

# First *Edition*



JULY AND AUGUST NEWSLETTER OF FIRST LUTHERAN MAY, 2022

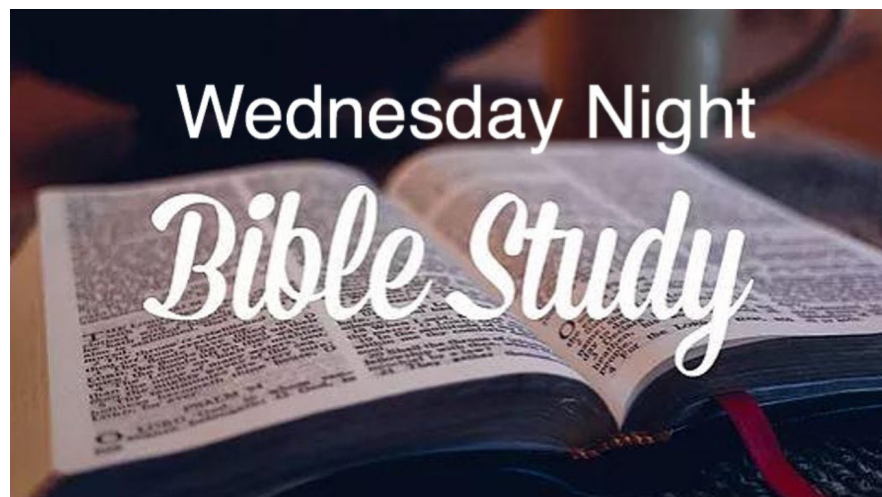
The votes have been tallied and the results are in. Many people in the congregation have voiced their opinion on what day and time of the week there should be a Bible study. The majority of the votes landed on Wednesday evenings. So this got me thinking: What if there was a Wednesday night service at First Lutheran that could incorporate a Bible study? Then God laid it on my heart to start exactly that. This fall, as a way to kick off back to school, the church will be kicking off our Wednesday night contemporary service. This will be a night starting with a time of singing a few worship songs that one might hear on the radio station followed by a short devotional that ties into what we will be studying. After that, it will be open to small group discussions. Much of the learning and growing we do as Christians comes from sharing life with those who also live in the Kingdom of God.

I understand that this is only in the trial run phase and will have to be tweaked as time goes on, especially during Lent. It would be easy to transition from our contemporary service into our Lenten service since it will be on the same day and at the same time. The other transition will be our confirmation classes. Instead of the kids coming to listen to me for an hour or so once a week, boring them with church history or memorizing creeds, they can come and be a part of a service where they can learn about God's Word through small group discussions. Then if the kids show that they have been faithful attenders for a couple years, I will discuss with them if they want to go through the confirmation process.

Here is my goal by doing all of this: I first and foremost want all who attend to connect with God in a way they may not have connected before. I want people to grow in the knowledge of knowing Christ and what it means to be in relationship with Him and others. I want people to learn from each other, wrestle with questions, pray for one another, and encourage each other in their faith journey. I want people to grow and understand this wonderful book that the church holds so near and dear.

So that is the plan. A Wednesday night contemporary service that will include worship, Bible study, and fellowship. Stay tuned for more updates on when it starts, what time, and what book of the Bible will be studied first. I look forward to what God will do through this and I welcome any ideas regarding this service from any of my brothers and sisters in Christ. May all who are reading this be blessed abundantly.

Pastor Matthew



## PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

### FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR AT HOME

Bonnie Anderson  
Tim Litsheim (cancer)  
Dan Long's nephew  
Jessica Nornberg  
Lindsey Kennedy (cancer)  
(Pat Long's granddaughter)  
Roxann Kaiser (cancer)  
Adam Long (grandson of Dan Long)  
Rex and Ginger Manchesian  
(Rita Peterson's brother and sister-in-law)

Sharon Doss (Leukemia)  
Ann Ness  
Amber Baerg  
(Chris & Julie Warren's daughter)  
Darlene Zabel  
JoAnn Artmann  
(Karen Fundine's daughter)

### ASSISTING LIVING/NURSING HOME

**Riverside:** Irene Pietz, Ken Kelling,

**Harmony House in Brainerd:** Char Brattlund

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

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

### 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.**

### MILITARY

**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

### 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](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

**On Communion Sundays we offer both wine and grape juice. The grape juice is located near the center of the serving tray.**

**We will be publishing the Newsletter every 2 months. Please check the Website and bulletin for updated information. The months that will be combined are: January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, November/December.**

## JUNE COUNCIL MINUTES

### Opening and Call to Order: 6:30 PM June 14, 2022

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

**Absent:** Tammie Barnett

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor has pretty much officially graduated (Congratulations!!) with just 1 more credit to finish up this summer. He will have his ordination in the fall in would seem (October??). Pastor will attend the LCMC gathering October 3-5 in Lakeville, MN and we will be looking for 1-2 people to join and attend as well. Discussed starting a Bible study with a Morning option (perhaps Tuesdays at 11) and a possible evening study as well, we even discussed new ideas for this such as House Church session or a Wednesday evening service.

**Treasurer's Report:** Building Maintenance account is already building and now we will start putting into the Missions account as well. Tom made a motion to accept and Julie seconded. Motion passed 7-0

### Approval of Agenda and Secretary's Report

Dan made motion to accept with no changes, Mike second and motion passed 7-0

### Committees:

**Worship/Music:** Update on new sound and receiver equipment. Possible look at raising up the antennae for better range but the new receiver may be more powerful and work better.

**Youth/Family:** August Family Fun will be Wednesday, August 17. Tom will do the hot dogs and chips. There will be games as well. Will start showing on slide in church.

**Communications:** Connie will be doing a Newsletter every other month and will do a few pictures to make it a bit more manageable.

**Hospitality:** We will be doing a Fall Dinner with an Italian Theme with a tentative date of Saturday, October 29 5:30-7:00. Tom K. will be heading up the food and cooking but we will be looking for volunteers and Tom will also look into the Pillager Pro-Start assisting him and we also discussed Cub Scouts possible helping some. The dinner will be a free will offering.

**Sanctuary:** Shirley has agreed to take on the Church cleaning and we will be paying \$50 per cleaning with a motion from Tom K and second by Nicole B.

**Facilities/Building:** Outside light is being replaced. While Dan made calls to MP&L we found that to be costly and will work on getting it done. Dan has purchased the new sensor and LED Bulb. We are working on getting the mowing done by some form of service and Bob is checking into it unless we can find volunteers from the church to do it. We have a couple of parsonage trees to remove and are looking into that.

**Nominating:** Nothing to report

**Call/Negotiating:** Now that Pastor Matt is officially a full-time pastor we are working on all parts of his Job Description. Bob has looked at some other churches and what their pastors do and we are looking for Matt to set his 2 days off per week as well as setting an office day with times. He will also start increasing visits to members at nursing homes, assisted living, etc. We are also putting together a binder that will contain all staff job descriptions to be easily passed on from one council president to the next. We are also creating an in-house committee to meet twice a year with pastor regarding job performance and suggestions.

**Welcome/Visitors:** Nothing new

**Missions:** Having a meeting on June 20 (6:30-8:00) to discuss more planning for our church missions.

**Pastor Support:** Discussed some clarification on assistance.

# FAMILY FUN ★ NIGHT ★

Join us on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>  
from 5-8 pm for family fun.  
Hotdogs will be served from 5:30-  
6:30 pm with cornhole  
tournament afterwards. There  
will be games to play before  
dinner.



# FAMILY FUN ★ NIGHT ★



We are looking for people to volunteer to help out  
with this event.

- Do you have yard games?
- Cornhole boards? (we need 2 or 3 more)
- Ideas for desserts/side dishes

There will be a sign up in the back  
or see Pastor Matthew



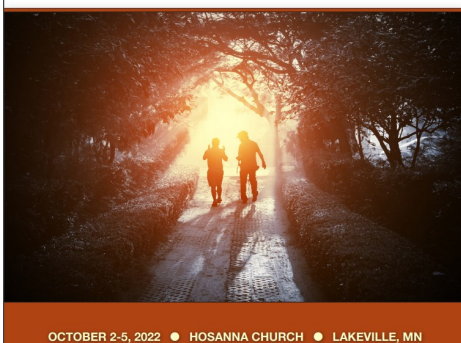
## Miss a Sunday? [www.firstlutheranpillager.net](http://www.firstlutheranpillager.net)

You can find video recordings online of the sermons. You can  
also find out what is happening at our church by visiting our  
home page and scrolling down to events happening or go to our  
calendar.



Thank You to Everyone who donated  
items, came to set up, volunteered  
during the Garage Sale, and purchased  
items. Special thanks to Rosie for  
organizing it all!

We raised \$2,800  
this year which will go  
towards new tables  
and chairs.



OCTOBER 2-5, 2022 • HOSANNA CHURCH • LAKEVILLE, MN

We are looking for  
1-2 people to join  
Pastor Matthew. All  
expenses will be paid.

LCMC  
Gathering  
October  
2nd-5th

Please sign up to bring  
a baked good to share  
for fellowship after  
service.

Sign up sheet is in the  
kitchen.



Bible Study starting this Fall!!!

Wednesday Nights from 6:30pm-8:00pm



Sign up sheets  
in the back  
if interested





## June Council Minutes continued

**Staff Updates:** Discussed in Call/Negotiation

**New Business:** Nothing to report

**Old Business:** Follow up on the church credit card. Doing research on church siding and will also try to find someone that might be able to repair and freshen up the sign.

Next Meeting will be July 12, 2022

**Adjournment:** motion by Shirley, second by Mike--Lord's Prayer

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Thomas Kavanaugh, Secretary*



# Gene Roger Pilgrim

Thursday October 16, 1958 - Tuesday July 19, 2022

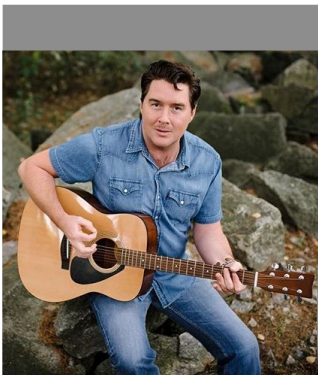
First Lutheran would like to extend their condolences to the Gene Pilgrim family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Gene Roger Pilgrim, age 63, of Pillager, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. Gene was born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin to Glenn & Louise (Williams) Pilgrim. He married the love of

his life, Marla Wolterman, and together they enjoyed years of happiness and travels. Gene worked at a diesel mechanic, retiring from Tyson Trucking, as the director of maintenance.

Gene was an easy going, kind soul who would help anyone out. He enjoyed being outdoors, especially traveling, camping and fishing. Gene loved anything engine related: collecting, displaying, or trouble shooting problems. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Marla; sister, Gail (Ray) Karls; brother, Gary (Kim) Pilgrim; sister-in-law, Jan (Chris) Koop; nephew, Jason (Clarissa Pilgrim); nieces: Angela Henning, Amanda (Jesse) Brock, Megan Koop and Brittney Koop; great nieces: Haley and Justine Brock.

Gene is preceded in death by his parents, Glenn & Louise and an infant brother, Michael Lee Pilgrim. Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at 11 AM at All Saints Catholic Church. Visitation will be one hour prior to mass.



### Night of Worship with Neil Dover

At First Lutheran Pillager  
Church

August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

A free will offering will be taken  
to cover costs.

A special thanks to Rosie and Bob Harmsen for hosting the Neil Dover concert at the VFW in Randall on Wednesday evening. We all had such a fantastic time. Thanks to all who attended. Couldn't make it?? No problem, Neil is coming to our church to sing on Sunday, August 7, at 6:30 pm. Please plan to join us, You will be happy that you did!

# Laughs and Giggles!

Charlie Chaplin died at the age of 88. He left four messages for us: (1) Nothing in this world is permanent, including our problems.

(2) Walking in the rain is one of my favorite activities since no one can see my tears.

(3) The day we don't laugh is the most wasted day of our lives.

(4) The world's six top doctors are...

1. The Sun,
2. Take a break,
3. Physical activity,
4. Modesty,
5. Self-esteem
6. You have good friends.

Keep these tips in mind throughout your life and you'll be able to live a healthy lifestyle...

When you look at the moon, you see God's beauty.

When you see the sun, you realize God's strength.

When you look in the mirror, you see God's most beautiful creation. So take my word for it.

We're all just tourists here; God is our travel agent who has already planned our routes, reservations, and destinations; trust him and have fun.

Life is nothing more than an adventure! As a result, enjoy today to the utmost!

It's possible that tomorrow will never come.

\*\*\*\*\*

Have you ever been guilty of looking at some-one your own age and thinking, "Surely I can't look that old?" You'll love this one. My name is Alice Smith and I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his DDS diploma, which showed his full name. Suddenly, I remembered a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy with the same name who had been in my high school class some 40-odd years ago. Could this be the same guy that I had a secret crush on, way back then?

Upon seeing him, however, I quickly dis-carded any such thought. This balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been my classmate.

After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended Morgan Park High School. "Yes. Yes, I did. I'm a Mustang," he beamed with pride.

"When did you graduate?" I asked.

He answered, "In 1959. Why do you ask?"

"You were in my class!" I exclaimed.

He looked at me closely. Then, that ugly, old, bald wrinkled, fat, gray, decrepit son-of-a-gun asked, "What did you teach?"