

# First Edition



## Thoughts From Pastor

We have gotten to the part of the year that fills me with so much hope and joy. The part where I start to prepare for a few of my favorite things. I bring the golf clubs out of the closet and make sure they are all cleaned up for their first round. I put some fresh line on my fishing reels to get ready for May's walleye fishing opener. I know warmer days are just around the corner and I will get to spend more time outdoors.

This time of year is also going to bring me another one of my favorite things: a new baby boy. April 15th is the expected due date and I have been waiting hopefully and excitedly for his arrival. I try to prepare myself for the lack of sleep and energy, but I do not think anything can fully prepare a person for the arrival of a new child. Good thing I have had plenty of practice with two children already. Hopefully with all that practice, things will go smoothly with the new one.

But with this new addition to my family, it means some changes will be taking place at church. You will be seeing some new faces in the pulpit leading the congregation in worship. I will still be around physically, but mentally, my mind may be elsewhere while I am on paternity leave. It's probably a good thing I'll be out of the pulpit for a while because who knows what kind of incoherent sentences might come out of my mouth.

With all that is about to take place in the next month or so, I cannot help but be reminded of the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Just like I hope in warmer weather coming so I can enjoy time fishing and golfing, I hope in Christ's return to also enjoy better days with Him. And even though my days of golfing and fishing might be cut short this year so I can focus on my family, I still give thanks to God for His blessings. A new child is one of God's greatest blessings and I look forward to that day I can teach my children to golf and fish.

So one thing I ask from all of you who are reading this: please keep my family in your prayers. Pray for the wellness and safety of Kirstie and the baby. Pray for Lily and Sammy for this new adjustment that they will also have to face. Pray for me that I will have the energy and patience to handle a third child. And while you are praying, make sure to rejoice and give thanks and praise to God. He is the giver of every good gift. Let's put our hope in Him and look forward to that day when He comes back for all of His children. May God bless you all.

Pastor Matthew

## THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

**Roxann Kaiser (cancer)**  
**JoAnn Artmann**  
(Karen Fundine's daughter)  
**Rex Manchesian**

**Ryhley Mattison (Marlene's great granddaughter)**

## 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.**

## 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 listing or Military listing, please let Connie know! Thank you!

## 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 Oslowski (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.**

**MARCH/ APRIL Newsletter is now online.**

## **First Lutheran Church Pillager Minutes**

January 14, 2025

**Call to Order:** 6:30 p.m. by Interim President

**Present:** Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Griff Eisel, Chris Warren, Dan Jacobson, Shirley Smith, Diane Wright, outgoing member Nicole Buersken

**Absent:** Bob Harmsen, Don Oslowski

**Organizing Procedures:** A motion was made to install the two newly elected council members for 2025. Diane made a motion to appoint Chris and Don to the council following their election in December, with a second from Griff. Officers were appointed for the coming year, with Shirley making a motion that Bob Harmsen serve as President, Griff as Vice President and Dan as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Chris and approved.

**I. Opening Prayer:** Pastor Matt

**II. Treasurer's Report:** Lynn reported that the church finished 2024 ahead of where we were at in 2023 despite unbudgeted expenses for furnace replacement that put total spending at 103% of budget. Overall, income exceeded total expenses by \$24k...Dan made a motion to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Griff and approved.

**III. Pastor's Report:** The Christmas season and services were well appreciated, according to reports from congregation members. Pastor was able to visit Ken Kelling after he got out of quarantine. He also reached out to Pat but was not able to find a time to meet. Total pastoral visits from the end of December through the first two weeks of January totaled 34. Pastor also shared a note from Sue Carlson thanking Pastor for the funeral services for family members and his support, and the family made a donation.

**IV. Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the December meeting were submitted and Chris made a motion to accept which was seconded by Griff and approved.

**V. Committee Updates:**

**1. Worship/Music:** Wendy made a suggestion that we should laminate copies of the order of service and leave them in the pews for reference during the service. Connie is making out a list of the prayer focus and scripture readings ahead of time so the reader can do both during the reading.

**2. Congregation and Community Outreach:** (Marliss) – Missions and Community Outreach held a joint meeting on January 13 and came up with a calendar of events for the year which was submitted to council. Key events during the first half of the year include activities during Lent, a March food drive, the April tea event and May Day paper flower bouquets for seniors.

**3. Hospitality:** no update.

**4. Sanctuary:** Shirley reported we have a bee/wasp problem in the church. Has been picking up a lot of wasps both dead and alive in the church. Chris volunteered to look into finding the entry point in the siding/roof/foundation.

**5. Facilities / Building:**

**6. Staffing:** (Nicole) – In response to a suggestion from Bob, Kirstie resigned her tech support position to be able to spend more time with her children. The council discussed finding a way to rewrite the job description to allow Kirstie to continue parts of the job that fit with her schedule. Dan was assigned to meet with Kirstie to revise the existing job description.

**7. Missions:** Missions Committee events were captured on the CCC calendar. Old Business: Griff provided a list of supplemental business items that were still open from 2024. Of these items, most are being or have been addressed. Council requested Connie complete a test of the Connection app to alert members of any changes regarding services. Following up on a request from Lynn, the council approved the purchase of a laptop computer that will allow her to do most of the financial work from home. The budget was set at \$800 or less. (Dan followed up that he had found a Dell computer for \$750 and a purchase was made.)

**New Business:** Griff noted that we will set dates for a Pastoral Review twice a year. With pastor's contract up in June, negotiations will start this spring. The council agreed with Lynn that we should set a goal of completing a financial audit before the end of the first quarter.

**Adjourn and Closing:** Shirley made a motion to adjourn, which was second by Dianne and voted by email acclamation.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

**Please note that the Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, at 6:30pm**

### PRAYER FOCUS

There is a signup sheet across from the Pastor's office to sign up to do the Prayer Focus prayers. I have included February – August 2025. The prayers include listings for Business/Service Organizations, Ministries/Churches/Missions, and Church Family. There is a space to put your name for the Sunday that you want.

Pastor Matt would be more than willing to help you with the writing of these prayers!!!



**March is Minnesota's Foodshare Month. We will be collecting food to be donated to the Pillager Food Shelf. There will be a collection bin in the Narthex. Please contribute to this worthy cause.**



## OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO THE HINCH FAMILY, THE BENTLER FAMILY, AND THE SCHNEIDER FAMILY

### CRAIG HINCH

Craig Hinch, 80, of Pillager, passed away unexpectedly on January 31st at Staples hospital. Born to Lloyd and Leafy (Layman) Hinch on November 26, 1944. He was united in marriage to Mary Holmes for 49 years before her passing in 2013. Craig loved hunting, fishing and taking his family on many adventurous camping trips. He worked in the construction trade and then moved on to Mel's Tire Shop for several years. He left there to pursue his passion of woodworking in full force. Craig was a gifted craftsman and began working with his brother Bill at Hinch Woodworking. Craig met an amazing companion that fit his life perfectly. They enjoyed the river, traveling and Friday night dancing. He will be deeply missed by his children Christine (Kim) Sherseth, Joe (Tammy) Hinch, Kari (Jeff) Hummel; 10 Grandchildren; and 23 Great Grandchildren; his companion Joanne Groves; and extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Mary; daughter Deb Karasch; grandson Jacob Hinch; and great-grandsons Blair Hafften and Noah Noakes; brothers Dwight, Bill, Lloyd; sisters Letha, Lavon, Sharon and Jeanne. A Celebration of Life to be held at a later date.

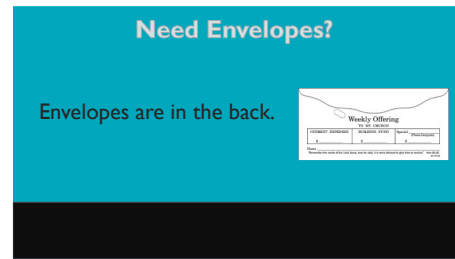
### SAWYER LIAO

February 25, 1996 -February 4, 2025 With profound heartbreak, we share the passing of Sawyer Liao, who left this world far too soon at the age of 28 after a 7-week battle with metastatic lung cancer. A warrior in every sense, Sawyer faced life—and this fight—with unwavering strength, courage, and gratitude for his care team and loved ones. Sawyer was a devoted husband to Madison, a loving father, a cherished son, brother, nephew and friend. He had a deep passion for cars, which led him to a career in the automotive industry. As a sales manager at Camelback Hyundai, he was known for his strong work ethic, dedication, and ability to connect with people. Sawyer was also a creative cook and foodie who was up to trying anything and enjoyed sharing with his loved ones. Whether in his career, as a father, or in the way he fiercely loved and provided for his family, he always gave his all. Sawyer leaves behind his parents, his wife Madison, daughter Hazel and soon-to-be-born son Enzo. His love and legacy will live on through his children. Though his time on Earth was too short, the impact he made will never fade. A celebration of Sawyer's life will be held at 11am MST on Sunday, February 9th at Hansen's Desert Hills Mortuary and Cemetery in Scottsdale. We will gather to honor his memory, share stories and remember the love he gave so freely. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-sawyers-fight-against-stage-4-lung-cancer> to support his wife and babies. Sawyer was loved beyond measure. His kindness, humor, and unshakable resilience left a mark on everyone who knew him. Though he will be missed every day, we take comfort in knowing his strength, courage, and blessings will live on in all of us.

### RICHARD SCHNEIDER

We bid farewell to Richard Schneider of Milbank, South Dakota, whose journey of life gracefully concluded on February 9, 2025 at the age of 75. Richard touched countless lives with warmth and kindness, leaving behind cherished memories that will forever echo in hearts. Leave a sympathy message to the family on the memorial page of Richard Schneider to pay them a last tribute. Though Richard has departed this earthly realm, his legacy endures — a legacy of love that will continue to illuminate the lives of family and friends in the darkest of hours. May his spirit soar on wings of eternal peace, forever cherished in the tender embrace of memory. He was predeceased by: his parents, Andrew Schneider and Lorraine Schneider (Madsen); his siblings, Jean Williams (Lawrence) and Andy; and his brother-in-law Larry Wright. He is survived by: his wife Kathleen "Kathy" Schneider of Milbank, SD; and his siblings, Olive Manlick (Ray) of Little Falls, MN, Diane Wright of Pillager, MN, Gwen Kreger (Kelly) of Arizona, James Schneider (Lorraine) of Circle Pines, MN and Michael Schneider (Chriss) of Illinois. He is also survived by nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 19th 2025 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM at the Mundwiler Funeral Home (1003 E 4th Ave, Milbank, SD 57252). A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, March 19th 2025 at 10:30 AM at the same location.

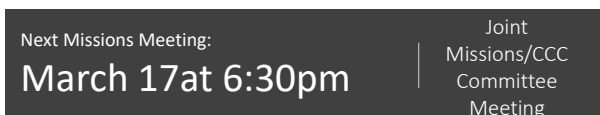




## Third Annual Spring Tea



The Quilting ladies have been visiting the Riverside Assisted Living for a Tea Party every month. If you would like to join us, please contact Wendy Jacobson as to time and dates! Thursday March 13 1:30—2:30



Lenten Schedule is every Wednesday March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and April 9. We will have Soup and Sandwich starting at 5:30. The Holden Evening Services will be at 6:30.

The Pillager Community Easter Service will be on Wednesday, April 16, at 7 pm Good Friday Service will be on April 18 at 7 pm. Easter Service will be on Sunday, April 20, at 9:30 pm

## Looking Ahead!

## The Lenten/Easter Season

| March 2025    MARCH 2025    FIRST LUTHERAN              |                     |   |   |  |        |  |
|---|---------------------|---|---|--|--------|--|
| Sunday  | Monday              | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                       | Thursday                                       | Friday | Saturday                               |
| 23  | 24                  | 25  | 26  | 27   | 28     | 1                                      |
|   |                     |   |   |  |        |  |
| 2   | 3                   | 4   | 5   | 6  | 7      | 8                                      |
| 9:30 am Communion Ser-vice<br>10:30 am Fellowship       |                     | 12 pm Quilters<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg                        | 7 pm Ash Wed Service                            |  |        |  |
| 9   | 10                  | 11  | 12  | 13   | 14     | 15                                     |
| 9:30 am Service<br>10:30 am Pancake Break-fast          |                     | 12 pm Quilters<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg                        | 5:30 pm Lenten Supper<br>6:30 pm Holden Service | 1:30-2:30 pm Tea at Rive-rside Assisted Living |        |  |
| 16  | 17                  | 18  | 19  | 20   | 21     | 22                                     |
| 9:30 am Communion Ser-vice<br>10:30 am Fellowship       | 6:30 pm Mission Mtg | 12 pm Quilters<br>6:30 pm Council Mgt<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg | 5:30 pm Lenten Supper<br>6:30 pm Holden Service |  |        |  |
| 23  | 24                  | 25  | 26  | 27   | 28     | 29                                     |
| 9:30 am Service<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>10:30 am Fellowship |                     | 12 pm Quilters<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg                        | 5:30 pm Lenten Supper<br>6:30 pm Holden Service |  |        |  |
| 30  | 31                  | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4      | 5                                      |
| 9:30 am Service<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>10:30 am Fellowship |                     |   |   |  |        |  |
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# April 2025      FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER

| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday | Friday                         | Saturday                              |
|---|--------|--|--|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30  | 31     | 1<br>12 pm Quilters<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg                        | 2<br>5:30 pm Lenten Supper<br>6:30 pm Holden Service | 3        | 4                              | 5                                     |
| 6<br>9:30 am Communion Service<br>10:30 am Fellowship         | 7      | 8<br>12 pm Quilters<br>6:30 pm Council Mtg<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg | 9<br>5:30 pm Lenten Supper<br>6:30 pm Holden Service | 10       | 11                             | 12                                    |
| 13<br>9:30 am Service<br>10:30 am Pancake Breakfast           | 14     | 15<br>12 pm Quilters<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg                       | 16<br>7 pm Easter Community Service                  | 17       | 18<br>7 pm Good Friday Service | 19                                    |
| PALM SUNDAY   | 21     | 22<br>12 pm Quilters   | 23<br>6:30 pm Bible Study                            | 24       | 25                             | 26<br>Gnome Garden Tea<br>2 pm – 4 pm |
| 20<br>9:30 am Communion Service<br>10:30 am Fellowship        | 21     | 22<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg   |  |          |                                |                                       |
| EASTER SUNDAY   |        |  |  |          |                                |                                       |
| 27<br>9:30 am Service<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>10:30 am Fellowship | 28     | 29<br>12 pm Quilters<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg                       | 30<br>6:30 pm Bible Study                            | 1        | 2                              | 3                                     |