

# First Edition



## Thoughts From Pastor

April was an exciting month for the Sundquist household. If you have not heard what took place yet, let me fill you in...

The night was Tuesday, April 1st. I was enjoying a nice dinner at Pizza Ranch with my in-laws when all of a sudden it hit me like a freight truck. I acquired a stomach bug. Believe me when I say this but getting a stomach bug right after you have just eaten at a buffet is probably the worst time you can get one. We made it home in record time where I could get rid of my dinner in the comfort of my own home and barricade myself in my bedroom to avoid spreading whatever it was I had. Spoiler alert: I was unsuccessful at this, but that's a different story.

It is now Wednesday the 2nd. I have been secluded in my room all day not able to eat anything. I have been sipping on water but even that upsets my stomach. And the stomach pains kept getting worse. These were not hunger pangs. It was a pain where I knew something was not quite right. Kirstie kept asking me if I needed to go get it checked out, but stubborn me thought he already knew what the doctors would say, so there is no point in going in.

If you remember what also took place on this Wednesday was an ice/snow storm. It was a doozy which even caused cancellations at the school. Part of me was glad I was stuck indoors. But by Wednesday evening, the pain was unbearable. I finally told the Mrs. I needed to go get it checked out. Thank God the in-laws were still visiting so they could keep an eye on our kids. We got out the door around 9pm and headed to Lakewood Hospital in Staples. About an hour later we finally arrived and got checked into the ER.

While at the ER, I was given an IV and told the doctor what kind of pain I was experiencing. What we discovered was that the strain on my stomach muscles from throwing up was actually pushing out a hernia I had. That will have to get fixed later this summer which I will update you all on how that goes. The doctor told me to rest for an hour while the IV did its thing and then would discharge me.

It is now Thursday, April 3rd at 1AM in the morning. The IV is empty and the doctor is getting the discharge papers. When he comes back with the papers, Kirstie is pacing back and forth with some discomfort that she has not had before. She asked before we headed back into the snowstorm if she could be checked out to see what was going on. Now I'm getting discharged and Kirstie is getting checked in. They hooked her up to monitors and she was having contractions five minutes apart. Her doctor was called and said when she arrives later this morning, she will break the water and we will have a baby.

Thursday, April 3rd at 10:04AM, Thomas Matthew was born weighing 7lbs. 10oz. and was 20.5" long. Praise God for a healthy baby. Praise God we did not have to travel back home in the snow. Praise God for in-laws who look after our two other rambunctious children. Moral of the story: Praise God. He works all things (even stomach bugs!) for the good of those who love Him. We have an amazing God and I cannot wait to teach Tommy all about Him when he gets older. Come on a Sunday and say hi to our youngest member and may all those reading this be blessed!

Pastor Matthew Sundquist

## THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

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

Ryhely Mattison  
Brenda Hoppe

### 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

|                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday:</b>                | <b>Worship Service</b>             |
| <b>Monday:</b>                | <b>Off</b>                         |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>               | <b>Office Hours 9-3</b>            |
| <b>Wednesday:</b>             | <b>Midweek Service/Bible Study</b> |
| <b>Thursday &amp; Friday:</b> | <b>Office hours/Visitation</b>     |
| <b>Saturday:</b>              | <b>Off</b>                         |

**\*\*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.**

**May/June Newsletter is now online.**

**First Lutheran Church Pillager Minutes  
March 18, 2025**

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

**Present:** Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Griff Eisel, Don Oslowski, Dan Jacobson, Shirley Smith, Chris Warren

**Absent:** Bob Harmsen, Diane Wright

**I. Opening Prayer:** Pastor Matt opened in prayer.

**II. Treasurer's Report:** Lynn reported that she issued W2s and 1099s before the end of February, along with annual giving statements to members. The church has a total cash position as of Feb. 28 was \$89,766. Envelope offerings for the first two months of 2025 totaled \$17,276. Expenses in the first two months totaled \$18,115. An additional \$590 was received for the building maintenance fund. Lynn mentioned that new Council officers need to be added to check signers list at Pine River State Bank. Dan made a motion, seconded by Chris, to donate \$250 to teen challenge out of the shelter fund. Lenten funds from the soup and sandwich suppers will continue to go to the mission fund.

**III. Pastor's Report:** Kirstie asked the council if we can make a list of people who are willing to work in the sound booth for both Sunday and special services, as she has had to do last minute duty because of a lack of qualified volunteers. Council is supportive of recruiting and training more volunteers. Pastor reported that Ken Kelling was in the hospital again last month for an illness, but was able to receive visitors a week later. He also had a visit with Pat long and mentioned that she was concerned about possibly having to move again. Pastor asked to keep her in our prayers. Karen Fundine is having health issues causing blackouts and has had to stop driving. Pastor had a total of 32 visits since the last council meeting.

**IV. Secretary's Report:** Council voted to approve the minutes of the February minutes on a motion made by Shirley and seconded by Don.

**V. Committee Updates:**

1. Worship/Music: Council decided to proceed with the Good Friday service even though pastor most likely will be on family leave. Pastor spoke with other community pastors about the Easter community service on April 16 at the Baptist Church and said maybe our church choir could perform a musical number if enough people can commit.

2. Congregation and Community Outreach: (Marliss) – March meeting was cancelled due to illness. Tea party is scheduled for April 26.

3. Hospitality: No update.

4. Sanctuary: No update

5. Facilities / Building: Estimates for the AC are needed for the Parsonage. Griff will call Horizon Plumbing and Heating for a quote.

6. Staffing:

**Old Business:** Griff provided a list of supplemental business items that were still open from 2024. The key follow-up notes were:

1. Finalizing church member communication database in Breeze application - Dan will follow up with Connie about any missing data and functions of the texting feature.

2. Marliss still looking for a changeable outdoor sign for promotion to replace the damaged one we had been using.

3. Retaining wall repair and replacement on the side of the parsonage garage – Griff is looking into this. <sup>3</sup>

## **New Business:**

Job Review Reports - Julie Hofius and Don Oslowski did a quarterly review with Pastor Matt. Pastor mentioned that his job review – changing leadership from duties as needed to other duties as situations arise. Regarding pastoral care a few questions arose...does pastor need to gather mileage specific for each trip/visiting? When pastor meets an inactive member, is it ok to have a couple of people go with him? Dan and Kirstie did a review with Church Secretary Connie. Some of the duties to the job description, including duties involving the website and social media, have been moved to the tech admin job description. But the member outreach through the Breeze application is still part of secretarial duties. Griff and Nicole Warren reviewed Lynn's performance and job description. Checking the post office box was a new duty added. Lynn has been performing all duties as assigned with high marks.

Family leave for Pastor: A question was brought before council about the length and payment for Pastor Matt's upcoming maternity leave. Pastor has requested up to five weeks of leave, but may be doing weekly duties during this period, just not Sunday preparation. He does intend to lead the Easter Sunday service, in which case that week will not count as leave. Shirley made a motion to approve two weeks paid maternal leave for pastor, seconded by Don. The motion was approved, with some flexibility to council on compensation for work during the leave period. Adjourn & Closing: Shirley made a motion to adjourn, which was second by Don and approved by acclamation.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

## **First Lutheran Church Pillager Minutes April 8, 2025**

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

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

**Absent:** Don Oslowski, Pastor Matthew Sundquist

**I. Opening Prayer:** Shirley Smith

**II. Treasurer's Report:** With the first quarter of the year complete, Lynn has assembled a disbursement report all of the expenses paid since January 1st. Bob asked for information on the process for contributing to Pastor's retirement account through the LCMC so that he can include a number for the new pastoral contract being drafted. FLC received \$28,750 in envelope offerings for the first three months. Total spending for the first quarter of the year finished at 24 percent of the budget. Motion to accept financial report made by Chris and seconded by Griff. Motion carried.

**III. Pastor's Report:** -Went to ER Wednesday night with abdominal pain, hernia pain caused by stomach flu, need to get fixed most likely later this spring/summer. Thomas Sundquist born Thursday morning on 4/3/25 at 10:04am weighing in at 7lbs 10oz. 20.5" long. Ted Munger agreed to help out with Sunday service last minute. Funeral service held for Della Mimm on Saturday, March 29th. My aunt passed away this past week and funeral service will be held Saturday, April 12th in Brooklyn Park. Had 22 visits since last council meeting

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

## V. Committee Updates:

1. Worship/Music: Bob mentioned the possibility of inviting the Legacy Players out of California, who have performed at the church Bob attends in Alabama, to visit FLC and perform in the near future. Council confirmed that the Easter week community service for April 16 was moved from the Baptist Church to Eden Church. FLC members will bring bars for that service. Ted Munger will be filling in for Pastor Matt for the Palm Sunday service.
2. Congregation and Community Outreach: (Marliss) – Operation Christmas Child - will start asking for donations for items for the boxes in May; Marliss purchased a new marquee sign for \$374 for the front of the church. The Garden Gnome Tea, sponsored by the CCC is nearly sold out. It will be held April 26, from 2-4 p.m. Also CCC is planning an activity to make paper flowers to deliver to Riverside residents in May.
3. Hospitality: No update.
4. Sanctuary: No update
5. Facilities / Building: Ice has brought some of the church gutters down and Chris is going to investigate what is needed for repairs. Horizon plumbing and heating has been contacted about repairing the air conditioner. Griff will follow up to be sure a time has been scheduled to look.
6. Staffing: Pastor's new contract is being prepared and Bob is putting together a compensation committee consisting of three people including Bob.

**Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

Connie has purchased the palms for Palm Sunday. Bob is going to review doing a trifold bulletin with Connie and is planning on making some prayer request cards to leave in the pews.

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.●



**PANCAKE BREAKFAST WILL START AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER!!! THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED MONEY, WORKED AT THE BREAKFAST AND OF COURSE EATING THE PANCAKES!!!!!!**



Next Missions Meeting:

**June 2 at 6:30pm**

Joint  
Missions/CCC  
Committee  
Meeting



*With Heartfelt  
Sympathy*



*Our thoughts and prayers go out to Brenda Oslowski  
and family. Brenda's sister passed away.*

Thank you to those who brought  
flowers to our altar on Easter  
Sunday!



**Congratulations to Pastor Matt,  
Kirstie, Lily, and Sammie on the  
birth of their son and brother!  
Thomas Matthew was born on  
Thursday, April 3rd at 10:04 AM,  
He weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was  
20.5" long.**

**The picture to the left is our  
oldest member, Pat Long, holding  
our youngest member, Thomas  
Matthew!**

Thank you to Ted Munger for  
leading our worship while Pastor  
Matt was on paternity leave.!



**March was Minnesota's Foodshare Month. We collected food donated to the Pillager Food Shelf. There was a collection bin in the Narthex. Thank you to everyone who donated food for this worthy cause.**



### **Pillager Community Easter**

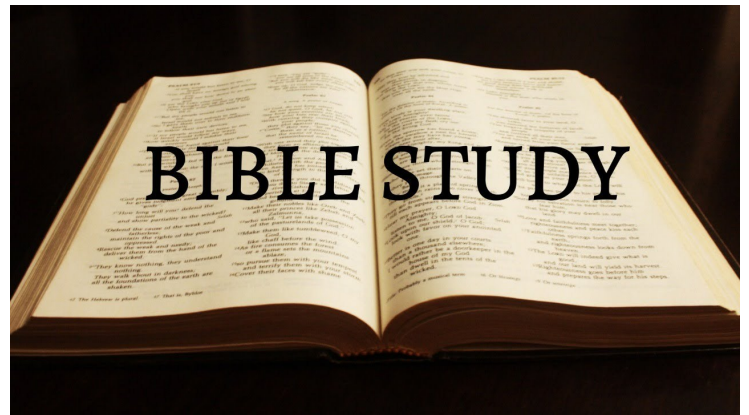
Thank you to everyone who attended the Easter  
Community Service which was held Wednesday,  
April 16, at 7 pm at Eden Church.

At least 60 folks turned out Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Eden Ministry Center on Hwy 210 to celebrate Easter as a body of believers in the Pillager community, representing four denominations, including these 7 of the 11 from First Lutheran. We were blessed to express our common beliefs together. He is risen, indeed!

## 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!!!

Prayer Focus Slides for people who are leading the Prayer Focus for May and June are on the table by the sign-up sheet for scriptures by the office.



**We will be starting up our Bible Study in the Fall!**



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

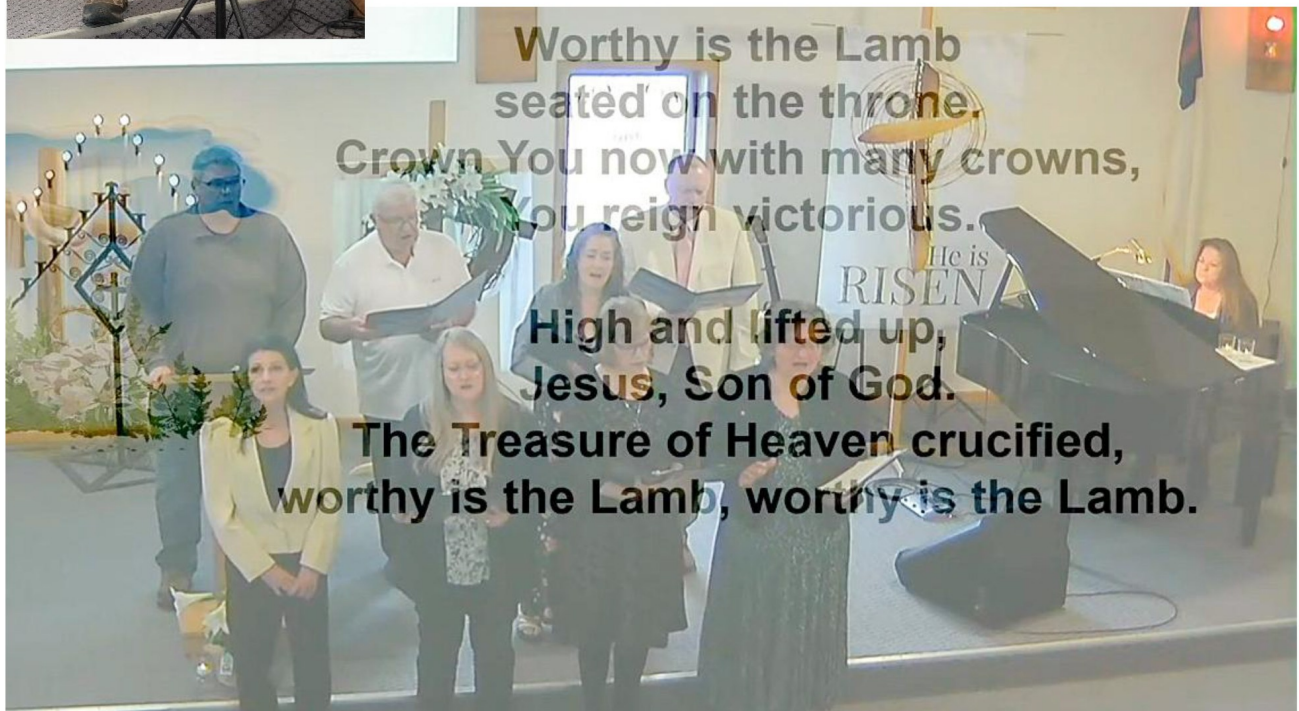
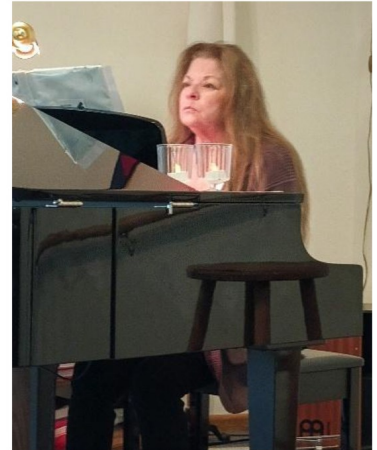
Each month we will have a list of items that we would like you to donate. This month (May) we would like the donated items to include boys underwear sizes M (10-12) and L (14-16).

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



## The Resurrection of Our Lord celebrated April 20th

Easter's special music gave glory to God. In the prelude, Tom Kavanaugh soloed verses of the "Easter Hallelujah" while the choir joined in on the chorus, processed with electric tea lights, and placed those in the floral garden at the altar. For the offering, the choir crooned "Worthy is the Lamb." Before communion, Tom sang a passionate rendition of "The Lord's Prayer." We give thanks to all who shared their musical gifts – practicing weekly as a choir – to lead the congregation from the pews in a series of contemporary songs during Lent's Sunday offerings. Easter Sunday concluded this Spring choral ministry with the help of our pianist, Rita Peterson. Thanks, everyone!!





# Glimpses of the *Garden Gnome Tea*



Giving God glory for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual spring tea that drew 44 guests and 6 of 8 on the committee together for a party of 50 ladies. A phe-GNO-ME-nal success that brought "Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in Our Hearts," with fellowship, crafts, food and puns! The Garden Gnome Tea was held 2-4 p.m., Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all!!!





# More from the *Garden Gnome Tea*





## Honoring Our Graduates

On Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, during the 9:30 a.m. worship service, First Lutheran Pillager will host a special blessing and quilt presentation for the Class of 2025 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 soon work on the summer worship outlines. We need your help to fill June, July and August with your song requests. On the request cards, please write the numbers and titles from the cranberry hymnal. No videos, due to ads and streaming licenses. If there's another familiar hymn you'd like to sing: Please provide the song title. Sign your name on the request so we can contact you to ensure the right version. Place requests in the offering basket for collection.*



PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE  
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF

*Bob and Rosie Harmsen*

June 28, 2025  
3pm - 6pm  
KNUTSON HOME  
28324 125th Str. NW  
Zimmerman MN 55398

Please RSVP by June 10th. Text or call 612-219-6130



| May 2025 FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER   |              |   |           |          |        |          |
|--|--------------|---|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday   | Monday       | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 27   | 28           | 29  | 30        | 1        | 2      | 3        |
| 4  | 5            | 6   | 7         | 8        | 9      | 10       |
| 9:30 am Communion Service<br>10:30 am Fellowship   |              | 12 pm Quilters<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg                        |           |          |        |          |
| 11   | 12           | 13  | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| 9:30 am Service<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>10:30 am Fellowship<br><br>MOTHER'S DAY<br>OPENING FISHING |              | 12 pm Quilters<br>6:30 pm Council Mtg<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg |           |          |        |          |
| 18   | 19           | 20  | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| 9:30 am Communion Service<br>10:30 am Pancake Breakfast  |              | 12 pm Quilters<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg                        |           |          |        |          |
| 25   | 26           | 27  | 28        | 29       | 30     | 31       |
| 9:30 am Service<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>10:30 Fellowship<br><br>GRADUATE RECOGNITION               | Memorial Day | 12 pm Quilters<br>8:00 pm AA Mtg                        |           |          |        |          |

# June 2025 FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER

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