

# First Edition

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST  
LUTHERAN JANUARY/FEBRUARY  
2021



2020 is now just a distant memory and we can look forward to what 2021 has in store for all of us. January seemed to fly by with its warmer than usual weather. I could get used to winters if that was the worst they would get. But here we are now in the month of February and as I am writing this newsletter article, Pillager is in a winter weather advisory because of the arctic temperatures that are passing through. I do not know why it seems like this kind of weather catches us off guard because we go through it every year. I felt like if January was that mild then maybe, just maybe, we can get through a winter season with pretty mild temperatures. But no. It would not be a typical Minnesota winter without -50 degree windchill.

But as I think about Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season, I try to compare that to Minnesota winters. Maybe, just maybe, this season of Lent will be different. I will get the ashes put on my forehead and God will move in my life in a way I never thought possible. But we get the ashes, we attend the Wednesday services, and maybe we even give up one of our vices for Lent, but nothing seems to change. It is just another typical time of Lent. Just like the winters here, we cling to a hope that perhaps things will be different. Most of the time things never change and we get caught in a rut. We repeat the same habits year after year expecting something new to happen.

So how can we prevent ourselves from falling into a rut? The answer to that all depends on what we decide is valuable in our lives. Is growing in my relationship with God important to me? Or perhaps growing in your relationship with your spouse or kids? A lot of us say those things are important in our lives, but we rarely want to put in the time and effort it takes to grow in those areas. We need to evaluate what we find valuable and make a plan of action.

That's what I want us to do during Lent this year. Pick something in your life that you value. Let us use our relationship with God as an example (I hope you value your relationship with God). But if you truly value God, I want you to do something during the season leading up to Easter. I want you to treat your relationship with God like it is valuable. If we value our car, we put gas in it, get oil changes, wash it when it gets dirty. If we value our spouse we will spend time with them, buy them gifts, help them out around the house. So if we value God, what ways can we show that we do indeed value the relationship? Maybe that means spending time reading the Bible. Perhaps that means attending Sunday services. Or it could mean devoting five or ten minutes before bed spending time in prayer.

There are many ways we can spend time in trying to grow our relationship with God, and that is what the Lenten Season is all about. As we reflect on the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, we too can spend the next forty days focusing on the Lord. Let our minds and our actions reflect just how much we value our time with God. And hopefully once we get through Easter, we will realize what a great investment it was spending forty days with Jesus. We will value it so much we will want to continue building our relationships for months, years and decades to come.

Blessings,  
Pastor Matthew

## PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Bonnie Anderson  
Lindsey Kennedy (cancer)  
(Pat Long's granddaughter)  
Jessica Nornberg  
LeRoy Smith (surgery)  
Dena Dixon (daughter of Clancy Hanson)  
Beverly Williams (cancer)  
(Glen Pilgrim's niece)  
Dena Dixon (daughter of Clancy Hanson)  
JoAnn Artmann  
(Karen Fundine's daughter)

Wanda Beimert (cancer)  
Darlene Zabel  
Tim Litsheim (cancer) Dan Long's nephew  
Rita Peterson (cancer)  
Amber Baerg (Chris & Julie Warren's daughter)  
Cindy Walgren (surgery)  
Adam Long (grandson of Dan Long)  
Nancy Worden (sister of Neal Hofius)  
Tamara Mack  
(COVID, relative to Clint and Lynda Converse)

## 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.

## 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, Son 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

## Church Council

**President:** Tom Kavanaugh  
**Vice President:** Bob Harmsen  
**Secretary:** Julie Warren  
Mike Bellos, Julie Hofius, Dan Jacobson  
Shirley Smith

**Check out our Website at  
[firstlutheranpillager.net](http://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! Thanks to Kirstie for keeping our Web page updated!

**Pastor Matthew Sundquist  
Office 218-746-3775  
Parsonage: 218-746-3750**

Thank you to Don Oslowski for serving on our Church Council and serving as president. Thank you to Dan Jacobson for serving for the next 3 years!! Thanks to all the members of the council

**FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER COUNCIL**  
**Council Meeting Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

Called to Order at 6:34 pm.

Present: Don Osowski, Bob Harmsen,  
Tom Kavanaugh, Julie Hofius,  
Julie Warren, Tammie Barnett,  
Pastor Matthew Sundquist

Guest: Connie Vieths  
Absent: Mike Bellos, Shirley Smith

Opening Prayer given by Pastor Matthew Sundquist

**Pastor's Report**

One of our congregation members is in hospice care. Pastor Matthew will be visiting them. Trunk or Treat went very well, may shorten the hours next year.

**Guest**

Connie Vieths came to speak with the Council about Teen Challenge not being able to come for the Sunday service and the Pastor who was going to lead the service will also not be able to come. She has another guest speaker (Devyn Baker) in mind. She has been speaking about her life experience with area groups and does a nice job. She would speak during the sermon portion; we will still need someone to lead the rest of the service. Will check with Roger Gullickson to see if he would be able to do the rest of the service, if he is not able to, Pastor Matthew said he would do it.

Connie also brought in the paperwork for the meal options and services provided for funerals approved in 2014. After reviewing, Bob Harmsen made a motion to adopt the funeral meal options and funeral options with the new approval date of 11/17/20. Motion was seconded by Tom Kavanaugh. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Reviewed Treasurer's report for October. Faith Highway refunded the double payment. After determining no one has used this service since it was started, Tammie Barnett cancelled the service. The office is in need of a new calculator and pencil sharpener. Council approved the purchase of a new calculator and electric pencil sharpener. Also discussed sending out another letter to congregation members as less people are attending due to the pandemic. Will ask for individuals to continue to support the church and will also use the letter to notify people about the giving tree to help the Pillager school for Christmas, and the cookie exchange that will take place on December 12<sup>th</sup>. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Julie Hofius, seconded by Tom Kavanaugh. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's Report from October 2020 was reviewed. A motion was made by Tom Kavanaugh to accept the minutes, seconded by Bob Harmsen. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

\*Worship/Music: Still waiting on back ordered items to come it. After discussion, a motion was made by Bob Harmsen to purchase a \$500 gift card for Wendy Jacobsen for all the work she has been doing for services while Pastor is on paternity leave, seconded by Tom Kavanaugh. Motion carried.

Julie Hofius made a motion to give Pastor Matthew a bonus as was done last year for Christmas, seconded by Tom Kavanaugh. Motion carried.

\*Youth/Family: Confirmation class is back to online classes for now.

\*Communication: No report.

\*Hospitality: Cookie exchange will take place on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Fellowship will continue until we are told we may not.

\*Sanctuary: Bob Harmsen has looked for an electric eternal candle but has only been able to find battery operated ones. May just fix the current candle.

\*Facilities/Building: We have an estimate to replace the appliances and add a dishwasher for the parsonage. The cost would be approximately \$700 to make the plumbing changes and add on the counter space. Tom Kavanaugh made a motion to approve the update to the kitchen for up to \$900, and to purchase two \$100 gift cards for the two volunteers. Motion was seconded by Julie Hofius. Motion carried.

\*Nominating Committee: No report. Don Osowski will determine if he will serve again or will have a candidate by the next meeting if he decides not to continue on the Council.

\*Welcome/Visitor's Committee: No report.

\*Negotiating/Call Committee: No report.

\*Welcome/Visitor's Committee: No report.

\*Missions: Will be collecting for the food shelf the next few Sundays. Also, will have the tree up for donations for the Pillager school to buy gifts for the students again this year.

#### **Old Business:**

The budget committee met and prepared a budget for review. The Council reviewed the budget to be brought forward to the congregation at the annual meeting. After discussion, a motion was made by Bob Harmsen to donate \$500 to the LCMC, seconded by Tom Kavanaugh. Motion carried. A motion was made Tom Kavanaugh to approve the budget to bring to the congregation at the annual meeting, seconded by Julie Hofius. Motion carried.

Audit was performed on the church books for the first time in a very long time this year for 2020. A motion was made by Bob Harmsen to accept the audit committee report, seconded by Julie Hofius. Motion carried.

The review committee will meet with Pastor Matthew on December 8<sup>th</sup> after the regular Council meeting.

#### **New Business:**

Annual meeting date set for December 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Adjourned:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Kavanaugh, seconded by Julie Hofius. Motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.**

### **FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER COUNCIL Council Meeting Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

Called to Order at 6:40 pm.

Present: Don Osowski, Shirley Smith,  
Tom Kavanaugh, Mike Bellos,  
Julie Hofius, Bob Harmsen,  
Julie Warren, Pastor Matthew,  
Tammie Barnett

Opening prayer by Pastor Matthew

#### **Pastor's Report**

Home visits for congregation members continue. A list with members who have not been attending for years was passed out for the council to view. After discussion, a motion was made by Bob Harmsen to delete members who have not been in attendance, seconded by Mike Bellos. Motion carried. A motion by Bob Harmsen to accept the Pastor's report, seconded by Tom Kavanaugh. Motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Reviewed Treasurer's report for November. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Mike Bellos, seconded by Julie Hofius. Motion carried.

#### **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's Report from November 2020 was reviewed. A motion was made by Tom Kavanaugh to accept the minutes, seconded by Mike Bellos. Motion carried.

#### **Committee Reports**

\*Worship/Music: Will probably be next year before the sound system can be completed.

\*Youth/Family: No report.

\*Communication: Letter to congregation members was completed and mailed.

\*Hospitality: A family donated five Thanksgiving packages for families in need. They were delivered by Roger Gullickson. Thank you, Roger!!

\*Sanctuary: No report.

\*Facilities/Building: New sink will be put in parsonage kitchen. An individual is putting in the new counter top. Donated appliances are in the parsonage. The old parsonage stove has brought over for the church kitchen. May have another cooktop donated for the church. Ladies bathroom is on hold so far. May just add new toilets, add partitions and doors instead of curtains.

\*Nominating Committee: Don Osowski will not be running for another term. Dan Jacobson has agreed to be on the ballot. After discussion, Tom Kavanaugh will move to President as he is currently Vice President. A motion was made by Mike Bellos to nominate Bob Harmsen for Vice President, seconded by Shirley Smith. Motion carried.

\*Negotiating/Call Committee: No report.

\*Welcome/Visitor's Committee: No report.

\*Missions: Quilters have completed 24 quilts to do donate to Adult/Teen challenge on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.

#### **Old Business:**

No old business.

#### **New Business:**

Budget for 2021, vote for council member. Christmas Eve service will be at 4:00 pm.

#### **Adjourned:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Kavanaugh, seconded by Mike Bellos. Motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.**

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

### FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER COUNCIL

Council Meeting Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Called to Order at 6:31 p.m.

Present: Tom Kavanaugh, Shirley Smith,  
Mike Bellos, Dan Jacobson,  
Julie Warren, Pastor Matthew  
Sundquist

Opening Prayer given by Pastor Matthew Sundquist

Absent: Bob Harmsen, Julie Hofius,  
Tammie Barnett

**Welcome to Dan Jacobson, new member on the Council.**

#### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor has had conversations with individuals who would like to have more activities at the church. Possibly an exercise class, game nights, etc. The Council was agreeable to more activities starting. Pastor will let the individuals know and they can arrange for dates and times. Also, Pastor would like to start a Bible study in the future (hopefully soon). Movie night will continue to be the last Wednesday of the month.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Tammie Barnett was not present, but left the Treasurer's report for December 2020 for the Council. A discussion was held regarding paying individuals for work performed for the church. Many people do not want to be paid and consider it a donation to the church. This is very kind of people, but then the church does not always realize the actual cost of work being done (it does not reflect in our books). Also, the people donating do not necessarily receive credit for their donation. Discussion centered around paying people for their work and then if they would like to donate it back to the church, they can then claim it as a donation. Will talk with Tammie about what will work best. After reviewing the December 2020 Treasurer's Report, Dan Jacobson made a motion to approve, seconded by Shirley Smith. Motion carried.

#### **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's Report from December 2020 was reviewed. A motion was made by Mike Bellos to accept the Secretary's report, seconded by Shirley Smith. Motion carried.

## Committee Reports

\*Worship/Music: A discussion was held regarding paying Kirstie Sundquist for special music and extra preparation, and Wendy Jacobson for all the planning and music video preparation for the services. As we are not currently paying a pianist, council would like to compensate those that are providing special live and video music. A decision was tabled until next month's meeting.

\*Youth/Family: Confirmation classes may need to switch from Wednesdays to Sunday after church services due to students conflicts with scheduling on Wednesdays.

\*Communication: Received a nice thank you note from Wendy Jacobson for her Christmas gift.

\*Hospitality: Pancake breakfasts will start again in a while. Possibly kick-off on Easter? Council will revisit at a later date.

\*Sanctuary: No report.

\*Facilities/Building: Parsonage kitchen remodeling is finished. Ladies bathroom will hopefully be in the works soon.

\*Nominating Committee: No report.

\*Negotiating/Call Committee: No report.

\*Welcome/Visitor's Committee: No report.

\*Missions: The "giving tree" raised \$655 for the school; quilters are currently making lap robes with the proceeds going to Teen Challenge.

## Old Business:

No report.

## New Business:

The church received a request to use the church for a baby shower in March. After discussion, a motion was made by Tom Kavanaugh to compensate Kirstie Sundquist \$150 for the Christmas service, seconded by Dan Jacobson. Motion carried.

**Adjourned:** A motion was made by Shirley Smith to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dan Jacobson. Motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.**

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer.**



A very special thank you to Wendy Jacobson for helping me with the pictures I took during December and putting them together in beautiful collages. She worked very hard on the 8 pages of pictures in this Newsletter. You are awesome!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped with putting up the Christmas decorations and taking them down. You are so much appreciated.

Thank you to Rosie and Bob for donating new appliances to the parsonage.

Thank you to Jim and Don Ausland for helping with installing the new appliances.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Christmas Eve Service. Thanks to all who participated in the readings and the singing. Thank you to Kirstie, Matt, and Wendy for putting together a beautiful service for us to enjoy.

Thank you to all who donated and delivered Christmas cookies this year. The cookies were enjoyed by many people in our community.

We would like to start an exercise session. Please contact Joann Groves if you are interested in doing this.

We would like to have a "Game Night". It would include board games and card games. Please let Joann Groves know if you are interested and what games you are interested in playing. We will start on Thursday, February 11, from 7 pm to 9 pm. Please come and join in on the fun!

# A LAUGH AND A GIGGLE

A friend came to my house for coffee, we sat and talked about life. At some point in the conversation, I said, "I'm going to wash the dishes and I'll be right back." He looked at me as if I had told him I was going to build a space rocket. Then he said to me with admiration but a little perplexed: "I'm glad you help your wife, I do not help because when I do, my wife does not praise me. Last week I washed the floor and no thanks." I went back to sit with him and explained that I did not "help" my wife. Actually, my wife does not need help, she needs a partner. I am a partner at home and through that society are divided functions, but it is not a "help" to do household chores. I do not help my wife clean the house because I live here too and I need to clean it too. I do not help my wife to cook because I also want to eat and I need to cook too. I do not help my wife wash the dishes after eating because I also use those dishes. I do not help my wife with her children because they are also my children and my job is to be a father. I do not help my wife to wash, spread or fold clothes, because the clothes are also mine and my children. I am not a help at home, I am part of the house. And as for praising, I asked my friend when it was the last time after his wife finished cleaning the house, washing clothes, changing bed sheets, bathing her children, cooking, organizing, etc. You said thank you. But a thank you of the type: Wow, sweetheart !!! You are fantastic!!! Does that seem absurd to you? Are you looking strange? When you, once in a lifetime, cleaned the floor, you expected in the least, a prize of excellence with great glory ... why? You never thought about that, my friend? Maybe because for you, the macho culture has shown that everything is her job. Perhaps you have been taught that all this must be done without having to move a finger? Then praise her as you wanted to be praised, in the same way, with the same intensity. Give her a hand, behave like a true companion, not as a guest who only comes to eat, sleep, bathe and satisfy needs ... Feel at home. In his house. The real change of our society begins in our homes, let us teach our sons and daughters the real sense of fellowship! "

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there."

The little boy then understood how powerful his words were. He looked up at his father and said "I hope you can forgive me father for the holes I put in you."

"Of course I can," said the father.

**A guy took his blonde girlfriend to the Super Bowl game.**

**They had great seats behind their team's bench. After the game, he asked her how she liked it. "Oh, I really liked it," she replied, "...especially the tight pants and all the big muscles but I couldn't understand why they were killing each other over 25 cents."**

**Dumbfounded, her boyfriend asked, "What do you mean?" .....**

**"Well they flipped a coin, one team got it and then for the rest of the game, ALL they kept screaming was..."Get the quarterback! Get the quarterback!"....**


**"I'm like... Hellooooo? It is only 25 cents!"**



Game Night

every other  
Thursday  
7-9 pm

Starting  
February 11<sup>th</sup>!



ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>

7:00PM

Lenten Soup  
Supper followed by  
Service

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SUPPER FROM 5:30-6:15 PM      EVERY WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE STARTS AT 6:30 PM      STARTING FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>

**SIGN UP SHEET  
IN BACK!**

*Soup and  
Sandwich  
Supper*





**Sunday School is up and running.** Thank you Julie Warren for taking time to work with the Sunday School program. It is greatly appreciated and you are awesome. Sunday School is offered on non communion Sundays during worship. If you know of anyone who has kids and want them to participate in our Sunday School program, please come and see what Julie has to offer!!!!

**Please pick up your offering envelopes in the back of the church! Thanks!!**





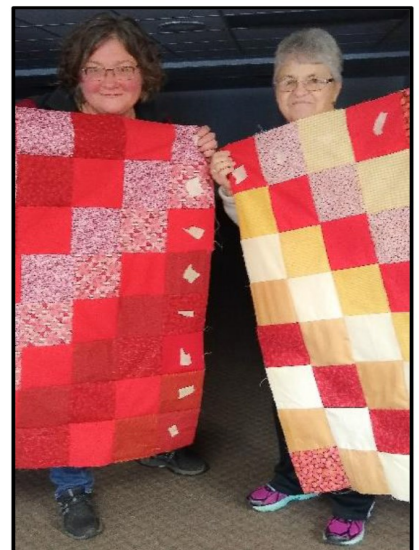
# Lap Quilt Project

While our leader Rosie Harmsen winters in Alabama, we quilters are making lap quilts for folks in need. Know anyone? Or maybe you would like to help?

**Come join us noon-3 p.m. every Wednesday in the church fellowship area.**

Learn to cut and lay out blocks. Help assemble and tie layers. Press seams. Or...BYOSM (bring your own sewing machine)!

We work a couple hours and enjoy fellowship with coffee, tea and treats before calling it a day – with plenty of fun and laughter along the way!



# Decorating for Christmas

Many hands make light work. Besides trimming the trees and decking the halls, folks spread out our ladies' quilts for sale in time for the holiday.





November 29, 2020

# Marking Four Sundays in Advent



December 6, 2020  
**Believe**



## Marking Four Sundays in Advent



# Gathering of the Body

On Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, church bakers brought in enough goodies to fill 100 plates for the annual Christmas-cookie delivery ministry. Within two hours, 20 adults and youth helped bring cheer to area senior citizens. Not a cookie was left for the congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.



2020  
Council  
President  
Don  
Osowski





# Quilters' Ministry



From October to December, Rosie Harmsen sewed while the ladies assembled and tied 27 quilts to deliver as Christmas gifts to a local drug-and-alcohol rehabilitation program.

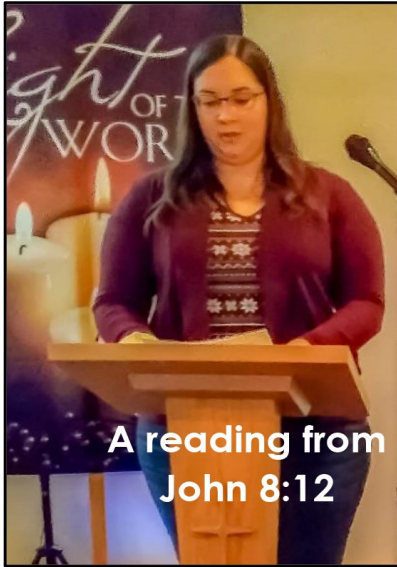




## **Christmas Eve Worship at 4p.m.**

A service of songs, scriptures  
and Holy Communion  
celebrating the humble birth of  
Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ





A reading from  
John 8:12



Jesus said, "I am the light  
of the world. Whoever follows me  
will not walk in darkness  
but will have the light of life."



🎵 **Silent Night**  
**Holy Night** 🎵





# Celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord

In baptism, we become a part of God's family of agape love in the washing away of our sins. Today we go back to move forward into 2021 with a renewal of baptism, pouring water over our hands and listening to these words:

**Remember  
your baptism.  
Remember  
you are a  
child of God.**



January 10, 2021







