

First Edition

Thoughts From Pastor Matt!



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer now that it is officially here. Maybe you are getting some outdoor projects done. Maybe you are trying to relax and spend more time doing some hobbies you love. Whatever it is you have planned that you are going to do this summer, the church has also made some plans that we would like to do this summer as well. Since I have your attention and you have made it this far in my article, let me tell you about some of these exciting plans.

First, the month of July is that time of year we like to cram in much of our activities. With the Fourth of July and celebrating our country's freedom, I hope that that holiday will bring to your mind the men and women who fought for that freedom and bring an appreciation to you for their sacrifice. Perhaps that holiday will also bring to your mind the freedom you have in Christ and the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for you.

Once you have settled down from that holiday celebration, head on over to the church for our annual rummage sale the week after. July 11th and 12th will be the days where you can find some treasures of your very own. All the proceeds from that event will go straight into our building project fund which will be used for new siding for the church. If you have seen the siding recently, then you will know how desperately it needs to be replaced.

Now if you did not happen to find any treasures during the rummage sale, I know something that may cheer you up. Come into town on Saturday, July 13th for the Pillager Parade. First Lutheran Church will have a float again this year. The theme of the float has been classified where even the pastor does not know too many details, but the information I was able to find out is that there will be some from the church dressed as "Life Savers." So come to that event and wave to those who are representing our church. You may even get tossed a prize or two!

As we move into August, our big event for the summer is our Family FUNdraiser. This is going to be our great push to receive those funds to do the siding project. There is going to be food, games, music, prizes, and much more for the whole family to enjoy. Mark your calendars for August 17th from 10 am-4 pm. Not only will this be a fun event, but all the proceeds are going for a good cause because, like I mentioned before, our siding is getting pretty sad to look at.

This summer will be over before you know it, so enjoy the most of it as you can. The upcoming events at church are here to help you do just that. And stop in for a Sunday service. Perhaps a time of worship and fellowship will be the perfect way for you to enjoy your summer. For all those who made it this far in my article: May you be blessed immeasurably. Have a great summer and we will see you at church!

Pastor Matthew

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MEETING MINUTES

Opening and Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday May 14, 2024.

Present: Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Julie Hofius, Dan Jacobson, Shirley Smith, Griff Eisel, Diane Wright, Nicole Buersken. **Absent:** Lynda Converse (Connie)

Opening Prayer: Pastor Matt

Pastor's Report: First communion was held on May 5 and received positive feedback from the congregation. Participants made their own chalice and helped served communion. Graduation Sunday will feature two graduates, Carter Gustason and Anthony Doucette. Pastor is considering holding a new member class and will make an announcement in May to see how much interest there is. Reported a few visits with Ken Kelling and would like to start bringing communion to Darlene Zabel. Pastor had 26 connections and 30 visits since the last council meeting. Treasurer's Report: Julie sent \$250 to Eagle's Nest from the coffee fellowship funds, and paid 779.40 to GoDaddy for 5 years of web hosting for the church's website. The building fund received \$3050 from donors. Motion to approve the report made by Dan and seconded by Nicole, before being approved by unanimous consent.

Secretary's Report: Council reviewed the minutes from the April meeting. Motion to approve the minutes made by Nicole and seconded by Griff.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Worship/Music:

Congregation and Community Outreach: (Lynda)– Julie reported that more than 40 people attended the spring tea and that the work put into the event by Wendy Jacobson and other volunteers was appreciated.

Hospitality: (Diane)

Sanctuary: (Shirley) – Shirley asked whether the furniture in the office and music room could be moved to the basement. Council members will also look into the possibility of selling some of the furniture on the garage sale.

Facilities / Building: (Nicole) –

- Sunday School staff were able to get more divider panels to use for sectioning off the Sunday School room downstairs.
- Audio from the Sunday service has been successfully brought into the nursery using a phone app that connects to the AV system. There was discussion about getting a dedicated speaker for the nursery, either as a tablet or smart speaker. Council looking into available technology.
- Building committee meeting update – Committee met on April 27 with six attendees. Marlene talked about the carnival fundraiser planned for August 17. The festival would feature bands, silent auction or raffle and a bake sale and games. The next meeting is planned for May 26 after church services.
- Griff received new siding quotes from Steve Roberts at Randall Lumber for steel and LP siding. Griff will be reaching out to contractors to get new labor quotes and confirm they have worker's compensation insurance. The committee will need to decide on the type and color of siding as the planning progresses.

Staffing: (Nicole/Julie) – The council is continuing a search for a financial secretary, with Julie filling in during the vacancy. One potential candidate has not returned our messages as of the meeting. Julie called Quickbooks customer service and found out the license number for Quickbooks was under our former financial secretary's account. She will move forward with getting a separate license for the church by the end of May.

Missions:(Julie) – each month we are asking for donations in the narthex and have funds available for clothing. Committee is planning to participate in the family fun fest at the Pillager school and the Halloween outreach this fall. A fall dinner has been discussed, but no decisions have been made.

Old Business: Regarding renewing our insurance contract for the church and parsonage, Julie requested the current insurer Church Mutual rebid our renewal premium with a lower building limit of \$1.8 million for the church with a \$5k deductible and no blanket coverage. This was done to help reduce the proposed 40% increase to \$10,622 from the original quote of \$12,300, which had a \$2500 deductible and blanket coverage. In a follow up meeting, the council voted 5-2 to approve the revised quote, with Julie and Nicole voting against in favor of the original quote. The church will move forward paying the premium on a monthly basis and continue investigated insurance options for next year. A competing quote from Northstar insurance was received, but included only an 80 percent payout on claims with no roof coverage for the parsonage.

New Business: Pastor received a call from CTC letting us know we have codes for long distance on our phone. We will retain the codes if needed in the future to make calls on the church line.

Adjourn & Closing: Shirley made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Nicole.

First Lutheran Church Pillager Meeting Minutes

Opening and Call to Order: 6:30 PM on June 11, 2024.

Present: Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Griff Eisel, Julie Hofius, Shirley Smith, Diane Wright, Lynda Converse, Nicole Buersken, Sherri Holm. **Absent:** Dan Jacobson, Connie Vieths.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Matthew reported that the third grade class from Pillager school made a big thank you card for the donation made to the school so the students could take field trips. The card will be put out for the congregation to view. He also said that a financial person from the LCMC reached out and is asking for the church's certification of good standing for its 501(3) non-profit filing.

Treasurer's Report: Julie Hofius reported notable items for the month: \$750 was paid for the church's annual QuickBooks license, \$335 was donated to the kitchen fund (benevolence fund) and \$150 of that has been used so far for a new coffee filter that was urgently needed, and a \$100 donation was given for the mission fund. A motion to accept the report was made by Nicole Buersken, seconded by Lynda Converse, and motion was accepted. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Shirley Smith, seconded by Griff Eisel, and motion was accepted.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Worship/Music: Pastor Matthew said that Wendy Jacobson has given out card slips so the congregation can make song selections, and she will use these to plan music for during services.

Church Community Communication Committee: Lynda said they will be planning for a CCC meeting in September, date to be determined.

□ **Hospitality:** Diane Wright said that the donations for the garage sale will be accepted at the end of June and the sale will be 7 AM to 6 PM Thursday and Friday, July 11th and 12th . Help will be needed the Wednesday before to help set up. She also said the costumes have been completed for the parade, which will be the following day Saturday, July 13th. Volunteers will be needed to help decorate the float. Bob Harmsen will be pulling the trailer that will be used as the float. Rosie Harmsen has tons of beads that will be handed out during the parade.

□ **Sanctuary:** Nothing to report.

□ **Facilities/Building:** Shirley said that weed killer spray is needed for the weeds growing outside. Pastor Matthew said he thinks there is some in the parsonage/garage and will follow up with her on it. Lynda said the outside of the church is covered in cobwebs and will be making an announcement after church to ask for volunteers to help brush the siding clean. Griff reported that he's been working on pulling together the siding materials quote and labor installation quotes. Steve Roberts from Randall Building Supply gave him the materials quotes: \$21,174.20 for steel siding or \$22,381 for LP siding. Griff also said he's gotten labor quotes back from Richards' Siding: \$23,382 for steel, almost double that for LP. He's also gotten labor quotes from Evan VanVickle: \$36,500 for steel and \$42,500 for LP. He's waiting on a third quote from Triple B Builders.

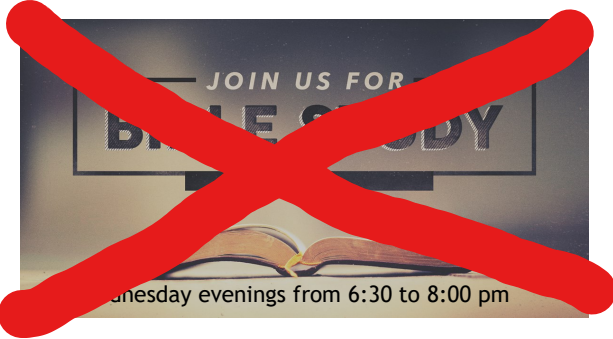
□ **Staffing:** Still looking for a financial secretary. Nothing new to report.

□ **Missions:** Griff said, on behalf of Marliiss Eisel, that the next missions meeting will be June 24th where they will be working to finalize the parade float plans. Donations are coming in for Operation Christmas Child, and that missions project will continue throughout the year with items needed being updated every month.

Old Business: Julie said the insurance renewal is underway and that she has made the first payment.

New Business: Pastor Matthew said the letters are no longer staying on the white sign out in front of the church and the flagpole that bent over last year needs to be dug up. He suggested a new sign with a case to protect it from the weather. He ask that everyone keep an eye out for a replacement. Sherri Holm came to the council meeting to ask that council send out a survey asking people for feedback ("What do you dislike? What do you like? What would you like to see changed?") as there are quite a few unhappy people and people have been leaving the church. Council agreed that it would be good to hear feedback and discussed sending out a paper survey and possibly doing an online option as well. Due to the large church events like the garage sale, parade, and Family FUNdraiser, they decided to send out the survey in September. Council reviewed the notes Marlene Lindeman had prepared for the Family FUNdraiser for the church siding. Cindy Walgren will be looking for stuffed animals and small games to be used as game prizes. Two more grills and propane will be needed to grill hamburgers and brats. Nicole will be making an announcement after church asking for baskets/items to be donated for the raffle.

Adjournment: Shirley made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Nicole, and motion passed. Minutes respectfully submitted by Buersken, Vice President.



*Jenny Kavanaugh-
Congratulations on
your retirement!*

Congratulations to Chef Tom Kavanaugh and the Pillager ProStart Team for placing 3rd overall in the culinary competition out of 18 teams this Spring at the NPSI ProStart Invitational in Saint Paul. These wonderful students also won the "Best Teamwork" award!



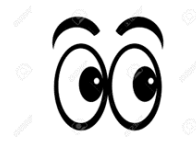
There will be a container in the Narthex for you to drop of these items!

If you have any questions, please contact Marliss at 952-261-9069.

July 2024



- Blunt end scissors (no pointed end)
- Erasers
- Small Pencil sharpeners
- Small notebooks
- Index cards



We are looking for

Clean, new stuffed animals and small games to be used for prizes.

Items to be raffled off. If baskets are donated please list items included in the basket and total value. Please put baskets in clear cellophane bag.

Please consider volunteering! We can use all of you to help! Lots of jobs to do before, during, and after this event!!!

Come to the Pillager Fair Parade on Saturday, July 13 and see our Church Float!!!!

The theme is going to be great this year! Thanks to all who are participating in this



There will be a container in the Narthex for you to drop of these items!

If you have any questions, please contact Marliss at 952-261-9069.

August 2024



- Flip Flops
- Sunglasses
- Colored Pencils
- Soft sided pencil cases



Thank you to Griff and Marliss for sweeping down the cobwebs, etc on the outdoor siding!!!!



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THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Sharon Goss (Leukemia)
Amber Baerg
(Chris & Julie Warren's daughter)
JoAnn Artmann
(Karen Fundine's daughter)
Gail Massie (Ken Kelling's daughter)
Rex Manchesian
(Rita Peterson's brother)

Roxann Kaiser (cancer)
Curt Thering (Wendy's Dad)
LeRoy Smith
Jill Clark

Ryhley Mattison (Marlene's great
granddaughter)

ASSISTING LIVING/NURSING HOME

Good Samaritan Ken Kelling,

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.

Church Council

President: Julie Hofius (218) 820-4259
Vice President: Nicole Buersken (320) 232-7439
Secretary: Dan Jacobson (218) 746-4167

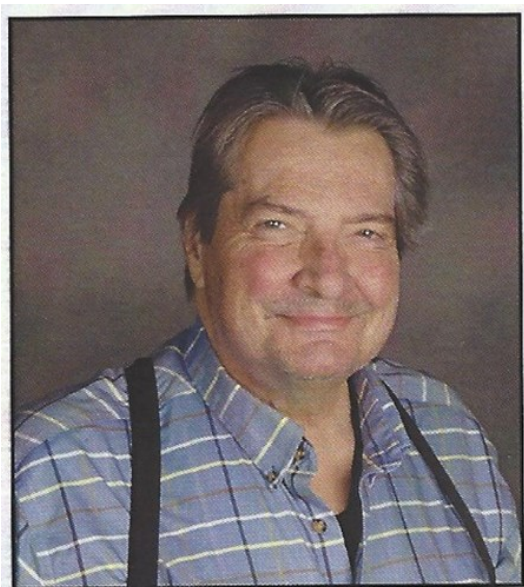
Shirley Smith (218) 838-1483
Lynda Converse (218) 821-8016
Diane Wright (218) 851-8964
Griff Eisel (952) 261-9069

We are looking for:

Financial Secretary

Please spread the word!

In loving memory of John Michael Gilronan



John Michael Gilronan, age 72, was pronounced deceased Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at his home in Pillager, Minnesota. He passed through natural causes and entered Eternity with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

John was born on April 24, 1951, to Michael Thomas Gilronan and Katherine Emma Floren Gilronan in Kerkhoven, Minnesota. He was raised in Alexandria, Minnesota, graduated from Jefferson High School in 1969, and then attended the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Highly skilled in the building trades, John could do it all – carpentry, woodworking, electrical work, and plumbing – and his talents brought a host of opportunities. He built fish-processing plants in Alaska, Samoa, and Central America, and he spent years doing artisan-quality home renovations in both the Pacific Northwest and Minnesota. He often took on projects for friends who needed help and was known for working tirelessly, staying at it until the job was completed. Generous with his gifts and his time, he was embraced and appreciated wherever he went.

John's travels gave him a wide lens on human experience. He read comprehensively and enjoyed talking about books, movies, and the ideas behind them. A lively conversationalist with a sly sense of humor, he was also a lover of music and a fine cook.

He spent his last years in Pillager, Minnesota, where he was a member of First Lutheran Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mike and Katherine, and his sister, Ann Marie Loose.

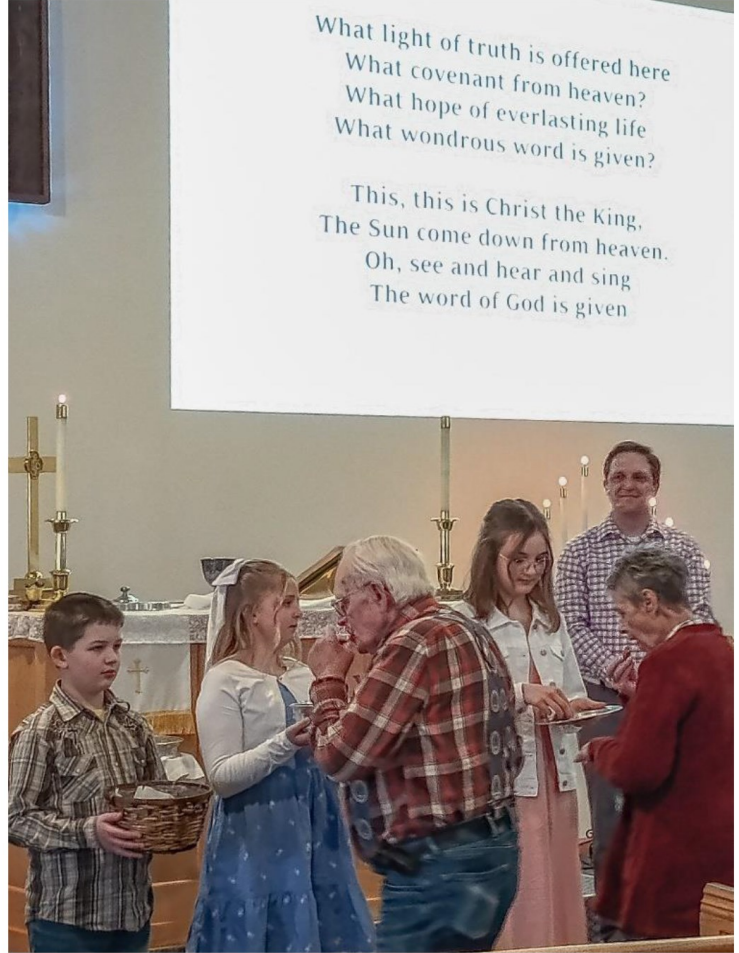
Thank you to Seminarian Jeremy Baty who led worship Sunday, June 2nd while Pastor Matthew was on vacation.



Thank you to Pastor Jim Tetlie for leading our worship services on May 12 while Pastor Matthew was on vacation.



First Communion on Sunday, May 5, 2024



Following three evening instructional classes in April, Pastor Matthew celebrated First Communion on Sunday, May 5th with Kalli Laughery, Harper Baerg and Jack Knutson. The three received the Eucharist and then distributed Holy Communion to the congregation. A cake celebration followed during fellowship.

Graduate Sunday



During worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, we presented our high-school graduates Anthony Doucette and Carter Gustason with quilts and a blessing to cover them in prayer for the next chapter of their faith journey. A pancake breakfast followed.

This Little Light of Mine

The Sunday School class led the congregation in song on Holy Trinity Sunday, May 26th, before their last lesson of the 2023-2024 session. Happy Summer!





The Quilters' Patch

First Lutheran Pillager quilters wrapped up their winter-spring session donating two dozen quilts. Of those, 14 went to the St. Cloud VA Medical Center where volunteers there distribute 100 quilts each month to veterans in need. The quilters also dispersed six quilts to the local assisted living and four quilts to individuals in need. The quilters continue to meet this summer, 12-3 p.m. each Tuesday in the fellowship area. Come join the fun! No experience necessary. Fabric and bedsheet donations welcome!



Church Basement Sale

Mark your calendars 7a.m. – 6 p.m., Thursday & Friday, July 11 & 12!

Donations accepted starting, Sunday, June 30th.

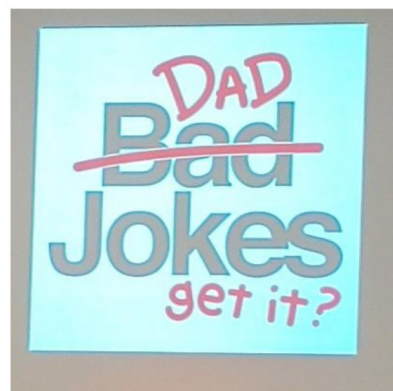
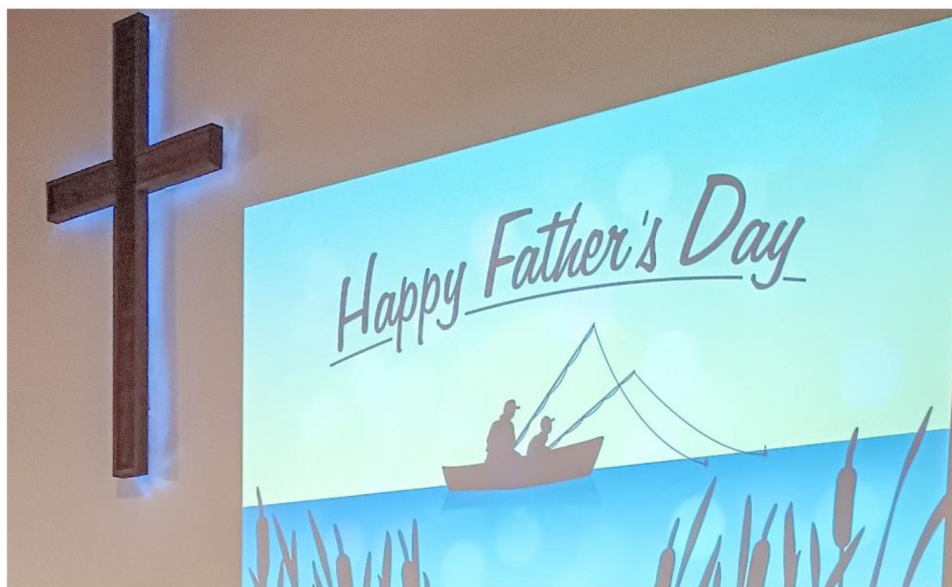
No adult clothing, please!

Freewill offering

All proceeds go to the building fund for the church siding project.

Please come on Wednesday to help set up for our Garage Sale!!

Celebrating Father's Day on Sunday, June 16th



A Taste of Pastor Matthew's Bad Dad Jokes

Growing up I had a pet cat. It was a yellow cat... so I named the cat "Butter." Unfortunately, the cat got sick and died. So, my parents took me to get a new cat and asked, "What are you going to name this one." And I said, "I can't believe it's not Butter."



Music Requests?

It's summertime. We need your help with songs appropriate for Sunday worship. Please note the song title and number from the hymn book. Or if requesting something outside the hymn book, please write the song title and its author or artist to ensure we have the right one. We'll do our best to fit in these requests during our worship planning. Drop your notecard in the offering basket or give it to Pastor Matthew or Wendy Jacobson. Maybe you'll see Kirstie and Pastor playing your request as they did here on Father's Day with the medley, "I'll Fly Away – I Saw the Light." Or maybe, you'd like to solo?! Let us know. 😊

July 2024 FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	Independence Day			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	SETUP FOR GARAGE SALE	7 AM – 6 PM Garage Sale	7 AM – 6 PM Garage Sale	10 am Pillager Fair Parade
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg				
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg				

August 2024 FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:00 - 8:30 Bible Study			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:00 - 8:30 Bible Study			Family FUNdraiser 10 am - 4 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:00 - 8:30 Bible Study			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:00 - 8:30 Bible Study			