

First Edition



Thoughts From Pastor Matt!

It's Fall y'all. Time to get out the flannel shirts and start sipping on your favorite pumpkin spice flavored drink. It also means we transition from summer fun mode back into school mode. Here at the church, getting back into school mode should be an exciting time. Sunday school starting back up. Bible study starting back up. It's time to start back up.

Getting kids excited to learn about Jesus has been a struggle probably for every church in America. They have to sit in a classroom all day learning a variety of subjects like math, science, and history. Now they have to sit in church on Sunday morning learning about Jesus for an hour. It's the weekend. This is their only time to sleep in and do something fun. It's almost like going to church becomes a chore. No wonder most kids disappear from the church after they get confirmed. Who wants to do chores on the weekend?

So how do we deal with this dilemma of getting kids excited about Jesus? I think the answer is simple: We need to get excited ourselves. Do our kids see us reading our bibles? Do our kids see us going to Bible study on Wednesday nights? Do our kids see us signing up to serve in different ministry areas? How are kids supposed to be excited about something if we as adults don't show any enthusiasm?

Maybe our mindsets need some adjusting. Instead of "I should probably go to church this Sunday" try saying "I GET to go to church this Sunday!" Instead of "I should probably read my Bible" try saying "God, let's spend some quality time together!" Instead of "I don't want to read the Scripture lessons, or lead the prayers, or distribute communion, or fill in the blank. Rather, try saying "I have the privilege of serving the church that Jesus laid down His life for."

There are many things we can do during school mode at the church. The phrase "you get what you put in" also applies to the church. If something feels boring, monotonous, or stagnant, bring some ideas to the table. Let's (pumpkin) spice things up a bit this Fall. (See what I did there?) Jesus should never be boring or stagnant.

So what does this mean for all of us reading this? It means let's show our kids why church is fun and exciting. They can tell when we are being authentic and when we seem miserable. To tell a child to go to church and Sunday school is one thing. To show a child that you want to go to church yourself and serve is a whole other thing. Jesus says we should let our lights shine before others (including children) so they may see our good deeds and glorify their Father in heaven. And you don't even need a bright light to make a difference. Even a spark will do. It only takes a spark to start a fire. Let's pray for a fire to spread through the church, our town, our state and our world. A fire of excitement for Jesus. Amen!

Blessings,
Pastor Matthew

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

JoAnn Artmann (Karen Fundine's daughter)
Brenda Hoppe
Dale Lyon (Sherry Holm's cousin)
Mara Dokukin (Karen Fundine's granddaughter)
Eric Lee (Avis Lee's grandson)
Curt Thering (Wendy Jacobson's dad)
Lee Osowski (cancer) Don's brother
Roxann Kaiser (cancer)

PEOPLE IN THE MILITARY

Brad Fairbanks
Erika Vasquez
(granddaughter and husband of Don & Sharon Gehrke)

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 listing or Military listing, please let Connie know! Thank you!

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.

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.

Church Council

President: Griff Eisel (952) 239-0878
Vice President: Chris Warren (320) 749-2031
Secretary: Dan Jacobson (218) 746-4167
Bob Harmson
Don Osowski (763) 286-5405
Don Tichy
Glen Welters

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 of PILLAGER MINUTES
July 21, 2026

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

Present: Griff Eisel, Matthew Sundquist, Bob Harmson, Don Osowski, Chris Warren, Glen Welters, Anella Rush, Marliss Eisel

Absent: Dan Jacobson, Don Tichy

I. Treasurer's Report: Anella Rush presented the financial secretary's report as of June 30, 2026. The four bank signatures that are allowed on the church's account are Griff Eisel, Bob Harmson, Dan Jacobson, and Anella Rush. All but Dan Jacobson have been updated. Griff questioned the cash position in the financial secretary's report between notable items total assets of \$82,648.05 and checking account of \$77,732.74. Bob Harmson made a motion to accept the report with a continuing audit at a later date. Chris Warren seconded the motion. Motion carried.

II. Pastor's Report: Pastor reported on congregational members medical issues. Names for ongoing contact and/or visitation are as follows; Ken Kelling and Karen Fundine. Pastor mentioned that Joan Anderson, a former member is in hospice care. Griff, also, suggested Sharon Gehrke, Pat Long, Edith Pietz, and Rita Peterson as continued visitation recipients. Pastor addressed the broken window and the kids throwing rocks in the parking lot. Bob Harmson contacted the local police. The Pastor has also been contacted by the Sheriff regarding similar events. Another woman had also contacted Pastor about seeing kids throwing rocks. Pastor talked about the road in front of the parsonage as to whether it is a private drive. Bob Harmson suggested going to a Township meeting and addressing this issue. Last item, Pastor said he had received a lot of positive comments on our float that we had in the Pillager parade.

III. Secretary's Report: Don Osowski made a motion to wave the reading of the June minutes. Glen Welters seconded it. Motion carried. Chris Warren made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Don Osowski seconded it. Motion carried.

IV. Committee Updates:

1. Worship/Music: Wendy Jacobson is working hard on replacements for Rita's absence. She is using media instead of piano and substituting what we would be paying Rita to cover the cost of the media.

2. Congregation and Community Outreach/Missions: Marliss reported that in July we helped the Quilters with the garage sale and entered a float in the Pillager parade. We have no organized events until September.

3. Hospitality: The church provided the facility and kitchen staff for the Swedberg's funeral. The family has sent several cards of thanks and a donation.

4. Sanctuary: No report

5. Facilities/Building: Retaining wall at parsonage is complete and black dirt has been brought in. Pastor has been working on edging on the front gardens of the parsonage. Bob Harmson and Griff Eisel both offered their help if Pastor needed extra hands. Discussed the possibility of adding additional Sunday school rooms when needed.

6. Staffing: Voted on a 2.8% increase in Pastor Matt's base salary effective June 1st. Motion was brought by Glen, seconded by Chris. Motion passed.

Old Business: Discussed getting a security sign to indicate that there is a security system instead of actually installing a system at the church. Bob Harmson offered to order the signs. Glen Welters made a motion to spend up to \$50.00 for 2 signs. Chris Warren seconded it. Motion Carried.

Discussed whether a second application of Pest Control had been applied. Don Osowski said he had called and left a message but has not heard back. Pastor said he saw someone spraying Yesterday.

Chris Warren talked to Don Gehrke about the offering envelopes and using a backup sheet to confirm member's accounts because some of the numbers were hard to read. It was also brought up that church policy requires 2 people for counting the offering money. Connie Vieths review is still open and hoping to have completed in August.

New Business: Discussed getting the window replaced from the rock incident. It was decided to have it repaired sooner than later. Glen Welters offered to measure the window and get estimates. Bob has offered to help.

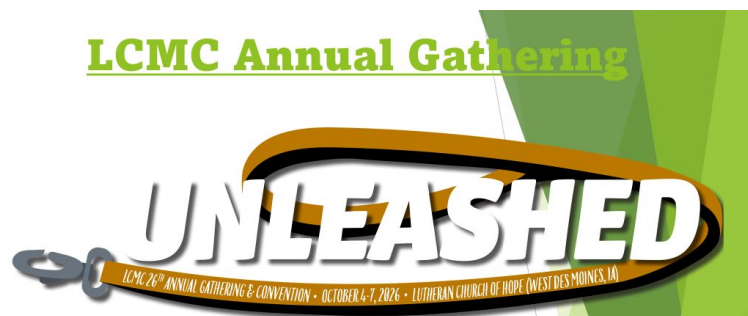
Griff listed out non-budgeted projects, both completed and proposed, including their costs. He stated that although YTD offerings were up, we needed to continue to prioritize future Spending. Investigate a water softener for the coffee pot because of the calcium buildup and the cost of repairing it. Tabled the coffee maker.

Adjourn & Closing: Chris Warren made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Glen Welters

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Marliiss Eisel

- ▶ When:
October 4-7
- ▶ Where:
Lutheran Church of Hope
West Des Moines, Iowa
- ▶ What:
"Unleashed"



"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." - Galatians 5:1

Joan Lucille Anderson



Joan Lucille Anderson, 94, formerly of Pillager, passed away peacefully at her daughter's home in Apple Valley, Minnesota, on July 21, 2026, following a six-year journey with heart and memory issues.

Joan was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Lucille and Edward Zabrowski. She graduated from Washington High School in 1949 and married shortly thereafter. Early in her adult life, Joan worked as a hospital volunteer, or "Candy Striper," before leaving to start and raise her family.

Years later, Joan returned to the workforce as a nurse's aide, a role that suited her caring and compassionate nature. Upon retirement, she found her happy place—a lake, a log home, and the peaceful life she loved in Pillager, Minnesota.

Life at the lake brought Joan so much joy. She loved the water, her flowers, her church, and the many good friends who became such an important part of her life. Caring for her parents, who eventually moved nearby, also became a meaningful part of her early retirement.

Joan's later years were filled with the things she loved most: volunteering at church, meeting friends for breakfast at the café, welcoming family to the lake, tending her gardens, and listening to her beloved loons calling across the water.

If you asked those who knew Joan to describe her, words like servant-hearted, kind, honest, faithful, funny, gracious, hardworking, and genuine would come easily. She was also feisty and tough—qualities that served her well when life presented its challenges. Joan faced adversity with strength and determination, never losing the warmth and kindness that defined her.

Most of all, Joan was a woman who gave of herself. She cared deeply for her family, her friends, her church, and the people around her. She lived a life of service, faith, hard work, and love, leaving an impression on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Mom, you exemplified what it means to be a truly beautiful human being. Your kindness, strength, humor, and love will remain with us always. You will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Joan is survived by her loving children: Jim Egger (Connie), Palmer, Alaska; Suzanne Michaels (Karen), Tucson, Arizona; Scott Egger (Polly), Ninilchik, Alaska; Mike Egger (Jackie), Lindstrom, Minnesota; Dana Lindholm (Dave), Annandale, Minnesota; and Diane Egger, Apple Valley, Minnesota; along with many loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Lucille Zabrowski; Richard Stoltz; her brother, Jim Stoltz; her firstborn son, Scott Egger; and her grandson, Christian Curtis.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2026, at Wildwood Cemetery, located south of Highway 210 on 131st Street/Birch Street, Pillager, MN 56473.



Our thoughts and prayers go out to Diane Wright's family. Diane sister passed away in August.

Baptism. Lee Robert's daughter, Laiken, was baptized on August 23 during service. A quilt was presented to her. Laiken's parents are **Father:** Lee Roberts; **Stepmom / Bonus Mom:** KayLie Roberts; **Mother:** Lisa Roberts. **Sponsors/Godparents** - Wes and Melissa Christ (my sister). **Grandparents:** Steve and Susan Roberts and Dave and Bev Emery.

Our prayers go with Laiken in her journey of faith.



Thank you to Joan Holmberg for singing the "Lord's Prayer" today!

Thank you to Lori Bates for accompanying Joan and for playing for us the last month!



🎵 With THANKS to YOU 🎵

During this summer's worship services, we sang 22 songs submitted as congregational requests and found in our hymnals or online with a worship-appropriate presentation. With great gratitude to all who took part in this off-season tradition!!!



On Saturday November 14th the children of Marlene Lindeman will be hosting her 90th birthday party from 11 am to 4 pm in the church basement. Please come and help celebrate special event with Marlene!!

Special Music of the month: Holy Forever by Pastor, Kirstie, Lily and Sammy on August 9th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 13. IT WILL BE HELD ON NON COMMUNION SUNDAYS!!!





September 13th

The MN Adult and Teen Challenge Choir will be performing for us followed by a potluck. Come and enjoy the beautiful music and stories.



Our Pancake Breakfast will be the first Sunday in September. The reason is that MN Adult/Teen Challenge will be here the second Sunday.

There are signup sheets in the back for the men to sign up to work! We need your help!

There is another signup sheet in the back for making donations to the Pancake Breakfast to help offset expenses for putting on the Breakfast. Please consider donating for one of the Sundays.

Our Pancake Breakfasts will be held on the second Sunday of each month!



**PILLAGER'S 2026
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR!!!!**



**Congratulations to
Pastor Matt!! He is
Pillager's 2026 Citizen
Of The Year!!! Your
First Lutheran Family
is so proud of you!!!!!!**



Thank you to Shirley Smith, Diane Wright, Julie Hofius, Rosie Harmsen, Julie Warren, Marlys Eisel and Bob Harmsen for driving the float. They represented First Lutheran in the Pillager Fair parade!!!

Thank you to everyone who donated items, help set up, take down, came and purchased items and worked the Garage Sale this year! We made \$2,700!!!



September 2026 First Lutheran Pillager

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		Quilters 12 pm 8:00 pm AA Mtg				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 am Communion Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast	Labor Day	Quilters 12 pm 8:00 pm AA Mtg		Tea at Riverside 1:30 – 3:00pm		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
MN ADULT/TEEN CHALLENGE 9:30 am Potluck 10:30 am		Quilters 12 pm 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		Quilters 12 pm 8:00 pm AA Mtg	Bible Study 6:30 pm			
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9:30 am Service 10:30 am SUNDAY SCHOOL Fellowship		Quilters 12 pm 8:00 pm AA Mtg	Bible Study 6:30 pm			

October 2026 First Lutheran Pillager

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		Quilters 12 pm 8:00 pm AA Mtg	Bible Study 6:30 pm	Tea at Riverside 1:30 – 3:00pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship	Columbus Day	Quilters 12 pm 8:00 pm AA Mtg	Bible Study 6:30 pm			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship		Quilters 12 pm 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	Bible Study 6:30 pm			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30 am Service SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Fellowship		Quilters 12 pm 8:00 pm AA Mtg	Bible Study 6:30 pm			Halloween Outreach