

# Reverend's Reverie

July 2020

Grace and peace to you from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

There are a great many things whirling about in my mind of late, even more so in light of this being the second anniversary of the beginning of my pastorate here in Iron River amongst you all. It all feels like a blur. In some ways it feels as though I just arrived and at the same time feels as if I have always been here.

To serve as a pastor is a strange thing. You accept that you are called to be a pastor and begin seminary never knowing where this unique road may lead. You only know that for a while you will be in one place until the call comes to move to the next point on your journey.

Over the four years of seminary I served four different congregations and one summer serving as hospital chaplain in a level 1 trauma center. Just when you think you have handle on what it means to be a seminarian and serve, your greatest challenge yet comes. You graduate and are called and sent to serve a congregation as a full-time pastor. You pray without ceasing that you don't screw it up too bad, you pray to be as lucky as I have been and have the privilege to serve among such wonder and excellent people as yourselves. There has never been a day in the last two years where I have regretted being sent to serve among you.

I am not perfect, and I have made many mistakes in my time serving as your pastor. I will be eternally grateful for your patience and support during our time together. I have often said that you do not learn how to be a pastor in seminary; you merely earn the right to learn how to be pastor. You only really learn how to be a pastor by serving as pastor to a congregation, making mistakes, and learning from them.

These last few months have been very strange during this pandemic. It felt wholly wrong to not have worship and at the same time felt wholly wrong to hold services as well and put people at risk. Yet, regardless of how strange these days have been, we have walked through them together and remained focused on our callings as Christians and taken care of one another.

At the close of two years with you all, and if there was only one thing I could say to you as your pastor, it would be this. I am proud to have been your pastor and to have had the privilege to serve along side you over these last two years... pandemic and all.

Peace & blessings in Christ,

Rev. R.A. Carr

# CHURCH



# COUNCIL

The church council met in the sanctuary Tuesday June 19th for our regular June monthly meeting.

There were two main topics of discussion, the first was the replacing of the roof on the sanctuary. We will be advertising for bids in newspapers in Iron River, Iron Mountain and Eagle River. Once bids are received, we will determine the best route for financing the project and establish a time table.

The second topic of discussion was the reopening of the church for Sunday services. We have decided to open for services Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. We will be holding two services on Sundays; the first service will start at 8 A.M. and the second service will start at 10 A.M. Cleaning and sanitation will be done between services. Hand sanitizer will be provided; however, we ask that if possible, bring your own.

To provide for social distancing we will be limiting seating to every other pew. This will limit our capacity therefore the decision for two morning services. We thank you now for your co-operation.

We highly encourage the wearing of masks while in the building. If you do not have a mask, we will have masks available for you to use and keep.

We will practice a "hands off" policy, therefore bulletins will not be provided, you may follow the service on the screens provided in the sanctuary, hymnals, sign in books and offering envelopes will not be available in the pews. Offering plates will be placed in the rear of the church and not passed along the pews. We ask that you limit the "sharing of the peace" to non-touch hand gestures if not with your immediate household family.

Wafer only communion will be available at the end of the service and Pastor will direct the flow.

Council is asking that we refrain from group gatherings prior to and following services within the church. We understand the importance of fellowship, we just ask that at this time we practice safe measures.

We will continue to broadcast the 10A.M. service on WIKB 99.1 FM and both services will be aired on Facebook and our website; [firstlutheranironriver.com](http://firstlutheranironriver.com).

We ask that if you feel ill or are not comfortable attending a service, that you stay in the comfort of your home and join us via the media outlets available.

We ask for your prayers, that we may soon be able to enjoy complete fellowship and celebration with one another.

Take care and God bless,

Gale

## Stewardship

As we begin to find our way through a unique time in all of our lives, let us all remember that in Christ all things are possible. That is the one constant in life regardless of the challenges we face, as Christians we know that God loves us and through Him, we can overcome any obstacle.

At First Lutheran we began our temporary closure with uncertainty and trepidation. We did not know what impact the canceled services would have on our faith and our finances. We looked for options and opportunities to present the Word and sacrament in new ways that held our faith and provided opportunity for safe, albeit virtual fellowship. We hoped that during this time of uncertainty God would confirm to you His unconditional love and provide you with hope.

In one small way, you responded by showing your faith through giving. Our regular giving, comparing year to year is unchanged. Our contributions to facilities improvement is actually up slightly from the prior year. The only area we have seen significant decline in income is for special giving events like Lent and miscellaneous giving for things like bake sales. This is not surprising since these are fellowship events focused on sharing God's grace through activities. Nonetheless, that income is important for our continued support of the church and community. So, pray about opportunities that might restore our financial position.

During this uncertain time, your council voted to secure a PPP loan to ensure that we would be able to maintain our budgeted employees and pay our utility costs. Fortunately we were granted the loan through the help of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank here in Iron River. The PPP process allows for full forgiveness of the loan if the monies granted are used for specified purposes outlined by the government. Your council and the finance committee are doing their best to meet these criteria and we expect the full loan amount to be forgiven.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry here at First Lutheran and we pray that you and yours remain steadfast in your faith and health. May God bless you.

Curt

Treasurer

	Income Actual	Expenses Actual	Variance
May	\$9542.35	\$8863.81	\$678.54
Does not include PPP Loan of \$14,250			



The family of Ronald Froblom.

The family of Richard Johnson.

The family of Henry Bloom.

The family of June Knapp.

The family of Jon Anderson.

The family of Isabella Benson.

The family of Erich H. Lubkeman, Sr.

### New Hours for church Services:

**Sundays, 8:00 AM**

**10:00 AM**

There will be no coffee/fellowship before the service.

Please consider wearing a mask. If you do not have one, we have several the "Quilters" have made for you. 🧵



July

Jared Pietila	1
Cheryl Gagnea	4
Dayle Kemppainen	6
Barbara Salonen	12
Brenda Grubbs	15
Jon Zawislak	16
Tammy Pietila	17
Evert Strom	18
Carolyn Dunlap	19
Cheney Carlson	22
Gabrielle Porier	23
Baynard Anderson	25
Karen Kallio	25
Joan Kelley	26
Sharon Campbell	28
Sandra Melchiori	29

### *April Birthday:*

Kim Busakowski, Carson Aldegarie, Orville Westphal, Kimberly Carlson, Eunnice Zwach, Kim Geneman, David Froland, Barry Scalcucci, Dale Kemppainen, Lowell Tresedder, Michele Quayle, Livea Mazurek, Evelyn Tucker, Sandi Scalcucci, James Quayle, Bob Loia.

### *May Birthdays:*

Mariam Sorby, David Barry, Nicole Purkey, Sandra Richards, Jennifer Secord, Landon and Livi Geneman, Peter Wedegartner, Morgan Labadie, Vicki Medovich, Gayle Wade, Ericka Richards, Edward Cook, Daniel Kallio, Debra Dobson, Riley Stine

### *June Birthdays:*

Betty Petroski, Abbie Grubbs, Ann Johnson, Esther Guzowski, Dolly Byczek, Jay Barry, Carol Tresedder, Myrna Cook, Lois Brozak, Donna Lord, Marcus Porier, Jeff Sitkoski, Donna Ahlberg.



July

Stephen and Crystal Mazurek	1
Pam and Peter Gasperini	6
Scott and Lisa Starkey	9
Donald and Sandra Wolf	11
John and Denise Spelgatti	13
Jon and Donna Ahlberg	20
Gary and Sandi Scalcucci	20
Carl and Karen Kallio	28
Robert and Lynn Peterson	30

**Happy Birthday and Anniversary to those we missed during this time of quarantine.**

### *No April Anniversaries*

### *May Anniversaries*

Greg and Sherry Garavet	22
Michael and Tracey Nelson	27

### *June Anniversaries*

Mike and Lois Brozak	6
Daniel and Brenda Grubbs	6
David and Pam Barry	8
Larry and Debbie Quarford	10
R. Avery and Meegan Carr	13
Marcus and Alisa Porier	14
Jeff and Debby Sitkoski	18
Jay and Kay Barry	24
Peter and JoAnn Wedegartner	26

## 2020 Graduates



Left to Right:

Mya Grubbs

Robbie Quayle

Erik Froblom

Brayden Nelson

Kara Anderson

Pastor Carr

Megan Quayle

### **West Iron County High School:**

Mya Grubbs will be attending college in Minnesota.

Robert Quayle will be attending Marquette University.

Erik Froblom will be attending Northern Michigan University

Brayden Nelson plans to attend college in the fall.

### **Forest Park High School:**

Karalynn Anderson will be attending Northern Michigan University

Pastor Carr

### **University of Michigan:**

Megan Quayle, BS in Biology, Health and Society



## 202 Fall Fest Auction

Our 2020 Fall Fest will be a virtual experience that will bring together supporters and friends of Fortune Lake from far and wide! We'll still have all your favorite elements: beautifully crafted quilts, other quality hand-made art, and plenty of fun ways to support our outdoor ministry. New in this year's auction will be some Fortune Lake experiences to bid on!

Silent auction will begin on September 23, 2020

Details are still in the works, but it is sure to be an exciting day

See Fortune Lake's web site for more details.

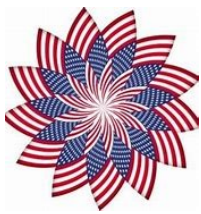
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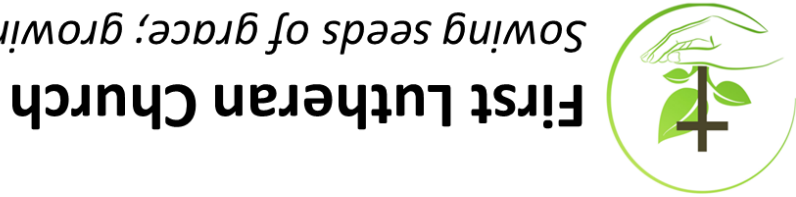
# JULY



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
						 Stay Safe!
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:00 Service 10:00 Service						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:00 Service 10:00 Service		10:00 Finance  6:00 Council meeting			8:30 Men's Group Hagerman Lake Park Book review: <i>I'm Proud of You</i> <i>Life Lessons...</i>	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:00 Service 10:00 Service						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8:00 Service 10:00 Service						

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
235 E GENESEE STREET  
IRON RIVER MI 49935



*Sowing seeds of grace, growing faith in Christ*

***Come Join us!***

[PastorCarr@FirstLutheranIronRiver.com](mailto:PastorCarr@FirstLutheranIronRiver.com)

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Cell phone: (906) 284-9844

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8-11  
Church Office: Phone (906) 265-9518

Broadcast WIKB 99.1 FM

Webcast: [www.WIKB.com](http://www.WIKB.com)