



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST LUTHERAN SEPTEMBER 2020

With summer coming to an end, I am still amazed at how fast it went by even though we were all cooped up in our houses the whole time. We could only travel to places when we had to for essential materials and that was about it. Many of the activities we would be doing during the summer either got delayed or cancelled. At least they did for me, anyways.

But September is here and that means things are going to be starting back up again at the church. At least they will be starting up the best we can following the guidelines and precautions. One thing I am looking forward to is having a new member's class. Maybe you have been a member for years, just became a member, or are thinking about becoming a member, the class on September 13th is for you. Following the service that Sunday, we will sit down and discuss what it actually means to become a member of a church. God calls us to be doers of the Word and not just hearers, so becoming a member is a great first step in living out that command. We all have a unique gift we can offer to the church, so show up on Sunday the 13th to learn how you can become a member and use your gifts and talents for God's glory. We will be celebrating new members the following week (September 20th) during the worship service and enjoying cake and fellowship afterwards.

Also starting up again on September 30th will be our confirmation classes. This two year program is great for middle school aged kids who want to develop a better foundation for their faith. I am always interested to hear what a person believes when it comes to religion, but more importantly I want to know WHY they believe what they believe. Many children believe things because that is what their parents tell them to believe. During confirmation classes, we will discover more about who God is, what He came to do, and what role we play in that plan. This year we will focus on how we can have a relationship with Jesus and what that might look like. So if you know any kids who are interested in coming to confirmation and learning more about their faith, invite them to join the class. It goes from 5:30pm-7 every Wednesday night through the school year.

Last but not least, two of our members, Bob and Rosie, have decided to throw my wife and I a baby shower after the church service on the 27th. Guys will be in one part of the church while the gals will be in the other part. They also wanted me to mention that this event is open to anyone who wants to come. I'm not sure what Bob and Rosie all have planned, but Bob said for the guys there will be a doll, chunky peanut butter, and diapers involved. I still haven't decided if I'm going to show up (just kidding!) But it should be a fun event to help celebrate the upcoming birth of our baby daughter this November.

So September is another event-filled month. I did also want to remind you all reading this that the sermon audio is uploaded to our website each Sunday so you can listen to my messages if you happen to miss a Sunday. That will only happen a little while longer until we get our new cameras working so we can record our services and stream them live online. A lot of exciting things are happening and I look forward to seeing how God works through them all. May everyone reading this be blessed and stay healthy, being constantly filled with God's joy.

-Pastor Matthew

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN THE HOSPITAL

Eva Mudgett (leukemia)
Lindsey Kennedy (cancer)
(Pat Long's granddaughter)
Jessica Nornberg
Kerry Meyer
Brady Fiest (motorcycle accident)
Beverly Williams (cancer)
(Glen Pilgrim's niece)
Gene Pilgrim (at home recuperating)
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)

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

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!

Church Council

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

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.



Pastor Matthew Sundquist

Office 218-746-3775

Parsonage: 218-746-3750



Baby Shower for Pastor Matt and Kirstie!!!

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, September 27, after the church service. We are going to have a baby shower for Pastor Matt and the guys in one part of the church and another shower for Kirstie and the gals in another part of the church. If the guys could bring a package of diapers for a gift, that would be appreciated. Kirstie is registered at Target, Walmart, and babylist.com. There will be a lunch served for both the guys and the gals after the shower. Because of the COVID virus, we are asking you to please let us know if you will be attending so that we know how many to plan for. Please call Rosie at 320-493-5992 or Connie Vieths at 218-839-3767. Please come and join the fun!



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Garage Sale. Also thank you to everyone who worked in setting up for the Garage Sale, who worked at the Garage Sale, and who helped with cleaning up from the Garage Sale. Thanks to Rosie for all her hours of dedication and work to make this Garage Sale such a success! We made \$4,028!!! This is the best we have ever done!!! We are using the money to purchase a garden shed for Pastor Matt and Kirstie.

Thank you to Ron Pietz, Les Fundine, Bob Harmsen and Pastor Matt for helping to get ready to install our new garden shed! Your work is much appreciated!

Thank you to the Church Council who approved the motion to donate the money that is coming in from Fellowship and the Pancake Breakfast to Adult Teen Challenge

Some changes in our Worship Service

Use of a mask is encouraged. Hand sanitizer is available.

We will wave at each other rather than shake hands

We will not be singing. We will have instrumental music or recite a few of the short songs. Singing will be done in your hearts or you can hum the melody. Please think of this as a time of meditative singing and focusing on the Lord and the lyrics

Please use the 6-foot social distancing when you come up for communion. Pastor will be using gloves for serving the bread and the cups of wine will be separated for easier handling.

Sad to say, there will be no Fellowship after service, but feel free to use social distancing out in the parking lot.

GRINS AND GIGGLES!

An elderly Italian man lived alone in New Jersey . He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, since the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over.. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days. Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Pop,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried. Love, Vinnie

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Pop,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Love you, Vinnie





This is the garden shed that was purchased with the garage sale money!!!

Last week, I took my children to a restaurant.

My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, 'God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen!'

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, '...That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!'

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, 'Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?' As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job, and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, 'I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer.'

Really?' my son asked. 'Cross my heart,' the man replied. Then, in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), 'Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes.'

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment, and then did something I will remember the rest of my life.

He picked up his sundae and, without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, 'Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already.'

I love this story!

Sometimes, we all need some ice cream.
I hope God sends you some Ice Cream today!!



HOW TO SAY GOODBYE IN MINNESOTA



1. Slap thighs and say "Welp, I better skedaddle"
2. Chit-chat for another 5 minutes without getting up
3. Say "Ok, I should probably get going" and stand up
4. Make your way around the group and chit-chat with each person for 5 minutes each, and give hugs
5. Make your way to the doorway and chit-chat for another 5-10 minutes, more hugs
6. Walk to the driveway while host walks you out
7. Stand in front of car chit-chatting for another 5-10 minutes
8. Get in car and start car, roll window down, and chit-chat from car for another 2-3 minutes
9. Backup car from driveway and wave from window one last time
10. Stop in street while host asks you a question about your car
11. Continue on with one last wave
12. Host yells "Drive safe, watch for deer"
13. Turn-around, you forgot the leftover hot-dish your host gave you in the fridge



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Things I'm Super Good At

1. Forgetting someone's name 30 seconds after they tell me.
2. Running. Late, that is.
3. Making plans...then regretting making plans.
4. Thinking of a great comeback – an hour later.
5. Digging through the trash for the food box I just tossed, because I already forgot the directions.
6. Adding items to online carts. Then deleting.
7. Googling my ailments. Then panicking.
8. Leaving laundry to wrinkle in the dryer.
9. Forgetting why I walked into the room.
10. Calculating how much sleep I'll get if I can just "fall asleep right now".

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