



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 needs 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.



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

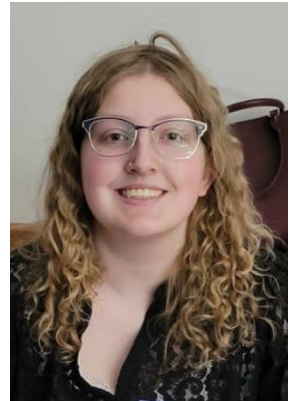
May 28:

PENTECOST!!

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 Team

Wow, is May busy or what! Busy is good because we have so much to celebrate. The Worship Team decided to give all women who care for and help raise children a flower in honor of their work. We also decided to make homemade treats for the Blessing of the Animals on May 13

Brooke likes participating 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 tooting 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.

Meet the Confirmation Students



Brooke Coyle

Brooke is a freshman at Benton High School. She has played volleyball and run track.



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, 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.

Christmas Progressive Dinner

Altar Guild

Cookie Sale and Silent Auction

The Altar Guild is happy to report that the annual Cookie Sale and Silent Auction was very successful and raised a total of \$2,112.00. The Guild will contribute an additional \$2,000.00 to make the total donation to the church's maintenance fund \$4112.00! It was awesome to get this kind of support from so many members and friends of First Lutheran! The Guild thanks each and every donation of cookies and items for the silent auction and to everyone who purchased items.

Altar Flowers

Darla of Darla's Flowers (who has supplied our sanctuary with her beautiful arrangements for the last three years) due to rising costs in flowers and supplies, she is raising her rate for the two weekly bouquets to \$50.00 beginning January 1. We have enjoyed the \$40.00/two bouquets/week for three years, so this increase is in line with everything else that has been raised during these inflationary times. There are still open spots for January and February altar flowers. If one of these dates works for you, please sign up on the chart on the bulletin board just outside the sanctuary or see/contact Nancy Lewis (573-691-2970) for more information. Nancy will contact you for your dedication so it can be in the bulletin and on the screen. Payment for your flowers should be paid before your flowers are on the altar.

January Youth Group Activity

January 15, 7:30 p.m.

Photo Scavenger Hunt

Youth will have one hour to complete as many photo challenges as possible before returning to the church. There will be a prize for the team with the most points! Friends are strongly encouraged. The more people the more fun!



Page 4

Page 6

Page 6

Lutheran Church.

In memory of our parents: Robert &
Jane Keller and LeRoy & Esther Stroud.

Miles and Joyce Stroud

In honor of our Risen Lord.
In memory of loved ones.

Irene and Daniel Wall
Kathy Wessler

Page 5

Making hats



April Youth Group Activity
April 16, 7:30 p.m. Bowling!

May 19-20: Retreat at God’s Mountain
July 9-15: Mission Trip



Congratulations, Logan!

Logan Kissler, son of Melissa Young, grandson of Deann and Gary Young, received his Eagle Scout award in Boy Scouts! Logan renovated the Civic Center Peace Officer’s Memorial in St. Joseph for his Eagle Scout project. We are so proud of you, Logan.





Congratulations, Stetson!

Stetson is first in the state for creative weapons, fourth in the state for extreme weapons and seventh *in the world* for creative weapons in Taekwondo! Way to go, Stetson. We are so proud of you!

Opportunities to Serve

Haven House: Fourth Tuesday

Sign up by contacting the church office flcsj302@gmail.com or 816-232-8378. 3:00 p.m. Cooking and 5:00 p.m. Serving

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 10:00-11:00 a.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.

LINE DANCING CLASS



\$5 PER CLASS

MONDAYS 6:00-8:00 P.M.
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Altar Guild

Altar flower reservations are available for May 21 and all of the month of June. Please sign on the chart outside the sanctuary or contact Nancy Lewis or Janice Harmsen if you would like to sponsor flowers on any of those Sundays.

The \$50.00 charge for the two altar flower arrangements should be paid to Altar Guild Treasurer, Nancy Lewis.

If you have taken home flowers in vases provided by the church, be sure to return them when you are finished with them.



MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

7:00 AM
THIRD
TUESDAY
AT LE PEEP

919 N
WOODBINE
RD



Council Updates

~Brooke and Pastor Sami brought some new logos for First Lutheran. The Council gave suggestions and edits will be sent out via email.

~Brooke received a budget for marketing and advertising this year on Facebook.

~The Council renewed our membership to the Museum Hill Historic District and donated \$500 to Imagine Eleven again this year.

~We continue researching the cost of an AED machine.

MONTHLY

POTLUCK

April 30 – 10:30 a.m.

in the Fellowship Hall
Bring a dish to share





Anniversaries and Birthdays



Anniversaries

Reed and Rita Nelson, 41 years, 04/16



Birthdays

Kris Landon, 04/01
Nancy Gingery, 04/03
Ken Korell, 04/03
Charlotte Chirila, 04/06
Kenny Ruff, 04/06
Ed Holmes, 04/07
Miles Stroud, 04/10
Tami Davis, 04/14
Ray Otto, 04/14
Dexter Erickson, 04/14
Emily Wearing, 04/16
Deann Young, 04/19
Dorothy Masteller, 04/22
Ali Sedlacek, 04/24
Bradin Erickson, 04/27
Sydney Knorr, 04/29
Scott Albers, 04/30



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)

Verna Kirschner, prayers for comfort and peace.

Karen Young, healing after hip surgery.

Kay Howard, healing from ulcers.

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),

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

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

Rosa and Vivine Langdon (granddaughters of Kris and Jeff Langdon),

Friends continued:

Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall)
Shawna Stucker (Howard and Janice Harmsen's niece)

Kevin and Becky Carlson (cousins to Kathy Wessler)

Jason Starks (son of Ron Starks)

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),



Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer

Date	Lector	Communion Assistant	Acolyte
April 2	Kathy Wessler	Ken Korell	Brett Chladek
Maundy Thurs. April 6	None	Larry Reder	None
April 9	Brenda Bass	Steve Archer	Stetson Rush
April 16	Marilyn Hunt	Randi Lenander	Chase Olson
April 23	Jennifer Bufkin	Ann Newman	Kendra Bufkin
April 30	David Bezona	Brenda Bass	Caleb Bufkin

Ushers: Jim Farrell, Daniel Wall, Sarah Sedlacek



Average Attendance	
In Person	69
Online	134
Offering Year-to-Date	
Income	\$34,767.19
Expense	\$35,436.22
Difference	-\$669.03

Date	Flower Schedule
April 2	No Flowers for Lent
April 9	Ann and Dave Newman
April 16	Mort Bigham
April 23	Irene Wall
April 30	Altar Guild