Reed.

**OCTOBER 2026**

## **CROCKTOBER**

Crock pots are synonymous with warming comfort food. October's cooler weather gives us a chance to try out some new recipes and embrace the change. Celebrate the season by shaking up your seasonings!



West Iron County senior Viv Holm (left) and sophomore Reese Ahola (right) look to make a return.



Wykons junior Gabrielle Porier follows through on a return shot.



## **NEW OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesdays

8am to 4pm

Wednesdays &

Thursdays

8am to 10am



WIC tennis held their last home games Sept. 15. Senior Vivian Holm (right) and sophomore Reese Ahola (left), #3 doubles beat the Ironwood team 6-0 and 6-0. They played at the Caspian courts. Photo by Kathy Holm

**OCTOBER 2026**

### **THE JOY OF GENEROSITY**

Our ministry at First Lutheran on Genesee Street is entering its second century! It began with prayer, anxiety and trepidation over how this new building would sustain itself. In 1926 the church council members questioned whether we would ever be able to pay all the expenses. Few things have changed in those 100 years.... Our church began with faith, love and generous hearts, and it continues today. You are the evidence that there is joy in generosity.

Thank you!

Finances for August were challenging. Expenses exceeded income by \$2726.80 while expenses were under budget by \$790.63. Income came in at \$7398.79 which is under budget by \$3518.30. While these results are concerning, our year-to-date results are more reasonable. We are tracking very close to expectations when our investment income is included. These results do highlight our dependence on "special income" like pasty sales.

Paul writes in Philipines 1:3-5, "I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..."



Pictured at the check presentation were, from left, Kathy Holm, Chris Shamion, Scott Shamion (representing Shamco), presenting check to Kevin Isaacson (representing Iron County Cancer Unit), Dale Holm and Jo Holm.

# WIC Wykons Fall Sports Teams 2026-2027

~ Photos by Kevin Zini ~

Lord, I know that you **love me** and that you are with me right now.

Lord, **help me** to be aware of your presence in the people I've encountered and the experiences I've had this day.

Lord, **forgive me** for those moments when I have fallen short, times when I have not been the kind of person you want me to be.

Lord, **give me** a heart that is more like your own, so that I may be grateful for the many blessings of this day and in my life.

Lord, **grace me** with the strength to embrace what awaits in hopefulness, hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead.

Amen.



**WIC Wykons Cheerleaders** – Pictured are, front row from left, Sofia Reed, Kassidy Russell, Jenna Sunn, Marlee Benson, Giulia Zivieri and Nichiah Evans. Back row from left, Mary Bofinger (Coach), Tyanna Fonder, Lakota Hunborg, Brie Porier, Reese Ahola, Willow Nichols, Lillian Morgan and Becky Ahola (Coach).

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Ken maki
- 3 Bob Busakowski
- 4 Scott Strom  
Judi Hemeleski  
Megan Quayle
- 6 Jeanne Hanin  
Dave & Sandee Schumacher
- 10 John & Patty Decker
- 17 Dale Holm
- 21 Jensen Detterbeck
- 22 Janet Nocerini  
Bill & Jennifer Secord
- 24 JoAnn Wedegartner  
Ross & Carol Tresedder

### Fortune Lake's Annual Fall Fest Quilt Auction

**Saturday, October 3**

**9:30-10:30 CT**  
Continental Breakfast  
Bake Sale  
Quilt Viewing

**9:30-Noon CT**  
Draffle Ticket Sales  
Country Store

**11 am CT**  
LIVE Auction begins

**Can't make it?**  
Check out our online auction  
Sept 23 - Oct 3 at 5 pm CT

[auctria.events/fortunelake](https://auctria.events/fortunelake)

138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd., Crystal Falls, MI 906-214-2267 [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is probably my favorite time of year although I enjoy all seasons to some degree. Obviously, the Fall highlight around here is the explosion of colors as the trees turn and that wonderful smell! The changing seasons also brings the new school year and the start of the Sunday School program. Thank you to the leaders of both of these programs for taking our young ones under your tutelage!

I have been impressed with all of the fill-ins Sunday leaders during Pr Lance's leave. Each one has their own style. This past Sunday (Sept 20) we were blessed with Emma Winkler and Paavo Rundman from Fortune Lake Luther Camp. I have never heard the Kyrie by violin before but Paavo's musical talents made it sing!

It's hard to avoid the political rhetoric on the various forms of media. I read the thoughtful message from Presiding Bishop Rev. Yehiel Curry, in A Call to be Trusted Messengers in this Election Season, August 19, 2026,

*"Faithful. Informed. Engaged. This refrain captures a vision for Lutheran Christians living out their baptismal calling in the election season and beyond. Faith grounds us in God's promises, and Christ sends us forth to love our neighbors and serve the world. Being informed equips us to address complex issues with wisdom, discernment and integrity. Being engaged reminds us that our participation in civic life is a key way we love and serve our neighbors. Our public witness is rooted in faith, guided by honesty and expressed through active citizenship."*

We have a responsibility to be informed and engaged through faith to elect our leaders. Investigate the candidate platforms by going to their web site. Tune out the negativity from their opponent as it probably doesn't represent actual views. Prepare to vote by ensuring you are properly registered. Obtain your absentee ballot if you are unable to do so on election day. VOTE!

I hope you can join us for Harvest and Haunts on Saturday, September 26, 4-9 pm. The weather forecast sounds ideal.

Around coffee or other gatherings, I love listening to the stories other members tell about the past at FLC. Whether it be families or a Pastor that served our congregation, those stories are a part of the history of the church. Do you have a memory or notable event from FLC? Please write it up and submit it for the 100th anniversary booklet. I submitted mine!

In Christ,  
Dave Schumacher

## **REFLECTIONS ON AUTUMN** by Donna Ahlberg

Fall can be a somber and melancholic season. There are so many reminders that what was alive and vibrant in Summer now wither and fade in the chill of the air. Just like a change in season, we can also grieve those things we love that we no longer have – our youth, our health, our loved ones who have moved away or passed on. In life's seasons, there are always adjustments that have to be made.

Trinity Lutheran is one of many ELCA churches in the NGL Synod that have voted for closure in 2026. Though perhaps inevitable, it doesn't come without a sense of profound sadness, grief and loss. Isn't that like all loved things when they come to an end? It's important to acknowledge that for ourselves. Something holy is happening in grief. We believe God's promise of making all things new; but knowing and trusting that God makes all things new doesn't always feel so good. Sometimes the heart is several steps behind the head in matters of hope and renewal.

As we wind toward the end of September, my time with Trinity will come to an end. I have enjoyed working with the Congregation and Council as a Synodically Authorized Minister. I have been honored to get to know the congregation and can attest to their faithful witness. The members of Trinity have boldly walked the difficult road of discernment in faith and truth. As we dive deeper into Fall, let us continue to pray for the well-being of the larger body of Christ both here at home and to the ends of the earth.



### **'TACO' BOUT A HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Lots of folks joined in celebrating Helen's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a taco bar after services on September 6<sup>th</sup>. A good time with lots of Fellowship was had by all. A BIG thank you to Helen's family for putting together such a festive day.

## The Autumn of Freedom

Dazzling the eye with contagious beauty,  
Dancing on winds their fluttering songs,  
Floating to ground with parachute silence,  
Voyages end on manicured lawns.

Leafy and full and verdant no longer,  
Trees freely shed their deciduous youth.  
Once Nature's palette bursting with color,  
Now dull and lifeless, expendable hues.

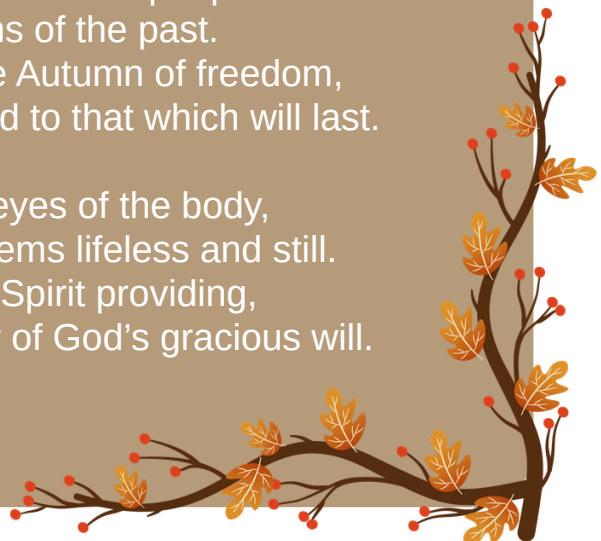
Branches like arms extend upward and outward,  
A skeletal frame reaching up to the sky.  
Trees lose their leaves in the Fall of the season,  
We gain in age as the years pass us by.

Blame not the tree for shedding her foliage,  
Nor the old man who forsakes his youth.  
Foliage and youth were born to let go of,  
Baring the way for spiritual truth.

Shedding their leaves, trees are like people.  
Forgive and let go the sins of the past.  
Rooted and still in the Autumn of freedom,  
Open our eyes Lord to that which will last.

Growth that is seen not by eyes of the body,  
Just as the tree trunk seems lifeless and still.  
We know the truth of Spirit providing,  
Nourishing wonder of God's gracious will.

- Donna Ahlberg (2006)



*Celebrating a Century  
100 Years on Genesee St.  
Memories in First Lutheran Church  
1926-2026*

Name

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**100 YEAR  
CELEBRATION**

Join the party!  
Food & fun  
after service  
on October  
25<sup>th</sup>



**100 YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY**

2026 marks the anniversary of our beautiful church building. If you look, you can spot the corner stone announcing its erection in 1926. To celebrate this milestone, we are collecting 100 memories (or more) to create a book of love for our church community. Please consider taking the time to scribble down a memory (or many) whether happy or funny, touching or sad; we want them all. Your memories can be brought into the office, emailed or given to Deb Sitkoski before October 20th.

| Sunday                                                                                      | Monday | Tuesday                                                                           | Wednesday                                                     | Thursday | Friday                                                | Saturday                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>                                                                              |        |                                                                                   |                                                               | 1        | 2                                                     | 3<br>9:30<br>Fortune<br>Lake Fall<br>Fest<br><br>3:00<br>Trinity's<br>Final<br>Service |
|                                                                                             |        |                                                                                   |                                                               |          |                                                       |                                                                                        |
| 4<br>9:30 Coffee<br>10:00<br>Service<br>Pr. Keith<br>Kolstad                                | 5      | 6<br>9:00<br>Quilting                                                             | 7<br>10:00<br>Worship &<br>Music Mtg.<br>3:00 Council<br>Mtg. | 8        | 9                                                     | 10                                                                                     |
| 11<br>9:00 Sunday<br>School<br>9:30 Coffee<br>10:00<br>Service<br>Blessing of<br>the Quilts | 12     | 13<br>9:00<br>Quilting                                                            | 14                                                            | 15       | 16<br>8:30 Men's<br>Group<br>8:30<br>Women's<br>Group | 17                                                                                     |
| 18<br>9:00 Sunday<br>School<br>9:30 Coffee<br>10:00<br>Service<br>Noisy<br>Offering         | 19     | 20<br>9:00<br>Quilting<br><br>Due Date<br>for 100<br>years of<br>Memories<br>Book | 21                                                            | 22       | 23                                                    | 24                                                                                     |
| 25<br>9:00 Sunday<br>School<br>9:30 Coffee<br>10:00<br>Service<br>100 Year<br>Celebration   | 26     | 27<br>9:00<br>Quilting                                                            | 28                                                            | 29       | 30                                                    | 31                                                                                     |

