



First Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

December Handclasp Newsletter



From Pastor Sami

Psalm 118:24 *This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

During the holiday season, I find myself complaining that it goes by too quickly. I wished I would have spent more time just soaking in that moment, which will never come again. Richard Rohr, one my favorite theologians, says if we are not fully present in the moment, if we are not “now-here” we are “nowhere.” It’s true! I look back at the Thanksgiving holiday and I was so busy and focused on what was coming next, I forgot to be now-here. I didn’t rejoice and be glad in the day and time God had given me and unfortunately, it has passed and is gone. But that doesn’t mean I can’t work on being fully present today, so I did some research and learned ways to be more fully present.

Unplug!

We spend so much time on our phones, on social media, on our computers, and watching television, we need to intentionally unplug and be present.

Notice our surroundings.

Take time to smell the roses. We forget to look up and see the beauty in the world around us.

Give others our undivided attention.

Have you been out to eat and saw an entire table of people on their phones? That’s a lost moment.

Take a break.

It doesn’t mean you’re lazy. We are more productive if we take breaks and give ourselves a moment of rest.

Breath.

This is one of the practices of mindfulness. “Mindfulness is the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we’re doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what’s going on around us.” If you would like more information on how to be mindful, go to www.mindful.org.

Holy God, thank you for the gift of today. Help me be fully present so I can truly enjoy all that this beautiful and good things day brings. Help me live each moment to the fullest. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Christmas Caroling December 11, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

We will meet at the church and go to our sacred senior's homes who are unable to attend church. We will end our night of fun with goodies and hot chocolate (location TBD). Then we will return to the church. All talent and age levels are invited!



Merry Christmas!

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Meal 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve meal will be at 5:00 p.m. It will be catered by Spanky and Buckwheat's and this year we are having a pasta bar! It will have lasagna, chicken alfredo, 5 cheese tortellini, and ravioli. There will also be garden salad, garlic toast & drinks. Cost is \$11 adults and \$5 for children ten and under. Please RSVP to ficsj302@gmail.com by **December 18!**

Christmas Eve Service 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Online Only 9:30 a.m.

The Worship Team and Church Council decided it best to have Christmas Day worship online only. You can worship with us on our YouTube page or on our Facebook page.

During this worship experience, we will learn the history of five of our favorite Christmas hymns (though they are not all technically Christmas!). Then, we will listen and/or sing with five ELCA colleges; Augustana, Luther, Concordia, and Wartburg.

DECORATING

for Christmas

DECEMBER 3, 2:30 P.M.



Worship and Music Ministry Live Streaming

We finally have the technology and sound figured out. The stream is going well. We continue to work on the details but are feeling more confident with the final product.

Praise Band

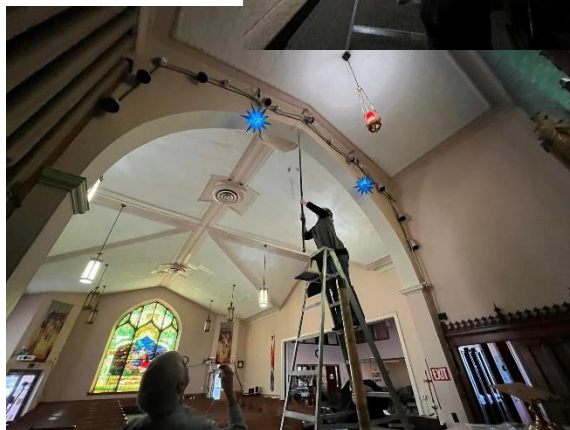
Thank you so much to the Praise Band who led worship when Sharon was gone. You did a great job helping us praise God with music. Thank you!

Worship Team

Our Worship Team continues to meet to create meaningful worship experiences. This team choose music for worship that balances the hymns we know and love with some praise songs we know and love. We also strive to introduce new music. If you have noticed, we do it in a very intentional way. We first listen to the new music during communion. Then, the Praise Band sings the music as a musical offering so we can hear it, again. Finally, we sing it together in worship. Now you know the method to our madness! This team also chooses sermon series and brainstorms worship art. Thank you for all your hard work this Advent and Christmas season!

Installation of Advent Worship Art

Thank you, Jim, Jeff, and Pam!



Youth Ministry

November Youth Group Activity Grades 7-12

December 18, Progressive Dinner, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Start at the church and we will load into cars to go to TBD. We will have salad and bread sticks. Then, we will go to the Sedlacek/Knorr house for the main course ending our night at Pastor Sami's house for dessert. Parents are welcome to meet us there, have dessert and pick up your youth.



At the Korell house, youth had to balance soda cans.



At the Starks House, the youth had to balance golf balls on top of each other.

First Lutheran's Amazing Race 2022


And the Yellow Team wins!



At the Heir house, the youth had to line up soda cans with pennies in them from least to most pennies.



At the Langdon House, the youth had to roll marbles down a table and catch as many as they could in the tape at the bottom.



*Annual
Christmas
Cookie sale and Silent Auction
By the Altar Guild*

*Sale & Auction December 4th
In Fellowship Hall
8:30am to 9:30 am / 10:45am to 11:30am*

*Cookie Sale: We need cookie donations
Please bring two dozen (or more)
To the church by December 3rd
Silent Auction: Bidding to start
at 8:30 am and end at 11:30 am*

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN
**All proceeds will go to the
Church maintenance fund
Altar Guide will match
Up to \$2,000**

Altar Guild

The 2023 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway outside the sanctuary. We need sponsors for the month of January. If you have a January event you want to remember with flowers, please sign up. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Lewis or Janice Harmsen for further information.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Mondays 1:00-2:00 p.m.
in the upstairs
classroom.

Wednesdays 6:00-7:00
p.m. online only. Zoom
ID 845 6213 2526

Thursdays 10:00-12:00
a.m. in the upstairs
classroom.

Sundays 10:30-11:30
a.m. in the Choir Room.

Line Dancing

Every
Monday
\$5
6-8 p.m.

CHURCH DIRECTORY PICTURES

1. Send pictures to flcsj302@gmail.com
2. Mail to 302 S. 10th Street St. Joseph, MO 64501
3. Bring them into the church to be scanned



New Tower Roofs

Roberts roofing sent a drone up to our towers to check on our roofs.

Unfortunately, as you can see, they are pretty old and in need of repair. Here are the drone pictures!





Anniversaries and Birthdays



Anniversaries

Phil and Linda Heeler, 12/10, 56 years
Laurel and Carroll Goforth, 12/11, 51 years
Mitchell and Chelsea Myers, 12/13, 8 years
Marly and Troy Doty, 12/18, 12 years
Larry and Nancy Reder, 12/ 20, 42 years
Sarah and Rebecca Morris, 12/21, 9 years
Ben and Megan Bunge, 12/29, 10 years
Bill and Rachel Kinney, 12/31, 10 years



Birthdays

Rebecca Morris, 12/03
Kristen Moore, 12/08
Nadine Burns, 12/11
Nolan Sedlacek, 12/11
Jacob Olson, 12/12
Roger Lenander, 12/20
Payton Olson, 12/21
Cyndee Simpson, 12/23
Karla Behrens, 12/31
Dave Newman, 12/31



Council Highlights

- Council asked the Executive Team to meet and create a job description for a Technology Technician for Sunday morning.
- Cyndee Simpson is putting together a team to do our 2022 Audit.

Prayers

Members:

Ed Holmes, prayers for health and happiness.

Floreen Johnson, prayers for health and happiness.

Myrene Bunge, prayers for health and happiness.

Dorothy Masteller, prayers of strength and healing.

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

Pamela Kirkpatrick-Norton, prayers for her health. Prayers for her family for healing and continued faith.

Verna Kirschner prayers for comfort and peace.

Della Schiermeyer, prayer for joy and strength.

Friends

Kylee Skaggs (friend of Nataleigh Messimore and Todd Meier)

Darin Hinnergardt (friend of Jeff Langdon)

Nick Howard (Kay Howard's Husband) for healing and strength during cancer treatments.

Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall), was put on a trach and colostomy bag this week. She is having a very hard time. Prayers for Keira and her family.

John Rushin and Barbra, his wife (friends of Dan Chladek)

Friends continued:

Brenda Fanning (step-daughter of Dorothy Masteller),

Carol Powers (Marilyn Hunt's sister),

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

Robbi O'Connell and Randi DeRoin (Charlotte Chirila's granddaughters)

Rosa and Vivine Langdon (granddaughter of Kris and Jeff Langdon), prayers for healing and joy.

Emily McWhirter, (Jeff Langdon's mother).

Janis Roorda (Jeff Langdon's friend)

Trudy McCloud (Bob and Fran Lynch niece),

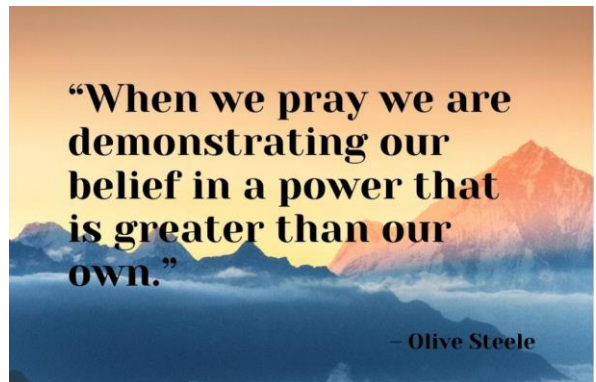
Victor Johnson (uncle of Kenny Ruff),

Kim Durbin (cousin of Kenny Ruff)

Loren Larkin (friend of Sharmyn Thompson),

Jean Earl (Irene Wall's cousin),

Judy Black (friend of Laurel Goforth)



Date	Lector	Communion Assistant	Acolyte
December 4	Joyce Stroud	Kris Landon	Chase Olson
December 11	David Bezona	Ann Newman	Caleb Bufkin
December 18	Nancy Lewis	Marilyn Hunt	Jordyn Jonas
December 24	Brenda Bass	Randi Lenander	Brett Chladek
December 25	Online only	Online only	Online only

Ushers: Sylvester Heeler, Larry Reder, Ron Starks



Average Attendance	
In Person	63
Online	70
Offering Year-to-Date	
Income	\$172,275
Expense	173,787.43
Difference	-\$1512.43

Date	Flower Schedule
December 4	Kathy Wessler
December 11	Jim and Juel Pierce
December 18	Ron Starks
December 24	Larry and Nancy Reder

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
<p>Worship is Live Streamed</p> <p>9:30am - Altar Guild</p> <p>9:30am - In Person</p> <p>10:30am - Confirmation</p> <p>10:45am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - FLY (grade)</p> <p>1pm - Sudanese Worship</p>	<p>1pm - Scripture Study</p> <p>6pm - Line Dancing Group</p>	<p>6:30pm - Knitting Group</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Morning</p> <p>3pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts in</p>	<p>12pm - First Friday Lunch</p>	<p>11am - Youth Alliance</p> <p>2:30pm - Altar Guild</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>Worship is Live Streamed</p> <p>9:30am - In Person</p> <p>10:30am - Confirmation</p> <p>10:45am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - FLY (grade)</p> <p>1pm - Sudanese Worship</p> <p>4pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>1pm - Scripture Study</p> <p>6pm - Line Dancing Group</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>10am - Altar Guild</p> <p>10am - Thursday Morning</p> <p>3pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts in</p> <p>6:30pm - Church Council</p>	<p>1:30pm - Joy Ferrell and</p>	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>Worship is Live Streamed</p> <p>9:30am - In Person</p> <p>10:30am - Confirmation</p> <p>10:45am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - FLY (grade)</p> <p>1pm - Sudanese Worship</p> <p>4pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>1pm - Scripture Study</p> <p>6pm - Line Dancing Group</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>Last day to submit</p> <p>10am - Thursday Morning</p> <p>1pm - Phoebe Circle</p> <p>3pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts in</p>		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>Worship is Live Streamed</p> <p>9:30am - In Person</p> <p>10:30am - Confirmation</p> <p>10:45am - Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am - FLY (grade)</p> <p>1pm - Sudanese Worship</p> <p>7:30pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>1pm - Scripture Study</p> <p>6pm - Line Dancing Group</p>	<p>7am - Men's Breakfast at</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Morning</p> <p>3pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts in</p>		<p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>5pm - Christmas Eve</p> <p>6pm - Christmas Eve</p>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Noisy Offering</p> <p>Worship is Live Streamed</p> <p>9:30am - Online Only</p> <p>1pm - Sudanese Worship</p>	<p>Christmas Day</p> <p>1pm - Scripture Study</p> <p>6pm - Line Dancing Group</p>	<p>3pm - Haven House</p> <p>5pm - Haven House</p>	<p>9:30am - Archive Team</p> <p>6pm - Scripture Study</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Morning</p> <p>3pm - Praise Team</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts in</p>		<p>New Year's Eve</p>