

First Edition



Thoughts From Pastor Matt!

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when I say “He is Risen”? Let me guess...you said He is risen indeed? We say that during every Easter service. But do we grasp the magnitude of that phrase? That He really is risen indeed? The whole Christian faith rests on that one phrase. Without the resurrection, there would be no Sunday services, no sacraments, and there would be no New Testament. Jesus would have been just another guy who did some good things for some people. Or maybe He was a weirdo going around claiming to be the Son of God who is ushering in the Kingdom of Heaven. However, the resurrection is central to who Jesus claimed to be.

So you say He is risen indeed. That phrase would have put a target on you if you lived 2000 years ago (and still does for many people today!). Religious leaders would be hunting you down to shut you up. The Romans would be hunting you down, interrogating you, and demanding you reveal where you hid Jesus’ body all because you believe He rose from the dead. And that happened to the disciples along with the 500 other people Jesus chose to show Himself to after the resurrection. Although their lives were never the same after they encountered the resurrected Jesus, they were willing to die for what they had seen.

Fast forward to our present day. We celebrate that Jesus has risen. If His claims of being the Son of God were not enough, the resurrection verified it. In our country with our freedom of religion, we don’t seem to have a problem with declaring Jesus risen. We don’t live with a fear that our government will come busting down the church doors and arresting all those who say Jesus has risen from the dead. I think it’s because of this freedom we have in this country that we lose the magnitude of declaring “He is risen!”

This leads me to ask you, “Would you die defending that phrase?” You never did see the resurrected Jesus. You never got to touch His scarred hands or side. How can you be so sure He is risen? Here’s how I would answer that: Because not only were there around 500 eyewitnesses to the resurrection, God is still alive and working through those who call on the name of the Lord. His Spirit dwells with us just as Jesus promised. Without God’s Spirit transforming lives, Christianity would have died out a long time ago. The testimony of those 500+ people would have been discredited quite quickly. But here we are today still celebrating the resurrection of Jesus because He is also resurrecting us. We put to death our old life and are resurrected to a new life with Jesus.

When Thomas did get to touch Jesus’ hands and side after the resurrection, he declared that Jesus was his Lord and God. But Jesus says something extra special for each of us today. He says, “Blessed are those who have not seen yet still believe.” So if you believe that He is risen indeed, you are blessed! And that wonderful phrase “He is risen indeed” is one phrase that I will declare as true up to my final breath. I hope you will do the same as we enter into a season of celebrating the victory over death that not only Jesus showed the world, but promises to each and everyone of us who call on Him as Lord. Happy Easter and blessings to all who are reading this.

He is risen indeed!
-Pastor Matthew

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Bonnie Anderson
Tim Litsheim (cancer) (Dan Long's nephew)
Darlene Zabel
Rex Manchesian
(Rita Peterson's brother and sister-in-law)
Lindsey Kennedy (cancer) Pat Long's granddaughter
JoAnn Artmann (Karen Fundine's daughter)
Joan Anderson
Ted Anderson (son-in-law of Don Delude (cancer))
Diane Wright
Eileen Spilman (recovering at home)

Sharon Doss (Leukemia)
Roxann Kaiser (cancer)
Amber Baerg
Chris & Julie Warren's Daughter)
Rita Peterson
Gail Massie (Ken Kelings daughter)
Adam Long (grandson of Dan Long)
Leroy Smith
Paul Borgstrom
Curt Thering (Wendy's dad)

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

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.**

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

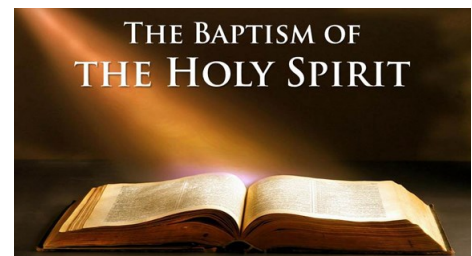
Shirley Smith (218) 838-1483

Lynda Converse (218) 821-8016

Diane Wright (218) 851-8964

Griff Eisel (952) 261-9069

Paige Leifermann was baptized on Sunday, March 10, 2024. Welcome to your First Lutheran Family!



First Lutheran Church Pillager Meeting Minutes

Opening and Call to Order: 6:30 PM on January 9, 2023.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Matthew said he is looking into possible funeral or memorial service options for John Gilronan. He notified Council that Ken Kelling had a fall at the Riverside but didn't suffer any major injury and is in recovery. With increased attention on Covid, there was a discussion about whether any precautions were necessary for worship. Council agreed that making masks available to those attending is sufficient.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Lynda, seconded by Shirley.

Treasurer's Report: In reviewing the report, council questioned whether we are still depositing 8 percent of income in Missions and Building accounts. Julie said she will reach out to Tammy to discuss, as the council would like the transfers to those accounts to be frozen until the general fund balance is restored. There was also a question about the donation received from Larry Anderson's estate and which account those funds were deposited. Motion to approve the report was made by Shirley, seconded by Diane.

Committee Updates:

Worship/Music: Pastor Matthew is working with Wendy to put together a Lenten worship service of music and reflections, similar to the Holden Evening service.

Church Community Communication Committee: Lynda reported that the committee is meeting Jan. 11, 2 p.m. at the Shantee. (Update: the meeting was later postponed to Jan. 25) Topics that will be discussed include the postcard mailing list and the fact that postal zones have been inconsistent in reaching all of the members. The council has budgeted for two mailings this year. Lynda mentioned another option in place of doing postcards is to use the Echoland Shopper. There are display ad and category announcement options available. Other promotion options include Facebook advertising to increase exposure of event notices. The committee will bring back recommendations to the council in February. Other topics include discussing a welcome packet for new members.

Hospitality: Nothing to report

Sanctuary: Pastor volunteered to pick up more salt for covering ice on the sidewalks.

Facilities/Building: Julie is putting together nominees for a committee to help fundraise for the siding project. Possible members include Nicole, Griff, Diane, Shirley, Bob and Rosie Harmsen, Marleen, and Lynda. The goal is to hold a meeting in early April. Xcel Energy confirmed the gas smell outside the church was coming from a malfunction with the third furnace. Dan reported turning off the gas connection to this furnace and is reaching out to a local plumbers to investigate repairing the furnace ignitor. The copier/printer is not functioning properly. The current copier is obsolete, making parts hard to come by. Council discussed the cost/benefit of leasing a new copier vs. buying one outright. Two lease proposals were reviewed and the council will ask representatives from the Office Shop and MCSI to attend a future council meeting. The council continued discussions for Sunday School room expansion into the secondary basement area under the sanctuary. One option would be to test the area without adding walls to see if sound proofing is actually necessary. Follow-up on an audio speaker for the nursery to enable caretakers to hear the service pastor will research options for a wireless speaker that can connect to our soundboard and use WiFi to connect instead of a hardwired option. Regarding hard drive purchase to back-up church business documents, Dan made a motion, seconded by Lynda to authorize pastor to purchase the most viable option.

Staffing: (discussion moved to old business)

Missions: Marlys Eisel will be the new coordinator for the missions committee and is planning the next meeting in March.

Old Business: Report regarding emergency communications for church members. The Breeze software which the church already subscribes to will be used to create text groups for notifications, with the option to also include this information in an automated email. We are still collecting mobile phone numbers from members and when completed, the church secretary will finalize the database for use in these communications. Pastor reported the local scouting organizations, which moved their meetings to a new location last August, have returned the key to the church. Financial Secretary Position – With Tammy planning to retire this spring, council is in the process of accepting resumes for the position. Currently, there are two people who have expressed interest. Interviews will be scheduled for after President Julie returns from vacation.

New Business:

The church received store credit of \$33.27 for a strut that was ordered (but subsequently returned) for the new garage door installed at the parsonage this past summer.

Adjournment: Shirley made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Diane, and motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dan Jacobson, Secretary.

First Lutheran Church Pillager Meeting Minutes

Opening and Call to Order: 6:30 PM on February 13, 2024.

Present: Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Dan Jacobson, Shirley Smith, Diane Wright, Lynda Converse, Griff Eisel, Tammy Barnet **Absent:** Julie Hofius, Griff Eisel, (Connie Vieths)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Matt said he has scheduled a baptism on March 17 for Paige Leifermann. He plans to check with the Baptist church to see if their baptismal tank could be used, either before or after services. Plans are in place to start first communion classes for three students in April. Considering the last three Tuesdays in April, with first Sunday in May being the first Communion for the students. New membership courses will start on May 19th with May 26th being recognition of new members. Pastoral visits: Ken Kelling at Bethany (broke foot during his fall) and Pat Long. Pastor made 49 connections and 8 check-ins with members in January.

Secretary's Report: Council reviewed minutes from the January meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Shirley, seconded by Griff.

Treasurer's Report: The January giving was down approximately \$2,000 compared to 2023. This resulted in the general fund decreasing month-on-month in the January report. Tammy provided an updated job description for her position to council and is hoping to retire as soon as her replacement is in place. Motion to accept the report was made by Lynda, seconded by Diane.

Committee Updates:

Worship/Music: Pastor Matt will be going through a devotional series for Lent, with a chapter for each service and related music.

Church Community Communication Committee: Lynda placed an ad in the Staples World to advertise Lent services running two weeks in February for \$86 total. Dan made a motion, seconded by Griff, that we proceed with doing an ad in the Dispatch and Echo Shopper for Easter at a cost of \$144. Spring tea is planned for April 27, 2-4 p.m. for a Norwegian themed event.

Hospitality: Nothing to report

Sanctuary: Nothing to report

Facilities/Building: 1. Follow up on the furnace...pastor will reach out to SCR, the company that installed the church AC, to check out the ignitors in the sanctuary furnace. 2. Sunday school room – In response to ideas about closing off a portion of the basement, the council discussed other options such as splitting older kids into another group and either moving them to the choir room or the fellowship area. This will require another teacher. Nicole has volunteered to be the second teacher until summer break and the Sunday School teachers/council will evaluate having the group split at that time. 3. Regarding getting audio in the nursery, Pastor Matt is looking into an app for the computer that will send the audio by WiFi to a device in the nursery. The plan is to test the app with a phone before looking at options for a dedicated speaker or tablet to the nursery. 4. Pastor reported a hard drive for file backup was donated by Lynda.

Staffing: The Council discussed plans for interviewing positions for financial secretary in within the next three weeks.

Missions: Marlys is taking over the shoebox ministry.

Old Business: Dave Anderson from the Office Shop attended to answer questions about lease agreement on a new copier. The proposal provided indicates a similar “footprint” to what the church currently has. A five-year lease is quoted as 54.44 a month. Dave mentioned that Canon upgrades its copy machines on a seven-year cycle, over which time parts are guaranteed to be available. Service agreement is 1 cent per b&w and 6.5 cents for color. Minimum of \$50 per quarter or \$100 per year. The council discussed whether we should consider an outright purchase instead of a lease. The matter was tabled until the March meeting. RE Memorial service for John Gilronan: Remains will be released from County to Brenny to conduct a memorial service, but no date has been set.

New Business: The church received a memorial check from Karen Meyer for \$2,000 that was placed in the building fund.

Adjournment: Shirley made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Griff.



Dinner & Musical

When: Saturday, April 6th 2024
Time: 4:30pm
Pricing: Tickets are \$60



Please consider donating some food items to our Pillager Food Shelf. There will be baskets in the entryway for these food items.



Community Service on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 7 pm. It will be held at Eden Ministry Center. First Lutheran will be in charge of providing sandwiches this year. Sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church.

Good Friday Service will be on Friday, March 29 at 7 pm.

Easter Service will be on Sunday, March 31.

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL BE DOING OUR GARAGE SALE THIS YEAR. SO START COLLECTING ALL YOUR "TREASURES."

Our thoughts and prayers go to Char Brattlund's family.



Char Brattlund

April 21, 1929—February 20, 2024

Charlotte Mae Brattlund, 94, of Pillager, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in Pillager. Family and friends are invited to gather one hour prior to service for a visitation.

Charlotte was born in Saginaw, Michigan on April 21, 1929, daughter of Roy and Lela Swaim. Charlotte married Lloyd Brattlund, and together they raised three children. They were blessed with 5 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Char owned and operated two restaurants - Char's Country Sampler in Brainerd, then Char's Too in Pillager. She enjoyed cooking and baking pies and cinnamon rolls, but she really loved visiting and being around people in her restaurants.

Charlotte is survived by her sons, John (Susan), and David "Herbie" (Kelly); grandchildren, Elise (Geo), Erik, Alisha (Kyle), Chase (Nicole), Jason (Jessica); great-grandchildren, George, Ian, Leo, Rowan, Parker, Adriana; sister, Connie (Phil) Cook; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Lloyd; her daughter, Sharol; sister, Helen; brother, David; sister-in-law, Sherry; daughter-in-law, Brenda.

She will be dearly missed by many!

John Gilronan

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the John Gilronan family. John passed away in January.

NEW COMPUTER PROGRAM

We now have a computer program that we are using for the congregational records. We are able to do a lot with this program. For instance, we have all of the member's addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses. Pastor Matt can access this information on his phone or computer. It even has a mapping feature so it helps him find where you live!!!

Connie Vieths will be contacting you for information. One of the questions will be your e-mail address and/or your cell phone number if you have these. The main reason the church needs this is if we have to cancel services because of weather or any other reason. We can contact you all at once. If you do not have an e-mail address or a phone number, hopefully you will listen to the radio to see if services are cancelled.

In the future if you have any changes in addresses or phone numbers, please contact Connie Vieths at 218-839-3767 or cvieths1@gmail.com so that your records can stay up to date. Thanks!!

March 2024

FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	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	5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast		12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service	2pm 4 Cs Committee Shante		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	7 pm Community Service Eden Ministry Center		7pm Good Friday	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 am Easter Service 10:30 am Fellowship						

April 2024

FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study			
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	6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study			
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg				



Church & Community Communication Committee

Scandinavian Spring Tea

Mark your calendars 2-4 p.m.,
Saturday, April 27, 2024.

We – CCCC ladies – will be hosting our second annual spring tea. This time we'll whisk you away to Scandinavia. Come learn about the Nordic mindset of *fika*, *hygge* and *kos*. Grab a cozy sweater and your favorite cup. Find a casual scarf. Bring friends and join us for a light-lunch-and-fellowship event designed to inspire heart-to-heart fun! Tickets will be available soon.

Talk to Wendy Jacobson, Lynda Converse,
Connie Vieths, Julie Warren or Julie Hofius.