

First Edition



Thoughts From Pastor Matt!

We have reached the halfway point of 2025. We have also reached the greatest time of year according to Julius and Augustus Caesar. They loved this time so much they had months created just for them. Instead of their being ten months in a year, there were now twelve. This just added confusion to our calendar years.

Fast forward to the year 1582. This was a very special year to say the least. So special that it was decided to eliminate ten days from the month of October. My birthday (October 8th) did not exist in the year 1582. October 5th-14th were taken out to align the calendar with the solar year and correct an accumulated error from the previous Julian calendar. If you do not believe me, go on your cell phone, pull up the calendar app, scroll back to October of 1582, and notice that those ten days are nonexistent.

Why am I giving you historical facts about our calendar and the months of July and August? It is because I am reminded of the choices we make in life. Julius and Augustus made a choice to associate their names with what they believed was the best part of the year. They wanted their names to be connected with and remembered every time this season rolled around. Have we adjusted over the years? Of course we have. But even to this day, we still have $\frac{1}{4}$ of a day that needs to be accounted for which we do on a leap year.

Our choices have consequences. Not all consequences are bad. Some can be good consequences. For a student, consequences for staying up late watching tv or scrolling on their phone could be poor results on the following day's exam. If another student studied and got plenty of sleep, the consequences are more than likely good test results on that exam.

But here is what we can learn from all of this: choices that are made that gratify our flesh and elevate our ego usually come with a negative consequence. It may not happen in our lifetime or even for centuries later, but choices made with selfish ambition will either have a negative outcome on you or someone else. So choose wisely.

Scripture is always here to help. Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages us to trust in the Lord with all your heart and not rely on your own understanding, acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will direct your paths. 1 Corinthians 10:31 also reminds us to do all things for God's glory. If we are making choices based on just those two Bible passages, we can be confident the consequences will align with God's will for our lives. May His Will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. And may all those reading this newsletter be blessed and encouraged to make choices that bring God all the glory. That is what we were all created to do.

Blessings, Pastor Matthew

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Roxann Kaiser
JoAnn Artmann (Karen Fundine's daughter)
Rex Manchesian (Rita Peterson's brother)
Ryhley Mattison
Brenda Hoppe
Izzy Arnold
Dana Robinson (Rita Peterson's daughter-in-law)

UPDATING

Please contact Connie Vieths at 218-839-3767 or cvieths1@gmail.com if there are any changes or additions to your personal data such as address, phone, or email address. Also if someone needs to be added to the Ill or in Hospital listing, Assisted Living/Nursing Home

ASSISTING LIVING/NURSING HOME

Good Samaritan Ken Kelling,
Riverside: Edith Pietz

MILITARY

Joseph DeLude—Army, Grandson of Don DeLude

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.

Also check our Website for the Newsletter,
Sermons and the Calendar will be updated as
the schedule changes! All of this is under
Resources on the Webpage

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.**

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: Bob Harmsen (218) 575-3068
Vice President: Griff Eisel (952) 239-0878
Secretary: Dan Jacobson (218) 746-4167
Don Osowski (763) 286-5405
Shirley Smith (218) 838-1483
Diane Wright (218) 851-8964
Chris Warren (320) 749-2031

If you need a person to talk to about challenges in your life, someone to pray with, or just a visit, please contact Pastor Matt. He would be more than willing to help you or visit you. If you are in the hospital or know of someone in the hospital, please contact him. There are times he has not received word that someone is dying or in the hospital recovering. You can contact Pastor at (320) 260 9100.

First Lutheran Church Pillager Minutes
May 13, 2025

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. by President Bob Harmsen

Present: Griff Eisel, Dan Jacobson, Chris Warren, Bob Harmsen, Don Osowski, Diane Wright, Shirley Smith

Absent: none

I. Opening Prayer: Pastor Matt

II. Treasurer's Report: Envelope offerings were \$38.8k through the end of April. Expenses have been running slightly below budget for the first four months of the year. Monthly contributions of \$250 will continue to be made to the local missions from the Shelter Fund, which is funded by collections at fellowship and breakfast activities. Lynn authorized to continue monthly payments from the account to our three charities. Lynn provided updates on banks signature cards. Currently, along with the financial secretary, Dan Jacobson and Nicole Buersken are listed as signers on the FLC account at Pine River State Bank. With the addition of new officers this year, the Council approved by acclamation the addition of President Bob Harmsen and Vice President Griff Eisel to the FLC bank account, and approved removal of past President Nicole Buersken's signing authority. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Griff and seconded by Chris. Motion carried

III. Pastor's Report: Pastor recently returned from vacation and reported visitations with former members in assisted living/nursing home residents.

IV. Secretary's Report: Motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting made by Chris and seconded by Shirley. Motion carried.

V. Committee Updates:

1. Worship/Music: Pastor Matt had good feedback on the community Easter service and FLC had an ensemble perform music during the service. We are trying to eliminate use of electronic music during the service. Looking at introducing some new liturgy music from the With One Voice hymnal. We will be having a recognition of our graduates at the May 25 service.

2. Congregation and Community Outreach: (Marliss) – The gnome tea party in April was a success with 50 ladies in attendance. The committee also held a tea party for residents at The Riverside assisted living facility, and they plan to host a gnome craft project for residents on May 14. The next Mission Committee meeting will be June 2 at the church. The FLC Garage Sale will be held on July 10-11. The church will also be entering a float in the Pillager Parade on July 12. The church has begun using the new marquee sign on River Street that was purchased from Mission Committee funds.

3. Hospitality: No update.

4. Sanctuary: Shirley has not encountered any more bees in the sanctuary. Don mentioned he has some methods for containing them, but that we should not look to plug any entry spots until June.

5. Facilities / Building: Horizon Plumbing and Heating fixed the parsonage air conditioner, which had a blown capacitor. They also will provide an estimate to replace both the furnace and air conditioner in the parsonage. Griff will update Council when the estimate is received.

6. Staffing: The compensation committee of Don Osowski, Tom Kavanaugh and Bob Harmsen met to go over a new contract for pastor. Pastor's current contract expires June 1 and the goal is to have a new contract in place before July. Council went into executive session to discuss details of the contract.

Old Business: Bob reported that he has had pew cards printed at his expense. The cards allow parishioners to fill out a prayer request or visit request and place in the offering plate during services.

State Employee Medical Leave Insurance – The council is making plans to comply with Minnesota law regarding insurance for family leave. As of December 21, 2025 the church will need to contribute .2 percent of salary for employee medical leave and .15 or .3 percent for family leave (or up to .7 percent of total wages) to the state insurance program. Insurance costs are split evenly between the employee and the church.

New Business:

We received a letter from our insurance company stating they are making an exception not to cover any claims related to PFAS (plastics poisoning). Bob is reviewing the church insurance contract and reporting back on any changes over last year in coverage or premiums.

Council will make an announcement to church members asking for help cutting the church and parsonage lawn until Pastor's foot heals.

Adjourn & Closing: Shirley made a motion to adjourn, which was second by Diane and approved by acclamation.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer



We will be gathering items for our Operation Christmas Child boxes.

In **July**, Notebooks (8.5 x 11) and note cards. In **August**, round tipped scissors, pencil sharpeners, and soft-sided pencil cases. There will be a container in the Narthex for you to drop of these items!

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



LCMC Gathering October 5th-8th

OUR HELP AND HOPE
LCMC 25TH ANNUAL GATHERING & CONVENTION

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

*Need to know by July 27th

Hosanna Church
Lakeville, MN



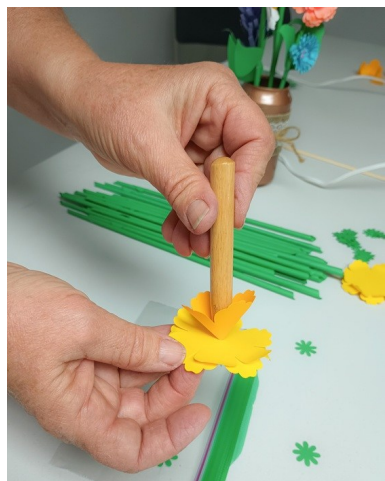
Hey Everyone! It is that time again to clean out closets, garages, etc! Garage sale will be on Thursday, July 10 and Friday, July 11 from 7 am to 6 pm. We would like donations brought to the church the first week of July except for furniture and large items which can be brought to the church the week of the sale. Please no clothing except for young children and infants. We will need help in setting up for the sale on Tuesday and Wednesday. Remember one person's junk is another person's treasure!!!!

Thank you to the Mission Fund for purchasing our new sign in front of church!



Congratulations to our 2025 graduates. May God bless you in the next chapter of your faith journey!

THE MISSION COMMITTEE CRAFTED PAPER- FLOWER BOUQUETS. THE QUILTERS GAVE THEM TO RESIDENTS AT THE LOCAL ASSISTED LIVING ON THIS MONTH'S "TEA" DAY!





And that's a wrap for our Winter-Spring Quilting Session as we dropped off 24 quilts for the new women's rehab program and then went out for lunch. Giving thanks to all who give their time and talents to this ministry! We missed a few of you today ❤️



The Quilters continue to meet 12-3 p.m. Tuesdays in the fellowship area .



Summer is the time to train them up!
Two more quilts assembled for the fall sale.
Nice job, ladies!

**Sharing snippets from today's Spring Cleaning of
the Quilters' Closet. Woo Hoo! Now that's through.
😄 Thanks for the fun, gals!**



July 2025 FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	30	1	2	3	4
		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg			Independence Day
6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 am Communion Ser-vice 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters GARAGE SALE SETUP 6:30 PM Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	GARAGE SALE SETUP	GARAGE SALE 7 am – 6 pm	GARAGE SALE 7 am – 6 pm
13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg			
20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 am Communion Ser-vice 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg			
NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS					
27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg			2
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August 2025 FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 6:30 PM Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg				
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship						
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