
FARMINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH // DECEMBER 2021

THE GROVE



Rejoice!

Our theme for this year's season of Advent is "Rejoice!" We're called to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4), but after some difficult seasons, we're also intentionally learning to "re-joyce," to return to, or remember "joy" this season. Rejoice with us on Sundays during worship, and throughout the season of Advent in our daily video Devotions from the Grove.

Christmas at FLC

Everything you need to know about Advent and Christmas season at FLC!



ADVENT DEVOTIONS ON FACEBOOK

Watch and Rejoice with Farmington Lutheran staff as we bring you Devotions from the Grove regarding Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Devotions will be posted weekdays at 7:00pm.



ADVENT ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

We are once again encouraging everyone to join in our Advent Ornament Exchange. We invite each household, during Advent, to bring an ornament from home to hang on our "Church Family Christmas Tree". Look for this special tree in the front of the sanctuary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

4 YEAR OLD CHRISTMAS STORY MILESTONE

December 5 9:30am

December 8 5:30pm

KiC COOKIE MAKING

December 10 6:30-8:30pm

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 12 8:30am and 10:30am

SPIRIT OF GIVING

(community event in
downtown Farmington)

December 11, 4:00-8:00pm

COMFORT AND HOPE WORSHIP SERVICE

December 13th 7:00pm

KOIN UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER PARTY

December 22nd 6:30pm



Christmas Worship Service Help

Are you planning to attend Christmas worship at FLC? Consider starting a new family tradition! We would love if you would be willing to help assist at any of our six worship services. We are in need of ushers, greeters, acolytes, and parking lot help.

To sign up, visit us online [HERE](#) or contact Jen@farmingtonlutheran.com.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Friday, December 24th

12:30pm

2:00pm

3:30pm

5:00pm communion

10:00pm communion

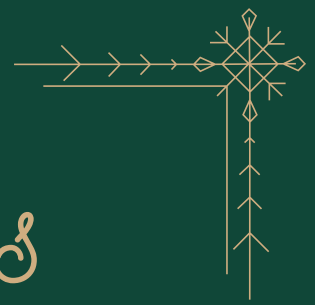
CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Saturday, December 25th

10:30am communion

- All Christmas Eve services are candlelight services.
- If you are attending the 2:00pm, 3:30pm or 5:00pm services, please enter through the north doors. This will allow the previous service worshippers to exit through the main doors.





Music this Christmas

Be sure and mark your calendar for the following upcoming music events.



SPIRIT OF GIVING

DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

All are welcome to participate in the Community Choir, singing Christmas carols 6:30-7pm. Please meet at Homestead Church at 6:15pm. Caroling books with familiar music will be provided, no practice necessary. We will sing outside, masks not required. We'll move inside to sing only if it's below 0 degrees, masks recommended. This event is intergenerational and family friendly with treats available. Come join the fun!

CHRISTMAS EVE

SPECIAL MUSIC SCHEDULE

3:30pm

Joyful Ringers: Adult Hand Bell Choir
Sanctuary Choir

All other services will have special music performances by members of our congregation and music ministry programs.



COMFORT AND HOPE WORSHIP SERVICE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13
7:00PM

Our Advent theme this year is "Rejoice," and we look forward to finding joy and praising God with you. At the same time, we know that this season can be especially challenging for people. The "most wonderful time of the year" is anything but that when we're grieving, lonely, anxious or exhausted. You're invited to come and acknowledge both the difficulty and the hope this holiday season holds at a Comfort and Hope service at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 13.



WINTER GEAR DRIVE

We are continuing to collect items for this year's winter gear drive! New and gently used coats, boots, snow pants, hats and mittens can be dropped off in the front entryway throughout the month of December. Items are needed for all ages from children through adults.

If you have questions, or are a family in need please contact our office at 651.463.4100.

Installation Service of Pastor Kristen and Pastor Ben Eisele

On Sunday, November 14 Pastor Ben and Pastor Kristen were installed as Pastor's of Intergenerational Ministries at FLC. It was a beautiful morning of worship followed by some wonderful fellowship time with delicious cookies! We are so thankful to have Kristen and Ben join us in ministry!





Get to Know Pastor Kristen & Pastor Ben!

FAVORITE BOOKS

Kristen: Um, the Bible of course! Pride and Prejudice, Peace Like a River, Narnia series, Harry Potter, David Copperfield and lots more, I love to read!

Ben: The Bible, right? Spufford's "Unapologetic", Buechner's devotions, Twenge's "iGen", Harry Potter, The Expanse, Schoolmance series, Lock Laroma

FAVORITE GAMES

Kristen: Charades, Pictionary, Cribbage, Tenzie

Ben: Oh boy! Spirit Island, Viticulture, Cribbage, Gloomhaven, D&D, Starfinder, No Thank You Evil!, Netrunner, Just One, Modern Art, Wingspan, etc... Civilization, Oculus, Squadrons, Diablo, Mass Effect, Wicher, Co-Op Games

FAVORITE DRINKS

Kristen: tea (especially Chai and English Breakfast), sparkling water, smoothies

Ben: COFFEE, water, chai tea, apple cider, really good Stouts, Hazy IPA's

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS

Kristen: whoever the underdog is (so usually Minnesota teams, Go Twins!)

Ben: Twins, Gophers (basketball), my (bad) fantasy football teams, my friend Aaron's IMSA racing team

FAVORITE ACTIVITIES

Kristen: Yoga, outside time, coloring, talking to friends, traveling, cooking, baking, reading, learning to garden, hiking/walking, family get togethers

Ben: Not unpacking boxes, not moving furniture! listening to podcasts and music, working out with my friends online, skiing, basketball, playing with my family, playing games with friends, teaching and learning theology, church and Bible stuff (yeah, really) reading good books, watching good shows



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please join us for the FLC intergenerational Christmas program on Sunday, December 12 at the 8:30 and 10:30am worship services. This year things will be a bit different, and we will need your help. Everyone is welcome to grab a part when they come to worship. You will be called up to the 'stage' when you hear your character name. You don't have to say a word! It will be a fun way to together.

Would you like to help me get the characters on stage?
Please contact Dawn@farmingtonlutheran.com.



CHRISTMAS STORY MILESTONE

On December 5th and 8th we will have a Christmas story event with our preschoolers and kindergarteners. They will hear the Christmas story from Pastor Kristen, sing songs, put together a craft or two, and then enjoy a yummy snack.





KIC COOKIE BAKING

Calling all 4th and 5th graders (and any cookie makers)!! Mark your calendars for Friday, Dec. 10. We will be making cookies and other treats for the Christmas program. The plan will be to meet at church at 6:30 pm (right after dinner) and then make and bake cookies/treats until 8:30 pm. Please sign up [HERE](#).

DROP OFF NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 13

Drop off new toys for all ages at FLC now through December 13! Members of the Farmington Police Department and volunteers will wrap and distribute the toys to families right here in Farmington!



DO YOU HAVE A MILESTONE EVENT IDEA?

Did you know that we do events and milestones to touch base with you and your family in smaller groups? We want to walk with you in your faith journey and provide tools along the way. What are some ways we could help reach out to you and your family?



7th Grade Retreat

7th Grade Confirmation youth participated in the 7th grade retreat November 13 – 14, 2021. Youth and adult leaders spent their retreat at Camp Friendship in Annandale, MN. Time together was spent playing games, enjoying time in the gym, large and small group times together focusing on our faith, a snowball fight and much more. Thank you to all students and adults that were a part of this year's 7th grade retreat.



KOIN: SENIOR HIGH

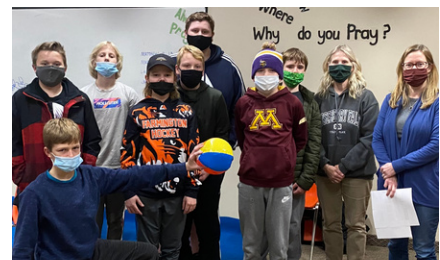
Senior high KOIN meets on Wednesday nights from 8 – 9. At KOIN we have fun playing games, hanging out together and growing closer in our faith.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is continuing to go well this fall/winter. Wednesday nights in November were spent talking about: The Lord's Prayer, servanthood, and God's Grace in both large and small group times. This December Kristine will be sharing about anxiety and depression, coping skills and scripture verses. We will also be talking about advent and Christmas.

Confirmation will not meet on December 22 or Dec. 29. Enjoy your Christmas break. Confirmation will resume on January 5 from 6:30 - 7:30 with parent night.



KOIN UGLY SWEATER PARTY

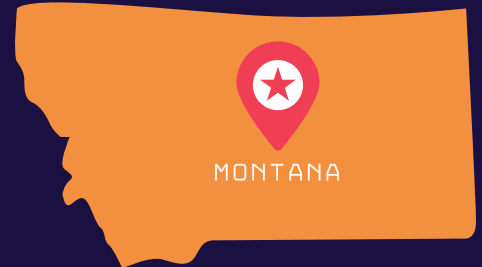


Wednesday, December 22 6:30 - 8:00pm

Open to all 9th through 12th grade and college age youth

We will meet for games, food and fun. Please wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater and bring a snack to share with the group.

MONTANA SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP **July 9 – 16, 2022**



Serve this summer in Montana! We will partner with an organization called Service Learning Camps (SLC). We will meet at FLC Saturday, July 9 and travel to Montana. We'll spend the first night in Rapid City, SD. The next day we'll get to Billings, MT. Billings, is known as Montana's Trailhead, located on the Yellowstone River, with views of mountain ranges in each direction.

We will serve that week with these organizations: Tumbleweed Youth Homeless Services, Family Services (various services for all ages), Friendship House, Summer Camps and various other organizational outreach agencies connected with United Way. The week will end with a surprise Friday Funday.

Youth currently in grades 8 – 12 are invited to be a part of this experience.



SENIOR HIGH ELCA YOUTH GATHERING **JULY 24 – 28, 2022**

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. This year's youth gathering will be in Minneapolis, MN. For more information visit elca.org/nationalyouthgathering.

Youth currently in grades 8 – 12 are invited to attend this great experience.



BOOK CLUB

JANUARY 6 at 9:30am

The next Book Club meeting will be on January 6 at 9:30am discussing "If You Lived Here You'd Be Home By Now," written by Christopher Ingraham. All are welcome to join us in the Education Wing for conversations and sharing.

February 3 at 9:30am we will meet to discuss "The Exiles," written by Christina Baker Kline.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 651-463-4100.



a quick note: end of year giving

Whether you're a New Year's resolution-maker or not, the turn of the calendar invites reflection. How was the year? What happened? What was life-giving? What was difficult? And also: How did I live? Did my time spent reflect how I wanted to live? Did my habits? Did my money?

It's likely you're receiving numerous requests for donations this time of year. Nonprofits and charitable organizations aren't shy about telling their stories and asking for year-end gifts. So, we aren't either (and we have the pretty great story of God's amazing love to share). Farmington Lutheran Church is a vibrant intergenerational community that grows faith and shares God's loving faithfulness with this community and beyond. Your gifts support the ministry that serves our neighbors, shares God's love, and sends disciples into the world.

If you find yourself in a position of abundance, and able to give from what you have, I invite you to consider making a year-end gift to Farmington Lutheran Church. Thanks for your role in continuing this mission!



FIRST WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

On Wednesday, December 1 we had more than 50 households join us for worship and a project! Worship started in the sanctuary where we heard the story of Zachariah, music was led by our amazingly talented Youth Band, we had communion, and then headed down to the education wing to make Advent wreaths. It was a jam-packed evening and so much fun!

If you haven't been yet, be sure to come check out First Wednesday Worship next month! It will always be on the First Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm. All are welcome!

**January 5 at
5:30pm will be
the next First
Wednesday
Worship, mark
your calendar!**





Isaiah 9:6 "for to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Getting Ready for Christmas

Written by Kristine Clemens

I remember being little, elementary school age and the excitement for Christmas morning. We'd spend all month preparing for this special day. We would always have a family night to decorate the tree and my sister and I would always fight over who would get to hang the first ornament and who would get to hang the star on top of the tree. Other traditions we would have was nightly taking out the ornament that would go on the advent tree for that day and reading what that meant. There were always trips to see Santa and Christmas caroling at church. All of this would lead to Christmas morning. My twin sister and I would always try and stay up as late as we could on Christmas Eve to see if we could see Santa. We would also be awake as soon as the sun came out to see what would be under the tree.

Our parents always did such an amazing job making this morning always so special. I remember some of the gifts that we received over the years. None of which I still have. What I do have are those amazing memories and the gift of Jesus' birth and what that means for me and for all of us.

As you get ready for Christmas this year. May this time be filled with preparations, traditions, time together with family and friends. May you be reminded as you prepare and as we celebrate the gift of Jesus being born and have your hearts filled with His love, joy, peace and hope in a new and enriching way.

MOVING MOUNTAINS

2022 Statements of Intent

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! To everyone who has returned their 2022 Statements of Intent, we thank you!

Statements of Intent are an integral part of our budget planning process. We understand if you're unsure of your giving at this time, but don't let that keep you from returning your intent. Even a best guess is much appreciated!

We're off to a great start, but still need your help to reach our goal of 250 Statements of Intent! If you haven't returned yours yet, you can drop it off at church, mail it in, or complete one online at the link below!

farmingtonlutheran.com/stewardshipappeal

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning Worship

8:30 am and 10:30 am

Livestreaming at 10:30 am



www.farmingtonlutheran.com

20600 Akin Road Farmington, MN 55024 651.463.4100