

First Edition

Thoughts From Pastor Matt!

As I am writing the final newsletter article for the year 2025, a passage of Scripture has been on my mind. Paul is writing a letter to Timothy towards the end of his ministry. He knows that his time on this earth is short, but he still communicates where his hope lies. “**6** For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day” (2 Timothy 4:6-8a).

The reason this verse has been on my mind is because as another year is coming to an end, we should have the same mindset of Paul. But perhaps it should be phrased into a question: During the year 2025, have I fought the good fight? Now that this year is ending, have I kept the faith? It is my hope that this year has brought you into a closer relationship with Jesus.

However, if this year has been a year you would like to forget, or maybe it has been one long walk through the darkest valley, there is still some encouragement we can pull out of these last two months of the year. I think there is a reason Thanksgiving always precedes Christmas. It is to turn our hearts into gratitude for the greatest gift this world has ever seen. The gift of God's only Son.

So for all those who are reading this newsletter article, I pray that whatever 2025 had to offer, you can finish the year strong, being filled with gratitude because the reward waiting for all of God's children, this crown of righteousness, is Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus is our reward. So keep fighting the good fight, keep running the race, and keep the faith. Let's finish this year well.

May you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving with hearts full of gratitude and a Christmas filled with that gratitude for the birth of our Savior. Also, Happy New Year! Let's see what God has in store for us as we continue the race set before us.

Blessings to you all!
Pastor Matthew

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Roxann Kaiser
JoAnn Artmann (Karen Fundine's daughter)
Rex Manchesian (Rita Peterson's brother)
Brenda Hoppe
Dana Robinson (Rita Peterson's daughter-in-law)
Dale Lyon (Sherry Holm's cousin)
Mara Dokukin (Karen Fundine's granddaughter)
Julie Hofius
Rosie Harmsen
Pete Simons (relative of Shirley Smith)

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

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

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 Osowski (763) 286-5405

Shirley Smith (218) 838-1483

Diane Wright (218) 851-8964

Chris Warren (320) 749-2031

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.**

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.

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

Present:, Lynn Bushinger, Griff Eisel, Bob Harmsen, Don Osowski, Matthew Sundquist, Diane Wright, Shirley Smith, Chris Warren **Absent:** Dan Jacobson

I. Opening Prayer: Pastor Matt

II. Treasurer's Report: Lynn reported that July represents 58% of the total year and that spending YTD is 58% of the overall budget. Individual budgets within the statement of activities report show 4 expense categories which have or are trending to exceeded budget. Those categories are for copier expense (under review), insurance (reflects premium increases), office supplies (affected by laptop and QuickBooks purchases), and missions/charitable giving (fellowship giving is expensed from this category but is not accounted for in its \$1,500 budget). Noted shortfalls in giving to the General Fund have been offset by targeted increases to the Parsonage Fund for HVAC replacement. Rebalancing of accounts once the siding project and installation of a new HVAC system in the parsonage is complete (with approval of donors) was suggested by Bob. Lynn advises that anti-virus protection for the laptop is needed. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Chris and seconded by Shirley. Motion passed.

III. Pastor's Report: Pastor advised that Julie Warren and Cindy Walgren will attend the LCMC meeting with him. Our church grew by 7 new members in July. Pastor asked whether the village or the church was responsible for maintaining the alleyway in front of the parsonage, it is in need of repairs. Matthew said he would make an inquiry with the township. Matthew reported that he and Kirstie had been working with Connie on using different office apps since the current software will no longer support our needs. No final decisions have been made.

IV. Secretary's Report: Motion to wave the reading of the minutes made by Diane and seconded by Don. Chris stated that the minutes regarding the quote from Gary's painting should be corrected from \$28,3000 to \$28,300. Motion made to approve the modified minutes by Shirley and seconded by Diane. Motion passed.

V. Committee Updates:

Worship/Music: None.

1. Congregation and Community Outreach: (Marliss) – Family Fun Night on 8/20, 5:00-8:00, Food from 5:00-6:00. Rosie and Marliss are handing out flyers to generate awareness to The Learning Ladder Daycare and the Pillager Early Childhood Learning Center as well as local homes in the area. September activities include: 9/20 the Pillager Street Fest (Quilting Ladies have a booth). 9/21 Adult/Teen Challenge, Service and meal. 9/29 Mission meeting and Christmas shoebox assembly at 6:00.

2. Hospitality: None

3. Sanctuary: None

4. Facilities / Building: Bob reported that the water beading to remove paint from the siding should, weather permitting, begin on August 18 followed by a coat of primer and two additional coats of paint. Bob asked for funding to remove the flood light on the church's north wall with cost not to exceed \$250. Griff made said motion, seconded by Shirley. Motion passed. Bob stated that the entry door on the building's East side would also be prepped and painted as part of the project. Bob requested a motion to research the installation of a cross on the outside north wall of the church. Griff made said motion, seconded by Chris. Motion passed. Griff suggested that a service be hired to apply bug spray to the outside of the church on a scheduled basis to reduce cobwebs. Don volunteered to get some bids for comparison. Bob said he would confirm with Gary's Painting that the insecticide would not affect the newly painted surfaces.

Staffing: None.

Old Business: Griff submitted the bid from Horizon Heating and Service Inc. for replacement of the parsonage's furnace and air-conditioning units for \$7,200 plus electrical wiring. After discussion, motion was made by Diane to accept Horizon's bid, seconded by Chris. Motion passed.

New Business: Council discussed and agreed to allow the Pillager school district to use the FLC as a shelter for their emergency access protocol, including distribution of up to 4 keys.

Adjourn & Closing: Diane made a motion to adjourn, which was second by Shirley and approved by acclamation.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

First Lutheran Church Pillager Minutes September 9, 2025

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m. by President Bob Harmsen

Present:, Lynn Bushinger, Griff Eisel, Bob Harmsen, Matthew Sundquist, Dan Jacobson, Chris Warren **Absent:** Don Oslowski, Shirley Smith, Diane Wright

I. Opening Prayer: Pastor Matt

II. Treasurer's Report: Lynn reported that at the end of August, the total cash position of the church was \$98,435 and envelope offerings were \$82,214. Year-over-year giving is down by \$5,500. Our charitable giving from funds received during fellowship and pancake breakfast are at \$1,250 through August. The beneficiaries for these funds are Brainerd Women's Shelter, Teen Challenge and Eagles Healing Nest. Lynn mentioned again she needs to get antivirus software installed on the church laptop. Council recommended she go to Best Buy and use the Geek Squad membership to get software installed. Griff mentioned we will be getting a \$350 refund from our copy machine contract because of an overcharge on the service agreement. Chris moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Griff seconded. Approved by acclamation.

III. Pastor's Report: A key lock box was installed at the back of the church, and a set of keys given to the school for their emergency shelter plan. Pastor mentioned we may need to rethink marketing of Family Fun Night to get more attendance. Pastor also was looking into maintenance responsibilities for the alleyway on the southside of the church. Bob and Matthew will be visiting the city administrator to see what options are available. Bob also thanked pastor for the personal notes sent to members of the congregation.

IV. Secretary's Report: Chris made a motion to wave the reading of the minutes, which was seconded by Griff. Dan moved to approve the minutes, and Chris seconded. Approved by acclamation.

V. Committee Updates:

1. Worship/Music:

2. Congregation and Community Outreach: (Marliss) – Family Fun Night was held on Aug. 20. September activities include: Sept. 20, the Pillager Street Fest (Quilting Ladies have a booth); Sept. 21 Adult/Teen Challenge, service and meal; Sept. 22, Mission meeting and Christmas shoebox assembly at 6:00.

3. Hospitality: None

4. Sanctuary: None

5. Facilities / Building: Crackling in sound system is still happening Griff suggested we reach out to the installers. Dan will contact Digital Horizons in Baxter. Bob mentioned that he is going to look into repairing some windows in the church sanctuary and that we should make a sign saying not to open the windows as there is rotting in the casement. Copy machine: Griff suggested we look into using personal codes for the copy machine to make sure our spending on copies is kept in line with budget. We can get codes set up with an annual maintenance visit. Pastor mentioned we should consider new lights for the front entry door of the church. Griff made a motion, seconded by Dan that we buy two new lights at a max budget of \$300.

6. Staffing: None.

Old Business: Bob mentioned that we need to respond to a survey from the insurance company about the building's electrical systems.

New Business: Bob mentioned the church has received notice that it is listed as a beneficiary in a will of a former member for a bequest of \$15,000. More updates will be provided as they are received.

Adjourn & Closing: Diane made a motion to adjourn, which was second by Shirley and approved by acclamation.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

Please note that there will be no Community Service for Thanksgiving this year.

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Lord, We humbly ask thy blessing on the turkey and the dressing, on the yams and cranberry jelly, and the homemade pickles from our kitchen.

Bless the coffee, tea, apple and pumpkin pies. Bless each and every calorie... :-).
Let us enjoy Thanksgiving dinner, tomorrow we can all get thinner.

For all thy help along the way we're thankful this Thanksgiving Day. We're thankful, too, for all our dear ones, for all the far away and near ones.

Although we may be apart, we're together in our hearts. Keep us in thy loving care, this is my Thanksgiving prayer.

PS: Anyone who wishes may help with the dishes. :-)

Prayer Focus

The Prayer Focus Slides for November and December are on the table by the sign up sheet for scriptures.



Pancake Breakfast

December 14 after the Sunday School Christmas Program!!!

HOW MANY KNEW THIS!

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was: "How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknown?"

All three missed it.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknown and why?

21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he wait after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

21 seconds for the same reason as above.

3. Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30." Other requirements of the Guard:

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives.

They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn.

The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform.

Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV.

All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred.

Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy, {the most decorated soldier of WWII} of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

IN GOD WE TRUST — with Herbert F Wieland.

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington , DC , our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment.

They respectfully declined the offer, 'No way, Sir!' Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can

be afforded to a serviceperson.

The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

God Bless and Keep Them

I don't usually suggest that many posts be forwarded, but I'd be very proud if this one reached as many people as possible.

We can be very proud of our young men and women in the service no matter where they serve.

Duty - Honor - Country

In God We Trust with Herbert F Wieland



Dear Lord,

In the landscape of freedom, every thread woven by our veterans shines with the valor of sacrifice.

Today, we lift our hearts in powerful gratitude and deep appreciation for all our servicemen and women, past and present. Their selflessness creates the fabric of our nation's flag, each star a beacon of hope, each stripe a narrative of bravery.

We thank You for granting them the strength to defend, the resilience to endure, and the compassion to protect. Bless them, O Lord, with Your unfailing love and ensure their deeds are forever remembered and honored among us. May we never take for granted the peace their service has bestowed upon us, nor the freedom it secures.

Guide us in ways to show our gratitude that go beyond mere words—through actions that affirm their sacrifices are etched in the soul of our nation. Help us to remember that behind every uniform is a heart of courage, a story of sacrifice, and a life dedicated to the greater good. In Your name, we pray, Amen.



Mission Tree



Perhaps you have noticed a tree when you walked into the church decorated with envelopes and have wondered, "What on earth is that all about?" Well, I'm glad you asked.

That tree is covered with empty envelopes to be filled with a financial gift of any amount. Those monies are then given to the Pillager School to help purchase presents for families in the community who might be going through financial hardships this Christmas season.

So, next time you see an envelope on the Mission Tree, put a little cash in it and slip it into the offering plate during the service. That gift not only shows the love of Jesus but will be just what a family needs to have their very own Merry Christmas.



Thanks to people who donated candy, decorated the church, helped to clean up afterwards, and who worked on Halloween evening! This event was enjoyed by all who attended and worked!!!!



ADVENT SUNDAYS

We need help in planning our Advent Sunday Service. If interested in helping or giving some suggestions, please contact Wendy.

The choir will be meeting in December to rehearse for Christmas! Please plan on joining the choir for the Christmas Season. Contact Wendy for details!

Days and times will be announced.



Thank you to everyone who helped in the planning, preparation, decorating, serving and cleaning up for our successful Meatball Supper!!!!

Thanks for all the beautiful baskets that was raffled off!



Family Holiday Workshop

5-7 pm Wednesday, December 10, 2025

First Lutheran Church

717 River Street South Pillager, Minnesota



**Make an ornament gift for someone special:
grandparent, parent, godparent, neighbor, teacher, etc.**

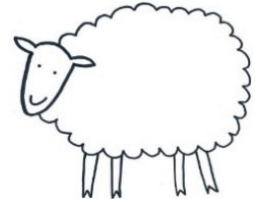


Bring the kids and join us for a sandwich, chips, and fruit supper and Christmas crafts. This community event is free

RSVP recommended to the church FB page;

An attending adult is required.

For more information, text or call 320-232-7439



Holiday Service Opportunities!



**Bell Ringers
Needed!**

**We need bell ringers for
Salvation Army!**

**Please contact Marliss if
interested! Phone number
is 952-261-9069**

DECORATE THE CHURCH!!!

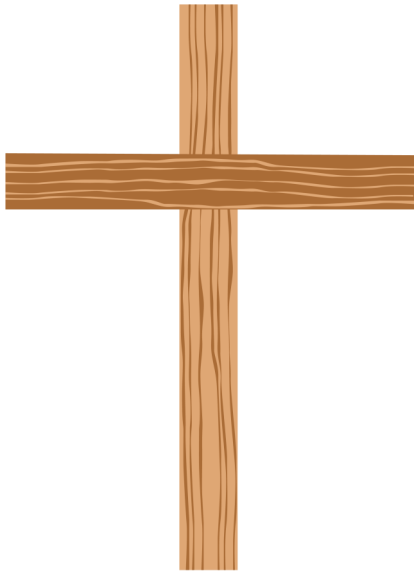
*Help decorate the church
for Christmas on Saturday,
November 29, 2025!*

*We will be have our quilts
on the pews for people to
buy! What a great
Christmas present!!!
Please, men come and help
too!!!*

www.PageBorders.net



**Please plan on
attending our
Sunday School
Christmas
Program on
Sunday,
December 14
during the
service!!!!**



CHURCH BAKE SALE

NOVEMBER 22 9 AM TO 3:00

LOTS OF GOODIES!! PIES, CAKES, COOKIES,
BARS, LEFSA AND MUCH MORE!!!

PLEASE DONATE BAKED GOODS TO THE
CHURCH. HAVE THE ITEMS TO THE CHURCH
BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, BY 2:00 PM



NEED HELP WITH MAKING LEFSE!!!!

On November 17 starting at 9 am, we will be peeling
and rice potatoes! Please bring your potato peelers
and have lots of fun! We really need the help in this
phase of the process of making Lefsa!! **MEN WE CAN
USE YOUR HELP ON THIS DAY! PLEASE
PLEASE CONSIDER COMING TO HELP US!**

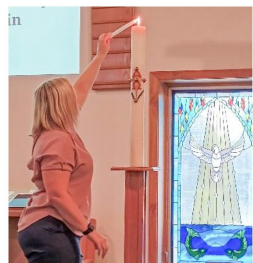
On November 18 & 19 starting at 9 am we will be
making the Lefse

On November 21 starting at 10 am, we
will be pricing and setting up for the
Bake Sale. Please bring your donated
bake items to the church by 2 pm so
that we can price them for the sale!



The Holy Baptism of Thomas Matthew Sundquist

on Sunday, September 14, 2025
with retired Pastor Jim Tetlie



Jesus Is Born

By: 365greetings.com

Praise the Lord,
He sent His Son,
The one who'll save,
Every man.

Christ the King,
"FOREVERMORE",
Be our guide,
And our light.

Christ the King,
The Son of God,
Lead us through,
To the right path.

Christmas day,
The day you're born,
Sent to the world,
To protect us all.

*I Said a
Prayer
for You at
Christmas*

*I said a special prayer for you,
As Christmas Day drew near;
That God would bless you richly
Throughout the coming year.*

*I did not ask for Him to send
You gifts of worldly wealth;
But prayed that He would fill your life
With peace and joy and health.*

*I asked that you would know His love,
Be comforted in strife;
Seek wisdom and His guidance,
And have abundant life.*

*God sent His Son at Christmas,
That happiest of days,
And most of all I pray that you
Will walk with Him always.*

Verse: B. Stuckwisch

November 2025 First Lutheran Pillager

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 pm Bible Study			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship		Veterans Day 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 pm Bible Study	1:30 pm Tea At River-side		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship	9 am Peel and rice Potatoes	9 am Make Lefse 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	9 am Make Lefse 6:30 pm Bible Study		10 am Price and set up for Bake Sale	9 am – 3 pm BAKE SALE
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship	10 am to 2 pm Bell Ringing	12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 pm Bible Study	Thanksgiving Day		DECORATE THE CHURCH
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship						

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:00 pm Mission Mtg Prep for Ornaments	12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 pm Bible Study			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	5 – 7 pm Family Holiday Workshop	1:30 pm Tea at River-side		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOLCHRISTMAS PROGRAM		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 pm Bible Study			
10:30 am PANCAKE BREAKFAST						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	4 pm Christmas Eve Service	Christmas Day		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship		12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	6:30 pm Bible Study	New Year's Day		