



First Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

October Handclasp Newsletter



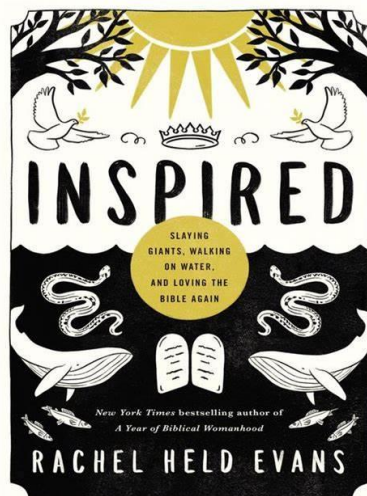
From Pastor Sami

We understand that the Bible is the word of God. It is central to our lives and how we live them and that is a good thing.

Scripture is central to our faith and, again, that is a good thing! But what happens when scripture is used as a weapon to hurt rather than heal? What happens when the Bible stops being God's Good News for the world? What happens when we start to struggle? Struggling with the Bible and scripture is normal and many of us have been doing it in secret for years. I want to invite all of us to a book study Ken Korrell and I are leading the first four weeks in October. We will be reading, "Inspired; Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again." Rachel writes, "if you're eager to encounter the Bible in a way that engages your skepticism, imagination, hopes, and doubts, and if you're willing to confront the Bible's most difficult passages head-on without relying on simplistic explanations, then I wrote this book for you." Many of us have

gone through journeys like Rachel's where we began to want to go deeper into scripture and ask difficult questions but didn't have the people, resources or permission to do so. Well, we give you the permission! In this book, Rachel strives to, "honor the text for what it is—ancient, complicated, debated, and untidy, both universally relevant and born from a specific contest and culture... I hope to show how the Bible can be captivating and true when taken on its own terms, avoiding both strict

literalism on the one hand and safe, disinterested liberalism on the other." Ken and I invite you to journey with us through this difficult book that will challenge us and, hopefully,

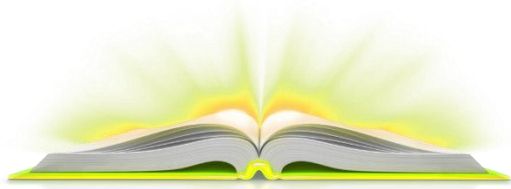


0 inspire us to fall in love with scripture, the Bible, and God all over again. As many of you know, I grew up loving Bible stories and their lessons. I knew all the right answers and it was painful when those “right” answers didn’t seem right, anymore. What happens when we allow, “every page of scripture to serve as an invitation-to wonder, to wrestle, to surrender to the adventure. Let’s go on an adventure Tuesdays, October 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We will meet *both* online on zoom (Meeting ID 867 6871 5471) and in-person at the church.

You do not have to be present at every meeting. We will only cover two chapters each week, so if you can only come to a couple, that’s fine. And you do not have to participate. You can come and listen, or you can join online, turn off your microphone and camera and just listen. If you would like a copy of questions Ken and I will be asking go to:

[Inspired+Reading+Guide.pdf](#)
[\(squarespace.com\)](#) or pick them up at church.

You can purchase your own book, or we have some in the back of the sanctuary. Books are \$10. Invite friends and family to take this class with you. All are welcome.



Worship and Music Music Notes from Addy



Bishop Eaton, the presiding bishop of the ELCA has said our goal as the ELCA is to be, “a thriving church rooted in tradition and radically relevant; a connected, sustainable church that shares in a common purpose and direction.” But what is that direction? Mikka McCracken is the new Executive for Innovation and feels, “an innovation culture powered by the vocations and passions of many will help break through silos that too often render the church irrelevant in people’s lives, our communities, and the world.” In other words, we are going to discover how to be a thriving church rooted in tradition and radically relevant in an ever-changing world, together. We all bring important experiences, skills, insights, and passions into worship and music at First Lutheran. I’ve had the gift of seeing that since I became the Music Coordinator in June. I am excited to start planning Advent with the Worship Team. This is a great group of diverse people who have a passion for music, worship and First Lutheran. I look forward to their suggestions and ideas as we look to a meaningful and inspiring Advent and Christmas Season.

Blessings,
Addy Gabriel



Bells Are Back!

Bells are so much fun! The music Addy chose was not difficult and everyone was so forgiving. We all made mistakes and laughed, together. If you are interested in having fun and playing bells, you are always welcome to join us. We meet Sunday nights from 6-7 p.m. in the choir room. You do not need to read music. We will help you color code your music so you know when to play. Again, this is NOT a long commitment like other

groups. We meet to practice the songs we will play in church and then take a break until the next time Addy needs bells in worship, such as for Reformation, Christmas, and Easter. Now is a great time to give bells a try.



Worship Technology

We are so impressed by Jonthan's work on the technology booth. This is going to free up a lot of space and organize that corner to make it more efficient Sunday morning. Stay tuned for the final unveiling!



Worship Pews

Though it is very comfortable to sit in the furthest pews from the Pastor, no, we are not forcing you to move closer to the front by taking out the pews, one at a time. We promise as soon as the staining is complete, we will put back the pew. Whew.



From the office...

Our new facility reservations process and forms have been updated and approved through council. Most of the process is familiar to members of First Lutheran but there were some changes in regard to fees associated with reserving the sanctuary and being able to use our sound system, computer, and cameras. Fees are now associated to run this equipment so that someone from First Lutheran staff or a member of the Tech Team are on-site for events so that we can run things and troubleshoot if need be. We hope this allows the person reserving the space less stress in managing these systems.



The non-member form is also very similar yet, there are additional fees for non-members.

Both member and non-member forms as well as the policies associated with reserving our space will also be included on the website once it is complete. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Imagine Eleven

Our summer concert series is over, but we are not done supporting our community and inspiring service. We are hosting a benefit concert for The Crossing Nutrition Center. We are hoping to sell 500 tickets! Get them at jomotickets.com/event/surfin-usa-2023. They range from \$10-\$25 depending on where you want to sit. If you have a group of ten or more, you will get a shout out from Pastor Sami, the emcee. Order your tickets now and please invite friends and family to this amazing concert.



The reservation forms for members are outside the chapel. If you're interested in reserving any of the space at First Lutheran, please pick up a form and look at the calendar to see if your date is available. I keep this calendar updated so if your date is free on the calendar the space is free. Once you submit the form, I will reserve the space and reserve the date for you by marking in on the calendar so I know it's gone through the approval process.



SURFIN' USA
Beach Boys Tribute Band

Get tickets at:
www.jomotickets.com

Nov. 11, 7:00 p.m.
Missouri Theater

YOUTH MINISTRY

Our youth ministry has grown so much over the summer with the addition of Solomon Goodman, Caleb Bufkin and Stetson Rush. We also have many new visitors who are regularly attending. Because we have so many youths, have formed two small groups to have discussions each Sunday night before we come together for a group game. We have also started a Sunday morning class for elementary students. We are inviting this group to come with the middle and high school youth the last Sunday of the month for a service project. This month we participated in the Festival of Sharing at InterServe. We joined other local volunteers to package items that will be shipped to different nonprofit agencies in our area.



October Schedule

October 1:

Bell Choir: 6:00 p.m.
Regular Youth Group
7:00-8:00 p.m. at church

TBD:

Youth Lead Worship 8:30 a.m.
No Sunday School
Bell Choir: 6:00 p.m.
Regular Youth Group
7:00-8:00 p.m. at church

October 15:

No Bell Choir
Fright Fest at Worlds of Fun
Time: TBD

October 22:

Bell Choir: 6:00 p.m.
Regular Youth Group
7:00-8:00 p.m. at church

October 29:

Church Potluck and Service Project for
elementary and high school youth.



Congratulations Stephen and Emily
 Who will be married
 Saturday, Nov. 4th at the Cass
 County Community Center in
 Atlantic, IA.



WOMEN AGES 12+

SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

FREE

OCTOBER 21, 2023

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Doors open at 9:30 a.m.



Brookdale Student Ministry

3015 Felix St • St. Joseph, MO

Gym parking available in back of building



Register at stjoemokiwaniis.org/TAKE23

T-shirts & tote bags available for a donation!

Order online by October 2 & pick up at the event.

Council Updates

~November will be Pledge Month and Pastor Sami will be presenting a narrative budget meaning she will let us know about the future direction of the church and how we can finance it.

~ Our social media has slowed but we are running advertisements for the upcoming four week Inspire book study.

~ Imagine Eleven is creating a new Planning Team of First Lutheran members.

Altar Guild

Flowers for Worship

Thank you to the many thoughtful members who have purchased Altar bouquets during September. We have just three Sundays open for the end of the year; November 5, December 3, and December 24. Please let Janice Harmsen know if you are interested in any of those openings. hjharm@aol.com

Service and Outreach

Haven House, 700 Olive St.

4th Tuesday of every month

Cooking: 3:00 p.m.

Serving: 5:00 p.m.

Make a dessert: Sign up outside the chapel to make or buy dessert for Haven House. We serve about 40 people. Bring the dessert to church on Sunday before or to the Haven House. Sign up in the Narthex outside the chapel on the black table.



Building and Grounds

We are happy to report there are not a lot of large projects for our building. We are getting bids on two more downspouts on the north side of the building. That's the Charles Street side. When we get a heavy rain or big snow melt, the two on that side can't keep up with the runoff from the roof. Thus, we get leaks in the Fellowship Hall.

You may have noticed some paint peeling in the sanctuary. The painters are coming back free of charge to fix that as we just painted it last month.

Finally, our lawn and snow removal company is going out of business. We are getting four bids to decide which company we will go with in the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 6: First Friday lunch

October 4, 11, 18, 25: Line Dancing
6:00 – :00 p.m., \$5

October 12: Altar Guild
meeting in Chapel 10:00 a.m.

October 12: Church Council meeting,
6:30 p.m.

October 15: Handclasp articles due

October 17: Men's Breakfast,
La Peep 7:00 a.m.

October 19: Phoebe Circle
1:00 p.m.

October 29: Noisy Offering



NOTE: Line
Dancing on
Mondays will
meet for one hour
from now on!

Christian Education Opportunities

Weekly:

Scripture Study with Pastor Sami meets Mondays from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the upstairs classroom. We discuss the scriptures to be preached the upcoming Sunday.

Scripture Study with Pastor Sami also meets Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. online only. **Zoom ID 845 6213 2526**

Thursday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:00-12:00 p.m. in the upstairs classroom.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Choir Room. We discuss the scriptures and sermon from worship.

Monthly:

Phoebe's Circle is a women's Bible study group that meets the third Thursday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the chapel.






Anniversaries and Birthdays



Anniversaries

Sarah and Tim Sedlacek
David Bezona and Brenda Bass
David and Ann Newman

Birthdays



Floreen Johnson, 10/01
Melissa Young, 10/01
Jim Farrell, 10/03
Janice Harmsen, 10/12
Robert Gunderson, 10/14
Mitchell Myers, 10/14
Nataleigh Messimore, 10/15
Landon Sedlacek (16!), 10/18
Rita Nelson, 10/19
Sami Pfalzgraf, 10/20
Kathy Johnson, 10/22
Irene Wall, 10/22
Steve Archer, 10/25
Bill Kinney, 10/28
Carol Roever, 10/29
Phil Heeler, 10/31



happy anniversary



Prayers

Members:

Floreen Johnson Prayers for continued health and happiness.

Pamela Kirkpatrick-Norton and family, prayers for healing and continued strength to lean on God in difficult times.

Della Schiermeyer, prayers for good health.

Dorothy Masteller, prayers of strength as she deals with her cancer.

David Bezona for healing and strength.

Bob Lynch for healing.

Carolyn Pearl for healing.

Jack Pearl for healing from leg pain.

Nickie Casburn for healing.

Janet Ruff for healing.

Trisha Viselli (daughter to Howard and Janice Harmsen)

Nancy and Phil Lewis, prayers to fight cancer.

Blakely, Kylie and Zach Officer for healing.

Friends

Tammy (daughter to Howard and Janice Harmsen)

Sarah Pierce (daughter to Jim and Juel Pierce)

Lyryk (Nataleigh Messimore's cousin)

Scott Wells (friend of Jeff Langdon)

Darin Hinnergardt (friend of Jeff Langdon),

David and Cindy (friends of Jim and Juel Pierce)

Friends continued:

Jill Harris Smith (friend to Ken Korell)

Charles Newman (brother Dave Newman)

Brenda Fanning (step-daughter of Dorothy Masteller),

Larry Kramer (Joy Winters' brother-in-law)

Rosa and Vivine Langdon

(granddaughters of Kris and Jeff Langdon),

Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall)

Kevin and Becky Carlson (cousins to Kathy Wessler)

Loren Larkin (friend of Sharmyn Thompson),

Charles Frazer (Friend to Irene Wall)

Victor Johnson (uncle of Kenny Ruff),

Kim Durbin (cousin of Kenny Ruff),

Richard Palmer (husband of Debbie Ziph-Palmer and friend of Carol Wilson)

Patty Hansen (Brooke's mom)

Sunshine Amthauer (daughter to Bob and Fran Lynch)

Ron and Lynn Hunter (friends of Sharmyn Thompson)

Brie Phillips (Charlotte Chirila's granddaughter)

Maddie McKnight (family friend of Laurel Goforth)

Sunshine Amthauer (daughter to Bob and Fran Lynch)

Date	Lector	Communion Assistant	Acolyte
October 1	Ann Newman	Larry Reder	TBD
October 8	Janice Harmsen	Kris Langdon	TBD
October 15	Kathy Wessler	Donna Korrell	TBD
October 22	Jim Pierce	Ann Newman	TBD
October 29	Nancy Lewis	Jennifer Bufkin	TBD

Ushers: Jim Farrell, Daniel Wall, Sarah Sedlacek

Average Attendance	August
In Person	63
Online	72 one week the power was out, and another the stream did not work correctly
Offering Year-to-Date	August
Income	\$134,782.25
Expense	\$139,801.41
Difference	-\$5,019.16



Date	Flower Schedule
October 1	Pam and Jim Farrell
October 8	Janice and Howard Harmsen
October 15	Ann and Dave Newman
October 22	Daniel Wall
October 29	Gay Anderson