

First Edition



I don't know what it is about the New Year, but I always feel the urge to try something new. I'm not big on making New Year resolutions, however, when I consistently incorporate something new at the beginning of every year, perhaps those are my resolutions. This year is no different. I wanted to try something new for this year even though we are already through the first month. This new change isn't really a change, rather it is a different way of how we have always done something at First Lutheran. And this subtle "change" is something that the Lord has put on both mine and my wife's heart. We have prayed over it and feel this is something God wants us to try.

So what is this "change" you may ask? Well, again it is not really a change. It has to do with our Prayer of the Day that we do every Sunday service. We are still going to pray, but it will look a little different. Don't get me wrong, there is nothing bad about the prayers we do as a congregation, but those prayers are written by someone, somewhere, and are recited by our church. The thing the Lord is putting on my heart is, "What if we localized our prayers and started praying for businesses in our community? What if we prayed for the other churches nearby? What if we prayed for local ministries? What if we prayed, by name, for people in our own church body?" What this will mean is that on Sundays, we will not be all reading the prayer for the day. Instead, I will lead the prayer and ask that the congregation join in their hearts to pray for a business, ministry, church, and FLP member. With these four key areas to focus our prayer on, I have no idea what the Spirit will lead me to pray for and therefore we cannot all say the prayer together. But I hope that does not stop you from praying the other six days of the week for these four categories.

Now here is the challenge I want to extend to all those who consider First Lutheran to be their home church. I know there are a lot of prayer warriors out there, so I would like to see some of them step up and lead the congregation in prayer focusing on these four topics. Just like people who volunteer to read the Scripture lessons, can we get one person a week to volunteer to pray during the Sunday worship service? James 5:16 says the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. And if getting up in front of a bunch of people to pray is not your cup of tea, will you commit to praying during the week? Jesus also mentions in Matthew 6:6 about praying secretly in our rooms. Maybe that is more of your style of praying. Either way, let's try and incorporate prayer into our lives this year that is centered around this community. Then let us sit back and watch what big things God does through those prayers. Jesus, let Your Kingdom come in this small town, and may Your will be done in Pillager, as it is in heaven. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Matthew

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Bonnie Anderson
Tim Litsheim (cancer) (Dan Long's nephre)
Dan Long's nephew
Rex and Ginger Manchesian
(Rita Peterson's brother and sister-in-law)
Lindsey Kennedy (cancer) Pat Long's granddaughter
JoAnn Artmann (Karen Fundine's daughter)
Adam Long (grandson of Dan Long)
Ron Carlson

Sharon Doss (Leukemia)
Roxann Kaiser (cancer)
Amber Baerg
Chris & Julie Warren's Daughter)
Darlene Zabel
Gail Massie (Ken Kelings daughter)
Don Farber (Barb Merced's dad)
Dan Long

ASSISTING LIVING/NURSING HOME

Riverside: Ken Kelling,
Harmony House in Brainerd: Char Brattlund

MILITARY

Joseph DeLude—Army, Grandson of Don DeLude
Sonja Larson—Army, Granddaughter of Mel & Gwen Larson

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!

Pastor's Schedule

Sunday: **Worship Service**
Monday: **Off**
Tuesday: **Office Hours 9-3**
Wednesday: **Midweek Service/Bible Study**
Thursday & Friday: **Office hours/Visitation**
Saturday: **Off**

****Office hours will typically be from 9 am until
3 pm unless I am out making visits.**

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

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.

THANK YOU!

A special thanks to Tom Kavanaugh and Bob
Harmsen for serving on the council. Your time and
effort was very much appreciated!!!

Thank you to Diane and Lynda for volunteering to
be on our council!!

Church Council

President: Dan Jacobson
Vice President: Julie Hofius (218) 820-4259
Secretary: Nicole Buersken (320) 232-7439

Mike Bellos (218) 838-9804
Shirley Smith (218) 838-1483
Lynda Converse (218) 821-8016

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

SIGN-UP SHEETS

Please sign up for bringing sandwiches and soup for Lent. Signup sheet is on the table in the back of the church!

Please sign up for being a sponsor for the pancake breakfasts for next September through May 2024. Signup sheet is on the table in the back of the church

If you would like to go to the First Lutheran Website to read the Newsletter instead of receiving it in the mail, please contact Connie Vieths. Connie's email is cvieths1@gmail.com. This would help bring the costs down for postage.

We are going to try to print the Newsletter every two months. January and February will be combined. I would like to have the Newsletter out by the end of January or first week in February.

The next Newsletter will be printed the first of March for the months of March and April.

NEW COMMITTEE

As discussed and suggested at the first 2023 council meeting the "Church and Community Communication Committee (CCCC) 2023", held it's first meeting January 26th with 4 people present! We are excited to be part of this effort to reach members as well as non-members and members of the community of all ages. We would encourage others to join us as we develop our objectives and goals for the year.

Your thoughts and talents are greatly appreciated. Brainstorming is the objective in these early stages and we look forward to your input and participation.

If you'd like more information please contact Lynda Converse, Julie Hofius, Wendy Jacobson, Connie Vieths or any council member.

Our next meeting is February 9th at 1:30 PM at the Shante in Pillager.

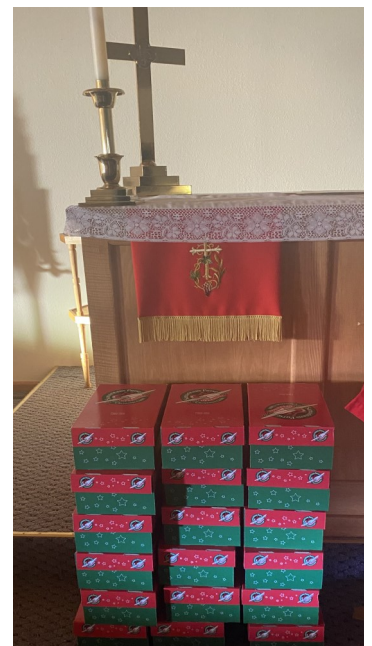
Mission Committee Update

The Mission Committee began last summer and has been involved in projects like the Pillager Food Shelf, Brainerd Soup Kitchen, church events like Trunk or Treat and Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child. We also plan to be involved in the Salvation Army Bell ringing.

Our goal was to put together 25 shoe boxes to be delivered to Samaritan's Purse, but we were able to do 39 in our first year! Our boxes were delivered to Mozambique, Africa. Our North Central MN area from Wadena/Staples to Bemidji/Grand Rapids provided 13,158 boxes and worldwide there were 10,599,907 shoebox gifts packed and donated worldwide in 2022! Thank you to all who donated items for the boxes and/or coins/money to these projects.

Thanks to those who have helped: Rosie Harmsen, Linda Bentler, Marliiss Eisel, Kirstie and Matt Sundquist, Joann Groves, Shirley Smith, Diane Wright, Julie Hofius, Julie Warren, Nicole Buersken

Our next meeting will be February 6, 2023 at 6:30 pm at church. Anyone is welcome to come and be a part of this committee! We will be summarizing 2022 and planning for 2023.





Irene Mae Pietz

April 23, 1923—December 30, 2022 99 years old!

Irene Mae Pietz, age 99, arrived in heaven on Friday, December 30, 2022 at Riverside Assisted Living in Pillager, where she happily resided for eight years.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Pillager. Friends and family are invited to gather for two hours prior to the service. Interment will take place at a later date.

Irene was born on April 23, 1923 to Otto and Ada (Grams) Cornnick in Rose Hill Township near Tracy, MN. She attended school through the 8th grade in Tracy, her family then moved to May Township, Northwest, of Pillager. Irene married Ordell Pietz on August 27, 1940 and lived on their farm near Pillager until 1976 when they moved into town. Together, they had three children: Joan, Gary and Larry. Irene was employed at Madden's Resort in housekeeping for many years, and also enjoyed cooking at the Pillager restaurant. She was an active member of First Lutheran Church and the Red Hat Society. Her favorite hobbies included, camping, fishing, riding in the boat and spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her son, Gary (Beverly) Pietz; grandchildren, Terri (Kevin) Hedquist, Kim Simon, Michelle (Jerome) Pietz and Bob (Linda) Pietz; 11 great grandchildren; 16 great great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Rose Marie Pietz; nieces, Cindy Hedquist, and Karla and Karen Cornnick; nephews, Ron Pietz and Kasey, Kent, Kevin, Kelly and Kim Cornnick. She is preceded in death by her husband, Ordell; children, Larry and Joan Pietz, siblings, Art Cornnick and Alice Fassero; great grandson, Tyler Johnson; brother-in-law, Albert Pietz; nephew, Vern Hedquist and Niece, Kathy Pietz.



Sylvia Shasky (Lorie Gratke's Mom)

Sylvia Ione (Peterson) Shasky was born October 26, 1940, in Detroit Lakes to Carl and Luella (Krause) Peterson. Sylvia passed away on January 5, 2023, at Sanford Hospital in Fargo surrounded by her immediate family.

Sylvia graduated from Detroit Lakes High School in 1958. After completing a 9-month course at Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis she became a secretary for Whitten & Company. From 1960-1966 she was a secretary for Supervalu Stores, Inc. She then raised their two beloved children until returning to secretarial work in 1987 with Crawford & Company. In 1994 Sylvia began working at PATH of North Dakota where she remained until retirement in November 2014 after 20 years of service.

On September 9, 1961, she married the love of her life, Jim Shasky, at Egelund Lutheran Church in Holmesville Township. They shared 59 wonderful years of marriage together in Moorhead. Sylvia is survived by her children Curt and Lorie (Troy) Gratke; grandchildren AJ and Chris Gratke.

Arrangements by David-Donhower Funeral Home, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Betty H. Baham (Bob Harmsen's Sister)



Betty, age 78, joined her husband in Heaven on Monday, January 23, 2023. She was a resident of Walker, LA. Betty was a proud member of Satsuma Baptist Church. She enjoyed spending time outdoors and going on cruises with her girls. Betty was a talented baker and if you were lucky enough to try her sweets, you most definitely had a favorite. She adored her granddaughters and took every opportunity she had to spoil them. Betty was a strong woman who loved her family deeply. She will be forever missed.

She is survived by her daughters, Brenda Baham, Dana Crayton (Dustey); granddaughters, Harley Dekeyzer, Jillian Crayton; great-granddaughter, Maisyn Garon; sisters, Violet Wiebusch, Donna Wiebusch, Carole Demeris; brothers, Harvey H. Harmsen Jr., and Robert "Bob" Harmsen (Rose); and fur babies, Carter and Little Bit.

Betty is preceded in death by her husband, James Baham; parents, Frances and Harvey Harmsen Sr.; sisters, LaVerne Gamm, Edna Schirmers, Sandra Harmsen; brother, James Sawdy; and son-in-law, Spencer Dekeyzer.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to caregivers, Cheri Arnold and Amanda Perry, for their exceptional care of Mrs. Betty.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the visitation from the chapel of Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home at 7738 Florida Blvd. Denham Springs, LA 70726 on Saturday, January 28, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 1:00 p.m. Pastor Willis Easley will officiate with interment to follow in Satsuma Baptist Church Cemetery.



GLADYS SUNDQUIST (PASTOR MATT'S GRANDMOTHER)

Gladys Sundquist, 94, Moose Lake, went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on January 29, 2023 at Solvay Hospice House in Duluth.

She was born on April 7, 1928 to Carl and Olga Broten in Birch Creek Twp., MN. Gladys graduated from Moose Lake High School in 1947 and married Elwood Sundquist, the farm boy across the road, on June 26, 1948 in Moose Lake. Together, they ran a dairy farm in Split Rock Twp., retiring in 1986.

Gladys was very active in her church. At Faith Lutheran Church, she taught Sunday School and Bible School and served on the Altar Guild and the Church Council. She was active in the LCW and especially enjoyed quilting with the church ladies. Gladys loved baking, gardening, quilting, canning, listening to polka music, and spending time with family and friends. She was a hard worker and took pride in the fact that she could still mow her lawn at age 90. She will be deeply missed by so many.

Gladys was preceded in death by her husband, Elwood in 2007; her parents; brother: Clarence; and good friend: Bob Beaupre.

She is survived by four children: Lynn (Lyle) Nelson of Vadnais Heights; Arman (Lucille) Sundquist of Brooklyn Park; Rodney (Rita) Sundquist of Sartell; and Cyrus Sundquist of Leland, Iowa; sister: Norma (Henry) Hoffman of Kerrick; grandchildren: Steven Nelson, Paul (Teresa) Nelson, Lisa (Mike) Gassert, Ryan (Angie) Nelson, Marc (Connie) Sundquist, Adam Sunquist, Katie (Neil) Gerads, and Matthew (Kirstie) Sundquist, seven great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A very heartfelt thank-you to the hospice team at Essentia Health, Duluth; especially Brandy, Matt, and Jennifer. Also, to the wonderful care team at Solvay Hospice House. Visitation will be from 10 am until the 11 am service on Thursday, February 2, 2023 in Faith Lutheran Church, Sturgeon Lake. Spring interment will be in Nordland Cemetery, Birch Creek Twp.

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Opening and Call to Order: 10:00 am December 17, 2022 (Change due to weather)

Present: Nicole Buersken, Pastor Matt, Bob Harmsen, Kirstie Sundquist, Shirley Smith, Tom Kavanaugh, Julie Hofius, Connie Vieths **Absent:** Dan Jacobson, Tammy Barnett, Mike Bellos

Pastor's Report: Discussion of numerous items

Treasurer's Report: Tammy was absent so this was tabled for discussion in January with the new council.

Approval of Agenda and Secretary's Report

Julie made motion to accept with no changes, Shirley second and motion passed 5-0

Committees:

Worship/Music: Discussed the use of backing tracks for music and Pastor will be ordering some to test out, with council approving \$150 to move forward with a Tom K. motion and Julie second. Julie also made a motion for the purchase of flameless candles (\$125) with a second from Nicole. Passed 5-0

Youth/Family: Nothing new to report

Communications: Bob found out the LCMC does not provide mailing service. Council is looking into an Easter Mailing to share info about First Lutheran.

Hospitality: Incredible job again by the Quilting Ladies and others with a successful Bake Sale (\$1,900) AWESOME! Bob had lots of help on the December pancake breakfast. Tom K. will be doing the January, February, and March (perhaps April) breakfasts.

Sanctuary: Nothing to report

Facilities/Building: Church sign is up and looks great, with the sign being a foot higher. Parsonage flooring will be completed by December 18. Toilets are repaired. Sprayer for sink in Kitchen is ordered. Will start discussion on pricing for new steel siding. Snow plowing is going well and checking on the sidewalk shoveling.

Nominating: Voting for 2 new council members on December 18 (Diane Wright is a candidate).

Call/Negotiating: Nothing to report.

Welcome/Visitors: Nothing new to report.

Missions: February meeting. All the gift boxes went to Mozambique and Julie has ordered a laminated map to show where our giving goes. Julie is also putting together a calendar to assist with better planning. The Missions committee did amazing things this year under Julie's chairing work and should be very much commended for starting out with just an idea and a dream and doing incredible things. Thank you.

Staff Updates: Nothing new

New Business: Nothing new

Old Business:

Next Council Meeting will be January 10, 2023

Adjournment: motion by Shirley, second by Nicole at 11:14 am--Lord's Prayer
Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Thomas Kavanaugh, Secretary

JANUARY COUNCIL MINUTES

Opening and Call to Order: 6:35 PM on January 10, 2023

Present: Tom Kavanaugh, Tammie Barnett, Lynda Converse, Shirley Smith, Nicole Buersken, Julie Hofius, Dan Jacobson, Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Kirstie Sundquist, and Connie Vieths.
Absent: Mike Bellos, Diane Wright.

Office Elections: The following were elected by council into the three office positions: Dan Jacobson as president, Julie Hofius as vice president, and Nicole Buersken as secretary.
Pastor's Report: Christmas Eve service went really well with good feedback. Updates on communication with congregation members who are/have been sick. Noted that his six-month review is coming up this month and Dan Jacobson, Tom Kavanaugh, and Connie Vieths will be conducting the review.

Treasurer's Report: Tammie gave a recap of the treasurer's report. There are currently 25 keys and five more keys need to be made. Julie made a motion to have more keys made. She noted the church parking lot plowing is \$120 per time so \$600 total by the end of December. We want to be sure that the walks are also being shoveled each time. The LCMC contribution check was cut—our first one and the intention is to make this an annual contribution. Tammie has been the church treasurer for 13 years! Shirley made the motion to accept the report and Julie seconded; motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Agenda and Secretary's Report: Tom gave his final report for the council. Lynda made the motion to accept and Nicole seconded; motion passed 5-0.

Committees: Dan condensed the committees listed on the agenda to avoid redundancies and assigned a council member to each one to serve as the point of contact and to ensure tasks/issues in each committee are being resolved.

Worship/Music: Dan said Wendy is wondering whether the Holden Evening Service program should be used again for Lent. After discussion it was agreed that the program would be used again for 2023. Dan asked Pastor Matthew if long-term plans should be made for music services. Pastor said he would like to see more representation during services from the choir and Julie said the intention is to have choir sing on Palm Sunday and Easter. Pastor proposed that perhaps choir members would like to do solos/duets/trios on some Sundays.

Congregation and Community Outreach: Dan proposed finding out if there's a way to buy the Pillager School community mailing list so the church can use it for community outreach so we can start sending out mailers for VBS, game night, Bible study, and special services. Bob Harmsen left the postcards for ideas with Julie and she and Lynda will work on this. A meeting time will likely need to be held so anyone who would like to get involved can help design the mailers.

Hospitality: Connie is going to look at getting thank you cards, one of which is going to be given to Julie Warren for all her work done running the Sunday School Christmas program. Dan wanted to thank everyone involved in setting up for Irene's funeral because he received feedback that it was done very well. He also proposed that a list be put together for hospitality events and tasks. Funeral meals, pancake breakfasts, church dinner—do things need to be managed or assigned differently? Would Diane like to take this on?

Sanctuary: Nothing to report.

Facilities/Building: Dan found a \$60 sign light for the church sign and the intention will be to install it in the spring. Steve Roberts will be providing materials quotes for the church's siding and roof. Pastor Matthew received the quote for the new commercial sprayer faucet to be installed next to the dishwasher: \$385 for the faucet and \$275 for the installation so \$660 total. Julie made the motion to accept the quote and Shirley seconded; motion passed 5-0. The needed washer and dryer for the parsonage were approved by council and Pastor Matthew will submit the receipts. Robert Buersken is almost finished with the parsonage flooring renovation/door installations. Pastor Matthew will let Robert know when the last bifold door to install is available at Menards and Robert will install that along with the trim around an exterior door. Pastor Matthew and Kirstie are still having issues figuring out the exterior lighting for the parsonage; it was proposed that JoAnn's son Jeff could possibly come look at it when he's available. Dan will reach out to him regarding this.

Staffing: Dan said Connie is interested in keeping several of the church secretary duties but there are some duties she no longer wants. He would like to find someone who can help share these duties. He would also like to sit down with Kirstie and find out which duties she is no longer interested in and fill those gaps. Kirstie said she is considering getting her master's degree and if she decides to pursue the degree she would no longer be available on Sundays. Some member names from the congregation were brought up as potential people who could take on these duties.

Missions: The next meeting will be February 6th at 6:30 PM.

Old Business: Shirley brought up that it looked like the last newsletter had been copied from the previous one and discussion was held about having someone (or perhaps even a couple people) act as copy editors to check church mailers, newsletters, bulletins, church service PowerPoint slides, etc. Pastor Matthew said the MediaShout plus membership was purchased on the church credit card for the backing tracks and system similar to PowerPoint and the backing tracks are also available for use by the choir.

New Business: Dan proposed that the council pull together committee goals to keep everything on track for 2023. The February church council meeting was rescheduled for Monday, February 20th due to Pastor Matthew and some council members being unavailable for the usual second Tuesday meeting time.

Adjournment: Shirley made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Nicole; motion passed 5-0. Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicole Buersken, Secretary.

Annual Meeting Minutes December 18, 2022

Opening and Call to Order by President Bob Harmsen at 10:25 am

Opening Prayer by Pastor Matt

Updates: Pastor Matt will be officially ordained and certified. Bob reported that the council implemented two changes in budget funding this year in which 8% of our total income goes to Building Fund and 8% to our Missions Fund (Julie has done wonders with the Missions committee). Bob also thanked all in the church who share their talent in so many ways.

Budget: Bob shared the parts of the budget requiring a congregational vote which includes Ministry Expense. Updated Pastor Salary Package, \$44,442, Staffing \$23,000, Utilities \$26,420, with an increase from 2022 of \$98,685 to a 2023 budget of \$104,286 when all line items are added in Bob also mentioned that 2023 will see the hope of bringing back Vacation Bible School, more youth ministries and confirmation. Tom K. made a motion to accept with a second by Shirley S. and unanimous passing.

Secretary Report: Motion by Julie H. to accept and second by Don O. Motion passed.

New Business: Election of new Council Members with Diane Wright and Lynda Converse running. Both were unanimously elected to 3-year terms. Thank you. Thank you also to Bob Harmsen and Tom Kavanaugh for your service.

Old Business: Sprayer in the kitchen to be installed

New Business: Possible updates to future Christmas Eve Times will be discussed this coming year by the council.

Adjournment: motion by Tom K, second by Marleen L. Meeting adjourned at 10:51 am--Lord's Prayer

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Thomas Kavanaugh, Secretary



Thanks to Julie Warren and those who helped put on the Christmas Program this year!!! Special thanks to the Sunday School kids for their excellent performance!!!



LENT IS A TIME TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR EASTER.

Join us for a series of evening services starting 7 p.m., Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

Come the following the next five Wednesday evenings 5:30-6:15 p.m. for a Soup & Sandwich Supper followed at 6:30 p.m. by the Holden Evening Prayer Service.

Wednesday, March 1
Wednesday, March 8
Wednesday, March 15
Wednesday, March 22
Wednesday, March 29

Bring a friend. Join in. Be blessed in fellowship!



Jennifer Fundine's grandmother, June Lydeen, crocheted this tapestry that is upstairs by the ramp going downstairs.

Jennifer said that her great grandmother had made one that is hanging in the family church in Milaca and Jennifer's grandmother wanted to see if she could make one too and she did!!!!

What was so neat is that her grandmother and grandfather was able to see it at Maddy's graduation!

Thank you so much for sharing this and the story behind it!!!!!!

