

# First Edition



## Thoughts From Pastor Matt!

As I am sitting down to write November/December's newsletter article, two things are going through my mind. The first thing is a passage from Ecclesiastes that Solomon wrote. He mentions in chapter 1 verse 9 that "there is nothing new under the sun." So what is something new that I can write for the last two months of 2024 that does not sound redundant? Be thankful and celebrate the birth of our Savior? That has been the message every November and December for the past 2000 years. Again, it is nothing new.

However, the second thing that has been on my mind has to do with All Saint's Sunday which occurs on the first Sunday of November. It is a time we remember all the saints that have gone to be with their Savior. Today, as I'm writing this article, two more saints got added to that list that were affiliated with our church family.

So what did Solomon mean when he said nothing new happens under the sun? This is going to be a new experience for the family and friends of those saints to celebrate the holidays with one less person. Although this is a tragic time, it is something new to process.

Perhaps Solomon meant by "nothing new under the sun" is the everyday things we take for granted. We get up. Eat. Go to work. Eat again. Sleep. Then repeat. The sun rises and sets just like every other day. People are born and people die. Nothing new happens that has not happened in the past.

Although nothing happens that hasn't happened before, we take each day as a gift from God because nothing is promised in this life. And even if there is nothing new under the sun, the experiences are still new to us. Someone out there is going through the grief of the loss of a loved one for the first time. Someone is also enjoying driving their newborn baby home from the hospital for the first time. Each experience is something new in their life's story, but has happened many times under the sun.

Because there is nothing new under the sun, I will just say what most people say during this time of year: Be thankful. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever. Give thanks for loved ones. Those who are still with us and those who are on the other side of glory. Give thanks for the memories of those saints. Give thanks in all circumstances. Also, give thanks to Jesus who left the glories of heaven to be Emmanuel: God *with us*. *The Creator of all the galaxies wrapped in cloth and laid in a manger. The King of kings now in the most vulnerable state a human can be in. A baby who would one day free the world of their bondage to sin. May the end of 2024 bring you peace and comfort in whatever circumstances you are facing, and may your hearts be filled with gratitude for all the things God has done in your life. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all who are reading this. May God richly bless you and make His face shine on you.*

Pastor Matthew

## THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Amber Baerg  
(Chris & Julie Warren's daughter)  
Julie Hofius  
JoAnn Artmann  
(Karen Fundine's daughter)  
Rex Manchesian  
(Rita Peterson's brother)

Roxann Kaiser (cancer)  
Diane Wright

Jill Clark  
Ryhley Mattison (Marlene's great  
granddaughter)

### ASSISTING LIVING/NURSING HOME

**Good Samaritan** Ken Kelling,  
**Riverside: Edith Pietz**

### MILITARY

**Joseph DeLude**—Army, Grandson of Don DeLude

### UPDATING

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.  
The Calendar will be updated as the schedule  
changes!

### 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

### 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.**

Shirley Smith (218) 838-1483

Lynda Converse (218) 821-8016

Diane Wright (218) 851-8964

Griff Eisel (952) 261-9069

### We Need You!!!

We have 3 council openings to fill this year. Please consider serving a three-year term. If anyone is interested, please contact Pastor or one of the council members! Please consider serving because we need YOU!

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Daniel Peterson family. Daniel's dad, David, died earlier this week. David is Rita Peterson's father-in-law. Thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

## **First Lutheran Church Pillager Minutes September 10, 2024**

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

Present: Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Griff Eisel, Lynda Converse, Nicole Buersken, Dan Jacobson, Shirley Smith, and guest Jim T.

Absent: Diane Wright, Julie Hofius

### **I. Opening Prayer:** Pastor Matt

**II. Pastor's Report:** August schedule included the FLC family fundraiser, Larry Anderson burial service, and travel to visit Julie and Neil Hofius at the hospital. Pastor reported that everyone is seeing prayers answered for Julie's recovery. Pastor made 36 additional member and requested visits in August. Pastor and Dan will be attending the annual LCMC conference in Iowa from Sept. 30-Oct. 2. The church will provide a rental car for the trip.

**III. Treasurer's Report:** Lynn Bushinger, the new financial secretary, delivered the August report. Lynn recommended the council review its employee tax status to ensure all contractors are being handled correctly. She is also experimenting with the monthly report to show a running spending baseline versus budget. Dan made motion to accept the financial report, which was seconded by Shirley and approved. ,

**IV. Secretary's Report:** Griff made motion to approve minutes from the August meeting, which was seconded by Lynda and approved.

### **V. Committee Updates:**

1. **Worship/Music:** No updates.
2. **Congregation and Community Outreach:** (Lynda) – Lynda reported the next committee meeting is scheduled for September 19 at the Shantee. Pastor is putting some graphics on T-shirts and mugs for purchase as part of the fundraiser.
3. **Hospitality:** (Diane) Family FUNdraiser on Aug. 16 brought in \$1,953 for the building and maintenance account. The fall meatball supper fundraiser is being planned for Saturday, Oct. 26.
4. **Sanctuary:** (Shirley) Nothing to report
5. **Facilities / Building:** After consulting with Jim Ausland about the possibility of repairing the two main furnaces, Griff said it wouldn't be a good idea because of the age of the furnaces. He reached out to five area contractors for bids and presented the council (at a special meeting on Sept. 22) with quotes. The council voted to accept the low bid of ~\$7,700 from Horizon Plumbing and Heating in Pillager to replace both furnaces in October. Pastor reported that the air conditioner at the parsonage has given up the ghost. The compressor motor stopped working, and we might want to have it looked at prior to winter in case there is still warranty coverage.
6. **Staffing:** (Nicole) – Nicole provided an update on hiring of Lynn Bushinger as financial secretary and council discussions on council officer positions. The church will need to provide Lynn with a QuickBooks remote account so that she can do business from her home computer. There was some question about possibly needing to update the church office computer as it is over seven years old and running slow.

7. **Missions:** The Shoebox ministry workshop was held Sept. 14., with Rosie and Marliss participating. The Missions Committee meet on Sept. 16 to assemble shoe boxes. Delivery of the boxes is planned for November. The church has enough material for 30 boxes, but will consider shipping costs in determining how many to include. The committee will be looking for bell ringers to support the Salvation Army Christmas fundraising campaign. The church will participate in Funfest at the Pillager School on October 25 and will have a booth. Trunk or Treat is 5-7 p.m. Oct. 31. Bakesale is November 23.

**Old Business:** Lynda did some research on a new sign for the front of the building. Of the bids, the cheapest one was \$5,000 installed. Replacement is being put on hold until other options can be considered. The flagpole that fell done by river street was hauled to parsonage yard. Pastor is looking into the possibility of recycling it. Baring that it will need to be hauled to the transfer station. Griff made a motion to nominate Nicole as interim president to fill in for Julie during her recovery. Shirley seconded the motion, which was approved. Lynda nominated Griff for Vice President, with a second by Nicole, with the motion approved. The council will announce to the congregation that it is looking for someone to fill Julie's position for the rest of the year.

**New Business:** Regarding church newsletter mailings: each newsletter is above weight limit for postage with a cost of over a dollar per newsletter. The council discussed giving individuals on the list the option of receiving an emailed PDF of the newsletter instead of taking it by mail.

On a somewhat related note, Pastor mentioned that the Connection App we are subscribing to as a method of group communications using text message or email to the congregation is actually costing \$72 a month for our subscription when it was thought to cost \$300 per year. Pastor said he will begin looking for a new option so we have a way of efficiently sending group messages.

**Adjourn and Closing:** Shirley made a motion to adjourn, which was second by Nicole.

**Lord's Prayer**

## NEWSLETTER CHANGES

Starting with the January/February Newsletter, we will be going with electronic copies. I will be sending the Newsletter out to you using your e-mail. If you do not receive the Newsletter by January 15, this means I do not have your e-mail. Please send me your e-mail address to [cvieths1@gmail.com](mailto:cvieths1@gmail.com) For those who do not use e-mail, you can access the Newsletter by going to our church's Website [firstlutheranpillager.net](http://firstlutheranpillager.net) and click under resources and find Newsletters. We will be printing out some copies for those that request a copy. The reason why we are going to the electronic newsletter is that the cost to send out the Newsletter is about \$1 per issue, and we are trying to cut costs where we can.

## AVIS LEE



Avis Mae Lee, age 96, passed away at her home on October 27, 2024. Avis was born July 28, 1928, to Elmer and Mae Gudim (Mickels) on a farm near McVillie, ND. She went to school in Staples, graduating in 1946. In 1949 she married John Lee of Pillager, together they raised four children.

Avis is survived by her children, John (Charlene) Lee, Randy (Kathy) Lee, Lori (Paul) Dauphinais, David (Sheila) Lee; 10 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren; 7 great-great grandchildren.

Avis was a member of First Lutheran Church in Pillager and a member of the Pillager American Legion Auxiliary for 70 years. She also delivered Meals on Wheels and helped in the Pillager Senior Center. In 2013 she was Pillager Citizen of the Year.

A memorial service for Avis will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 1, 2024, at First Lutheran Church in Pillager with a gathering time from 10:00-11:00 AM. Interment Wildwood Cemetery in Pillager.





On Saturday, October 26th, the Meatball Supper, Basket Raffle and Quilt Sale raised \$2,020 (after expenses) for the church siding fund. The workers served 147 people and sent home seven takeout meals with visitors. One quilt sold for \$60 and 21 baskets raffled in individual drawings brought in \$550. The rest of the proceeds came in the freewill offering. Thanks to everyone who donated their time to prep the meal, set up the tables and decorations, basket raffle, sale of quilts and the cleanup afterwards. Thanks to all who donated Raffle Baskets! With great gratitude to all who made the fellowship and fun possible this fall. God is good - all the time!



Fellowship in Christ's love and celebrate Fall



The decorating team!



The raffle leaders!



Sale of quilts made by the church ladies!



Welcome all!



Raffle items!





The quilting ladies sold 8 quilts and raffle tickets for a choice of a twin quilt at Pillager Fest. The proceeds of \$495 will help purchase supplies to fuel this ministry that provides Christ's love in a quilt to those in need. With great gratitude!!!



On Reformation Sunday, October 27, Pastor Matthew distributed Bibles from the congregation to eligible Sunday School students, left to right: Pastor Matthew, Brielle Karppinen, Gabby Grandlund, Addy Knutson, Michael Laughery, Harper Baerg and Laiken Roberts. Not pictured: Amelia Kadus and Lincoln Baerg. We pray the Bible draws each one closer to Jesus in his/her faith journey.



Pastor Matthew and Dan Jacobson attended the 24th LCMC annual convention held September 29-October 2 at FaithLife Church in Marion, Iowa.



A special thanks to retired Pastor Jim Tetlie for leading worship on Sunday, September 1st while Pastor Matthew and his family were away.



**Games for Halloween Night!**



**Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming events.**

MN Teen Challenge Sunday, December 15

Bake Sale Saturday, November 23, 9 am—3 pm

Decorating Church Tuesday, November 26 starting at noon. Please consider coming and helping!

Sunday School Program Sunday, December 22, during service

Christmas Eve Service Tuesday, December 24, 4 pm

**Address for Clint and Lynda Converse  
19688 308th Ave, Underwood, MN 56586**

November 2024      FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 am Communion Ser-vice 10:30 am Pancake Break-fast		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 – 8 pm Bible Study “Chosen”			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship	Veterans Day	12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 – 8 pm Bible Study “Chosen			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 am Communion Ser-vice 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	7:30 PM MOVIE			9 am – 3 pm Letse & Bake Sale
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	7 pm Thanksgiving Community Service	Thanksgiving Day		
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY						

December 2024    FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship	2	3 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	4 6:30 – 8 pm Bible Study “Chosen	5	6	7
8 9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast	9	10 12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	11 FAMILY HOLIDAY WORK-SHOP (TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED	12	13	14
15 9:30 am ADULT TEEN CHALLENGE 10:30 am Potluck following	16	17 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	18 7:30 pm Movie Night	19	20	21
22 9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 10:30 am Fellowship	23	24 4:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29 9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship	30	31 8:00 pm AA Mtg	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4