

First Edition



As we move out of the Easter season into the graduation season, there is something I couldn't help but notice when it comes to a comparison between the two. Easter season reminds us of new life. Jesus rose from death to life and promises the same kind of resurrection for all His believers. Also, each person who believes in Jesus becomes a new creation. The old life is gone and the new life has come.

Now with those who are graduating, this milestone marks a new adventure in their life. There is a newness to their life that has never been experienced. That newness might mean going to college for the first time, starting a new career path, or perhaps it is adopting a new life rhythm that is completely different from the old school routine. Whatever comes next in life, it will be new, and hopefully exciting.

However, even those of us who have been graduated for years now, we get to experience newness in our lives with each new day God blesses us with. Our lives always take us down new adventures with twists and turns. Sometimes we experience something new that fills us with joy, while other times that something new can bring about sorrow.

No matter what life happens to throw our way, I can guarantee that if your life is being led by the Spirit, you will experience much more joy in your life. Sometimes those moments might not always be the happiest, but you can still find joy in the valleys as well as the mountaintops. It's just a matter of keeping in step with the Spirit.

So whether we are going through a new milestone in our lives or just experiencing a new day the Lord blessed us with, let us remember that we never have to experience it alone. God is always there and He has given us a Helper to go through life's journeys with Him. Perhaps now might be a good time to just pause and ask your Helper: What do you have planned next? And whether or not you receive a clear cut answer, just hold on because life in the Spirit is always exciting.

And if I could give advice to those seniors that are graduating, I would say to start implementing a daily rhythm where you intentionally pause and listen to the Spirit if you haven't started something like that already. I always wonder what I would tell my 18 year old self if I could go back in time and the only thing I would say is "Start working on your relationship with Jesus." Knowing what I know now, I wish I became a Christian much earlier in life because of the joy I have received knowing Jesus. May all those reading this be filled with joy that can only come from the Giver of joy: Jesus! Be blessed.

First Lutheran Church Pillager Meeting Minutes

Opening and Call to Order: 6:32 PM on April 11, 2023.

Present: Lynda Converse, Diane Wright, Shirley Smith, Nicole Buersken, Julie Hofius, Dan Jacobson, Mike Bellos, Pastor Matthew Sundquist, and Kirstie Sundquist.

Absent: Connie Vieths, Tammy Barnett.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Matthew asked that the council start giving him feedback at council meetings on the church services so he can continue to develop and adapt as necessary; some positive feedback by council was given. There was no updated news to add to the pastor's report.

Treasurer's Report: There was discussion on the treasurer's report with a brief review of the change that had been made at the last meeting regarding the 4% amount (previously 8%) now being put into the building maintenance fund and missions fund. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Shirley, seconded by Julie, and the motion passed.

Approval of Agenda and Secretary's Report: There was short discussion over the report and Mike made the motion to approve, Diane seconded, and the motion passed.

Committee Updates:

Worship/Music: The ordination for Pastor Matthew will be held during the May 7th church service and Pastor Jim Tetlie will conduct the ordination portion of the service. Pastor Matthew will be holding a new member class on April 30th and will have the new member church service on May 21 st . The high school senior church service will be held on May 28th . Dan suggested the council look for pianist/musician backups for times with Rita is unavailable. Pastor Matthew said that it had been suggested that the church purchase more banners to decorate the church for special Sunday services.

Church Community Communication Committee: Lynda said that the next committee meeting will be held on April 25 th at 3:00 PM. There was positive feedback in response to the mailers that had been sent out. She said that the church can apply for a nonprofit association number (NPA) to cut the cost on the mailers, which could allow more mailers to be sent out in a larger radius. She will get the application for the NPA. She also reported that the committee is planning on sending out a mailer in the fall with an updated schedule of events. Pastor Matthew suggested that a note be included on the mailers stating that the mailer recipients who bring in the mailer to a church service can redeem the mailer for a free coffee travel tumbler, which would help track the effectiveness of the mailers. Discussion was held on setting a budget for the travel tumblers, or potentially other items like t-shirts, since Pastor Matthew said he can use his Cricut machine to put the church name on tumblers or t-shirts. Pastor Matthew said after the Easter service a churchgoer offered a \$1,000 donation to be put toward a church playground and discussion was held about a location to install the playground. With the number of children growing in the church, the Sunday School room is becoming too small and Dan suggested Robert Buersken and Steve Roberts be consulted about adding more Sunday School spaces or rooms in the basement.

Hospitality: It was agreed that the donut breakfast downstairs before the Easter service, instead of after the service, was a nice way to still partake in fellowship and then families could leave after the service to spend time together; the intention is to continue the donut breakfast beforehand again next year. There was nothing further to report.

Sanctuary: The grocery/supply list will be purchased with a magnet on the back to be put on the fridge in the kitchen so that supply needs can be easily communicated. There was nothing further to report.

Facilities/Building: Don Gehrke has been troubleshooting the dishwasher issues with a contractor to solve the clogging and pump problems, and a plumber may need to come and replace the water line. Since the dishwasher is not used frequently it was suggested that the cleaning solution be run through after each use to prevent clogging issues. Nicole gave an update on the roofing and siding labor quotes she has been receiving and will create a spreadsheet to compare the quotes. It was suggested that the church's insurance inspect the roof for hail damage since there was a strong hail storm last year. Dan will be looking at the parsonage lighting to determine the issues. Pastor Matthew will be contacting the sound technician group to have a service person evaluate the quirks in the church's sound system. Justin from Horizon Plumbing and Heating will be sending over several air conditioner options with pricing.

Staffing: Kirstie will be going to graduate school, starting in September, and will be absent from church once a month. She has a person in mind to stand in for her in the tech booth. Nothing further to report.

Missions: Julie reported that the missions meeting was held on April 10th and they worked on identifying when to begin raising awareness and funds for Operation Christmas Child. The missions committee will be creating a fishing-themed float for the Pillager parade on July 8th. They also voted to donate missions funds to Aaron Geddes from Mission Aviation Fellowship, a group that flies in to isolated locations to bring the news of the gospel and distribute health care items, food, and education supplies. Julie also said that although the Soup Kitchen is set with a full volunteer roster, Timber Bay will likely need volunteers to help serve meals. The next missions meeting will be held on June 12th at 6:30 PM.

Old Business: Julie will reach out to Tom Kavanaugh to start discussing the Fall Dinner menu. Kirstie asked that events be reported to Connie by the 15th of each month so Connie will have time to include them in the newsletters.

New Business: Two requests have been made to borrow tables and chairs for graduation parties and they will be counted and signed out for each party. Dan said that he has been successfully added by the bank as a signer for the church and the past signers have been removed. Julie will be getting herself added as a signer as well.

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

Here is what Jeff Foxworthy has to say about Minnesotans:

1. If someone in a Home Depot store offers you assistance and they don't work there, you may live in Minnesota.
2. If you've worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you may live in Minnesota.
3. If you've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you may live in Minnesota.
4. If you measure distance in hours, you may live in Minnesota.
5. If you know several people who have hit a deer more than once, you may live in Minnesota.
6. If you have switched from 'heat' to 'A/C' in the same day and back again, you may live in Minnesota.
7. If you can drive 75 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard without flinching, you may live in Minnesota.
8. If you install security lights on your house and garage, but leave both unlocked, you may live in Minnesota.
9. If you carry jumpers in your car and your wife knows how to use them, you may live in Minnesota.
10. If you design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit, you may live in Minnesota.
11. If driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow, you may live in Minnesota.
12. If you know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction, you may live in Minnesota.
13. If you have more miles on your snow blower than your car, you may live in Minnesota.
14. If you find 10 degrees 'a little chilly', you may live in Minnesota.

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Bonnie Anderson
Tim Litsheim (cancer) (Dan Long's nephew)
Darlene Zabel
Rex and Ginger Manchesian
(Rita Peterson's brother and sister-in-law)
Lindsey Kennedy (cancer) Pat Long's granddaughter
JoAnn Artmann (Karen Fundine's daughter)
Joan Anderson

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)

ASSISTING LIVING/NURSING HOME

Riverside: Ken Kelling,
Harmony House in Brainerd: Char Brattlund

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

Mike Bellos (218) 838-9804
Shirley Smith (218) 838-1483
Lynda Converse (218) 821-8016
Diane Wright (218) 851-8964



Bible Study: The Chosen

Bible Study will be focused on "The Chosen." Join us in watching the TV drama story of the life of Christ as seen through the eyes of his followers. Ponder its implications with us. Mark your calendar for the startup 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays in the church sanctuary.

Our thoughts and prayers go to
the Larry Anderson family.



Lawrence Eric 'Larry' Anderson

Anderson, Lawrence "Larry" Eric 96, of Medina, MN, passed away peacefully on April 4, 2023. Not many lived a life as full or as interesting as Larry Anderson. He was born on August 31, 1926 to Andrew Eric Anderson and Erma Anna Pieper in Rosebud Township, MN. Larry and his twin brother Leonard left the family farm at an early age to support their family. They lived the circus life putting up the tents with the help of the elephants, and whisking the local girls on dates around the Midwest, until they got their draft notice after their 18th birthday.

Larry married Geraldine (Jerry) Hendrickson in 1947 and soon after, their three children Karen, Terry and Gary came along. After losing Jerry far too young, he met the second love of his life Joan Egger. Larry reveled in his role as "Dad" coaching softball and teaching all the kids how to fish, play cards, and build things like bird houses and wood carvings to name a few.

After a career in the Twin Cities as a machinist, in 1990 Larry and Joan retired to small slice of heaven on the Crow Wing River in Pillager, MN where Larry hand built an A-frame log cabin and together they enjoyed decades of beautiful sunsets. Always keen to erect something new, Larry supported his community through church and community events, and enjoyed sitting around the campfire after fishing with his many grandkids and great grandchildren.

Larry was an honest, dedicated man who loved the Lord, his family, and community. He will be sorely missed by so many who loved him. Larry was preceded in death by his parents Andrew and Erma, his brother Leonard, wife Jerry, son Terry and daughter-in-law Clara, son Gary, and son-in-law James Meyer. He is survived by his daughter Karen Meyer, Joan Anderson, daughter-in-law Deborah Anderson, five grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. A celebration will be held this summer near his final resting place in Pillager, MN. Donations can be made to the Minnesota Lakes Association or the First Lutheran Church at 717 River St., Pillager, MN 56473.

**Thank
You**

Thank you from the Dan Long family for all their love and support during this time. Thank you to everyone who helped with the funeral. You truly are a family!

EASTER HAPPENINGS AT FIRST LUTHERAN



Thank you to everyone who brought Easter lilies and flowers on Easter. Thank you to Connie Vieths for bringing the Easter hats!



Lily all set for Easter!



Some of the ladies of the church being very fashionable on Easter!



Linda and Denny Bentler showing us fashion!!



Palm Sunday



The whole Warren family wearing hats!



Pastor and Kiristie singing on Easter!



Tom Kavanaugh singing The Lord's Prayer on Easter!



Quilting Ladies hard at work, but having tons of fun!

Come Us For A Tea Party!!



SPRING TEA - SATURDAY, APRIL 29
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Please wear your Easter Bonnet and bring a teacup and saucer if you have one. If not, one will be provided.

Tea and finger foods will be provided. Tickets are \$3 or 2 for \$5.

If you do not have an Easter Bonnet, no worries! Hats will be available at the Tea Party.

Please let us know if you are attending so that we may plan for refreshments.

*Please contact Lynda Converse
(218) 821-8016*

EVENTS COMING UP IN MAY!

On Sunday, May 7, Pastor Matthew will be ordained. Please come and join in on this very important event in Pastor Matt's life. There will be a potluck afterwards.

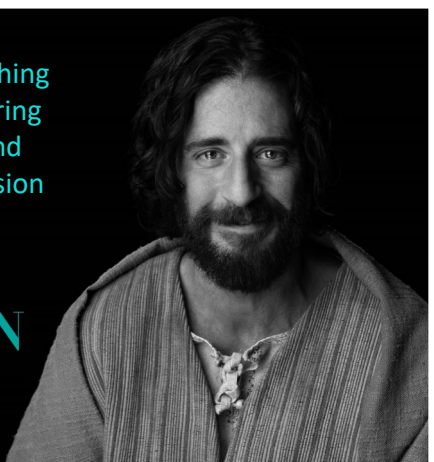
On Sunday, May 21, will be Welcome New Members Sunday.



Honoring Our Graduates

On Sunday, May 28th, during the 9:30 a.m. worship service, First Lutheran Pillager will host a special blessing and quilt presentation for the Class of 2023 graduates who have been confirmed in faith or participated with our congregation. Please join us as we celebrate the start of a new chapter in their faith journeys!

 **Blessings!** 



We will be watching
The Chosen during
Bible Study and
having a discussion
afterwards.

**The
CHOSEN**

6:30pm-8:00pm

The last day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, May 28, 2023. A huge thank you to Julie Warren for all the time and effort she put into making this such a successful year for our Sunday school kids!!!

