

THE GROVE



IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION

INDOOR WORSHIP

Updates and information on virtual worship can be found on page 4

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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PROGRAM UPDATES

Children and youth programming updates can be found on pages 6-8.



Merry Christmas

FROM YOUR FLC FAMILY

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS TRADITION OR MEMORY?

Susan A Nelson Rinke

Singing "Silent Night" by candlelight at the Christmas Eve service; it moves me to tears every time!

Summer Jothen

(In Reply to Susan Nelson Rinke)
hands-down my favorite moment every year.

Anitra Kurtzweil

(In Reply to Susan Nelson Rinke)
mine too! ♥

Holly Hins

(In Reply to Susan Nelson Rinke)
ohhh...I love that too and can't do it without tears either!

Kristine Clemens

Growing up my sister and mom and I always looked forward to opening up the daily verses on the advent calendar and putting the ornament on the tree.

Ashley Shellum

Church with my family on Christmas Eve and singing silent night by candle light. Also just the joy of being together as a family

Holly Hins

As a kid, we opened most of our gifts on Christmas Eve...but we had to wait until the adults were done eating...and they took sooooo long. My cousins, sisters and I would watch The Best Christmas Pageant Ever to help pass the time. I still love that old movie...such a great message! (As a young adult I also loved when my grandpa read the Christmas story from the Bible. ♥)

Christine Sachs

Watching my youngest daughter being baptized on Christmas day at 5 days old. 😊



THANKFUL FOR LOVE THAT FINDS A WAY...

Written by Kevin Woestehoff

We are in the days after Thanksgiving and in the anticipatory season of Advent. This year has been a time of uncertainties and unwelcomed change. May you also be able to give thanks for the gifts you have and live in anticipation that the good Lord will find a way to you this Advent and Christmas season.

This year and in the next few weeks there's plenty of unknowns. As the 14 day Covid infection rate per 10,000 people has quickly moved from in the 20s to over 150 we have paused indoor worship and programming.

There are lots of uncertainties, but there are lots of things we can count on and give thanks for.

Over 2000 years ago our Lord and Savior found a way to overcome the challenges of the day to be with you and this world that God loves. We have some challenges in 2020. Our plan to have eight indoor worship services during Christmas week is in jeopardy as we hear the forecasts by the health department.

Our Lord who found a way in a manger continues to find a way. At FLC, there

will be virtual worship opportunities and we are also working on some other creative worship possibilities for Christmas week to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

We give thanks for our Lord who doesn't need conditions to be perfect. We have a Lord who loves you, and promises to bring you his peace, joy, hope and love. The one who came into the world through Mary and Joseph continues to find a way to be with you. You can count on it.



December 1, 2020

Indoor Worship and Programming is Suspended through December 31

We have some creative options for the week of Christmas and online Worship is available on our Website, Facebook page, and YouTube Channel. Ministry programming will continue with an online format.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Covid infection rates continue to rise in the Farmington area we have made the difficult decision to further pause indoor worship and all indoor ministry programming through the month of December.

We had especially hoped to worship indoors during the week of Christmas. With that not being possible we again adapt. In addition to online worship being offered on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we have some creative worship opportunities. **Christmas Week Worshipers will be able to gather near the large evergreen tree on the north lawn or stay in your vehicles in the parking lot and other designated spaces.** We will utilize an elevated stage, radio transmitter, outdoor sound system, and lighting.

We will have a 15-20 minute worship experience with the singing of carols, the Christmas Story, and a message celebrating the birth of our Savior.

Christmas Eve will offer this outdoor/drive-in worship service at 2 pm, 3 pm, 6 pm, & 7 pm.

Christmas Day we will offer outdoor/drive-in worship at 10am.

This is often the most difficult time of year for many people. On the longest night of the year, Monday, December 21 we will be offering a Blue Christmas Worship Service at 7 pm. This is an outdoor/drive-in worship experience for those feeling lonely, or grieving, or feeling "blue" for any reason. Join us as we welcome the Light of the World into our brokenness.

Weekend worship will continue to be available virtually. Online worship is available at 5 pm Saturday on our Farmington Lutheran Church Website, Facebook page and YouTube Channel. You will also find music, bible stories, devotions, past worship services and other faith nurturing resources.

All other ministry programming including Sunday school, Wednesday school, adult faith formation, choir rehearsals, confirmation and senior high ministry gatherings will also not be meeting in person. You can anticipate continued communication from the Directors of each ministry, and directions on how these ministries will be carried out.

Thank you for your continued support for our shared ministry and your care for your neighbor. Remember in these days of Advent and always that the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it!

God's blessings,
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

Christmas Services for 2020

2020 has brought a lot of changes, and that includes what our Christmas worship services will look like this year. Please take a minute to read through the information below.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

December 21

Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

December 21 marks the longest night of the year. Join us for an opportunity for the expression of grief and pain as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope.

7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Online at 12:00 pm

Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

Bundle up and join us for a memorable outdoor worship service around the large evergreen tree on the north lawn. We will have a 15-20 minute worship experience with the singing of carols, the Christmas Story, and a message celebrating the birth of our Savior.

3:00 pm

4:00 pm

5:00 pm

6:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Online at 10:00 am

Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

10:00 am



4 YEAR OLD MILESTONE

We had a Christmas Story event with the 4 year olds at the end of November. The families picked up a goodie bag and then meet us on Zoom. Intern Pastor Sara read from our Spark Storybook Bible and we sang songs and put crafts together.



KiC Events

On October 30, 4th and 5th graders got together for a socially distanced costume party. They shared a devotion, did crafts and played games.

The next KiC event takes place on Friday, December 11 at 5:00 pm. Join Dawn and Leanne for a Crazy Christmas Wear party on zoom!





*Merry
Christmas!*

from dawn and leanne

CHILDREN'S VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

We will be meeting virtually during the month of December.

The younger kids will be learning the Bible verse of John 3:16 and why Jesus is special. The older kids will be learning the Bible verse of Luke 2:11 and that we can have hope because God keeps His promises.

We will have lessons going out through the 16th of December. We plan to return for programming on

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn or Leanne at
Dawn@farmingotnlutheran.com or
FLCKids@farmingotnlutheran.com

DECEMBER 12 & 13

**VIRTUAL
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM**

AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE
AND FACEBOOK

9TH GRADE UPDATES

Due to COVID 19 restrictions the Affirmation of Baptism, Confirmation service for 9th grade youth has been moved to May. 9th grade youth and families met together on November 18th virtually. A dual virtual message was given by Pastor Kevin and Kristine Clemens on what Confirmation really means and helping youth get ready for their Confirmation service. Youth met in small groups virtually and learned about the Lord's prayer. Groups were asked to rewrite the Lord's Prayer in their own words. One group shared the below.

God who is in heaven. You are really special. You will come again to save us. We will do what you ask, everywhere. Give us communion. Forgive us and protect us. Forgive us for what we do wrong. Help us forgive others. Help us not sin. It's all for you forever. Amen.

9th grade groups will meet together again in January and then in the Spring. Thank you to all families and Guides for your continued involvement in Confirmation.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation in November met both in person and online. Groups began studying the Old Testament and learning about Creation and Noah. Confirmation will continue virtually in December with the hopes of doing live streaming for Wednesday night messages. Thank you to all that are a part of Confirmation at FLC. Thank you parents, Guides, students and pastors!



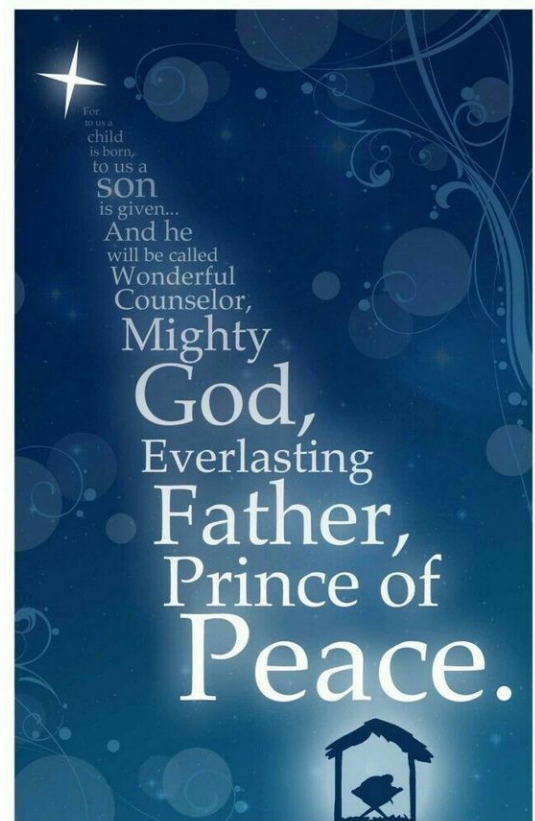


ADVENT IN A BOX

Gather around your advent wreath, or candle, and join us for a short service of music and prayer, online Sunday afternoons on Facebook. These videos will be available to watch whenever it's convenient for you.

Daily Devotions for Advent can be found at the link below. If you would like one printed out for you, please call or email our office.

[Advent Daily Devotions Calendar](#)



WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 5:00 pm, available online

