

# First Edition



## A Word From Our Pastor!!!

As I am writing this newsletter article, Pillager is getting pounded with snow. I would say a good foot or close to it. I have already plowed multiple times and yet the snow just keeps on coming. But as Minnesotans, we know that the snow cannot go on forever. It will eventually stop. And so we wait in hope for the clouds to dissipate and the sun to shine through once again.

The Advent Season was a season of hope; hope as we wait and watch for the coming of our Savior. This snowstorm can teach us a lot about remaining hopeful when things just seem to be overwhelming. Our weary bodies might not be able to lift one more shovelful of snow, but if we remain hopeful in the Lord, our strength will be renewed. Winter will just be another season that comes and goes.

However, during this time of what seems to be unending snow, let us pause and look at the beauty of it all. The snow covered trees, the intricate design of a snowflake, and the pure white color as it blankets the earth. Snow, although not fun to shovel, is quite beautiful to look at.

In Autumn, we see the death and decay of nature. Leaves fall and trees are bare. Flowers drop their petals and the grass loses its green color. Autumn is a season that reminds us this life is temporary and that death comes to us all. But God does not want that to be our focus, so He covers up that death and decay with pure white snow. Oh, how this reminds me of what Jesus has done for us. He looked down on this world, saw the sin, death, and decay, and decided it needed to be covered. Jesus takes the sin of the world and washes it white as snow. All that is left to be seen is something beautiful covered by the blood of the Lamb. Jesus does not see a sinful person anymore, but rather a person who is pure, has a clean heart, and is clothed in righteousness. I hope and pray that this winter season is that reminder to you and so I want to close with a line from the hymn Jesus Paid it All:

**Jesus paid it All  
All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow**

May all who are reading this be blessed and that the Lord gives you strength whether it's strength for you body after all the shoveling you have done, or it is strength for you soul, because this life can get overwhelming. So remain hopeful, because Spring will come, and new life will emerge.

Pastor Matthew

## THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Bonnie Anderson  
Tim Litsheim (cancer)  
Dan Long's nephew  
Jessica Nornberg  
Lindsey Kennedy (cancer)  
(Pat Long's granddaughter)  
Roxann Kaiser (cancer)  
Adam Long (grandson of Dan Long)  
(Rita Peterson's brother and sister-in-law)

Sharon Doss (Leukemia)  
Ann Ness  
Amber Baerg  
(Chris & Julie Warren's daughter)  
Darlene Zabel  
JoAnn Artmann  
(Karen Fundine's daughter)  
Rex and Ginger Manchesian

### ASSISTING LIVING/NURSING HOME

**Riverside:** Irene Pietz, Ken Kelling,  
**Harmony House in Brainerd:** Char Brattlund

### MILITARY

**Chad Hagg**—Army, Son of Arlene Hagg, Nephew of Eileen Ausland  
**Joseph DeLude**—Army, Grandson of Don DeLude  
**Isaac Jacobson**—Navy, Son of Dan & Wendy Jacobson  
**Sonja Larson**—Army, Granddaughter of Mel & Gwen Larson

### 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.

### 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

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

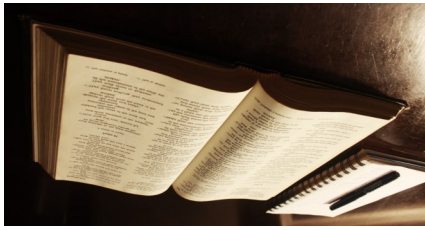
We also have a Facebook page to check out!!!! Please free to post anything or post comments!!! Facebook page search type in First Lutheran Pillager and this should take you to the page. The Calendar will be updated as the schedule changes!

### Church Council

President: Bob Harmsen (320) 493-5991  
Vice President: Dan Jacobson  
Secretary: Tom Kavanaugh (218) 851-4881

Mike Bellos (218) 838-9804  
Julie Hofius (218) 820-4259  
Shirley Smith (218) 838-1483  
Nicole Buersken (320) 232-7439

A special thanks to Tom Kavanaugh and Bob Harmsen for serving on the council. Your time and effort was very much appreciated!!!



## Bible Study Wednesday Nights from 6:30 pm—8:00 pm

Pancake Breakfast the second Sunday of every month!  
See you there




**GAME NIGHT**

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY FROM 7-9  
CHECK THE DATES ONLINE OR IN THE BULLETIN OR ON THE CALENDAR IN NEWSLETTER



Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30  
(Except when there are council meetings)

No service on Sunday, December 25.

### DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ. **Two turtle doves** are the Old and New Testaments. **Three French hens** stand for faith, hope, and love. The **four calling birds** are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The **five golden rings** recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. The **six geese a-laying** stand for the six days of creation. **Seven swans a-swimming** represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit --Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. The **eight maids a-milking** are the eight eaitudes. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. The **ten lords a-leaping** are the Ten Commandments. The **eleven pipers piping** stand for the eleven faithful disciples. The **twelve drummers drumming** symbolize the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

I've never heard this before, have you?  
So there is your history lesson for today!  
Merry Christmas!! Yes, I said MERRY CHRISTMAS because Christmas is not without CHRIST!



### Quilting Ladies

Tuesdays at 12:00 pm

Even if you don't see a car in the parking lot!



## COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2022

Opening and Call to Order: 6:29 PM October 11, 2022

Present: Nicole Buersken, Pastor Matt, Dan Jacobson, Bob Harmsen, Kirstie Sundquist, Shirley Smith, Tom Kavanaugh, Tammie Barnett

Absent: Connie Vieths, Julie Hofius, Mike Bellos

**Pastor's Report:** Attended the church conference in the cities. Had two funerals to report. Introduced the idea of a care committee to help in meeting with some individuals who might not feel as comfortable meeting with him based on his younger age. Working on how to assist with this.

**Treasurer's Report:** Looking good. Shirley made motion to accept the report and seconded by Dan, approved. 6-0

Approval of Agenda and Secretary's Report an made motion to accept with no changes, Nicole second and motion passed 6-0

### Committees:

- **Worship/Music:** Wendy reported on the new advent candles and that Rosie's son would handle the install. Waiting on the Christ Candle to arrive. Looking at a slightly different arrangement for the "Christ be our Light" for Advent. Looking to start Choir in November to take us into the holiday season. Hoping to see some new people in choir as well.
- **Youth/Family:** Trunk or Treat will be Monday, October 31 from 5:30-7:00 and will be indoors with treats, hot cocoa, games and such. October 30 service will be the handing out of bibles for three Sunday School students. Looking at a Sunday School program on December 18, which will also be our annual meeting.
- **Communications:** Bob is looking at costs and ideas for doing a mailing 2-3 times per year to better reach our community.
- **Hospitality:** We will be doing a Fall Dinner with an Italian Theme on Saturday, October 29 5:30-7:00. Tom K. will be heading up the food and cooking on Friday and Saturday, but we will be looking for volunteers and Tom will also look into the Pillager Pro-Start assisting him. Tickets have already started to sell and we are hoping for about 150 people. Pancake breakfast had a good turnout and we will be doing our next one on Sunday, November 13...Tom will be doing this one as Bob will be gone.
- **Sanctuary:** Nothing to report
- **Facilities/Building:** Snow plowing is being set up. Outdoor sign is being re-done.
- **Nominating:** Will be starting this process in looking for candidates to run for the council. Tom K. announced he will not seek re-election. Our annual meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, December 18.
- **Call/Negotiating:** Nothing to report.
- **Welcome/Visitors:** Nothing new to report.
- **Missions:** Missions continues to take off and expand its outreach including gift boxes that are being put together for Operation Christmas Child.

Staff Updates: Nothing new

New Business: Christmas Day is Sunday, December 25 so it was decided to not do Sunday service and only do our regular Christmas Eve Service on Saturday. Bob was working on the budget for the November Meeting. Made a meeting date change to Tuesday, November 15 due to conflicts and the election.

Old Business: Parsonage flooring update. Outdoor sign update.

Next Council Meeting will be November 15, 2022

Adjournment: motion by Shirley, second by Nicole at 7:58 pm--Lord's Prayer

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Thomas Kavanaugh, Secretary

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Happy  
New  
Year



Thanks to the Quilting Ladies for the purchase of our beautiful Advent candles. We will enjoy them for years to come!





Missional Volunteer Options:

- Pillager Food Shelf
- Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen

Sign up sheets in the back if interested



# Community Thanksgiving Service



Thanks to all who donated pies and who came to the service!



## Pillager School Christmas Needs

Thank you to everyone who donated money or items to our Mission Tree.

We donated \$545 to the students in need at Pillager School. They were extremely grateful for our donation to these families.



Thank you to everyone who helped with the making of lefse and for all those who brought baked goods to make our bake sale such a success. We made \$1,983!



## POINSETTIAS

Thank you to everyone who donated Poinsettias!

## Made 86 dozen lefse!!!

Thanks to everyone who donated items for the shoeboxes and who helped packed them. We packed 39 boxes. Fourteen boxes over our goal!



## HALLOWEEN OUTREACH

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Halloween Outreach. There were lots of treats, people dressed up and of course lots of fun!!!

Thanks to everyone who helped to decorate the church!!!