

Minimize yard clean up to protect pollinators

Are you getting ready to fill leaf bags and trim trees? You might want to wait. That impulse to clean up gardens and lawns for the fall may have serious impacts on pollinators and beneficial insects. If you cut down stalks and stems that bees are settling into for the winter, it's "lights out" for those pollinator friends. Applying wood mulch or tilling your garden this fall could wipe

out any chance for native bees to emerge early in the spring to pollinate your front yard apple tree. And the eastern black swallowtail, who spends the winter camouflaged as a dried leaf or a broken twig, could easily end up in the recycle bag or burn barrel.

Bumblebee queens emerge from their childhood homes in the fall and search for overwintering sites, burrowing into leaf

litter and loose soil. Leaf litter contains a mix of bacteria, fungi and invertebrates and is an ecosystem unto itself. It provides habitat for beneficial insects who in turn break the organic matter down into a "treasure" of nutrients for the soil. All those leaves collecting under trees or near fences provide a wealth of overwintering habitat for creatures such as worms, millipedes, lightning bugs,

spiders, beetles, slugs and snails. But one weekend and some garden tools could destroy entire populations of insects. Those insects could have provided the first spring meal for baby bluebirds or be the reason that chickadees, warblers and other songbirds won't visit your yard.

So, relax, put your garden gloves away, and store the tools and tiller. Leave your leaves alone

whenever possible. If you must rake them from your lawn, put them to work in another part of your yard — behind your garage or under the tree line between you and your neighbor. By setting aside undisturbed patches of habitat allowing leaf litter, dead twigs and stems to remain, you are providing a safe haven for wildlife and attracting birds. So, when you are watching the snow get deeper this

winter, and your yard looks cold and lifeless, remember just below that white landscape, the habitat you saved is teeming with life.

If you still have questions, contact the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department at (715) 369-7835 or visit the website at www.oclw.org. Read all about how you can "Bee the Change!"



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These area houses of worship invite you to join them for their services. It could be the start of a beautiful relationship.

If you would like your church listed in this directory, please call for details: 715-528-3276

First Ev. Lutheran Church
1210 S. Stephenson Ave., Iron Mountain
906-774-0133
Worship times
Thursday 6 p.m. • Sunday 10 a.m.
Sun. School 9 a.m. • Bible study Wed. 2 p.m.
Sunday nursery 9-11 a.m.
Organized Aug. 7, 1881 as
"Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church"
Pastor James Lindgren

St. John's Lutheran - WELS
524 Olive Ave., Florence 715-528-3337
stjohnsflorencewi.com
St John's Florence - Sunday 9 a.m.
Sunday School - 10 a.m. Wednesday Devotion 6:30 p.m.
St Paul's Tipler - Sun 7:15 a.m. Columbus Street
St. Mark's Iron River, MI Sun. 11 a.m. 116 N 4th Ave.

St. Norbert Catholic Church
P.O. Box 101
3402 State Hwy 139, Long Lake, WI. 54542
(directly opposite the Long Lake public beach)
www.stnorbertlonglake.org
Sunday Mass 10:45 a.m. (Weekly)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church - ELCA
900 Central Avenue, Florence
715- 528-4851
Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

St. Mary's Catholic Church
308 Florence Ave, Florence, WI 715-528-3310
"Live the Gospel! Whatever it takes."
Saturday Mass at 6 pm
Sunday Mass at 8:30 am
Adoration, Thursdays from 4 pm - 6 pm
www.stmaryflorence.org

Fence Bible Church
Highway C & Memory Lane
715-336-2194
Worship Schedule: 10 -11:15 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church
W782 County Road N, Aurora WI
Mass, Sunday 11am
1st Saturday of the month Adoration at 9am,
Mass 10 am

Aurora Free Church
1 1/2 miles south of Co. Hwy N on Co. Hwy B 715-589-4192
Sunday 9 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages
Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.
Youth Group Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00 p.m.
(7th grade through high school)
Bible Study Wednesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Long Lake Community Bible Church
11840 Maple St., Long Lake
Sun. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.
Website: <http://longlakebc.wixsite.com/longlake-biblechurch>

Homestead Baptist Church
8 1/2 Miles South of Florence on Cty. N
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Seiya Asanuma, Pastor

First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Norway St. and Lake Ave. in Florence
(715) 528-4851
Sunday Worship: 8 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.