

First Edition



Thoughts From Pastor Matt!

As we enter into the months of May and June, things tend to slow down in the life of the church. The busy Easter season has passed and now people start to look forward to life outdoors. For me, it is cleaning up the golf clubs and getting them sighted in or putting a fresh spool of fishing line on my reels to get them ready for walleye opener. For you, I am sure each of you have your very own “to-do” list of activities you would like to get done this summer and a lot of times those activities happen on the weekend which means having to miss a Sunday here and there. I get it. Please do not feel like I am shaming you for missing church. If I did not have to preach on Sundays, you would probably find me out on the lake or getting in a round of golf before being scorched by the afternoon sun.

Although Sunday worship is important to attend, and I strongly encourage it, it is not always possible to make it every Sunday. Life gets hectic. So instead of condoning you for your absence, I want to encourage you while you are away.

A previous sermon I did back in April titled “From the Head to the Heart” I focused on taking all the head knowledge we have of Jesus and moving it down to our heart where action flows from. This sermon hit home with me, and hopefully with those who heard it also, because it was a call for us to live out the words that Jesus taught. Read the Sermon on the Mount starting in Matthew 5 to get a glimpse of some of the things Jesus taught during His ministry. How are you doing with putting those teachings into action?

As your pastor, I will not be taking attendance at church. Does this mean that it is not a big deal if you do not attend? I am not saying that either. I would love it for you to come and worship and fellowship. It is so important for the function and health of the church. I would love it if the words God speaks through me during the sermons was just what you needed to have your spiritual cup filled. But what I am more concerned about is whether what you are hearing on Sundays is moving to your heart or is it staying up in your head. I would much rather be a part of a congregation that only attends half of the Sundays a year while putting their faith into action the other half, rather than a congregation that attends every Sunday in the year but keeps their faith bottled up inside.

So if you find yourself missing a Sunday or two this summer, I want to encourage you to live out your faith while you are away. Look for ways you can display the love of Jesus to others. That may look like helping someone land their boat if they are struggling or give a compliment on a stranger’s nice tee shot. There are always things we could be saying or doing while we are enjoying the outdoors that bring a smile to Jesus’s face. Will you try to do that this summer? If you cannot make it to church, then try to love like Jesus would love while you are away. But I would love to see you on Sundays as well. May all those reading this be blessed and I hope you all have a wonderful start to your summer.

Blessings,
Pastor Matthew

First Lutheran Church Pillager Meeting Minutes

Opening and Call to Order: 6:30 PM on March 12, 2024.

Present: Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Julie Hofius, Dan Jacobson, Shirley Smith, Griff Eisel, Nicole Buersken (Connie)
Absent: Lynda Converse, Diane Wright

Pastor's Report: February/March events included the funeral for Charlotte Brattlund and March 10 baptism of Paige Leiffermann. The family presented the church with a card in appreciation. Pastor also announced that the John Gilronan burial service will be graveside in Alexandria this spring. Communion class for three students will begin the last three Tuesdays in April, with first communion being the first Sunday of May 5. During February, Pastor recorded 33 connections, 7 outreaches and 20 visits with members. Secretary's Report: The minutes from February's meeting were approved with corrections. Motion by Griff, second by Nicole.

Treasurer's Report: The church had additional one-time "catch-up" expenses in February, further reducing the general fund. The council reviewed the status of all funds and will look at budget status at the end of the first quarter. Motion to approve the report was made by Griff and seconded by Nicole.

Committee Updates

Worship/Music: Lenten services are going well. Council will do the March 20 soup and sandwiches. On March 27, we will meet at the Eden Ministry Center for the Holy Week community service. First Lutheran will be responsible for bringing sandwiches. Regarding the extension of the sound system to the church nursery, Pastor tested the phone app that connects to our sound system and said it works. The council will consider whether to buy a dedicated speaker or tablet to use in the nursery with this app.

Church Community Communication Committee: Ads for Easter services were placed in the Echo Shopper and Brainerd Dispatch. Scandinavian Tea party will be held at the church on April 27. Next committee meeting is scheduled for March 27.

Hospitality: Nothing to report

Sanctuary: Nothing to report

Facilities/Building: SCR came out to look at the malfunctioning furnace and suggested we replace our existing furnaces due to heating exchange failures and improperly-sized exhaust pipes trapping too much heat inside the furnace. SCR provided a bids for both a 2-furnace and a 3-furnace solution. Since we are at the end of the heating season, Griff requested we get two additional bids and decide which route to take.

Shirley reported that the coffee maker needs to be powered on to maintain the filtering system. Copy machine replacement – After reviewing options for both purchase and lease of a new copier from three companies, the decision was made to move forward with a 60-month lease for \$58 a month for a Canon copier from the Office Shop. Motion made by Dan, seconded by Griff. Approved by acclamation. Sunday School Room – Students were split into two groups on March 10 with one group meeting in the fellowship area, and the other the existing Sunday School room. But it appears using the fellowship area is too difficult for keeping order. The use of the upstairs choir room for a second room was discussed, but will require removing equipment currently stored there.

Staffing: Julie and Nicole interviewed two candidates for the Treasurer position. An offer was made to one of the candidates and we are awaiting a response. However, a new Treasurer will not be able to start until at least April. Julie has been filling in until a replacement is found. (Dan made a motion following the meeting to pay Julie as the acting interim Treasurer until a replacement is found. Motion seconded by Lynda and approved by council).

Missions: Julie will be contacting Marliss about business relating to the shoebox ministry meeting.

Old Business:

New Business: The Council approved a motion to remove past Financial Secretary Tammy Barnett from the FLC checking and safe deposit accounts at Pine River State Bank, and add Council officers President Julie Hofius, Vice President Nicole Buersken and Secretary Dan Jacobson to the checking and safe deposit box accounts at Pine River State Bank. Griff made the motion, and it was seconded by Shirley. Approved by acclamation.

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

Thank you to the CCC Committee Julie Hofius, Julie Warren, Lynda Converse, Connie Vieths, Wendy Jacobson) for hosting the 2 Annual Spring Tea on April 27! Everyone had a great time. Special thank you to Wendy Jacobson for all of her creative ideas in making this Scandinavian Tea Party such a success!!



There will be a container in the Narthex for you to drop of these items!

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

May

- Coloring Books
- Girl's 2T, 3T, 4T underwear
- Lip Balm



There will be a container in the Narthex for you to drop of these items!

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

June 2024

- Flip Flops:
 - Girl's 3T, 4T, and 10-14
 - Boys or neutral size 3T, 4T, and 10-14



Sunglasses



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

Are you cleaning out closets, cupboards, or garages and need to get rid of your treasures! Please consider donating all you treasures to our Annual Garage Sale on July 11 and 12 from 7 am to 6 pm. Please do not drop items off before the end of June because we do not have the storage space to keep them. Let's make this the best Garage Sale ever! We will be using the money

Honoring Our Graduates

On Sunday, May 19th, during the 9:30 a.m. worship service, First Lutheran Pillager will host a special blessing and quilt presentation for the Class of 2024 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!



JOIN US FOR

BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Sharon Goss (Leukemia)
Amber Baerg
(Chris & Julie Warren's daughter)
JoAnn Artmann
(Karen Fundine's daughter)
Gail Massie (Ken Kelling's daughter)
Rex Manchesian
(Rita Peterson's brother)

Roxann Kaiser (cancer)
Curt Thering (Wendy's Dad)
LeRoy Smith
Jill Clark

Ryhley Mattison (Marlene's great
granddaughter)

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.**

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: 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

We are looking for:

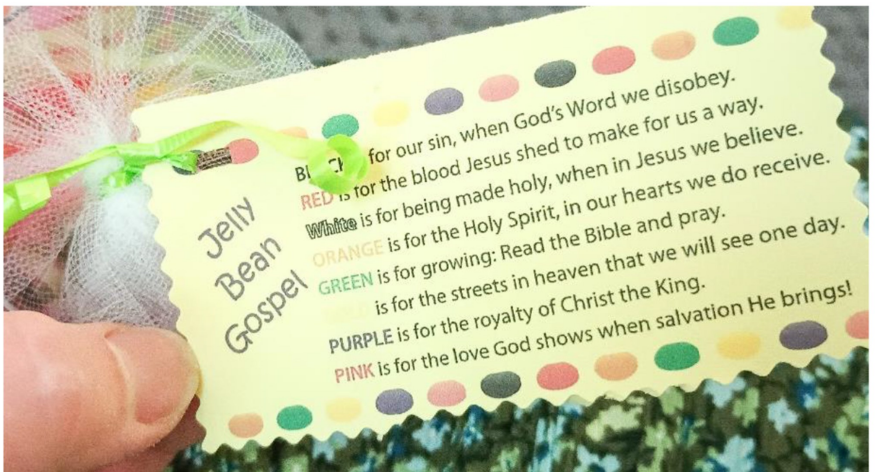
Financial Secretary

Please spread the word!



Easter Sunday

March 31st at First Lutheran
in Pillager



Scandinavian Spring Tea

The Church & Community Communication Committee (top right) hosted its second annual event Saturday, April 27, 2024, to honor and inspire others. Forty ladies participated in the Nordic cultural program, simple craft, light lunch, discussion prompts, poem reading and sing-along – giving glory to God and encouraged to share His Light with others. The CCC Committee donated \$200 from the ticket sales to the church building fund for new siding.



Kos dere!

(Koose dair-uh!)

“Enjoy yourselves!”

That's the Norwegian expression Wendy Jacobson taught on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the Scandinavian Spring Tea and the ladies practiced in the fireplace photo booth between activities during the two-hour afternoon program.



May 2024

First Lutheran Pillager

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship	6	7 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	8 6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship	13	14 12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	15 6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study	16	17	18
19 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast Honoring Graduates	20	21 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	22 6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship	27 Memorial Day	28 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	29 6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study	30	31	1

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	1
2 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship	3	4 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	5 6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship	10	11 12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	12 6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship	17	18 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	19 Juneteenth 6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship	24	25 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	26 6:30 – 8:30 Bible Study	27	28	29
30 9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship	1 Independence Day	2	3	4	5	6