



Lila's Log: Making Friends, Bringing Comfort, and Spreading our Lord's Message

Fellow BSLC Members! K9 Comfort Dog Lila here, with my August report.

"Calling all LCC Comfort Dogs — Report to Northbrook, IL, for our annual conference. That's right — All 100+ of you — On the double!"



And so, my team responded. What a rewarding experience for all of us — motivating speakers, training refreshers, connecting with sister Phoebe and Susie and many of my Facebook friends, both human and K-9.



“The Girls”

When you’re a Comfort Dog, you never know what the day will bring. Recently, at St. Mary’s - Ozaukee I.C.U., I hopped in to see a patient who had had a tracheotomy but still wanted a visit. Eventually, my handler told the patient, Diane, that she and I were both Lutherans. “Oh! I’ve been a Lutheran all of my life. I went to all Lutheran schools in Milwaukee, and my kids did the same.”

She proceeded to go through the entire list of schools and churches, even though she had to pause after every three or four words to take

a rather labored breath through her breathing tube.

My handler asked the R.N. in her room if maybe Diane should be resting, but the nurse said, "She'll know when she's had enough. Right now, she's really enjoying herself."

So we continued reminiscing about the "old days" (personally, before my time), the old Milwaukee neighborhoods, and what growing up Lutheran meant to us.

Finally, it was time for Diane's respiratory therapy, so we wrapped up the conversation with a prayer, a final pet, and a wish for God's blessing on her speedy recovery.

One forty minutes of our time . . . for what her son told us had really made her day -- no, her whole week.

Just another ordinary day in the life of a Lutheran Comfort Dog!

Further adventures at St. Mary's I.C.U. —

As my handler and I approached the elevator, I noticed a gentleman with a dog — and that dog noticed me. He was a German Shepherd, wearing a leather harness with a rigid rectangular handle. We said "Good morning" to the gentleman and asked what his dog's name was. "This is Reese, my seeing eye dog," he said as the elevator bell rang for "going up".

All four of us headed inside the elevator. When we began our ascent, the gentleman told Reese to "Sit."

I promptly responded to his command and with a smile, my handler told him that I had obeyed his order.

"Well, that's great," he chuckled, "because my own dog did not."

Score another point for the Comfort Dog training!



“To infinity and beyond!”

Charity and I were Brookfield Lutheran’s first female astronauts at Brookfield Lutheran’s Vacation Bible School. “The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?” — Psalm 113

I’m really enjoying the “dogs days of summer”— How about you? Just make sure you and your dogs stay hydrated and no walking on hot asphalt or concrete. Your dogs will thank you!

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Lila 