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FARMINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH // ISSUE 13 // AUGUST 2020

# *THE GROVE*

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF  
*THE GROVE* NEWSLETTER!

# ***THE GROVE*** **NEWSLETTER IS** **CELEBRATING IT'S** **FIRST YEAR!**

The Grove newsletter is officially one year old! We have enjoyed sharing each month updates, news, and stories of the happenings at Farmington Lutheran Church.

Is there something you want to hear about or learn more about? We want to know about it! Email Jen at [jen@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:jen@farmingtonlutheran.com) to share your ideas!



**DID  
YOU  
KNOW?**

*The Grove* newsletter was named after the 17-acre parcel of land that Farmington Lutheran is situated on. This piece of land has become known as Emmaus Grove, after the Bible story Luke 24.



## **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTERISTIC OF GOD?**

### **Michelle Andrews**

Forgiveness & everlasting unconditional love. I cannot wait to meet him, someday. He is the calm when I am a storm; he lifted me up when I could not.

### **Ashley Shellum**

Grace, to know that even when I feel that I am not enough or that I stumble, I get a chance to get it right.

### **Timothy Scott Grundler**

I am loved, even though I don't deserve it.

### **Whitney Quast**

Unending patience and hope for us sinners.

### **Betty Pigman**

He listens to my prayers, hopes, dreams, and what I hope will be. It is unconditional and never judgmental. Best of all, He leads me to decide what is the best option for me.

### **Alleen Wicktor**

Always with me.

### **Rusty Brace**

Steadfast love and desire for all to live an abundant life. (Pretty cool to hang out on a cloud, too!)

### **Linda Grafe Landwehr**

How God's creation perfectly reflects Her beauty.

### **Julie Ruesink**

Being there for me.

### **Kevin Anderson**

Love.

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# PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS

BY KRISTINE CLEMENS

I have a love/hate relationship with sleeping. Sometimes I can go a night or two with uninterrupted sleep. Then there are other nights when I wake up often. Sometimes it's a bad dream that has me shaken, most often though it's worry. I call it my "busy mind". It can be anything from anxiety about the world, money, a friendship, etc.

Last Sunday I woke up with my "busy mind". I tried my normal things of deep breathing, getting up for a glass of water. I couldn't get it under control, I call it the "point of no return". My mind is spinning so much now my stomach is starting to get "the pit". You know that feeling. It's just a solid lump in the middle of your stomach. Eventually, I was able to calm myself down and get back to sleep.

Later on I awoke and needed to get up and moving quickly. Of course, this caused my mind to start racing again. As I got in my car and began driving, the anxiousness filled my body. I pulled over and paused for a moment, took a deep breath and I cried out to God. I asked God to help me calm down, to ease my fears. I told him I was scared and that I needed Him and I needed Him now. Throughout the next few hours, I felt calmness and peace in my heart.

Paul writes in Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and He will give you the peace that passes all understandings." May you be reminded today when that mind starts a racing and anxiousness starts to settle in to pause and take a moment to present your requests to God and find that He will give you His peace that passes all understandings.



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

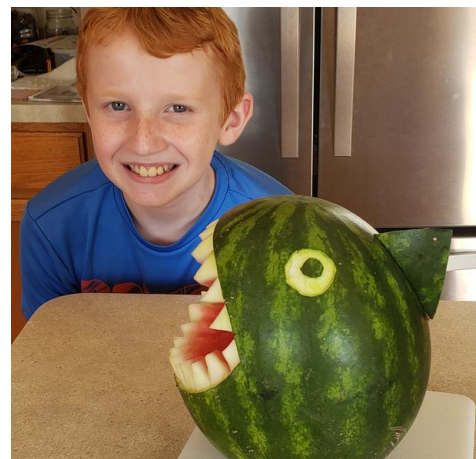
PHILIPPIANS 4:6



# VBS and KiC ROCKS!

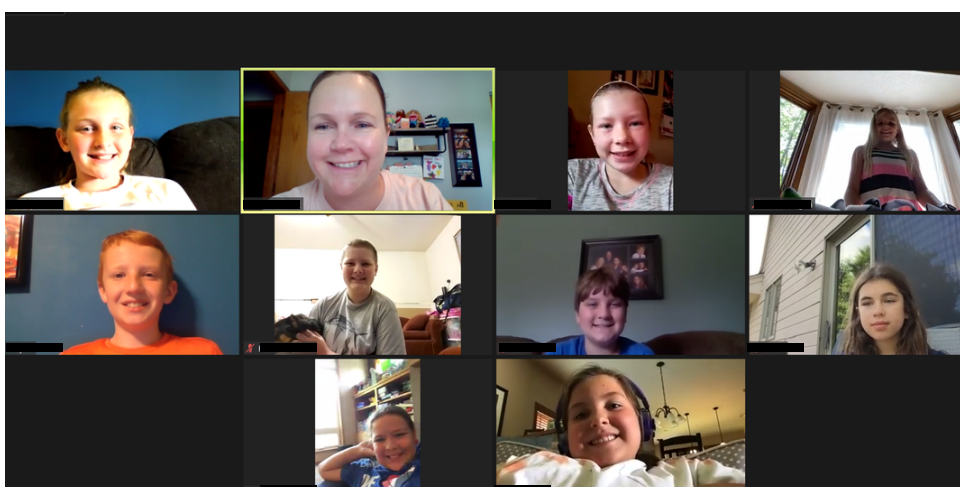
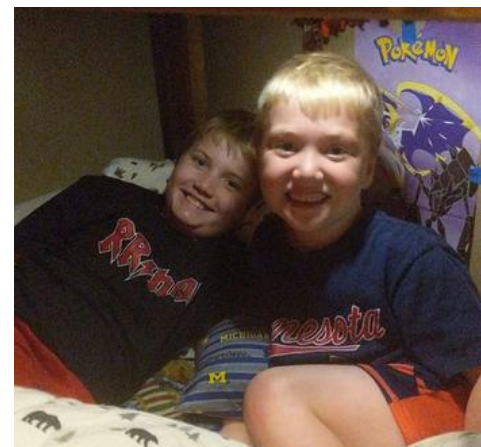
What a different week of programming this was for our participants! The Covid pandemic might have changed our plans, but we still had a great week. The week offered flexibility to families and gave them the option to pick and choose activities that worked for them. Our theme verse for the week was from Galatians 5:22-23: By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

We had teams of volunteers that created videos for the week. Each group talked about the fruit of the Spirit and tied it into the Bible story that was presented each day. We managed to get small skits in by offering it up to the Watts and Snobeck families. We had 3 Zoom meetings throughout the week with prayer, songs, and discussion. I am so thankful for the volunteers that took time to make this week happen.



Our KiC ROCKS group had videos from two older youth (Jada and Mattea) that showed them how to make either bracelets or blankets. We also had a card making day with the choice of where to send them. New this year was the FLC's version of NAILED IT. They were presented the task of baking a cake and adding some sort of fruit to it (whether it was by design or actual fruit) and the next task was watermelon carving. We met on Zoom daily and had devotion, prayer, and a check in.

Thank you to the following people: Jen Watts, Janice Rollag, Kristen Lynch, Maria Tarpinian, Jon Albrecht, Chris Lynch, Leanne Last, Parker Watts, Logan Watts, Kiley Snobeck, Karissa Dennis, Jada Muelenkamp, Mattea Quigley, Ava Lynch, and Maddy Lynch, Isaac Albrecht, Kyle Kadlec, and Zach Kadlec. We could not have done this week without your help! We appreciate you!!



# VBS FOOD DRIVE FOR FARMINGTON FOOD SHELF

VBS hosted a Italian Dinner theme night this year to collect food for the Farmington Food Shelf.

We're so excited to share that 152.5 pounds of food was donated from our VBS families! A huge thank you to everyone who contributed!



## NO CAN COLLECTION (FOR NOW!)

We are working on rebuilding our can collection trailer. For the time being, we will not be collecting cans on site at FLC. As soon as the trailer is back up and working we will let you know. Thank you for your understanding!



## WINNER OF THE SUCKER CONTEST: EVA O.

Eva guessed 137 which was the correct number! Eva was gifted all those suckers. Look on our Facebook page for the next contest.





# BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

## DONATIONS GO TO FARMINGTON SCHOOLS

- Organizational systems
  - (accordion filer, trapper keeper, etc.)
- headphones/earbuds
- kleenex
- pencils
- back pack
- disinfecting wipes
- hand sanitizer (pump style)
- glue bottles/glue sticks
- #2 pencils
- spiral notebooks
- composition notebooks
- Crayola crayons
- Crayola washable markers
- folders
- colored pencils
- pencil box
- scissors
- rulers
- highlighters
- erasers

## COLLECTION TIMES

August 9 and 23  
during worship

Drive through  
drop off on  
Wednesday,  
August 19 from  
6-7:30 pm.

CALLING  
ALL  
KINDERGARTEN  
FAMILIES!

Is your child starting kindergarten in the fall? Join us August 19th at 6:30pm for a special event! Please contact Dawn to register at [dawn@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:dawn@farmingtonlutheran.com)

# MILESTONE EVENT: TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thursday, August 27 6:30pm

Transitioning from elementary to middle school can be a big change for students and for parents. We would like to walk along side of you and give tools, provide prayer, testimonies from other students and more.

Youth and parents of youth entering 6th grade this fall are

invited to come and meet outside at FLC. Bring your own chair and blanket (if it's chilly). Kristine will also share about transitioning into Confirmation what that means, what to expect and more. An online option of the milestone will also be available.

Please contact Kristine at [kristine@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:kristine@farmingtonlutheran.com) or Dawn at [dawn@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:dawn@farmingtonlutheran.com) with any questions.



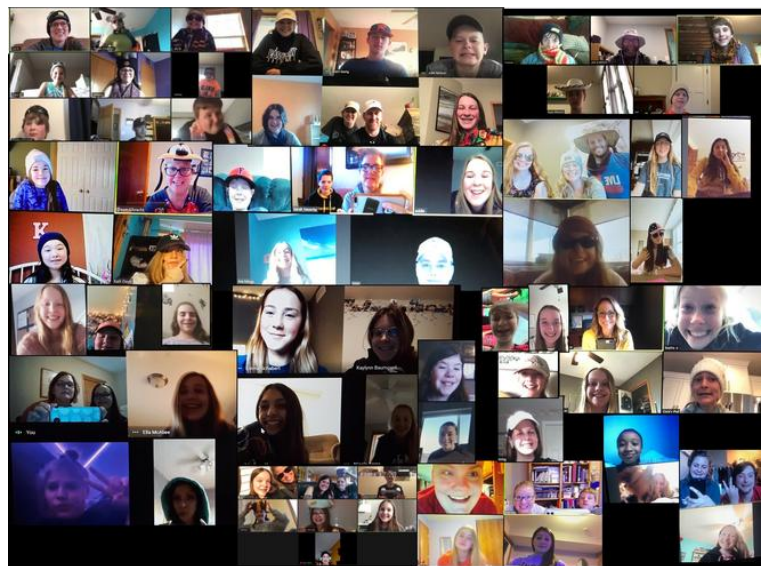
# CONFIRMATION KICK OFF

Wednesday, September 23

More information will be coming throughout the month of August regarding fall Confirmation, registration and plans for how Confirmation will be done this fall.

Confirmation is a 3 year program for youth in grades 6 – 8. Confirmation is a combination of large and small group times, retreats, games, learning about the Lutheran faith, having fun and so much more.

Please contact Kristine at [kristine@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:kristine@farmingtonlutheran.com) with any questions.







# Reopening the Building

We have had a Reopening Committee looking at the protocols and procedures for reopening the building for worship and groups. The church council has reviewed the ideas presented by the committee. While we know that many people are anxious to reconnect in the building again, our approach is to be cautious. We want to be as safe as possible as we move through this pandemic.

Currently, we have had drive-in worship, and will probably move to outdoor worship in August. An outdoor worship would require that people wear masks, and sit with their families, but physically distanced from others.

At some point in the future, we will reopen the building for worship indoors. At first, we would expect to seat about 75 people at a time. We expect to offer shorter services but offer more services on Sunday morning. Masks would be required. Entrances and exits inside the church would be marked to control traffic flow. We will avoid congregational singing, since that is unfortunately a high-risk activity for virus transmission.

As the pandemic eases, we would expect to move toward a maximum of 125 people in worship, and eventually, we would be at full capacity again.

We don't have dates for the reopening, as we need to see how the virus is progressing. We will communicate plans for reopening as we move forward. Be assured the decisions are thoughtful and geared for everyone's safety.

## Hope in Chaos: An Online Bible Study

During the four Thursday evenings in August, Dr. Jim Ollhoff will lead a Bible Study called Hope in Chaos. The study will walk through Revelation 1-7. Revelation was written to a people in terrible chaos, upheaval, and persecution. The book of Revelation speaks profound words of hope to people who were suffering. Join us to experience the Book of Revelation's messages to us during our chaotic times.

August 13, 20, 27 and September 3 from 6:30 to 7:30. This study will be on Zoom. To register, send an email to Jim ([jim@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:jim@farmingtonlutheran.com)) and let him know of your desire to attend.



# ***DRIVE-THROUGH COMMUNION***

On July 22 FLC hosted it's first drive-through communion night. It's estimated that over 100 people attended this event. We loved getting the opportunity to see everyone in person, even if only for a few minutes.

## **UPCOMING DATES:**

August 12th 6:30-7:30 pm

August 26th 6:30-7:30 pm



## ***ATTENTION MUSICIANS!***

Are you interested in sharing Special Music during our online services this summer? There's still time!

Please contact Karissa Dennis, director of Music ministries at [Karissa@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:Karissa@farmingtonlutheran.com).

# **INSTA DEVO**

A walk through the book of Ephesians, Paul's message on Unity. Director of Youth & Family Ministries Kristine Clemens along with others will post daily devotions on Facebook & Instagram walking through the book of Ephesians. Devotions will be posted at 7:30 am each morning throughout the month of August (except for Sunday's and Wednesday's). A great way to start the day!

Grab your Bible and join in our this journey of faith.





## THE GROUNDS AT FLC

We are so incredibly grateful for the numerous volunteers who have worked hard to beautify the grounds at FLC. In 2014, a group began working on removing the buckthorn that had started to take over our property.

Over the years, much of the buckthorn has been removed and pathways, wildflowers, and benches have been added. It has definitely been a community effort, as over 10 FLC families have donated plants to be included on the grounds. Be sure to stop by and take a walk throughout the grounds, and keep your eyes open for the wildlife that are enjoying the space with you!



## FOOD SHELF NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The food shelf is in need of volunteers on both Mondays and Thursdays at variety of times.

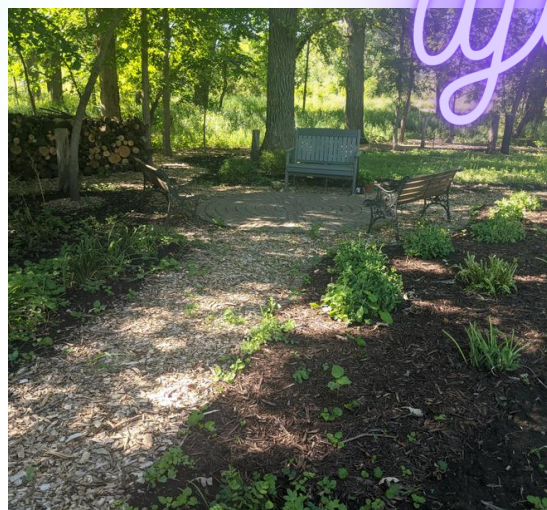
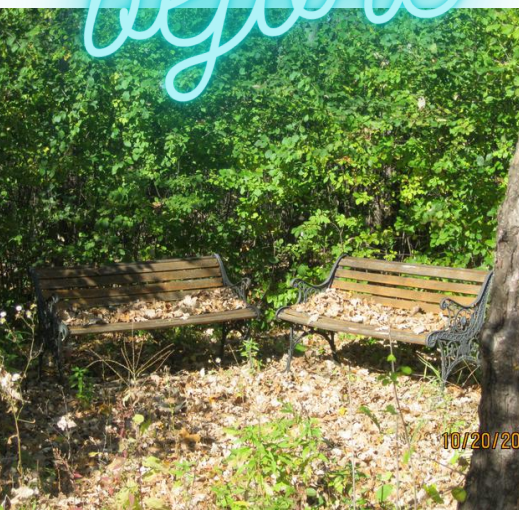
Please contact Karen at [rhpositive03@yahoo.com](mailto:rhpositive03@yahoo.com) or 651-356-2980 or Cherie at [cherierudolph@charter.net](mailto:cherierudolph@charter.net)



before



after



# Just A Minute

(for spiritual growth)

## ARE YOU LISTENING?

Do you ever find yourself out of sorts and unable to put your finger on exactly what the cause is? Do you ever find yourself sniping a response to someone's social medial post in a way that feels uncharacteristic to you?

This was my experience this week. A comment from someone I know on a friend's post really got under my skin. It felt self-centered and entitled to me, so I called him out on it. As I went back to my work, I viewed the post for virtual VBS this week and it spoke to my heart. I listened to the Bible story about the Fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. All good reminders of what living a life with God at the center will provide. I felt a bit like a bad fruit blemished with a lack of forbearance and self-control. Next was a video segment on the VBS science project, a launcher of sorts that was filled with water balloons appropriately named for the fruits of the spirit. As the balloons were named and loaded, the "peace" balloon popped and shot all over scientist. Not all things in life go

smoothly. Fortunately, the next balloon was named patience. Fitting, right? So again, I was reminded that life is not perfect, but it is made perfect through a Christ-centered life.



Circle back to calling out the bad behavior of the social medial friend. His response to me was further enflamed. Fortunately, after having a few "fruit of the spirit" moments I put myself into a better frame of mind, what would Jesus do? We do not always effect big change in others, but we can change how we respond. Understanding that "fruit" can mean "deed, action, or result" helps make this verse more personal. The result or the work of the Spirit in a believer's life is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control. Pay attention to the way the Holy Spirit speaks to you, directing your path to the way that is good. Are you listening?

written by linda morris

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## WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

available online Saturdays at 5:00 pm



[www.farmingtonlutheran.com](http://www.farmingtonlutheran.com)

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