

## Message from Pastor Rasner

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus the Christ!!

I'm Pr. D. J. Rasner, and I will be working with you as you prepare for your next pastor. I want to use this article to introduce myself and let you get to know me a bit.

I am married and have four rambunctious, energetic, loud, busy, far-from-sedentary children!! My wife, Amanda, is the Camp Director for Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, where she has been managing an incredibly weird summer without summer programming and the energy young people bring to that place of grace. Our children are Dietrich (11), Solomon (11), Reuben (9), and Evie (6), and they are students at Forest Park in Crystal Falls where we live. We have been a family that likes to be active in as many outdoor activities as we can. Consequently, our children have been involved with soccer, baseball, swimming, camping, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking and anything else we can imagine. (Oh yeah!! I almost forgot hunting and fishing!) We thought it an ideal time during the COVID shutdown to raise a puppy, so we injected the energy of a Goldendoodle into our home. So far so good!

My wife and I moved our family to Crystal Falls in the winter of 2019 because of her position with Fortune Lake. Prior to moving to Iron County, we had been living in Dollar Bay while I was serving as the settled pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hancock for nearly seven years. I got my start with a congregation in rural Chippewa Falls, WI called English Lutheran Church of Bateman. I received my undergraduate degree in Business Administration (Management emphasis) from the University of Wisconsin—Green Bay and my Masters of Divinity degree from Warburg Theological Seminary. In 2013, I completed the Intentional Interim Pastor training and received my certification from the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors (NALIP). I have been interim pastor for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chassell and, most recently, Mission United Lutheran Church in Pelkie, MI.

I'm looking forward to working with you as you go through yet another interim process. I am already aware of how frustrating this is for you. Please know that 1) working together with your leaders and our bishop, I hope to make this transition as smooth as possible, and 2) I am just down the road and am here for you if you need anything, if you want a cup of coffee, or just need to vent. I am hopeful that as we work together during the interim we will discover more ways to further God's reign of love in the Iron River area.

Peace be with you,

Pr. D. J. Rasner

# CHURCH



# COUNCIL

The church council met on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> for its regular monthly meeting.

The Finance committee reported that the funds received through the PPP Loan program have almost been completely dispersed and will be working with First National Bank, the lender, to have the loan forgiven through the program's guidelines. The committee also reported that JoAnn Wedegartner will be joining the committee and Helen Berglund was nominated to be our new Financial Secretary. Helen's nomination was unanimously approved by the council. Thank you to both JoAnn and Helen for their willingness to serve, we are blessed to have you.

The Property committee reported that no responses had been received from the ads placed in local newspapers for roof replacement bids. Due to the corona virus and shut down of projects earlier in the year, contractors are busy catching up and booked out for this year. The Property committee will continue to work to secure bids for replacement of the roof next year. There are no immediate concerns for the existing roof. The committee will also be soliciting bids to make needed repairs to the parsonage garage.

The council discussed the current Sunday service schedule and decided to cancel the 8:00 A.M. service for now, effective August 2<sup>nd</sup>. With the uncertainty of the oncoming Interim Pastor and other logistical concerns such as musicians and volunteers to run the sound board and screens, it was felt best to end the service for now and revisit it in the future as the need arises.

The council met on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Jim Duehring, the Assistant to the Bishop, and had an exit interview with Pastor Carr. The discussion was centered around Pastor's time here at First and some of the issues we faced together. We dealt with the separation from Trinity, we faced the closing of our church due to the pandemic, something we all never imagined. We saw growth in our membership and an awareness of a new Pastor in our community. He was the guy you saw wearing the Pastoral collar at many local events or just out, even sparking a call to Telephone Time. We discussed what both the church and Pastor have learned from our time together. We wished the Pastor and his family well in their future and hoped Pastor would receive a positive vote in his next Call, scheduled to be held July 19<sup>th</sup>. At the time of this writing, we have learned his Call was positive and he will be serving a NALC synod church in Wyoming. Are prayers go with Pastor and his family as they travel the path God has laid out for them.

We prayed with Pastor Carr and he left the meeting.

Pastor Duehring then introduced Pastor DJ Rasner. Pastor Rasner will serve as our Administrative Pastor, providing pastoral care, attending council and other meetings as necessary, help in guiding us forward and presiding over Sunday services or scheduling pulpit supply. This is not a full-time position and council approved the synod suggested compensation package.

As we move forward, we will miss Pastor Carr and his family, however this can be an exciting time at First Lutheran. In Proverbs 17:22 the Bible says: "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." May we have a joyful heart.

We will begin by forming a committee to evaluate the needs and wants at First. Any suggestions or ideas will be welcomed and appreciated. Once the committee has finished its work, a Call committee will be formed to start the search for a new full-time pastor.

I ask that we all pray that the Holy Spirit be with us, guide us, and lead us in the direction God has planned for us at First Lutheran.

Trusting in the Lord,

Gale J. Holm

Council President

## Stewardship

Money, money, money... Is that all there is to Stewardship? NO! Stewardship has little to do with money. Stewardship is simply caring for God's gifts and returning a portion for His use. It just makes sense. If all we did was harvest crops without saving some seeds, we would only have one harvest. If we didn't use proper conservation with our natural resources, we would quickly run out. The same goes for God's gifts. Care for them. Nurture them. Share them. And, return a portion to continue the cycle of blessings.

The finances for June were troubling. Expenses exceeded income by nearly \$300. Furthermore, general income compared to prior year for June was down by over \$1000. Certainly our limited worship services are part of the issue, but your growth and ministry depends on you. Please review the gifts God has provided and consider returning a larger portion to His ministry here at First Lutheran. As you recall, we have created multiple options for your donations. We have two options online at our website for direct deposits through either Thrivent or FaithLife. Also, if you buy from Amazon, please consider First Lutheran as your designated charity through AmazonSmile. Of course, we look forward to your mailed-in donations also.

Curt

## Technology

Over the past months we faced a new challenge in our ministry. How do we reach out with God's message of hope during this global pandemic? Social distancing makes fellowship and worship more difficult than anybody expected. We decided to augment our radio broadcast with online streaming of our worship service. Unfortunately, we had a few unexpected hiccups along the way. Unknowingly, we initially sacrificed our radio clarity in the process. It wasn't until some listeners' patience was worn thin that we learned of the problem. Please, please, please let us know if you are not getting what you need from our ministry. Two good things happen when you complain: first you get the complaint out of your system. There is some cathartic value in that. Second, and most importantly, it allows us to get the complaint out of our system. If you have any recommendations, questions or concerns, let us know at [secretary@firstlutheranironriver.com](mailto:secretary@firstlutheranironriver.com).

|      | Income Actual | Expenses Actual | Variance   |
|------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| June | \$7,627.16    | \$7,890.49      | (\$263.33) |



### August Birthdays

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Keith Aho         | 04 |
| Barbara Sheill    | 04 |
| Bruce Nelson      | 07 |
| Sally Helgeson    | 09 |
| Jackson Starkey   | 10 |
| Michael Brozak    | 12 |
| McKenna Carlson   | 15 |
| Courtney Leonoff  | 16 |
| Clovis Capadagli  | 19 |
| Jane Maki         | 21 |
| Lisa Masnova Burk | 25 |
| Karalynn Anderson | 27 |
| Colin Porier      | 27 |

### July Birthday

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Karen Sandell | 13 |
|---------------|----|

Sorry we missed you last month.

### August

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Peter and Janet Nocerini         | 07 |
| Gale and Sheila Holm             | 11 |
| Dale and Elizabeth<br>Kemppainen | 15 |
| James and Michele Quayle         | 16 |
| Curt and Jill Poulos             | 20 |
| Roger and Debbie Bloom           | 27 |
| Tom and Lynn Karvala             | 30 |

## Baptism

July 21, 2020

Kendra Joy Leonoff

Daughter of Courtney Busakowski Leonoff and Kevin Leonoff.

Kendra is a 6th generation member at First Lutheran. Her ancestor, OE Asplund was a charter member from 1890.

What a blessed legacy to have.

## With Heartfelt Sympathy

The family of Sandy Wolf

The Family of Sheila Hotvedt

The Family of Ken Javoroski

The Family of Julie Skrivanie Jacobson



## Goodbye Pastor Carr & Family

At our July 26th service, on behalf of our congregation, Gale presented Pastor Carr with a copper map of the Upper Peninsula with a gem stone to mark the Iron River Area. May you always remember your first congregation with love and affection.



The COVID-19 pandemic has created many difficult changes for us. Not only here at First Lutheran, but in our community. Here at First Lutheran, we are committed to see one another through these uncertain and unique times. We will not allow this pandemic to quench our spirit nor our commitment to our mission and our values, even as it separates us physically.

## WELCA NEWS

Welcome Back! It has been awhile since we have been together. We are planning a meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall as that gives us more room to “social distance” and please wear your masks. Our agenda for the upcoming year will look a bit different as we will not be able to plan fellowship dinners and gatherings we normally would be doing. Please think about ideas/things that we can do to continue serving our church/ community.

Our quilters have continued to work on projects both at home and in the quilting room. Thankfully the room is large enough to keep to CDC guidelines. Over the summer we have made lap quilts for those who became homebound or entered into nursing care. We’ve also continued to make “bibs” for the care centers, blankets for the baby bundles, quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and masks for our congregation members. We have been gifted with several donations of new material to continue making quilts. Thank you!

A big thanks to Naomi Barry for making the baby sweaters for the baby bundles. We are able to ship 20 bundles this Fall. Our supplies for baby bundles are getting low. If you have an opportunity to pick up receiving blankets, t-shirts, socks, washcloths, bars of ivory soap, flannel or flannel topsheets for making diapers, or sleepers, we welcome the donations. Sizes can be 0-24months.







**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Your current charity

**First Lutheran Church of Iron River**  
has received

**\$383.16**

as of May 2020

Your shopping makes an impact on our church.  
Please continue to shop at Smile Amazon with  
First Lutheran as your designated charity. It  
costs you nothing.



## Lifelong Faith Formation

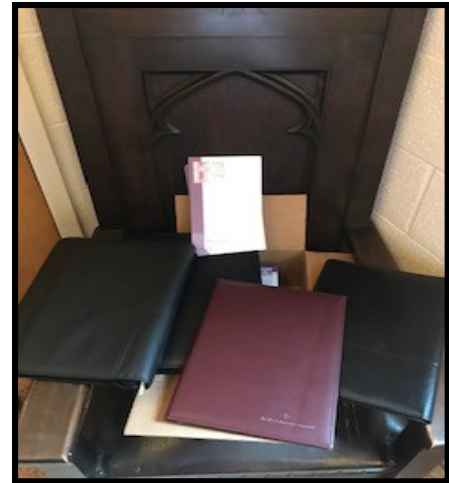
The Northern Great Lakes Synod is launching a new series of classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, world religions, and more. The new program, "Lifelong Faith Formation," evolved from the synod's Lay School for Mission. In these challenging and uncertain times, the Synod is offering the program online this fall.

While discussions through computer screens are not ideal, online learning presents an opportunity to connect people from across the synod -- people who share a love of learning and have discovered that adult studies help them to grow in faith. Please visit Northern Great Lakes Synod website for more information!

<https://www.nglsynod.org/>

## Free for the taking...

Jim Quayle has graciously left a box of leather binders and some note pads. If you are interested, they are in a box on the chair next to the sacristy.



## Noisy Offering



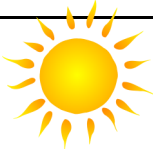

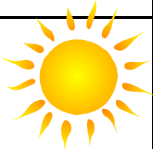
Noisy Offering this month will be August 16<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds benefit Facilities Improvements, which is now collecting money for our new roof. Please consider this extra way to help us reach our goal.

Preliminary estimate: \$60-80,000.00

Contributions to date: \$15,603.00



# AUGUST

| Sun   | Mon | Tue                           | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat |
|---|-----|-------------------------------|---|--|---|-----|
|   |     |                               |   |  |   | 1   |
|  |     |                               |   |  |    |     |
| 2   | 3   | 4                             | 5   | 6  | 7   | 8   |
| 10:00 Service   |     |                               |   |  |   |     |
| 9   | 10  | 11                            | 12  | 13   | 14  | 15  |
| 10:00 Service   |     | 10:00 Finance<br>6:00 Council |   |  |   |     |
| 16  | 17  | 18                            | 19  | 20   | 21  | 22  |
| 10:00 Service<br>Noisy Offering   |     |                               |   |  |   |     |
| 23  | 24  | 25                            | 26  | 27   | 28  | 29  |
| 10:00 Service   |     |                               |   |  |   |     |
| 30  | 31  |                               |   |  |   |     |
| 10:00 Service   |     |                               |  |  |  |     |

[www.firstlutheranironriver.com](http://www.firstlutheranironriver.com)

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

Broadcast WIKB 99.1 FM

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***Come join us!***

**First Lutheran Church**  
*Sowing seeds of grace; growing faith in Christ*



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