



First Edition

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST LUTHERAN NOVEMBER 2020

As I write this month's newsletter article, I am functioning on just a couple hours of sleep so I hope my words are somewhat understandable and my thoughts are coherent. The reason for my lack of sleep is because on October 24th, 2020 at 2:11 am my daughter, Lillian "Lily" Elizabeth Sundquist was born. She entered into this world weighing in at 8 lbs 6oz and was 20.5" long. While Kirstie was pregnant, I always thought how I could love someone so much who I had never even met yet. Now that I have met her, my heart is filled with even more love. She is an absolute gift from God to my wife, and I and we cannot give enough thanks to all the people who have prayed for us during this process.

You will also probably notice the next few Sundays in November there will be guest preachers filling in for me while I take a paternity leave. I will still attend the services and be filled by God's Word that morning, but my brain will be like mush so you probably wouldn't want me preaching anyways.

But apart from my lack of sleep and my incoherent thoughts, there is one Bible verse that God has been putting on my heart for some time now. It comes from the book of Philippians 1:3. "I thank my God every time I remember you." I remember all of you who have prayed for my daughter. I remember all of you who have given gifts for the baby shower. I remember all of you who have been so welcoming and friendly and caring and loving to my wife and me. I remember you all, and I give thanks to God for each one of you.

What better month to give thanks for everyone than in the month where we celebrate Thanksgiving. Sure, it is wonderful to shove our faces full of turkey and mashed potatoes and possibly find an amazing deal on Black Friday (if that will be a thing this year), but this year I want us to not only be thankful for food and gifts, but also family. Some people come from nuclear families, broken families, extended families, step families, but I want you to know that if you made that decision to make Jesus your Lord and Savior, you are part of God's family. You are a child of God. That is the greatest family you can be a part of. And that is something to give thanks to God for. Remember that this month as we give thanks, but remember that every month. Have a great November and I look forward to seeing you all in church. May God bless all who are reading this with peace, joy and love.

Blessings,
Pastor Matthew



PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Kaylee Mudgett
Lindsey Kennedy (cancer)
(Pat Long's granddaughter)
Jessica Nornberg
Kerry Meyer
Brady Fiest (motorcycle accident)
Beverly Williams (cancer)
(Glen Pilgrim's niece)
Dena Dixon (daughter of Clancy Hanson)
JoAnn Artmann
(Karen Fundine's daughter)

Bonnie Anderson
Darlene Zabel
Tim Litsheim (cancer) Dan Long's nephew
Rita Peterson (cancer)
Amber Baerg (Chris & Julie Warren's daughter)
Sheila Pohle (cancer) (Sister-in-law Glen Pilgrim)
Adam Long (grandson of Dan Long)
Nancy Worden (sister of Neal Hofius)

PEOPLE IN NURSING AND ASSISTED LIVING HOME

Riverside Assisted Living

Irene Pietz
Barb Reimer
Ken Kelling

Harmony House/Brainerd

Char Brattlund



MILITARY

Jennifer Vasquez—Navy, Daughter to Don and Sharon Gehrke
Chad Hagg—Army, Son of Arlene Hagg, Nephew of Eileen Ausland
Joseph DeLude—Army, Grandson of Don DeLude
Isaac Jacobson—Navy, Sons of Dan & Wendy Jacobson
Sonja Larson—Army, Granddaughter of Mel & Gwen Larson
Patrick Anderson— Army, Nephew of Julie Hofius

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.

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!

Thoughts and prayers go out to the Glenn Pilgrim family. Glenn is in the hospital in Duluth.

Church Council

President: Don Osowski
Vice President: Tom Kavanaugh
Secretary: Julie Warren
Mike Bellos, Bob Harmsen, Julie Hofius, Shirley Smith

Pastor Matthew Sundquist

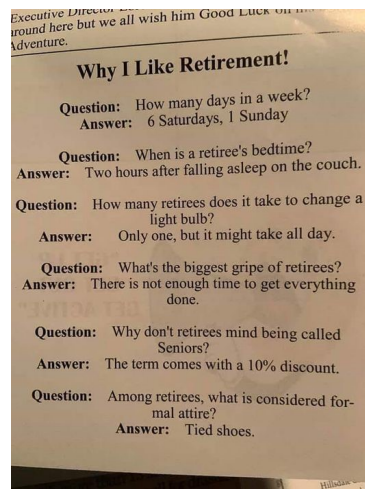
Office 218-746-3775

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How many of you remember the rest of these jingles?

1. "My bologna has a first name"
2. "I don't wanna grow up"
3. "Gimme a break, gimme a break"
4. "The best part of waking up"
5. "Sometimes you feel like a nut"
6. "I'd like to teach the world to sing"
7. "Reach out and touch someone"
8. "If you dare wear short shorts"
9. "They're magically delicious"
10. "Meow, meow, meow, meow"
11. "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is"
12. "So kiss a little longer. Hold hands a little longer. Hold tight a little longer"

.... and how many of you sang them?



You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about. Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house. The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely. As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up? Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this? 'Look at it.' He said. 'Read what it says.' She read the words 'United States of America' 'No, not that; read further.' 'One cent?' 'No, keep reading.' 'In God we Trust?' 'Yes!' 'And?' 'And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful! When I was out shopping yesterday I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, 'In God We Trust,' and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient..

A lady went to the Pastor and said "I won't be attending Church anymore." He said, "May I ask why??" She said, "I see people on their cell phones during the service, some are gossiping, some just ain't living right, they are all just hypocrites." The Pastor got silent and he said, "Ok... But can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision?" She said, "What's that?" He said, "Take a glass of water and walk around the Church 2 times and don't let any water fall out the glass." She said, "Yes I can do that." She came back and said "It's done." He asked her 3 questions: 1. Did you see anybody on their phone? 2. Did you see anybody gossiping? 3. Was anybody living wrong? She said, "I didn't see anything because I was so focused on this glass, so the water wouldn't fall." He told her, "When you come to Church, you should be just that focused on God, so that you don't fall. That's why Jesus said 'Follow me.' He did not say follow Christians. Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God. Let it be determined by how focused **YOU** are on God."

We see things totally different. You probably see an old man next to a big deer he killed. I see 2 old legends in this photo. That



deer has lived a long life, probably talked about by every hunter in those woods. As for the older gentleman, I see a man who has probably been hunting since he was a kid, maybe hunting with his father and grandfather since then. The look on his face says he just shot the biggest buck of his life. I bet he wishes his father, grandfather, or whoever he hunted with back then, that may no longer be here, could be with him in that moment to share this memory with. Im sure he's killed many bucks in his life and is full of stories to share. Like my grandfather, a legend in his family. Hunters like me are moved by pictures like this. Its pictures like this that show me why I cherish every moment in the woods with my family. Because one day, I'll be in the old mans position and some of my family will only be with me in spirit. Hopefully it isn't any time soon. To my hunting family, I love y'all. Let's keep making these memories!

What a wonderful lesson this was for me. I do not recall ever being taught this in school. "The Meaning of the Flag-Draped Coffin"

All Americans should be given this lesson. Those who think that America is an arrogant nation should really reconsider that thought. Our founding fathers used GOD's word and teachings to establish our Great Nation and I think it's high time Americans get re-educated about this Nation's history.

Please pass it along and be proud of the country we live in, and even more proud of those who serve to protect our 'GOD-GIVEN' rights and freedoms. I hope you take the time to read this ... To understand what the flag draped coffin really means ...



Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers: Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The **1st fold** of the flag is a symbol of life.

The **2nd fold** is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The **3rd fold** is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The **4th fold** represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The **5th fold** is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.'

The **6th fold** is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The **7th fold** is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic..

The **8th fold** is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The **9th fold** is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The **10th fold** is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The **11th fold** represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The **12th fold** represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The **13th fold**, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

Written by Rob Amsden

This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms.

The tablecloth is white symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty.

The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith awaiting answers.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon, a symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The glass is inverted to symbolize their inability to share this evening toast.

The chair is empty-they are missing.

Thank you to those who have served and sacrificed for our country and freedom.



The Helping Hands of Halloween



Trunk-or-Treaters Traveling In







All Saints Sunday: November 1, 2020

Retired Pastor Jill Holm presided while Pastor Matthew and Kirstie introduced their baby – Lillian Elizabeth – well as Donna Peterson as new members of the congregation.



Donna Peterson



Our bundle of joy graced us with her presence on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 2:11 am. Lillian Elizabeth Sundquist came in weighing at 6lbs 8oz and 20.5" long. Thank you to all of you who have prayed with us, for us, and for our baby Lily. She is a perfect example of just how great of a Creator we have.



Thank you to all who participated in this year's Trunk or Treat! It was a great evening.

Thank you to Wendy for designing the pictures pages 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 . You are awesome!!



Thank you to Roger for filling in for Pastor Matt! You did an amazing job and we appreciate you!



Thank you to Pastor Jill for doing the service for us on November 1. We appreciated you filling in for Pastor Matt as he is taking a paternity leave.



The Quilting Ladies are making quilts to give to Teen Challenge. To date, we have 20 to deliver!!!!!! If you are interested in joining us, please do!!! Rosie sews the quilts, and we tie them on Wednesday! The more the merrier. We do have a lot of fun and laugh a lot. We meet every Wednesday at 1:00. We often have coffee and great treats after!!!

We also have quilts for sale and if interested, please contact Rosie.





Poinsettias can be picked up anytime after the Christmas Eve service.



*** Last Sunday to turn in will
be December 13th!***

DECEMBER 19TH AT 10:00AM



FREE EVENT
Camp Shamaineau
is having a
community
Christmas!

Saturday, December 10
1:00-4:00pm



You Are Invited !!
To the 16th Annual
Christmas Celebration

This is a FREE Event

Compliments of _____
4 Miles South of Motley on Hwy
1 and 1/2 Miles East on Rte

Camp Shamnass 2345 Ridge Rd.