

First Edition



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST LUTHERAN JULY 2020

The year 2020 has been one roller coaster of a year, and we are only half way through! I started the year off with a sermon series called 20/20 Vision, but I think it is safe to say that none of us saw this pandemic coming. Then to top it all off, we see an unfortunate event take place from a recording on a person's cell phone and the whole world gets turned upside down. Riots and protests occur causing anger, destruction, and division between all groups of people.

When will things get back to normal? Will they ever get back to normal? I think we are living during a time where we are going to see a new normal take place. I cannot envision what our world will look like six months from now, or even a year from now. What will shopping look like? How will restaurants operate? And will we ever be able to shake hands again at church? But what I can say is that God is still on the throne and He still has everything in control. It may look like everything is in disorder, but take heart! God has overcome the world. Nothing that is happening right now came as a surprise to God. Is it what God wants to happen? Probably not, but I know He will work something good out through all of this.

So here is what we can do during all this at First Lutheran Pillager. We can continue to seek Jesus together. If that means wearing a mask and staying six feet apart during worship, then we will do it joyfully. As much as I hate doing it, it is only done for the protection of others and not my own personal preference. Perhaps this virus is getting blown out of proportion, but that does not mean I want to put any of you at risk of catching it. Even if that risk is a low percentage.

There is one thing I want to confess to all who are reading this. When the governor suggested no singing at church, I felt it was a personal attack against the church. Singing worship songs is such a passion of mine that I feel it needs to be included in the Sunday service. I respect the suggestion of not singing and know why it was suggested, but if the Holy Spirit moves you to sing, then who am I to stop Him? You can sing praise to Jesus. This month we celebrate our freedom as a country, how much more should we celebrate our freedom in Christ? And a big part of that celebration is singing songs of praise. If you still feel uncomfortable singing because of spreading the virus, then it is okay to listen and sing in your heart. I just know that if the Holy Spirit moves you to sing, then that should happen even with the opposite suggestion from our governmental leaders.

So this month, with everything seeming to change around us, we can still seek and praise God. That freedom will never change. Our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So let us praise our unchanging God together as a community of believers and not lose sight of Him. Let us keep our 20/20 vision focused on Jesus and yes, we will see change, but it will be change that expands God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. Have a happy Fourth of July, and a blessed month.

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
Dan Youngbloom
Brady Fiest (motorcycle accident)
Beverly Williams (cancer)
(Sister-in-law Glen Pilgrim)
Sheila Pohle (cancer)
(Glen Pilgrim's niece)
JoAnn Artmann
(Karen Fundine's daughter)

Bonnie Anderson
Darlene Zabel
Tim Litsheim (cancer) Dan Long's nephew
Rita Peterson (cancer)
Sammie Borgstrom
(motorcycle accident)
Adam Long (grandson of Dan Long)
Amber Baerg (Chris & Julie Warren'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



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.

PEOPLE IN NURSING AND ASSISTED LIVING HOME

Riverside Assisted Living

Irene Pietz
Barb Reimer
Ken Kelling

Harmony House/Brainerd

Char Brattlund

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 Oslowski
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

WELCOME BACK!!! We missed you!

Some changes in our Worship Service

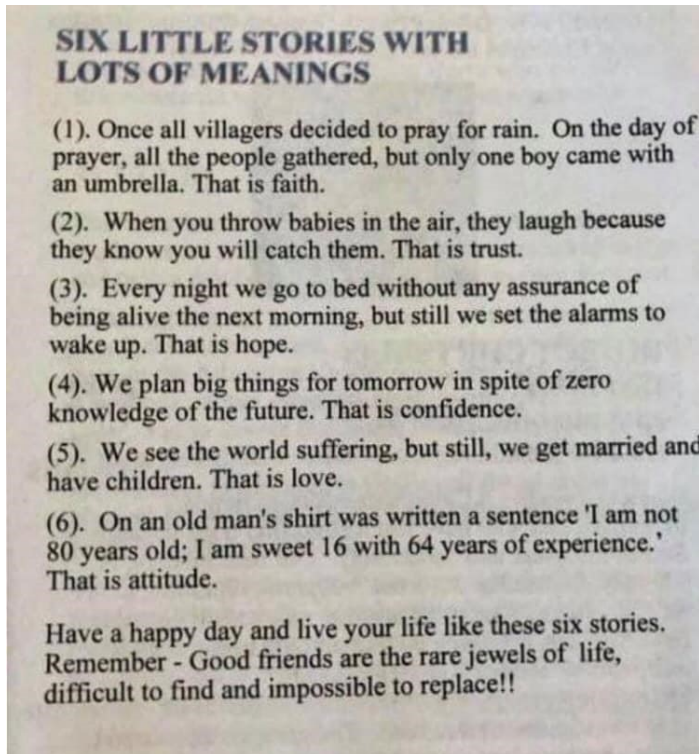
Use of a mask is encouraged. Hand sanitizer is available.

We will wave at each other rather than shake hands

We will not be singing. We will have instrumental music or recite a few of the short songs. Singing will be done in your hearts or you can hum the melody. Please think of this as a time of meditative singing and focusing on the Lord and the lyrics

Please use the 6-foot social distancing when you come up for communion. Pastor will be using gloves for serving the bread and the cups of wine will be separated for easier handling.

Sad to say, there will be no Fellowship after service, but feel free to use social distancing out in the parking lot.



We are planning to hold our Annual Garage Sale on August 13, 14, 15. Please donate those treasures and if you can help set up, work the sale, or help with the cleanup after the sale, it would be so much appreciated. Please see Rosie Harmsen.



Thanks to Pastor Matt for the video sermons and the Wednesday night devotions during the Covid 19 Virus. Thanks to Mary for providing us with piano music and singing during this time. Music is good for the soul!!

Before he died, a father said to his son; "Here is a watch that your grandfather gave me. It is almost 200 years old. Before I give it to you, go to the jewelry store downtown. Tell them that I want to sell it, and see how much they offer you."



The son went to the jewelry store, came back to his father, and said; "They offered \$150.00 because it's so old."

The father said; "Go to the pawn shop."

The son went to the pawn shop, came back to his father, and said; "The pawn shop offered \$10.00 because it looks so worn."

The father asked his son to go to the museum and show them the watch.

He went to the museum, came back, and said to his father; "The curator offered \$500,000.00 for this very rare piece to be included in their precious antique collections."

The father said; "I wanted to let you know that the right place values you in the right way. Don't find yourself in the wrong place and get angry if you are not valued. Those that know your value are those who appreciate you, don't stay in a place where nobody sees your value."

Know your worth.

First Lutheran's "Graduate Sunday" Quilt Presentation

Congratulations to the Pillager High School Class of 2020



Eric Klein

Summer Plans: Working for Brainerd Public Utilities on an internship that will lead into his studies for the fall.

Future Plans: Studying water environment technologies at St. Cloud Technical College.

Parents: Joe & Rosie Klein



Grace Nagel

Summer Plans: Hanging out. Celebrating her Associate in Arts degree from Central Lakes College too!

Future Plans: Studying communication sciences and disorders at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls to become a speech pathologist.

Parents: Chris & Sara Nagel



Ty Swenson

Summer Plans: Working for Pillsbury Forest Hardwoods Inc.

Future Plans: Studying accounting at Bemidji State University.

Parents: Brad & Britta Swenson



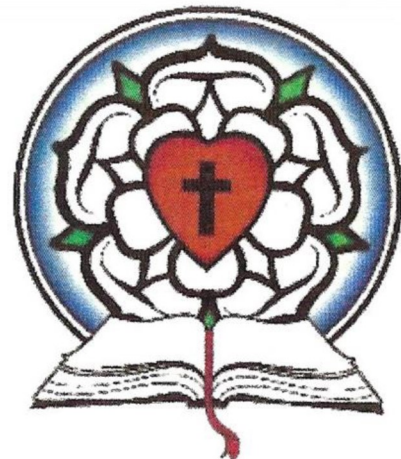
Kassie Gardner

Summer Plans: Getting a job.

Future Plans: Studying at Central Lakes College to finish her Associate in Arts degree and explore career options.

Parents: Matt & Kandi Gardner

We, your FLP church family, present you with this quilt to cover you with prayer and love as you begin a new chapter in your faith journey. May God bless each one of you now and always!





Jack Bentson

Summer Plans: Hanging out.
Doing small jobs.

Future Plans: Pursuing a nursing degree at Bemidji State University.

Parents: Jim & Joslyn Bentson



Erik Peterson

Summer Plans: Working at the Quarter Deck Resort.

Future Plans: Studying criminal justice and playing football at Valley City State University in North Dakota.

Parents: Paul & Nancy Peterson



Each year we honor those who have served our congregation and/or been confirmed at First Lutheran Pillager. This year due to COVID-19, quilts and blessings were presented at the graduates' homes!



Tucker Peterson

Summer Plans: Training for football 4 days/ week at TNT Academy in Minneapolis and working with his dad pouring cement.

Future Plans: Playing football at Bemidji State University while pursuing a construction management degree.

Parents: Shannon & Leigh Peterson



Tanner Kruchten

Summer Plans: Working for the Van Vickle's.

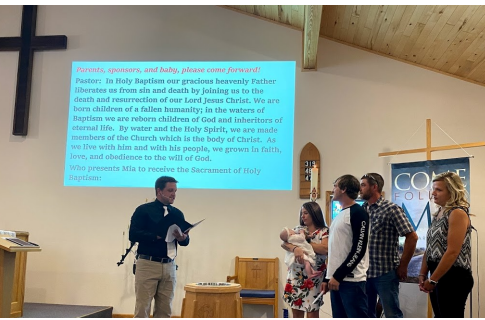
Future Plans: Attending M State's electrical lineworker program in Wadena.

Parents: Mike & Jami Kruchten

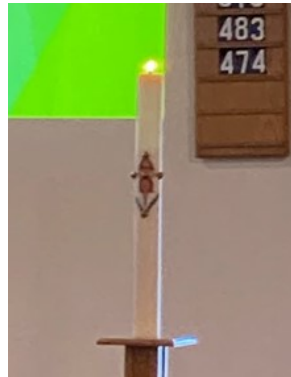


"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you... plans to give you hope." Joshua 29:11

Sacrament of Holy Baptism on June 28, 2020



**HOLY BAPTISM OF
Mia Marie Winter**



Mia's Parents and Sponsors!!

**Parents: Candace Włinski
Jeffrey Winter**

**Sponsors: Larissa Petron
Derek Włinski**



gation: We welcome you into
ive you as a fellow member
child of the same heavenly Fa
in the kingdom of God.



FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER COUNCIL

Council Meeting Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Called to Order at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Tom Kavanaugh, Shirley Smith,
Julie Hofius, Mike Bellos,
Don Osowski, Julie Warren,
Pastor Matthew Sundquist

Opening Prayer given by Pastor Matthew Sundquist

Absent: Bob Harmsen, Tammie Barnett

Introductions were made with new members on the Council.

Pastor's Report

The Christmas service went very well. Confirmation is also going very well. It is going so well; students would like to have a youth group as well. Cookies were delivered with the youth participating. He has had a few visits at the nursing home and with a new couple. His classes have resumed, he was back to school January 9th. The baptism on Sunday went well.

Treasurer's Report

Tammie Barnett was not present, but left the Treasurer's report for the Council. All 2019 taxes have been filed along with W-2's and 1099's. The total amount donated to the school from the giving tree was \$485. A motion was made by Tom Kavanaugh to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Julie Hofius. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report from December was reviewed. A motion was made by Tom Kavanaugh to accept the Secretary's report, seconded by Don Osowski. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- *Worship/Music: Will try to have numbers regarding music equipment upgrades/changes for the February meeting.
- *Youth/Family: No report.
- *Communication: No report.
- *Hospitality: Everything is going well.
- *Sanctuary: No report.
- *Facilities/Building: New door knob is on the wine closet.
- *Nominating Committee: No report.
- *Negotiating/Call Committee: No report.
- *Welcome/Visitor's Committee: Julie Hofius brought in a welcome packet to review.
- *Missions: Discussed have a missions committee.

Old Business:

Sealed bids for the propane tank were opened. The bids were \$826, \$800, \$501, and \$750. The bid for \$826 was accepted (Norman Rohl). Shirley Smith will contact him.
Tammie Barnett left information for lighted Exit signs. Decision was tabled until the next meeting.
Thermostats were reset for days no one is in the church.
Mike Bellos will contact Brian Vieths regarding clearing the sidewalks.

New Business:

The church has individuals who would like to donate a bench in memory of a family member. A brief discussion was held to determine if the Council felt it was a good idea. The Council will take time in the Spring to look at possible locations to see if benches would fit in. Tabled until Spring.

Election of Officers for 2020:

Tom Kavanaugh nominated Don Osowski for President. Don accepted the nomination. All voted in favor.
Don Osowski nominated Tom Kavanaugh for Vice President. Tom accepted the nomination. All voted in favor.
Shirley Smith nominated Julie Warren for Secretary. Julie accepted the nomination. All voted in favor.

Adjourned: A motion was made by Julie Warren to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Bellos. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER COUNCIL
Council Meeting Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Julie Hofius, Tom Kavanaugh,
Shirley Smith, Mike Bellos,
Julie Warren, Tammie Barnett
Pastor Matthew Sundquist

Opening Prayer given by Pastor Matthew Sundquist

Absent: Bob Harmsen, Don Osowski

Pastor's Report

Pastor has visited the assisted living home, and had a family visit. Getting ready for Ash Wednesday service and Lent. He is hoping to have some of the confirmand students participate in the Lenten services. He may have to have surgery on his shoulder again.

Treasurer's Report

Reviewed Treasurer's report for January 2020. We need a few more keys for the church to hand out. Tammie will talk to Connie to determine how many more are needed. Motion by Shirley Smith to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Mike Bellos. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

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

Committee Reports

- *Worship/Music: Will be getting prices for updated music equipment upgrades/changes for the March meeting.
- *Youth/Family: No report.
- *Communication: No report.
- *Hospitality: Everything is going well.
- *Sanctuary: No report.
- *Facilities/Building: Questions regarding who takes care of the building and makes repairs. Also, questions regarding who would clean sidewalks if Brian Vieths is out of town. Mike Bellos said he would fill in if he knows Brian is out of town and he is in town.
- *Nominating Committee: No report.
- *Negotiating/Call Committee: No report.
- *Welcome/Visitor's Committee: No report.
- *Missions: Will look into a missions committee in the spring.

Old Business:

We have lighted Exit signs up. Will get a couple of unlighted Exit signs to put up. Tom Kavanaugh will purchase them.

New Business:

Discussed an updated church directory. Will put a slide in the power point to see who may be interested in taking photos or might want to be on the committee.

Will be having soup and sandwiches for Lenten services. Council will serve on April 1st.

Adjourned: A motion was made by Shirley Smith to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Bellos. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m **Closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

**Please note that Darlene Zabel's address has
changed. It is 815 Ivy Street, Brainerd, MN 56401**

FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER COUNCIL
Council Meeting Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Called to Order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Guest: Myra Horner

Opening Prayer given by Pastor Matthew Sundquist

Absent: Bob Harmsen, Don Oslowski,
Tammie Barnett

Guest

Myra Horner presented a proposal for taking pictures for the church directory. She is able to take checks, credit cards, and PayPal.

Pastor's Report

Pastor had seven visits and a home visit. Trying a new service for Lenten services. It is going well so far. Will be serving first communion to students. Has a baptism on March 29th. Pastor Matthew is planning on vacation on May 10th and June 7th.

Treasurer's Report

Reviewed Treasurer's report for February 2020. Motion by Shirley Smith to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Mike Bellos. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

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

Committee Reports

*Worship/Music: Company that installed our current sound system will come to review and present ideas and prices for upgrading.

*Youth/Family: No report.

*Communication: No report.

*Hospitality: No report.

*Sanctuary: No report.

*Facilities/Building: No report.

*Nominating Committee: No report.

*Negotiating/Call Committee: No report.

*Welcome/Visitor's Committee: Contemplating welcome folders.

*Missions: No report. Beginning April 1st will put a slide in the service program to ask for anyone interested in being on a missions committee.

Old Business:

Church directory will be tabled until our "snowbirds" return. Then will begin the process of organizing a committee.

New Business:

A family has purchased a memorial bench to place at the church. When the weather gets nice, council will look at the property to determine placing of memorials

Adjourned: A motion was made by Shirley Smith to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Julie Hofius. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER COUNCIL
Council Meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Called to Order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Don Osowski, Bob Harmsen,
Tom Kavanaugh, Julie Hofius,
Shirley Smith, Julie Warren,
Pastor Matthew, Sundquist
Tammie Barnett
Guests: Kim and Gary Pilgrim

Opening Prayer given by Pastor Matthew Sundquist

Absent: Mike Bellos

Guests

Kim Pilgrim was wondering if she should continue cleaning the church as it has been closed. After discussion, Julie Warren made a motion to have Kim clean at half the time (1.5 hrs.) every week after AA meets at the church.

Pastor's Report

No visits due to the COVID 19 this last month. Sermons are online for now. When asked about the video being online on the website and not just Facebook, Pastor said the videos are you tube videos and you need a certain number of followers before it can be linked to a website. The baptism has been postponed for now.

Treasurer's Report

Reviewed Treasurer's report for March 2020. Don Osowski mentioned the congregation has been sending in donations even though the church has been closed due to COVID 19. Thank you to Connie Vieths and Pastor Matthew for getting a letter out to the congregation requesting members to please continue to send in donations. Pastor Matthew questioned about Social Security and Medicare not being taken out of his check. Tammie said Pastors have been exempt from Social Security and Medicare. Motion by Shirley Smith to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Tom Kavanaugh. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report from March 2020 was reviewed. A motion was made by Bob Harmsen to waive the reading of the minutes, seconded by Julie Hofius. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- *Worship/Music: Company that installed our current sound system has been very busy. They are coming out this Friday to review and present ideas and prices for upgrading.
- *Youth/Family: Possibly have more activities this summer for youth as they have missed out with church not being in session.
- *Communication: A letter went out to the congregation reminding them the church is still in need of offerings even though church is not meeting due to COVID 19. Thank you to Connie Vieths and Pastor Matthew.
- *Hospitality: No report.
- *Sanctuary: No report.
- *Facilities/Building: As the Governor has extended the Stay at Home Order, we will not be having church services at least through May 10th. We will be having our regular council meeting on May 12th. Hopefully we will know more by then to determine when we might be able to hold services again.
- *Nominating Committee: No report.
- *Negotiating/Call Committee: No report.
- *Welcome/Visitor's Committee: No report.
- *Missions: No report.

New Business:

Church directory will be tabled until we can hold services again and organize a committee.

New Business:

Received a letter from the Minnesota Dept. of Health requesting permission to drill some test holes on the property to check for PCE's. Don Osowski will contact them. A discussion was held regarding how to communicate with church members, especially those who may not have internet access. Discussed using the congregation list and divide the numbers up between council members to call and reach out to each congregation member. Don Osowski will get the list from Connie Vieths and will get together with a couple of council members to split up the list.

Adjourned: A motion was made by Shirley Smith to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tom Kavanaugh. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.