

First Edition

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST LUTHERAN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020

It seems so long since I last wrote a newsletter article, and so much has happened in these past two months. The biggest thing being the emergence of the COVID-19 virus that is sweeping this globe. It has had such a big impact on people's lives, the economy, and has even caused much debate and division. Is the media trying to scare people? Should we be buying a year's supply of toilet paper and prepare for the apocalypse? There is just so much chaos going on all over the world right now.

One of the biggest concerns facing our congregation here at First Lutheran is whether we should have Sunday service. Here is my response to that. Yes and No. We have to remember that when the early Christian church first started, they did not meet in large buildings. They met in people's homes. We can still be the church and stay connected and check up on our neighbors. This might be a simple phone call to a friend or loved one. See how they are doing. Ask if there is anything you could be praying for. Read a devotion together. There will be a time when the virus hype dies down and we can comfortably meet again in the church building.

Another thing we need to remember is to pray. Every week we pray for our government and our leaders. Right now we need to trust those leaders when they recommend that we need to avoid larger gatherings in hopes of slowing down the spread of this virus. Their hope is that they overreact. I hope that that is the case too. I would much rather them be overcautious than not take it seriously and have this virus take many more lives. The loss of one life is a tragic occurrence and we don't want any more to be lost over this virus. Martin Luther, when the black plague was happening during his time said, "I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

So here is my plea to all of those reading this: if you are feeling under the weather, please stay home. If you want to be cautious, please stay home. If you want to come to church and worship together, then please show up. I pray for wisdom and discernment for everyone and respect the decisions you all make. Depending on where this virus takes us, good or bad, I will always have the best interest for my congregation. Please refer to the website or Facebook group for any updates as we navigate together down this moment that will forever go down in history. I pray God's blessing on you all and everyone remains safe and healthy.

-Pastor Matthew

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Eva Mudgett (leukemia)
Lindsey Kennedy (cancer)
(Pat Long's granddaughter)
Jessica Nornberg
Don Delude
Brady Fiest (motorcycle accident)
Beverly Williams (cancer)
(Sister-in-law Glen & Louise Pilgrim)
Sheila Pohle (cancer)
(Glen and Louise Pilgrim's niece)
Jody Anderson (cancer)
(Jennifer Fundine's cousin)

Bonnie Anderson
Darlene Zabel
Tim Litsheim (cancer) Dan Long's nephew
Rita Peterson (cancer)
Sammie Borgstrom
(motorcycle accident)
Adam Long (grandson of Dan Long)
Ken Kelling (surgery)
Danielle Matuska (cancer)
(Jennifer Fundine's aunt)
JoAnn Artmann
(Karen Fundine's daughter)

MILITARY

Jennifer Vasquez—Navy, Daughter to Don and Sharon Gehrke
Chad Hagg—Army, Son of Arlene Hagg, Nephew of Eileen Ausland
Joseph DeLude—Army, Grandson of Don DeLude
Isaac Jacobson—Navy, Sons of Dan & Wendy Jacobson
Sonja Larson—Army, Granddaughter of Mel & Gwen Larson
Patrick Anderson— Army, Nephew of Julie Hofius

UPDATING

If the military, those who are ill or in the hospital, or people in nursing homes is not up to date or if names need to be added or deleted, please contact Sharon Gehrke so that these lists can be updated. Thanks

PEOPLE IN NURSING AND ASSISTED LIVING HOME

Riverside Assisted Living

Irene Pietz
Barb Reimer
Ken Kelling

Harmony House/Brainerd

Char Brattlund

PRAYER CHAIN

When you need prayer support, there is a group at our church who will pray diligently for whatever the need is. Please call Marlene Lindeman at 218-746-3541.

Check out our Website at

firstlutheranpillager.net

We also have a Facebook page to check out!!!! Please free to post anything or post comments!!! Facebook page search type in First Lutheran Pillager and this should take you to the page. The Calendar will be updated as the schedule changes!

Church Council

President: Don Osowski
Vice President: Tom Kavanaugh
Secretary: Julie Warren
Mike Bellos, Bob Harmsen, Julie Hofius, Shirley Smith

Pastor Matthew Sundquist

Office 218-746-3775

Parsonage: 218-746-3750

"My Quilt"

author unknown

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls.

Before each of us laid our lives, like the squares of a quilt, in many piles. An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my Angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was.

They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life.

I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune.

I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My Angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally, the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth.

The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives has been.

My Angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame.

I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes... I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and death, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it.

I had to start over many times, I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me. Now I had to face the truth.

My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. Gasps filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ.

Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to me, it became my life, my hardships, and my struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let me shine through, until there was more of me than there was of you." May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through.

May God bless you today and forever.

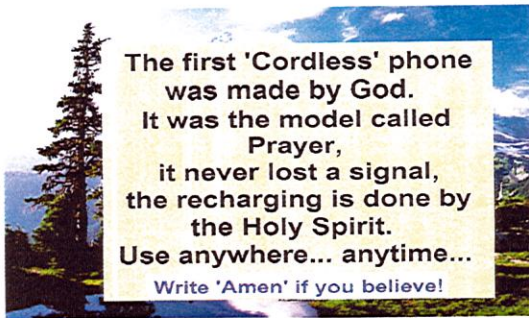
Quiz Yourself!! (Answers on bottom of this page)

How many years before Columbus did the Viking Leif Erickson visit North America?

- A. 50
- B. 500
- C. 100

Can you name the 3 most common types of razors?

- A. Straight razor
- B. Safety razor
- C. Electric razor



A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds.

After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat, one little boy (the oldest in the family) answered, "Thou shall not kill!"

The Vikings and the Packers decided to have a three-day ice fishing tournament. On the first day, the Vikings caught 100 fish and the Packers didn't catch any. The Packers were skunked. On the second day, the Vikings caught 200 fish and the Packers didn't catch any. Again, the Packers were skunked. On the third day, the Packers were getting worried, so Mike McCarthy pulled Aaron Rodgers aside, dressed him in full Vikings gear and sent him with the Vikings to see why they were catching so many fish. That day the Vikings caught 300 fish and the Packers caught none. When Rodgers returned several Packers asked, "what's the deal, are they cheating?" Rodgers replied, "you bet they are, they're drilling holes in the ice!"

Riddle of the Day (Answer on bottom of this page)

I went into the woods and got it. I sat down to seek it. I brought it home with me because I could not find it. What is it.

Some Trivia

The strawberry is the only fruit with seeds on the outside of the skin. A strawberry has approximately 200 seeds. In 1901 King Camp Gillette began selling his disposable safety razor blades. Blades lasted about a week before dulling. His blades cost \$5 apiece, half a week's pay, but sold by the millions anyway.

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven, I will as Jonah."

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him!"



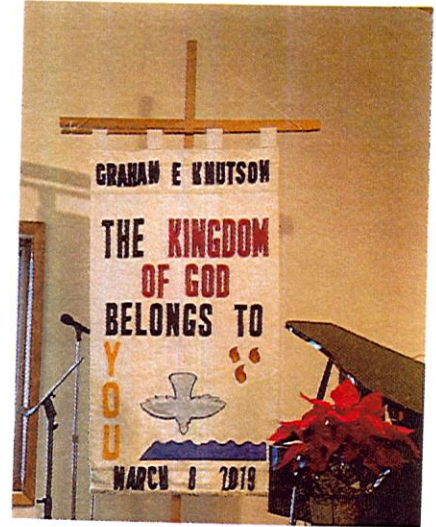
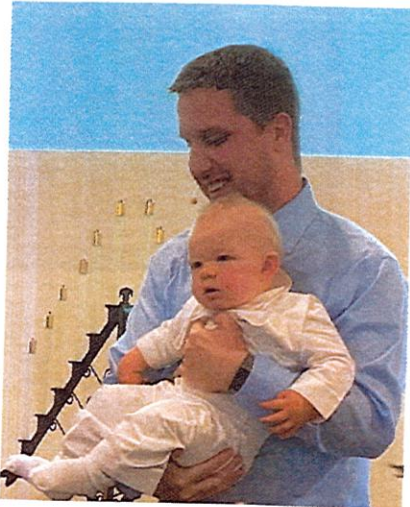
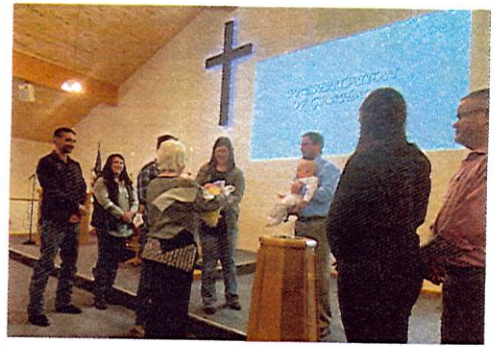
2. Straight razor, safety razor, electric razor.

1. 500

Answers to Quiz



BAPTIZED
IN THE NAME
OF THE
FATHER
AND OF THE
OF THE
SON
AND
HOLY
SPIRIT



Graham's Parents and Sponsors!!



Parents: Kim and Nick Knutson

Sponsors: Kari & Bob Saldana
Erica Knutson and Rob Smith





Mn Adult & Teen Challenge

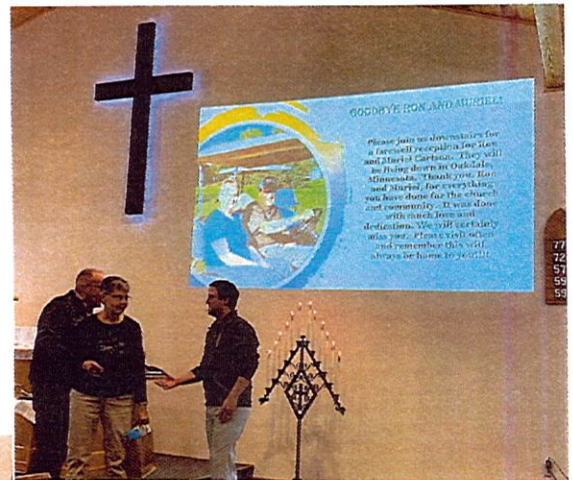
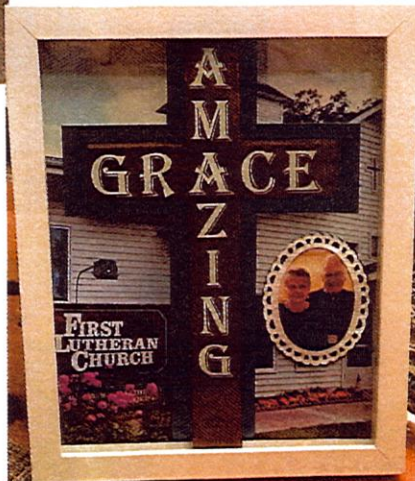


SCOUTS OF AMERICA SUNDAY

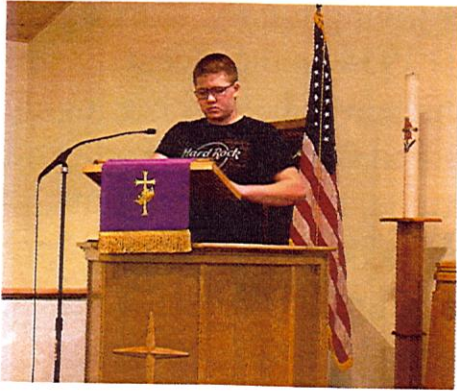
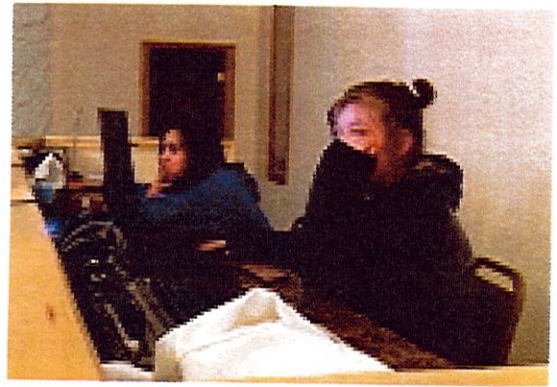
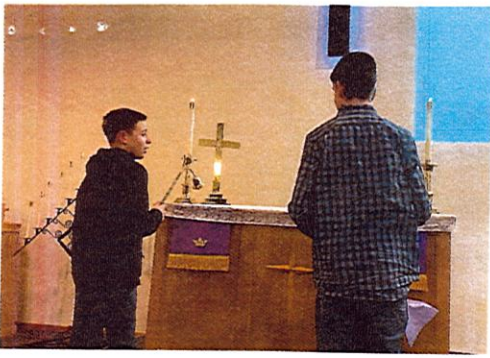


Ron and Muriel's address is
1713 Granada Ave. No #87
Oakdale, MN 55128

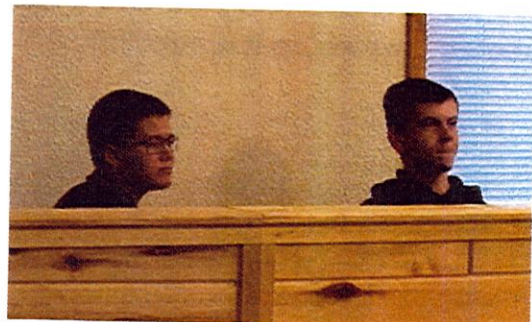
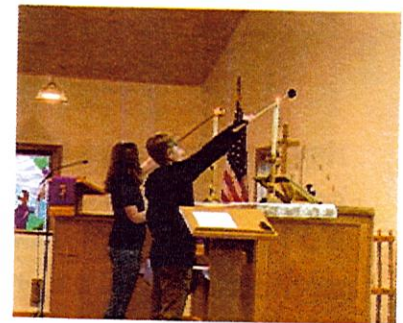
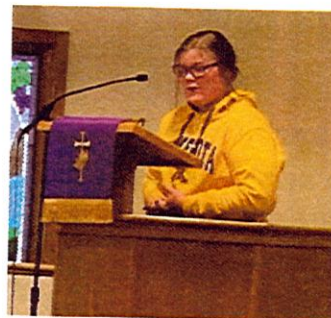
Thank you to Kim Pilgrim for
making this beautiful gift for
Ron and Muriel!



Farewell to our good friends Muriel and Ron. Thank you for all that you have done for your church family here at First Lutheran. You are going to be truly missed. Remember to come back and visit your First Lutheran Family often.



LENTEN SERVICES





Sympathy





Kathryn (Kathy) Lorraine Kelley-Pietz (Berry) of Pillager Minnesota lost her hard-fought battle with brain cancer on 10 March 2020 at the age of 65 surrounded by her loving family. Kathy was born in Brainerd, Minnesota on 23 April 1954 as the eldest daughter to Arlie and Lorraine (Kelley) Berry. She leaves behind her loving husband Ron, children Keith and David Doppler and step children Christopher Pietz and Rhonda Christman. Kathy is also survived by her mother Lorraine, her mother-in-law Rosemaire Pietz, her siblings Gene Berry (Patricia), David Berry (Terri), LaVonne Doppler (Darian Lachowitzer), Rick Berry (Monica), Marjorie Rhodes (Clint) and sister-in-law Cindy Hedquist. In addition to 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Kathy is preceded in death by father Arlie and great-grandchildren Deiondre and Zhane. Kathy was an active member in the community where she focused her life and attention to giving back to various projects, closest to her heart was the Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project (LARJP) where she served as the executive director and gave her attention to restorative justice and forgiveness. She was also a past exalted ruler of the Brainerd Elks Lodge #615. Kathy married her husband Ron in 2004 where they continued their lives doing the things they loved doing the most: hunting, fishing, being outdoors, boating and many other activities that had them out in nature. She was a devoted Christian who often would pray for anyone who needed the additional love and support. She was a fantastic cook and often had a good book or healing crystal to share. To honor her wishes, cremation rites have been accorded to Taylor Funeral and Cremation Care. A Memorial Ceremony celebrating her life has been postponed because of the coronavirus.

Hey Ladies! It is that time again! It is Easter bonnet time! Connie will be bringing in her hats again this year on Easter Sunday so if you need a hat it will be provided! If you have your own hat, please wear it! It was fun to see how many ladies participated last year and it has been requested that we do it again!!!!!!



April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Choir 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship	6 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	7 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Mtg	8 1:00 pm Quilters 7:00 pm Easter Community Service	9 Maundy Thursday	10 7:00 pm Good Friday Service 	11
12 Easter Sunday 9:30 am Service 	13 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	14 6:30 pm Church Council 8:00 pm AA Mtg	15 11:00 am Qigong 1:00 pm Quilters 5:30 pm Confirmation	16	17	18
19 8:30 am Choir 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship	20 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	21 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 8:00 pm AA Mtg	22 11:00 am Qigong 1:00 pm Quilters 5:30 pm Confirmation	23	24	25
26 8:30 am Choir 9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship	27 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	28 6:30 pm Scout Committee 8:00 pm AA Mtg	29 11:00 am Qigong 1:00 pm Quilters 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Movie Night	30	1	2