

# First Edition



## Thoughts From Pastor Matt!

Springtime has to be my favorite part of the year. We just came off the month of celebrating Easter and rejoicing in the dead coming back to life. With winter seeming to go on forever, we are left staring at a barren ground and leafless trees. But then spring arrives. The grass turns into a bright green color and the trees start to bud. Flowers begin to emerge from the ground as well with the songs of birds returning each morning. It's a perfect visual of dead things coming to life.

If that wasn't a good enough reason for me to love springtime, there is also the event that every fisherman and fisherwoman look forward to: Walleye opener in Minnesota on May 9th. My dad, brother and I have been going to a cabin up near Lake Winnibigoshish every opener for decades. This opener will personally be my 25th year anniversary of doing this tradition with my family. Then when June rolls around, my brother and I will continue a tradition we started almost 10 years ago and that is going to Mille Lacs for the Muskie opener. Did I mention I love springtime? It gets me excited just thinking of those upcoming trips.

Besides the fishing and the new life showing up in nature, there are two events that take place, one in May and one in June, that need to be mentioned and celebrated. Of course I am talking about Mother's and Father's Day. I can't help but to think back on all the good times, and even some bad times, that I got to share with my parents. Every moment that I did have played a pivotal role as to where I am today. They disciplined me when I was naughty and rewarded me when I was good. They cared for me when I was sick and spent time with me doing things that I loved. I am truly blessed and forever grateful for the parents that God entrusted my life with. Becoming a parent myself makes me realize even more what my parents sacrificed for me and my siblings. However, that's not always the case for everyone. Some people grew up without one or both parents. Some parents might have been abusive. Some parents might have put their careers above their children. Or perhaps this might be the first year your Mother will not be present during Mother's Day or your Father on Father's Day making it a depressing time of year. If that is the case for you, know that I will be lifting all the motherless and fatherless children up in prayer. May your Heavenly Father wrap you up and hold you close and let you know how much you are loved by Him.

So to all the mothers out there, I want to give thanks for you. I will be on a boat instead of in the pulpit that Sunday, so I want to make sure you are thanked for taking on the toughest job, for birthing us, nurturing us, and raising us up. And fathers, I can't forget about you. You are there to comfort us, provide for us, and lead us to eventually release us to do life on our own. Thank you, parents.

And to my parents, I just want to say thank you again. You introduced me to Jesus and raised me on the path that I should go. Now I'm living a life where I get to point people to Jesus every Sunday (that is if I'm not out on the lake!) I also get to take what you taught me and pass it down to my children. You and the lessons you taught me get to live on through me and my children.

If you still have parents, whether one parent, step parents, or mentors who have become like a parent to you, make sure you say thank you to them, and also give thanks to your Heavenly Father. So Happy Mother's and Father's Day to all the parents reading this newsletter article. May you all be blessed, and don't forget to at least come to church on Sunday, June 21st to hear all my bad dad jokes while all the mothers roll their eyes. Be blessed!

# THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

**Roxann Kaiser**

**JoAnn Artmann (Karen Fundine's daughter)**

**Rex Manchesian (Rita Peterson's brother)**

**Brenda Hoppe** *UPDATING*

**Dana Robinson (Rita Peterson's daughter-in-law)**

**Dale Lyon (Sherry Holm's cousin)**

**Mara Dokukin (Karen Fundine's granddaughter)**

**Eric Lee (Avis Lee's grandson)**

**Troy (Linda Converse's son)**

**Pete Simons (relative of Shirley Smith)**

**Curt Thering (Wendy Jacobson's dad)**

Please contact Connie Vieths at 218-839-3767 or [cvieths1@gmail.com](mailto: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!

**Check out our Website at [firstlutheranpillager.net](http://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.

## Church Council

**President: Griff Eisel (952) 239-0878**

**Vice President:**

**Secretary: Dan Jacobson (218) 746-4167**

Bob Harmson

Don Osowski (763) 286-5405

Don Tichy

Chris Warren

Glen Welters

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.**

## 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.**

**First Lutheran Church Pillager Minutes**  
**Feb. 17, 2025**

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. by Vice President Chris Warren

**Present:** Griff Eisel, Matthew Sundquist, Glen Welters, Dan Jacobson, Don Tichy, Chris Warren

**Absent:** Bob Harmsen, Don Oslowski, Lynn Bushinger

**I. Opening Prayer:** Pastor Matt

**II. Treasurer's Report:** Griff discussed rebalancing accounts to ensure the general fund reflects all revenue on hand to pay general ongoing expenses. No action was taken at the meeting, but he intends to discuss it with Lynn. A motion made by Chris to accept the February financial report. The motion was seconded by Glen and approved by Acclamation.

**III. Pastor's Report:** Pastor attended the benefit for Julie Munsenger in Brainerd on Feb. 15. He also attended Ron Carlson's funeral in the Twin Cities earlier in the month. Pastor requested prayer for members of the church experiencing health issues. Update on the community service at the Pillager fairgrounds on July 11: Three of four community churches plan to participate. There is a dinner planned afterward. Pastor is meeting with the other pastors to plan for that event and the Community Easter Service.

**IV. Secretary's Report:** Chris made a motion to dispense with the reading of the January 2025 minutes, seconded by Don T. and approved. Chris made a motion to approve the minutes with a correction to add Glen to the Present attendees, seconded by Glen and approved by acclamation.

**V. Committee Updates:**

**1. Worship/Music:** Lent services run through March 25 and the Council is signed up to provide soup for that Wednesday. Lenten services will use the Holden Evening service. Pastor is planning a replacement service for next year. Pastor has also been in contact with area churches concerning the Community Service scheduled April 1 during Holy Week to see what is expected of him and the congregation.

**2. Congregation and Community Outreach:** (Marliss) – The Pillager School, Women's Shelter, and Adult-Teen Challenge all sent thank us for giving to various projects at the end of 2025. The CCC Tea Party has been scheduled for April 25, Garage Sale July 9 & 10, Sept. 13 Teen/Adult Challenge service,

3. Hospitality: Diane has agreed to remain the primary hospitality contact. Nothing was reported.

4. Sanctuary: Shirley mentioned there are still some wasps flying around and we may need to investigate if all entrances were sealed once the weather warms up.

**5. Facilities / Building:** Pastor recommended we look at more space for Sunday School and trying to grow new programs. Griff suggested we take a broader space planning approach that would look at the possibility of reorganizing the available space upstairs and possibly close off the hall behind the old sanctuary to enlarge the youth space.

**6. Staffing:** (under new business)

**Old Business:**

**New Business:** The council would like to review the Church insurance policy before it comes due in June and reach out for competitive bids. Will wait for Bob to return so he can lead the effort. Times are being set up in April and September are being set up for church employee reviews. These would include all paid positions.

**Adjourn & Closing:** Don T. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Glen. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

## **First Lutheran Church Pillager Minutes March 10, 2025**

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

**Present:** Griff Eisel, Matthew Sundquist, Glen Welters, Dan Jacobson, Don Tichy, Don Osowski, Lynn Bushinger, Marliiss Eisel

**Absent:** Bob Harmsen, Chris Warren

**I. Opening Prayer:** Pastor Matt

**II. Treasurer's Report:** Lynn reported that the revenue through the first two months of 2026 was \$18,589. She has been setting aside funds for the MN Paid Leave insurance, which will be paid quarterly. In anticipation of a new financial secretary this summer, council confirmed that all bills outside of payroll are currently paid by auto pay direct deposit. As part of ongoing efforts to normalize funding across dedicated accounts, Dan made a motion to move \$4,685.38 from the parsonage repairs account to the building maintenance fund. Motion was seconded by Don O. and approved.

**III. Pastor's Report:** Pastor reported that he had reached out to area churches to check what type of financial secretary support they have. Responses indicated that most churches are using member resources for those responsibilities. He also asked community churches about plans for an Easter community worship service but did not get enough positive response to move forward this year. Pastor reported he is taking vacation time on the following Sundays: April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup> and June 7. He is reaching out to Pastor Jim Tetlie to see if he is available for the May and possibly June services. Council will ask Roger if he can fill in during the April service.

**IV. Secretary's Report:** Don O. made a motion to wave the reading of the minutes, which was seconded by Glen. Then Glen moved to approve the minutes of February meeting, seconded by Don T. and approved by acclamation.

## V. Committee Updates:

**1. Worship/Music:** Lent services run through March 25 and the Council is signed up to provide soup for that Wednesday. Palm Sunday service is being planned with a long reading. Choir plans to participate in the Easter service.

**2. Congregation and Community Outreach:** (Marliss) – Marliss announced a committee meeting is being held on April 6 and will include preparation for the April Tea held at the end of the month.

**3. Hospitality:** Nothing reported.

**4. Sanctuary:** Nothing reported

**5. Facilities / Building:** Following up on the pest control issue and concerns about wasps entering the church from the south wall. Don O. will do another inspection as soon as the weather allows to see if the entry hole was properly sealed during the siding painting project last year. Griff mentioned he is looking at options to expand space for Sunday school rooms, that may include looking at the space surrounding the nurse's and music room on the southeast side of the old sanctuary.

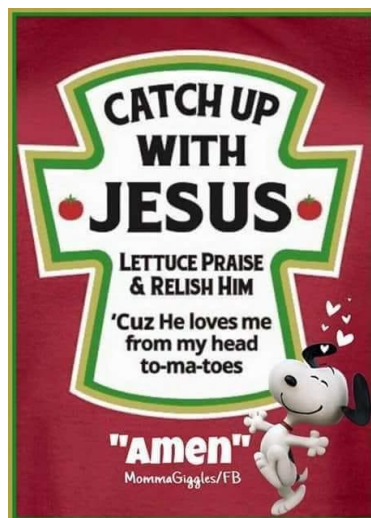
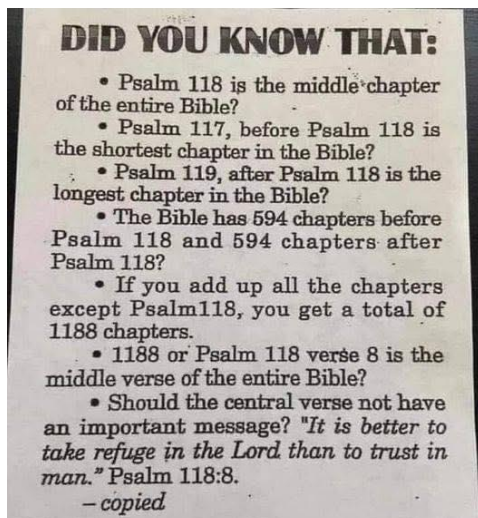
**6. Staffing:** (under new business)

**Old Business:** Regarding the open position for financial secretary, Glen reported reaching out to the Little Falls accounting and bookkeeping firm of RTO PA. (He is familiar with the firm from the work they do with the Randall VFW.) They offer a variety of options based on which responsibilities we would give them. Straight bookkeeping services would require someone in the congregation to make weekly deposits and review the mail for billing inquiries. Council will continue to consider this and other options for filling the position.

**New Business:** (Included in discussions of facilities and staffing.)

**Adjourn & Closing:** Glen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don O. seconded the motion.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer



## Looking Ahead

July Events include the parade and our Annual Garage Sale! Please start getting your treasures together for donating to our Garage Sale On July 9 and 10th! Stay tune for more details in June!

# Upnorth Spring Tea Scratches the Itch for Fellowship and Fun

Nearly 50 folks grabbed their besties, gussied up in their fav'rite flannels, and turned out for crafts, bars, and uffdas on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. When all was said and done, they'd had some fun - thanks to the committee who put in hours of prep for this fourth-annual community-outreach event.



**With great gratitude for God's abundant blessings and turnout!**







Join our monthly Tea at Riverside Assisted Living from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. In April, we delivered Easter cards made by First Lutheran's Sunday Schoolers to the residents. Thursday, May 14th will be the next Tea opportunity! Come visit with residents over a hot beverage and treats. Or if you're male, come challenge the 95-year-old guy who's looking for some cribbage competition!



**Honoring Our Graduates**

On Sunday, May 24<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 2026 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!**

Thank you to Kim Pilgrim for making this cover for our sound system board in the media booth!

Thank you to Roger for leading us in worship!



A huge thank you to Lynn Bushinger for all the work and dedication being our Financial Secretary. Lynn is retiring in June! God bless you on your new journey!



*On April 1st, FLP quilters Linda Bentler, Diane Wright, Shirley Smith and Rosie Harmson delivered 15 quilts to Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge for program graduates.*

### **Providing warmth for those in need**

At noon almost every Tuesday, a small group meets for 2-3 hours at First Lutheran Church in Pillager with the goal of providing warmth for those in need.

The tradition began decades ago when the church women would gather weekly for world-mission endeavors of making quilts, rolling bandages, and packing kits for school children as well as for personal health-aid. Fifteen years ago, the group's focus changed to local mission work – providing quilts for those in need here in central Minnesota.

Finished quilts are stored for donations to local rehab groups, women's shelters, and care-center residents or for gifting to graduates, babies, or others in need. So far this spring, the group has donated a total of 24 quilts.

A few times a year, the group offers quilts for sale to build funds for buying polyester batting and flat sheets. Quilt sizes include baby, twin, full, queen, and king. Donations of cotton fabric in lengths of at least two yards as well as flat bed sheets in good condition are greatly appreciated. Follow the First Lutheran Church Pillager Facebook page to keep up with their latest news. Stop in on Tuesdays.

HAPPY  
Mother's  
DAY

HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY

# May 2026 First Lutheran Pillager

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	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	6:30 pm Bible Study			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 am Service <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Church Council 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 pm Bible Study	1:30 pm Tea at Riverside		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 pm Bible Study			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 am Service <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 10:30 am Fellowship <b>Honoring Our Graduates Sunday</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>	12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 pm Bible Study			
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship						
© Calendarpedia® <a href="http://www.calendarpedia.com">www.calendarpedia.com</a>						Data provided 'as is' without warranty

# June 2026

# First Lutheran

## Pillager

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Church Council 8:00 pm AA Mtg		1:30 pm Tea at Riverside		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg			<b>Juneteenth</b>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg				
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg			Independence Day (observed)	Independence Day