



First Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May Handclasp Newsletter



From Pastor Sami

Many of you have come to my office and noticed many dog toys strewn all over my floor.

You may have even met my new puppy, Kaiba (kye-bah). It has been my dream since 2010 to have a therapy dog. A therapy dog is not a service dog. It's a dog that has been trained to go into places *with their owners* like assisted living homes, schools, and hospitals to provide care and comfort for others. A service dog is specially trained to help a person who has a disability like a seeing eye dog. Kaiba and I will begin obedience and behavior training April 25. We have 12 weeks of training before we will be able to take the therapy dog test. We cannot do that until she is 1 year old, which will be Dec. 1.

With the goal of Kaiba being a therapy dog, it has been very important for me to work on her socialization as a puppy. That is one reason I have been bringing her to the office. She need to meet people, especially men. She has quite a few women in her life and very few men. Thank you so much to everyone who helped her be more

comfortable around people, especially the youth. Thank you, everyone, for your understanding. I am so fortunate to be able to bring my puppy to work.

Kaiba is a Portuguese Water Dog, which is same breed President Obama had in the White House.



I chose this breed specifically because they are hypoallergenic, which means Kaiba does not have fur but has hair. She does not shed and does not have much dander making her less likely to trigger people who are allergic to dogs. Portuguese Water Dogs are a very friendly breed with all ages and with other animals. They are very intelligent, are easy to train and have high energy. This is why

I chose this breed. Kaiba will be about 50 pounds as an adult making her a medium sized dog.

“The Portuguese Water Dog once lived all along Portugal’s coast, and was used to herd fish into nets, retrieve lost tackle, and act as a messenger between ships and shore. Fishermen counted on the strong and muscular dogs to be hardworking and seaworthy. They would ride in boats from the warm Atlantic waters of Portugal to the freezing cold waters off the coast of Iceland. Technology eventually laid them off of their job, but the breed is still used for water rescue.” (www.akc.org)

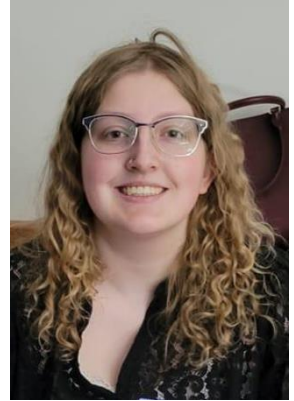
I am so excited to begin this process with my new puppy and thank you all so much for your support. I am so thankful I can bring Kaiba to work and have a community to support us in our ministry. Thank you.



Welcome Addy Gabriel

The Executive Team (Brenda Bass, Jim Pierce, Cyndee Simpson, Pam Farrell and Pastor Sami) is excited to introduce you to

Addy Gabriel. She has a degree in Music Education and has spent the last year working at Fort Osage School District in Independence, MO as a 5th and 6th Grade Vocal and General Music Teacher. Addy also plays the organ.



She is very excited to play our organ! She also has experience leading a Praise Team. She had a scholarship in college for praise music and led the Praise Team and Central Methodist. In 2020, Addy worked at Francis Street Methodist in St. Joseph as a Youth and Music Intern. She comes with experience in Camp Ministry as well. Addy is excited to work with Jim Pierce as he transitions out of the Music Coordinator position. She will officially begin at First Lutheran June 1. However, she will visit and sing in worship before her official start date.

Worship and Music

Worship Schedule

May 7:

Confirmation Sunday

May 13:

Blessing of the Animals at Coleman Hawkins Park 1:00 p.m.

May 14:

Mother's Day

May 28:

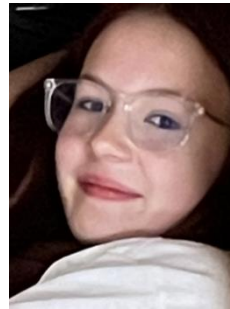
PENTECOST!!

Worship Team

As you can see from the above schedule, the Worship Team has been busy. We decided to ask the congregation to make homemade treats for dogs and cats to take home at the Blessing of the Animals. We will also send home a note inviting those participants to worship with us. There are recipes on pages 8-9. For Mother's Day, we will give all women who care for and help raise children a flower in honor of their work. This flower is a pin that will last forever, just like their love for children. And finally, we talked about our plans to use worship art again this year to help us celebrate Pentecost. Remember, Pentecost is the festival we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming on the disciples in tongues of flames. The disciples had been hiding in a locked room, afraid they too would be killed because of their association with Jesus. It was the power of the Holy Spirit that gave them the courage to unlock the door and do God's will in the world. It was the Holy Spirit that lit a fire in their hearts to live by faith and not by fear. And yes, we will be lighting the baptismal font on fire again this year to remind us the Holy Spirit baptizes us not by water but by fire!



Meet the Confirmation Students



Brooke Coyle

Brooke is a freshman at Benton High School. She has played volleyball and run track. Brooke likes participating in Girl Scouts, Youth Volunteer Corps and hanging out with friends. Brooke's faith statement: My faith is like a volleyball game because: the crowd is like the church rooting for me to succeed. The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ are my coaches, steering me in the right direction and are always there for me when I am hurt. When my teammates make a mistake on the court, I have to forgive them just as God and Jesus would forgive me for making a mistake. Just like having to practice volleyball, I have to practice my faith.



Jordyn Jonas

Jordyn is a freshman at Central High School. She is a cheerleader and is a base on the pyramid. She does *not* enjoy being on the top of the pyramid or flying. In her free time, Jordyn likes to go to the lake and likes to go fishing.

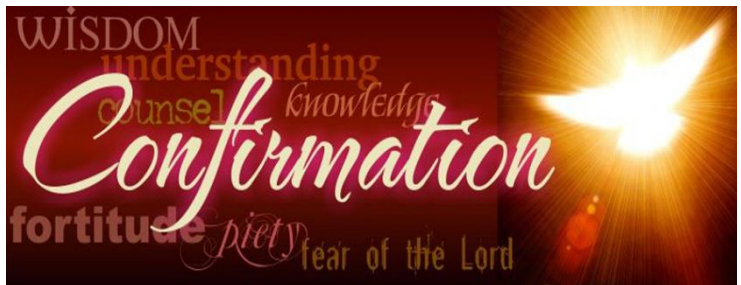
Jordyn's faith statement: I believe in God, who created all things. I believe God watches over us to protect us from sin, death and all things evil. God will continue to love us no matter what. Knowing what Jesus taught his followers, I can use it to make me a better person. It taught me how to be a good role model, leader, and a good example for others around me. The Holy Spirit guides me and my faith to know what kind of a person I want to be.



Chase Olson

Chase is a sophomore at Central High School. He is a wrestler and plays football. He enjoys playing Xbox in his free time.

Chase's faith statement: I believe in God who is the creator of the Earth and everything. I believe Jesus died for our/my sins, taught people, and healed people. I believe God forgives us and protects us and loves us. I believe Jesus is the re-creation of God and is in heaven. The Holy Spirit ignites the fire in our hearts for the passion we have.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Last Month: Seed Balls

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” *Genesis 1:28*

God did not ask us to dominate and destroy God’s beautiful creation but to care for it. Caring for the earth is a way for us to practice our faith. We believe in God, God created the world, we should care for the world out of our love and respect for God. We are also to love and care for each other. It’s tempting to go around town and throw the seed balls in other people’s yards, thinking we are doing a good thing in faith, but many people may not appreciate us planting flowers in their lawns. We decided instead to put a note in a paper bag (better than Ziploc for the environment) and give the seed balls for people to throw themselves or to give away in faith and love.

May Youth Group Activity

May 19-20: Retreat at God’s Mountain

Mission Trip

July 9-15: Mission Trip

Sunday Morning Confirmation and Sunday School

We are done for this ministry year. We will begin again September 10!



Altar Guild

Flowers

All Sundays in June are available for altar flower sponsorship. If you're interested in sponsoring June 4, 11, 18 (Father's Day) or 25, please sign on the Flower Chart outside the sanctuary or speak to Nancy Lewis or Janice Harmsen. Remember that payment of the \$50.00 for the two vases of flowers is due before your flowers are on the altar. Payment may be made by cash or check (payable to Altar Guild) or online (be sure to select "Altar Flowers" for the payment fund.)



Bread Bakers

The Altar Guild also needs a volunteer to donate the bread for communion for the month of June. Please speak to Ann Newman or sign on the Communion Bread Volunteer List on the table outside the Chapel.

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.



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.

Monthly Potluck at Church

The last Sunday of every month we have a potluck in the Fellowship Hall. We need people to put tablecloths on the tables, set out plates, utensils, cups and drinks. Some dishes may need serving utensils. All is available in the kitchen at church. Sign up outside the chapel. Call/email Pastor Sami with questions.

Make Dog and Cat Treats for Blessing of the Animals

May 13 at Coleman Hawkins Park we will be hosting a Blessing of the Animals and we need your help. We want to show hospitality and invite those who come to worship on Sunday. We will be handing out bags of dog and cat treats with a special invitation inside. Please bake as many treats as you want and drop them off at church **by May 07!** Youth will put the packages together. Thank you.

Homemade Peanut Butter Dog Treats

Ingredients

*Baking time will vary depending on the size and thickness of the treats.

2/3 cup pumpkin puree

1/4 cup peanut butter*

2 large eggs

2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat; set aside.
2. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat pumpkin puree, peanut butter and eggs on medium-high until well combined

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- about 1-2 minutes.
 3. Gradually add 2 1/2 cups flour at low speed, beating just until incorporated. Add an additional 1/4 cup flour at a time just until the dough is no longer sticky.
 4. Working on a lightly floured surface, knead the dough 3-4 times until it comes together. Using a rolling pin, roll the dough to 1/4-inch thickness. Using cookie cutters, cut out desired shapes or just cut strips and place onto the prepared baking sheet.
 5. Place into oven and bake until the edges are golden brown, about 20-25 minutes.
 6. Let cool completely.

Homemade Tuna Cat Treats

Ingredients

6 ounces undrained tuna
1 cup flour
1 cup cornmeal
1 egg
2 T water



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Place all ingredients into mixing bowl, stir well until soft dough forms.
3. Let dough rest for 10 minutes.
4. Cover large surface with cornmeal and roll dough out until 1/4 inch thick.
5. Use either a small cookie cutter or knife to cut into shapes or squares.
6. Place on parchment paper lined cookie sheet and bake for 15-20 minutes.
7. Let cool!





Anniversaries and Birthdays



Anniversaries

David and Diana Schmidt, 31 years, 05/02
Liz and Pat Jonas, 18 years, 05/07
Jim and Pam Farrell, 47 years, 05/08
Jodi and Steve Moore, 29 years, 05/29
Alan and Catherine Dunning, 15 years, 05/31
Jim and Juel Pierce, 52 years, 05/31



Birthdays

Toni Gunderson, 05/01
Kendra Bufkin, 05/06
Karen Jensen, 05/06
Brooklyn Deyoung, 05/07
Marla Heller, 05/07
Agok Deng, 05/08
Katressa Starks, 05/09
Elaine Guenther, 05/11
Randy Dedrickson, 05/15
Nita Archer, 05/24
Anna Hornbostel, 05/25
Debbie Taylor, 05/27
Linda Goodwin, 05/28
AlexZander Burns, 05/31

Council Updates

~We are working to brainstorm fundraiser to help with the cost of the parking lot renovation and chapel repairs.
~We are releasing a new logo May 14.
~We have selected a team to review our safety plan.
~Synod Assembly is online this year on June 3. We are getting delegates.
Offering at Synod Assembly will go to ELCA Campus Ministries.



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 healing and good health.

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

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

Karen Young, healing after hip surgery.

Kay Howard, healing.

David Bezona for healing and strength.

Brett Chladek for the return of his eyesight and for strength.

Karri and Nate Chladek for strength while supporting Brett in his recovery.

Bob Lynch for strength as they do more testing.

Carol Wilson strength as she prepares for another surgery and recovers from the last.

Friends

Scott Wells (friend of Jeff Langdon)

Darin Hinnergardt (friend of Jeff Langdon),

Charles Newman (brother Dave Newman)

Greg Owen (brother Randi Lenander)

Brenda Fanning (step-daughter of Dorothy Masteller),

Friends continued:

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),

Date	Lector	Communion Assistant	Acolyte
May 7	Janice Harmsen	Donna Korell	TBD
May 14	Joyce Stroud	Jennifer Bufkin	TBD
May 21	Ann Newman	Marilyn Hunt	TBD
May 28	Kathy Wessler	Jim Pierce	TBD

Ushers: Ann Newman, Joyce Stroud, Marilyn Hunt



Average Attendance	April
In Person	83
Online	97
Offering Year-to-Date	March
Income	\$48,971.13
Expense	\$50,930.36
Difference	-\$1,959.23

Date	Flower Schedule
May 7	Pam and Jim Farrell
May 14	Nadine Burns
May 21	Joyce Stroud
May 28	Jim and Juel Pierce