

# THE GROVE

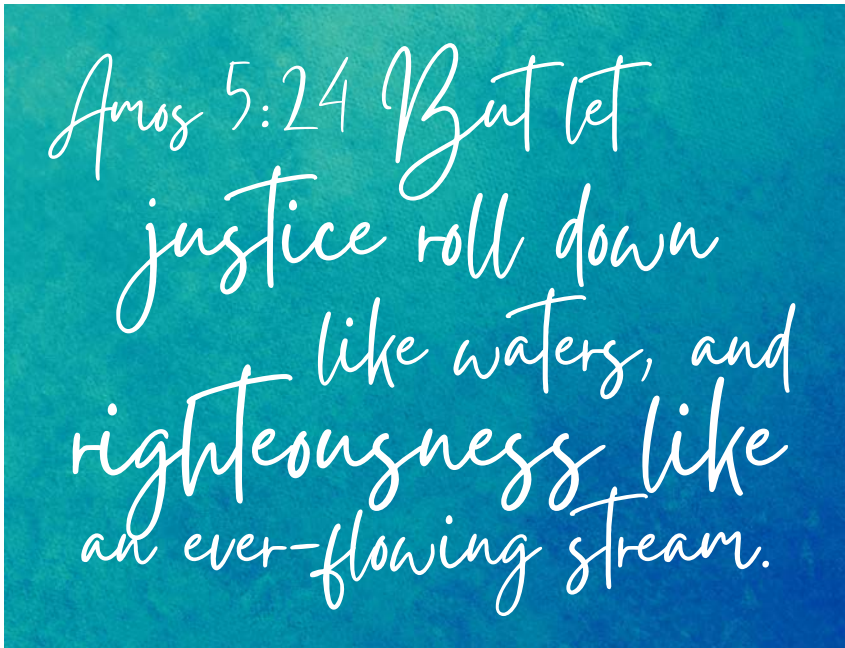


## SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

FLC initiates new social justice ministry! In an effort to continue to live out the mission of Farmington Lutheran Church which is to serve and care for others, FLC will kick off a social justice ministry this fall. The mission is: We seek to learn about social justice issues in our community and our world, explore the backgrounds of people of all cultures, races and sexual orientations, and work toward equal rights and equitable opportunities for all.

We believe the Lord is encouraging us to reach out into our community and our world in a more intentional way as we consider Micah 6:8 - "He has told you, O mortal what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

# SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY



## GOALS: EDUCATION, EXPLORATION AND ACTION

The hope is to engage members of the FLC community in different facets of learning and exploring social justice issues through education (book studies, speakers, movie nights, discussion groups, etc.), exploration (attending events and activities which allow us to explore the backgrounds of people of all cultures, races, and sexual orientations) and action (volunteering and taking action to make positive change where needed.)



## PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEEDBACK

In order for us to effectively kick off this ministry, we are asking members of FLC to weigh in on the direction of this ministry and how it can grow. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below to share your thoughts by July 10.

[TAKE SURVEY](#)



This can be filled out by any and all FLC members ages 12 and older. We hope to engage our youth as well as our adults as we work to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.



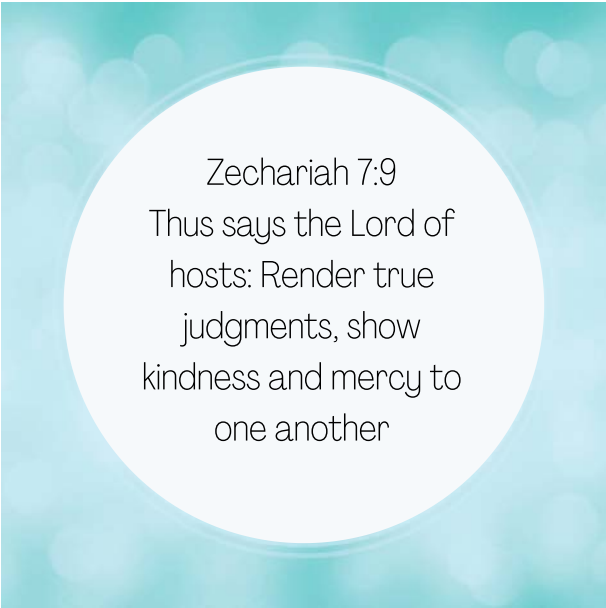


# SOCIAL JUSTICE LENDING LIBRARY AVAILABLE IN FIRESIDE ROOM

One step that has already been taken is the creation of a social justice lending library in the Fireside Room. This is in addition to the books that were already available to the community. These books include non-fiction and fiction for children through adults and discuss issues of race, culture, poverty, mental illness, disabilities, sexuality, abuse, etc. The library is just in its early stages and we welcome donations of books, either gently used or new. If you would like to add to our library by purchasing some popular and current books that address social justice issues, check out our [wish list on Amazon](#). You can order the books from the wish list and they will be sent directly to FLC. If you have any questions about this, contact Rachel Harmon at [rachelkharmon@gmail.com](mailto:rachelkharmon@gmail.com).

## BOOK DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITY

Members of the Racial Truth & Justice ministry at Shepard of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley have invited FLC members to participate with them in an online discussion of the book *Caste*. It compares American history and culture to others, such as India and Germany. Check out the link for more information and to sign up: <https://www.sotv.org/racial-justice-book-discussion/>





# UPDATE ON MASK REQUIREMENTS

*Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the facemasks and worship survey. We are excited to share that over 250 individuals replied with their interest and comfort levels of attending a variety of indoor and outdoor worship services.*

## UPDATE FROM THE REOPENING STRATEGY TEAM

The Reopening Strategy Team continues to meet and discuss the next steps of FLC's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As Dakota County is reaching a 70% vaccination rate the team has decided to move forward with loosening the mask requirements indoors. At this time, **FLC will no longer require facemasks for those who are fully vaccinated.** In a continued effort to protect our neighbors, particularly those who are not yet able to be vaccinated, **facemasks are strongly recommended for worshippers who are not fully vaccinated.** Those who are more comfortable wearing facemasks indoors are welcome to do so.

Again, we thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to evaluate this ever changing situation.

# AN UPDATE FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

Greetings in Christ!

As an update, the call committee continues to meet and be in communication with one another in regards to the call process as whole, reviewing pastoral candidates, and setting up interviews. On Tuesday, June 22, we met with Justin Grimm and Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer from the synod office. Justin and Rolf presented the committee with pastoral candidates as well as copies of their rostered ministry profiles. The rostered ministry profiles are essentially resumes that each candidate has shared. The committee plans to spend the next week discerning the profiles before interviews begin.

The call committee has developed an interview format and questions that will be used for all pastoral candidates throughout the interview process. In addition, last night the call committee met again and made contact with every candidate and

have scheduled interviews. We anticipate the first round of interviews being complete by mid-July.



We feel as a committee that we are very much on track to bring a new pastor to the congregation in early fall. We continually ask for prayers for the call committee and the candidates as we go through this process and that the holy spirit will be at work in lifting up the perfect fit for FLC. Please feel free to email us anytime at [callcommittee@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:callcommittee@farmingtonlutheran.com).

Thank You!



## MID-YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

Be sure to check your inbox near the end of July for your biannual giving statements. If you don't receive one, please reach out to our finance coordinator, Rene Mewes and she can get you a copy. Email Rene at [finance@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:finance@farmingtonlutheran.com).

If we don't have your email on file, you can expect to get a letter in the mail.



# OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND BLESSING OF THE CAMPERS

**JOIN US SUNDAY, JULY 25 & AUGUST 29  
AT 10:00AM FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

Last Sunday, FLC hosted the first of three outdoor worship services this summer. It was a beautiful morning spent outside on the incredible grounds of FLC sharing God's love with one another!

During both the 8:30 and 10:00 am service, families, youth and worshippers took part in a blessing of the campers. We have over 45 youth attending camp this week at Lake Wapogasset in Amery, WI!

Be sure to join us at our other outdoor worship services this summer, the last Sunday of the month during the 10:00 am service. The livestream service is also available those weekends at both the 8:30am and 10:00am service.





# CAMP WAPO: WEEKLONG

## JUNE 27 - JULY 2

This week FLC has 48 youth at Camp Wapo in Amery, Wisconsin! They will spend the week making new friends, playing games, and learning God's Love! Please keep them in your prayers this week, and pray for our younger youth that will be attending Seeds Weekend at Wapo in early July.







Due to safety protocols for Covid-19, our youth and children's director weren't able to stay on the camp grounds this year, but have been able to visit each day! And on Tuesday, Pastor Kevin and Sara joined the fun. Pastor Kevin even got in on an intense game of Exploding Enchilada!





## FAREWELL AND THANK YOU LEANNE!

Farewell and a BIG thank you to Leanne Last - Children and Family Ministry Assistant. Leanne will be leaving her position as assistant to the Director of Children and Families Ministries on July 23. During her time at FLC she has helped with VBS, Sunday School, Wednesday School, Milestone events and for a few month helped as the youth assistant as well. We are so grateful for everything she has done for FLC!

Please be sure to wish her well on her next adventure. Leanne is taking on a new full time position now that all her children are in school. You will still see her around both FLC and the community, so this won't be good-bye, just see you later. We will miss her greatly and wish her the best!



## VBS DONATIONS

There are just a few items left that are still needed for VBS this year. If you're able to help out and donate an item you can find the list [HERE](#). We appreciate everyone who volunteers their time, donations, and other gifts that make this week so wonderful for our youth!

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## FALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Sign up today for Fall 2021 Sunday and Wednesday School! Programming is available for youth enter preschool through 5th grade! Contact Dawn at [dawn@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:dawn@farmingtonlutheran.com) with questions.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

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## FALL FLC TIME VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in helping out this fall for FLC Time??

We're looking for teachers, teaching assistants, musicians and other program prep help! Contact Dawn if you're interested!



# YOUTH COLORADO ADVENTURE TRIP

**JULY 31 - AUGUST 7. 2021**

The Colorado Team will meet and leave on Saturday, July 31 and head to Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp (RTLCL) which is located 2 hours south of Colorado Springs. The team will spend the week rock climbing, hiking up and down the mountain, tent camping and whitewater rafting. The team will be lead by experienced and trained guides. Each day will be centered around worship, prayer and Bible studies to build a stronger Christ-centered relationships. The team will return to FLC on Sunday, August 7. Please pray for their travels, safety and health, new friendships to be made, and hearts to grow deeper in the love of Christ. There are still openings for the trip. If you are interested contact [Kristine@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:Kristine@farmingtonlutheran.com).

## TRIP FUNDRAISERS

**SATURDAY, JULY 10  
11:00 AM - 2:30 PM**

Come out to the grounds at FLC and enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks and support this summers team going to Colorado. Bring your car to get washed and then stick around for some yard games.



Free will donations are appreciated. All proceeds will go directly to the Colorado Trip team.

## BLESSING ENVELOPES

If you'd like to support our youth on their adventure you can visit our website and purchase an envelope online or stop by our office and grab a "blessing envelope" to help offset the cost of their trips.







# MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIP TO VALLEYFAIR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 9:30 AM - 6:30 PM  
Open to those entering 6th - 10th grade

We will meet at FLC at 9:30 am and head to Valleyfair. We will return by 6:30 pm. Cost is \$35 which includes both admission & transportation. If youth has a season pass cost is \$7 for transportation.

Visit [farmingtonlutheran.com/youth](http://farmingtonlutheran.com/youth) to register.

## KOIN: High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS  
AT 7:00 PM

Senior High and college age youth are invited to KOIN on Wednesday evenings at FLC. If the weather is nice we will meet outdoors for games, bonfires, and devotions. The group will move indoors on rainy evenings.





# FILLING IN THE GAPS

WRITTEN BY LINDA MORRIS

The gaps in between. What do we do with them? Gaps between the end of school and the start of summer plans. Gaps between an engagement and the wedding. Gaps...whatever the reason, you have minutes to fill and nothing planned. God help me to see the good in the 'not knowing'...the joy in the 'in-between'...the meaning in the 'meantime.' Help us to seek out what you are calling us to do.

"Be prepared!" A great motto. It does not always seem possible in today's challenging times. Add prayer to the gap times in your life. I recently read, "Prayer changes things. Without prayer, things change you." I thought this was very interesting and true. Everyone knows prayer is when you talk to God, but how many of us sit in silence or

*1 Thessalonians 3:8-10.*  
*For we now live, if you continue to stand firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.*



meditate to listen for God's response. Oftentimes we may pray to God (especially when we have a dilemma). Praying without meditating is like calling someone to tell them about your day, asking how their day was, and hanging up before you give them time to respond. In order to find the answers you are seeking you have to be willing to listen.

Perhaps in the "gap times" - the "not knowing" - the "in-between" - the "meantime" someone somewhere is depending on you to do what God has called you to do. Maybe that someone could even be you, to show up for your own life! Will you be ready?

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## WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

8:30 am and 10:00 am

Livestreaming at 10:00 am



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

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