

# First Edition



## Thoughts From Pastor Matt!

As I am writing this newsletter article, I am preparing to give a short presentation at the CTC Center about the history of First Lutheran Church. It has been really fascinating to learn what God has done through this church since 1910. All the different pastors, all the different projects, all the ups and downs, have had a significant part in shaping the church into what it is today. And now for the past five years, I have been integrated into that history.

One of the difficult seasons of First Lutheran was making the decision to split from the ELCA and join the LCMC association. Friends became enemies over some theological disagreements. It was never the intention of God's church to be divided, no matter what the denomination. But it is through the difficult seasons that help solidify our beliefs and keep us pressing forward and fulfilling the Great Commission.

That is one of the many wonderful things I love about the LCMC. Although they are a relatively new association, I wholeheartedly believe they are on the right track. Not only do they stick to the teachings of Martin Luther, but they made sure their DNA was missionally focused. As a pastor, I cannot stress enough the importance of being missional for Christ.

This year's LCMC Annual Conference theme is "Engaging Your Cultural Moments." Here is a little snippet of what that means:

*Together, we will explore how the cultural moments happening all around us can be seen not as something negative, but as potential opportunities for carrying out the Great Commission. We'll cover topics such as:*

- *How can we embrace our Lutheran theology and use it to positively impact the lives of the people around us?*
- *How do we empower the people in our churches to be ready to share the gospel with others, and to recognize a propitious moment to do so?*
- *How can we reach people who are living in smaller, less populated, or less accessible areas?*
- *What resources are available to help congregations carry out this mission in their communities?*

With the culture seeming to shift and change so rapidly, especially with the advances in technology, it is difficult sometimes for the church to keep up and reach people today with the Gospel while making it relevant. But it is exciting to try. All we need to do is keep Christ in focus as we go and make disciples of all nations. And who knows? Maybe in 100 years they'll be talking about all the wonderful things God did through this congregation. That would be a wonderful legacy to leave. May those reading this be blessed and souls refreshed.

Blessings,  
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)  
Avis Lee  
Jill Clark  
Ryhley Mattison (Marlene's great  
granddaughter)

### ASSISTING LIVING/NURSING HOME

**Good Samaritan** Ken Kelling,

### 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.  
The Calendar will be updated as the schedule  
changes!

### 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**

### 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, Assist-  
ed Living/Nursing Home listing or Military listing,  
please let Connie know! Thank you!

### 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

Shirley Smith (218) 838-1483  
Lynda Converse (218) 821-8016  
Diane Wright (218) 851-8964  
Griff Eisel (952) 261-9069

## First Lutheran Church Pillager Meeting Minutes

Opening and Call to Order at 6:30 p.m., July 9, 2024

Present: Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Griff Eisel, Julie Hofius, Lynda Converse, Nicole Buersken, Dan Jacobson, Diane Wright

Absent: Shirley Smith, Connie Vieths

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor officiated at the June 21 memorial service and burial for John Gilronan in Alexandria. Eleven people from First Lutheran attended, with more than 30 in attendance overall. Pastor reported that Kim Pilgram's daughter, Angela, passed away after suffering a stroke. Pastor has been in contact with the family. The FLC congregation received a thank you card from visitors commenting on how welcoming the congregation had been. Related to the August fundraiser, Matt and Kirstie are looking into creating mugs and/or shirts to sell or provide as raffle items.

**Treasurer's Report:** The June financial report showed improving fund balances at months end. The General Fund increased to \$20,000 following a transfer to the account in June from various other funds and a positive net giving for the month. Motion to approve the report was made by Diane and seconded by Griff.

-Julie also shared a mid-year actual spending versus budget. We are at or below budget in every category so far, with a total half-year spend of \$52,421. Insurance payments are now monthly, which will help manage the budget for the remainder of the year. Furnace repairs will likely add to the budget for building expenses. Motion to approve by Lynda, seconded by Nicole.

-Julie also reported that she is filling out paperwork for a worker's compensation audit. It's possible we can receive a refund on insurance premiums if information regarding our employees and contractor insurance is provided.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve the June meeting minutes as presented was made by Griff and seconded by Diane.

### Committee Updates:

1. **Worship/Music:** Wendy is reviewing music requests received from the congregation.
2. **Congregation and Community Outreach:** (Lynda) The committee is planning a meeting for September 19 at 2 p.m. at the Shanty.
3. **Hospitality:** (Diane) Diane reported that the parade preparation is complete for the July 13 Pillager Fair parade. The float is ready and Bob has volunteered to drive it. The garage sale preparation is also complete.
4. **Sanctuary:** (Shirley) Nothing to report.
5. **Facilities / Building:** (Nicole) – Pastor mentioned there is a retaining wall on the far side of the garage that is in disrepair. Kirsty is looking into landscaping alternatives and costs. There are funds available in the parsonage repair account to look at replacing railroad ties with an alternative.  
-Pastor said he is looking into repair of the vinyl name lettering on the wood sign in front of the church. He will talk to Bob Harmsen about who refinished the sign for ideas on how to fix the letters.  
-Robert Buersken installed the door above the narthex stairway to provide soundproofing for Sunday school.  
  
-The building committee meeting on June 23 covered preparations for the August 17 community fundraiser. The food preparations and games are being finalized. Next meeting is July 21.

-Julie presented an appeal letter to go to members, attendees and friends to discuss the fundraising project for the siding. Council reviewed the letter and approved sending it to the newsletter mailing list. seconded by Diane.

6. Staffing: (Nicole/Julie) – Nicole mentioned she had reached out to two candidates for the financial secretary position and there is still potential interest in the position, but no definite timeline for a decision from either.

7. Missions:(Julie) The mission boxes are only awaiting a few school supplies and then will be complete. Other committee activities this month include the parade and fundraiser preparation.

Old Business: A contact from the LCMC inquired about whether First Lutheran wanted to be under LCMC's 501c3 "umbrella." Julie reported that she filled out the paperwork to complete our designation as a nonprofit to make potential donations easier.

New Business: Nicole mentioned that we need to start planning for the fall dinner. It came up at the missions meeting and there was a desire to schedule it for September this year because of a conflict in October. The plan is to return to a meatball dinner. Rosie will potentially manage this.

The LCMC conference will be in Marion, IA. It will be Sept. 29 through October 2. Pastor is looking for other members who wish to attend.

Regarding the summer "garage" sale, we will plan to sell the couches that are currently downstairs at the sale.

Dan reported he looked into a possible new moveable letter sign for the front of the church. The options available for a sign with glass protecting the letterfront are either too large or expensive. One option may be to get a used mobile sign from a rental company. He will do more research.

Adjourn & Closing: Motion to adjourn made by Nicole,

## **First Lutheran Church Pillager Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2024**

### **Opening and Call to Order 6:30 PM and opening Prayer**

**Present:** Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Griff Eisel, Shirley Smith, Diane Wright, Lynda Converse, Nicole Buersken, Absent: Dan Jacobson, Connie Veiths, Julius Hofius

**Guest:** Lynn Bushinger

Lynn Bushinger was introduced as applicant for financial secretary position following interview with Nicole B. Acting President in Julie H. absence. Lynn shared her background, experience and employment history prior to her recent semi- retirement which included Initiative Foundation and Treasurer for Bethany Church in Cushing. Lynn is married, her and her husband own their own business and are members of the Bethany Church.

Lynn was then excused from the meeting.

**Staffing: Financial Secretary position** discussion by council members. Motion by Nicole B to offer position to Lynn Bushinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shirley S. Motion approved. Nicole will notify Lynn Bushinger of our decision to accept her as FLCP Financial Secretary. Lynn had suggested we consider council liaison for the financial secretary's position. Discussion. Nicole will prepare a contract for Lynn. Nicole B. offered to be the liaison and Griff E will back up/assist as needed.

**Pastor's Report:** Monthly updates. Pilgrim and Massie funeral Services. Invited to present at CLC along with many area church Pastors. 53 visits including Avis Lee (96). Request September 1<sup>st</sup>; Pastor Jim will fill in. Pastor will visit Julie H. this week.

**Treasurers Report:** Shirley S. moved to accept as submitted. Discussion. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nicole B. Motion approved.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to accept by Lynda C and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Griff E Motion approved.

**Committee Updates:**

**Worship/Music:** Discussion regarding costs of Video screen for back area of church as it's difficult to see the screen in the front of the church.

**Congregation, Community (CCC) Committee** – Next meeting September 19<sup>th</sup> 2:00 at Shante in Pillager.

**Hospitality:** Parade and garage sale went well. We need a money box for the Fundraiser/ Carnival August 17<sup>th</sup>. Nicole B will check with Rosie

**Missions:** No report

**Sanctuary:** No report

**Building /Facilities:** committee is ready for fundraiser Saturday, 8/17/2024  
Griff E will follow up on furnace repair options.

**Old Business:** Discussion Lynda C will check on prices and options for new sign

**New Business:** Fall Meatball Dinner is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> and will include a raffle. Lefsa/Bake sale is set for November. Discussion regarding preparing and mailing a "Survey". Pastor Matt will follow up with Pastor Jim.

**7:45 Motion to adjourn by Diane W. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shirley S.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynda C. for Dan Jacobson

### **First Lutheran Church Pillager Meeting Minutes - Amendment**

**Opening and Call to Order:** 6:30 PM on August 13th, 2024.

**Present:** Pastor Matthew Sundquist, Griff Eisel, Shirley Smith, Diane Wright, Lynda Converse, Nicole Buersken

Guest: Lynn Bushinger

**Absent:** Dan Jacobson, Connie Vieths, Julie Hofius

Amendment: Motion by Nicole Buersken to offer the position of financial secretary to Lynn Bushinger and to add Lynn Bushinger to the bank signature card and remove Julie Hofius. Shirley Smith seconded the motion motion approved.

### **Council Meeting**

Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 pm

## **FIRST LUTHERAN WELCOMES OUR NEW FINANCIAL SECRETARY LYNN BUSHINGER**



After meeting with the church council in August, Lynelle (Lynn) Bushinger was offered and has accepted the financial secretary position at First Lutheran Church. She assumed the role immediately.

Lynn and her husband Darren are members of Bethany Lutheran Church in Cushing where Lynn has served as the Treasurer for the past 15 years. They are parents to three grown children and one very spoiled pup.

She was employed by the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls for more than 27 years as the Chief Financial & Operations Officer/Treasurer. She oversaw a number of functions including accounting and finance, human resources, information systems and special assignments from time to time such as lending and partner funds. Since her official retirement from the Foundation at the end of last year, Lynn is providing office management support for the small business she and Darren operate. Lynn has an accounting degree from St. Cloud Technical College, a Bachelor's degree in management & communications from Concordia University of St. Paul, a mini-masters in organizational development from the University of St. Thomas and has completed the Anderson Center's Executive Leadership program.

She loves working with numbers (and people too!) and is looking forward to making new friends at First Lutheran.

### **JULIE HOFIUS**

Please keep Julie Hofius in your thoughts and prayers as she is continuing to recover. If you want to follow Julie's progress, please log in to Caring Bridge and follow her progress. As of today (August 25), Julie is making progress but it is baby steps forward.

This was the first post on Caring Bridge:

Julie was found nonresponsive in her home Saturday evening Aug 10. Her husband Neal called 911 and the ambulance took her to the hospital in Brainerd and assessed her with a ruptured brain aneurysm. Shortly after, she was airlifted to North Memorial in their trauma neuro ICU. Yesterday interventions were performed to stabilize cranial pressure and repair the aneurysm site. Currently, she is unconscious and stable while doctors continue to monitor and assess her condition. The next few days will be critical regarding her recovery. Julie needs rest. We respectfully ask that only family visit her at the hospital at this time. Please check back here for updates. We appreciate your prayers and support!  
The Hofius family

### **PRAYER FOR JULIE**

Heavenly Father, we come to you in Jesus' mighty name! We worship and praise You, for You alone are worthy. Right now, we pray for our dear friend, Julie, who is going through a health crisis.

It seems there is no way forward but with You there is always a way! You are the God that makes a way where there seems to be no way and your word says You are the Way.

Lord, we pray for Your light to shine in Julie's health situation. Because Your word says You are The Light of the World. Please help Julie's family as she progresses forward in her journey forward to recovery. Right now, we release Comfort, Encouragement, Faith and Hope for our friend in Jesus' name. Amen

OUR CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO

## ANGELA MARIE HENNING'S FAMILY

KIM AND GARY PILGRIM'S DAUGHTER



We lost our beloved Angela Marie Henning, July 8, 2024 at the age of 38. She was born on March 4, 1986 in Fridley Minnesota. Angela is survived by her pets Charlie, Bernie and Neko; parents Kim and Gary Pilgrim, Shayne Henning and Colin Anderson, her younger sister Amanda (Jesse) Brock, stepbrother Jason (Clarissa) Pilgrim, nieces Haley and Justine Brock, aunts and uncle Kelly Dilworth, Jessica Murano, Gail Karls, Monica Moshier and Lee Dilworth; grandmothers, Diane Suppes, Linda Walters; and extended family and friends who will deeply mourn her passing. Preceded in death by grandfathers and great grandparents.

She resided in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she loved all her dear friends. Angela had a big heart and always wanted to help people. She also loved to cook and especially loved partaking in Sunday Funday with her friends. Angela was accepting of everyone she met, and never met a stranger. She had a passion for music and loved to sing, dance and karaoke.

A Celebration of life for Angela will be held on July 27, 2024 1:00 PM at her parent's home 4191 Lake Placid Blvd. SW Pillager, Minnesota.

## Gail Massie

June 29, 1964 — July 10, 2024



Gail Jean Massie (Kelling), aged 60, passed away on July 10, 2024, in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota after a long battle with Brain Cancer. Born on June 29, 1964, in Aitkin Minnesota. Gail leaves behind a legacy of warmth, kindness and dedication evident to all who knew her. Gail had a love for hosting family gatherings, being a mom and grandma was dear to her heart. She had a

special love of scrap booking and making cards, those near and dear to her will miss her very much.

Gail is survived by her loving daughters, Jazmin Massie, Jade Massie; her father, Kenneth Kelling, her brother, Bob Kelling; and grandchildren Zaylee, Ryatt and Gemma. She was preceded in death by her mother, Ada Kelling, and her sister, Karen Raynor.

As a committed member of the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Gail's faith and community involvement were central to her life. Her family and friends will gather to honor her memory and celebrate her life with a memorial service on Saturday, July 27th at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Baxter. The schedule includes a memorial at 10:00 AM, followed by a service at 11:00 AM, and lunch thereafter.

Brenny Funeral Home in Baxter, Minnesota, is assisting the family with arrangements. Gail's kind spirit and enduring compassion will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

**Our condolences go out to the Diane Wright family. Diane's nephew, Dan Manlick passed away in July. His funeral was on July 10 at the Little Falls Alliance Church. Please keep Diane and family in your prayers.**



# The Family Fundraiser Festival

Saturday, August 17, 2024



Thank you to all who donated prizes and their time to make this event a success. Thanks to Wendy Jacobson for submitting this page for the newsletter!





Pancake Breakfasts will start up again for the year! They will be held the second Sunday of every month except for November which will be the third Sunday. So.... Circle the date of September 8<sup>th</sup> and join us for breakfast.

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for those can donate \$25 to help pay for expenses. We have 2 or 3 lines available each month to sign up on.

Men! Men! We need your help to prepare and serve the pancakes. There is a sign-up sheet for each Sunday we serve pancakes. Don't be shy, we need your help!!!! If you don't know how to cook, there is always someone to teach you or there are dishes to wash!!!!!!

# PANCAKE BREAKFAST STARTS SEPTEMBER 8! WE NEED HELP!!!!!!



Thanks to the ladies for being in the Pillager Fair Parade this year! You did a magnificent job representing our church!!!

**Church  
Community  
Communication  
Committee**

**3 C's Committee**

MEETING  
WILL BE ON  
SEPTEMBER  
19TH

MEETS AT  
THE SHANTE  
AT 2:00 PM

**Movie  
Night**

Wednesday, September 25th,  
at 7 pm  
"The Hill"

SEPTEMBER 29 -  
OCTOBER 2, 2024

ST. MARK'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
(FAITHLIFE)

MARION, IA

LOOKING FOR 1  
PERSON TO GO TO  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE



When: Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>  
5:00-7:00 pm

Where: 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Pillager  
Basement

Need: **VOLUNTEERS!**

- Decorate the basement (October 27<sup>th</sup> after the service)
  - In charge of games/hand out candy
  - Hand out hot cocoa
  - Donate candy/treats

October 25<sup>th</sup>  
5:30-8:00

Pillager Middle  
School  
Gym

## YIPEE! SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS!!

Sunday School will be starting on September 8! Please have your kids join us for learning about Jesus and have fun learning! There will be lessons, crafts, and treats!!!!

The schedule will be like last year. Sunday School will meet on non-communion Sundays which is the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

We are excited to have more classrooms for our kids! The teachers this year will be Julie Warren and Nicole Buersken.



## CHURCH SURVEY

Hello everyone, at the helpful request from a church member the council is sending out the below survey to ask for constructive feedback from our congregation. We ask that you take the time to leave positive comments that will help us to make improvements in the church so we can all build stronger relationships with our Father. We have a pastor with a caring heart and so many brothers and sisters in Christ who work hard to make our church a welcoming place and keep things running smoothly, and we want to continue to improve so we can be better servants of God. We also want to remind everyone that our council meetings are open to all and are held the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM, where any larger concerns should be appropriately addressed. Please search your hearts and leave comments that are constructive for the betterment of the church. Thank you!

1. What do you love about being a First Lutheran member and what excites you about what our church can do in the future in regards to the Kingdom?

2. How do you think our church can improve so we can help our brothers and sisters in Christ build stronger relationships with our Father?

3. How can we get our brothers and sisters in Christ to help in the church and with church events?

4. How can our church be more missional in the community so we can serve better?

5. Any other thoughts/suggestions:

Please mail the survey in or drop it off in the wall file by the office. Thank you!

# September 2024      FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Communion Service  10:30 am Fellowship	2 <b>Labor Day</b>	3 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg  School starts!!	4	5	6	7
8 9:30 am Service  10:30 am PANCAKE BREAKFAST	9	10 12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	11 6:30 – 8 pm Bible Study “Chosen” Season 4	12	13	14
SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS!!						
15 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship	16	17 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	18 6:30 – 8 pm Bible Study “Chosen” Season 4	19 2 pm 3 C’s mtg Shante	20	21
22	23	24 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	25 7 PM MOVIE NIGHT	26	27	28
29 9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship	30	1	2	3	4	5

# October 2024      FIRST LUTHERAN PILLAGER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	2 6:30 – 8 pm Bible Study “Chosen” Season 4	3	4	5
		PASTOR LCMC CONFERENCE	PASTOR LCMC CONFERENCE			
6 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship	7	8 12 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Council Mtg 8:00 pm AA Mtg	9 6:30 – 8 pm Bible Study “Chosen” Season 4	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Service 10:30 am PANCAKE BREAK-FAST	14 Columbus Day	15 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	16 6:30 – 8 pm Bible Study “Chosen” Season 4	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Fellowship\	21	22 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	23 6:30 – 8 pm Bible Study “Chosen” Season 4	24	25 5:30 - 8 pm FALL FUNFEST AT PILLAGER PUBLIC SCHOOLS	26 4:30 – 7 PM MEATBALL SUPPER
Newsletter Items due November and December						
27 9:30 am Service 10:30 am Fellowship	28	29 12 pm Quilters 8:00 pm AA Mtg	30 7 PM MOVIE NIGHT	31 HALLOWEEN OUTREACH AT THE CHURCH	1	2