
FARMINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH // MAY 2021

THE GROVE

DOWNLOAD THE FARMINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH APP!

We are very excited to share that Farmington Lutheran Church now has it's own app! Scan the QR Code with your camera app to download it now!



Or click [HERE](#) to have the app sent to your phone.





Call Process Update

Blessings to you in this Easter season as God continues to show us signs of new life. One place that new life is happening is that we are re-engaging in the call process to call an associate pastor.

This process began when Pastor Rusty Brace accepted a call to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Oakdale Minnesota. This process paused in December 2019 with the reality that our financial status at the time did not have the ability to fund a second full-time pastor.

A lot has happened since that time. We have been through 13+ months of a global pandemic where ministry was creatively adapted and new ways of doing ministry were born.

We also experience a very positive stewardship response this fall. Your generous giving and increased giving provide the financial means where we can strengthen our ministry with the calling of a second full-time pastor.

Here is a review of the Call Process steps that began back in 2019, and after having paused have now started up again.

STEP ONE: Celebrating the ministry that we shared with Pastor Rusty Brace.

STEP TWO: We sought an interim pastor to help with carrying out our ministry. Pastor Chris Becker was hired to service for 10 to 15 hours per week, and he did that wonderfully.

STEP THREE: A Mission Exploratory Team. This team reached out to the congregation through surveys and explored and documented our congregation's vision, ministry needs, and the gifts and skills needed in a future pastor.

This information was put into something called a Ministry Site Profile (MSP) that our synod office will share with potential pastoral candidates. At this time we are revising the ministry site profile to update it with the changes and learnings that we've experienced over the past year.

The assembling of a Call Committee began in 2019 and is now being finalized. Our desire is to have a cross-section of members who represent our congregation and who put the needs of the whole congregation above their own personal thoughts or groups they are most closely connected to.

You can anticipate in the coming weeks that we will host a "Town Hall" Meeting where the congregation will be introduced to the members of the Call Committee and have a chance to review and comment on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP).

STEP FOUR: The call Committee will do an orientation with Assistant to the Bishop, Reverend Justin Grimm.

The Call Committee will be preparing candidate packets and interview questions, and will receive then a list of candidates names and begin interviewing pastoral candidates.

That process of when interviews begin to how long it takes to discern a final candidate can vary greatly.

STEP FIVE: EXTENDING A CALL -When the Call Committee does discern a final candidate they will present the recommendation to the Church Council. Background checks will be performed and a date will be set for a congregational meeting.

Some type of "meet and greet" will be held for the candidate and congregation in advance of the congregational vote. The candidate will also meet with Church Staff and the Church Council prior to the congregational vote.

If there is an affirming "yes" vote a Letter of Call with the terms of compensation and pastoral responsibilities will be sent to the pastoral candidate.

If the pastoral candidate accepts within 30 days, arrangements will be made for a start

date, installation, and other plans to get ministry off to a good start.

We are on track to have a new Associate Pastor begin as early as September. That is when our budget for a new pastor begins.

COMMUNICATION: During this process the Call Committee will do their best to provide regular, ongoing updates. Please note there will be times that this process will feel really slow. The call committee cannot share confidential information about who they are interviewing, but the updates will try to tell you where we are at in the process.

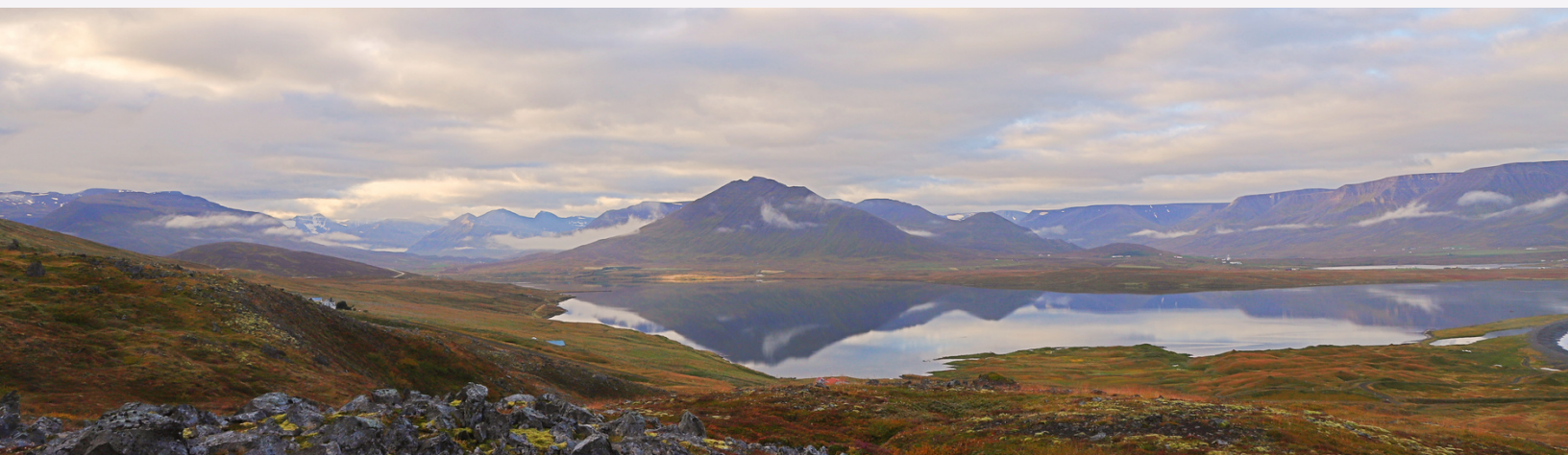
WHAT CAN I DO? -The Call process there's one that alongside all the paperwork and planning most importantly is one that relies on the work of the Holy Spirit in prayer. I ask you to be in regular prayer for the Holy Spirit to prevail that the right fit is made between this congregation and the pastor so that God's mission, ministry and Kingdom will be furthered.

If you have a nomination for an ELCA pastoral candidate, please use the following link and complete the form.

[CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM](#)

God's blessings to you as we seek the guidance of God's Holy Spirit in the calling of a pastor.

Pastor Kevin Woestehoff



END OF PROGRAM YEAR CELEBRATIONS

We cannot believe that we reached the end of the program year. What a year it was! We turned, stopped, turned again, moved spaces, and repeated. Thank you for sticking with us through all these changes. God is good!! We want to keep in touch with you over the summer months. Look for more information to come out on a campfire fellowship night and a day or two of GAME FUN.



FALL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS! [SIGN UP HERE](#)



Hear ye, hear ye! We at the Knights of the North Castle need a few more Castle Guides and Station Leaders to help things run smoothly! All lessons are provided!



VBS will be held July 19-23 from 9 am to noon. We are looking for adults, and middle - high schoolers to help at this event. Photographers, Snack Station Leaders, Game Leaders, actors, singers, Castle Guides, and more behind the scenes opportunities available! Contact Dawn for more information!

FALL PROGRAMMING

Looking ahead to programming for the 2021-2022 Do you play guitar and/or piano? Do you like to sing? We are looking for someone to help us lead music for FLC TIME on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings in the fall. This does not have to be weekly. If this speaks to you, please talk with Dawn or Karissa.

We are looking for people to help guide small groups/grades for Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Lessons are provided! Does this speak to you? Does someone come to mind? Grab a friend and come and join us!

**Interested in volunteering?
Email Dawn at Dawn@
farmingtonlutheran.com**

YOUTH UPDATES

Confirmation will wrap up for the year on Wednesday, May 5th. Confirmation groups have met both virtually and in person for the month of April. We have been continuing our study through the Old Testament. Thank you to all families for being a part of Confirmation at FLC. Stay tuned this summer for ways to stay connected to FLC!

A special thank you to all Confirmation Guides and Junior Guides. We couldn't do it without you! Look for registration for 2021-22 soon.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- 9th Grade Retreat: September 25-26
- Confirmation Kick Off: September 29
- Affirmation of Baptism, Confirmation Services: October 30 & 31, 2021
- 7th Grade Retreat: November 13-14





9th Grade Confirmation Night of Sharing

Wednesday, May 12, 6:00–7:15 Last Name A–L

Wednesday, May 12, 7:30–8:45 Last Name M–Z

9th Grade youth being confirmed and families will meet for this special time where each Confirmation student will present their faith statement or project. This will also be live streamed.

Confirmation Rehearsal & Photos—Saturday, May 15, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

All youth being confirmed will meet for Rehearsal and Photos. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Please come dressed nicely.

Affirmation of Baptism Confirmation Services

Saturday, May 15: 3:00 & 5:00

Sunday, May 16, 10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

9th Grade Confirmation students, families and loved ones will gather for this special time when they will stand and say “yes” to being a follower of God and will publicly affirm their baptism. You may register to attend any of the Confirmation services at farmingtonlutheran.com. All services will also be live streamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Confirmation youth should arrive 30 minutes early dressed nicely. We will meet in the Education Wing to line up for the service. No Jeans, hats or tennis shoes should be worn.

Contact Kristine at Kristine@farmingtonlutheran.com with any questions.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES



SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP TO MICHIGAN JUNE 19 - 26, 2021, SIGN-UP DEADLINE MAY 20, 2021

We will partner with local organizations to serve the city's youngest and oldest residents. We will also assist with yard work and paint homes.

In the evenings, we will tour the community and learn about the fine arts revitalization in Benton Harbor from a community friend. We'll also have the opportunity to experience local BBQ, visit a Lake Michigan beach, and explore Benton Harbor's sister city, St. Joseph. The week will end with a surprise Friday Funday!

Visit farmingtonlutheran.com/youthsummer2021 for all info and to register! Price for the trip has dropped to \$550.00. Fundraisers and payment plans offered.

SENIOR HIGH ADVENTURE TRIP TO COLORADO JULY 31 - AUGUST 7, 2021 SIGN-UP DEADLINE JUNE 15, 2021

Spend the week in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. Throughout the week our group will participate in high and low ropes courses, trail hiking, tent camping, and end with whitewater rafting.

We'll enjoy evening campfires, exploring, growing closer to God and so much more.

Visit farmingtonlutheran.com/youthsummer2021 for all info and to register!



BOOK CLUB

SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE

Sunday, April 25 was the first day of FLC's Sunday morning book club. Over 20 FLC community members signed up to be a part of these very important conversations.

The book club will continue to meet on two more occasions- Sunday, May 2 and May 16.

Special thanks to Rachel Harmon, Peter Elliott and Sara Jensen for organizing and leading small group discussions.

If you missed the book club sign up, but are still interested in reading the book stop by our church office. We still have a few copies available for \$9.



JOYFUL RINGERS

FLC's adult hand bell choir meets Wednesday evenings. We can't wait to have them back performing during worship services!

WHAT'S HAPPENING



MINISTRY TEAM REFLECTION MEETING

Ministry team reps, staff and council will join together at the May 11 council meeting to share achievements and challenges of the last year as well as goals for the future.



LOVE & GRACE FACEBOOK GROUP FOR FAMILIES

The last year has brought many new challenges to families. Stay connected to and encouraged by other FLC families through this group. Feel free to post questions, encouragement, etc. You can find the page [HERE](#).



VETERANS DINNER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for this year's Veteran's dinner, The event takes place on Monday, June 7 at FLC. If you're interested please contact Connie Honrud at connieskid@charter.net.

ILLUMINATING YOUR PATH

by Linda Morris

Sometimes life feels as if we are a ship without a rudder floating in the water, with no knowledge of where we are going, or how we would get there even if we knew. Personally, in those times I feel a disconnect with God. Disillusioned. I find I get caught up in the “should’s,” “could’s,” and “what if’s” that I say to myself or glean from the ideas offered up by those I ask for counsel.

Then it hits me. God has a plan for each of us. Every. Single. One. If I allow myself to sit with God, quietly listening for his direction, instead of busying myself trying to cram a square peg in a round hole or trying to make things work out where they should not, I can hear His words or see a path forward. When we think we know better for our lives than God does He may then show us, sometimes in difficult ways, that we are not correct in our thought process. He wants us to be reliant on Him in our walk to get on the right path! He will light our way one step at a time, directing us to the larger vision He has for us. A vision more wonderful than we could ever imagine or achieve by ourselves.

How is God working on your faith and reliance on Him? How do you see Him directing you by shining a light onto your path? Even when our path seems unclear, we need to remember, “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Trust and rely on the One who has our best interest at heart always!

**Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**





Tithe.ly

TRANSITION ONLINE GIVING BY JUNE 1

Thank you so much to everyone who has transitioned their online giving to Tithe.ly! If you haven't made the switch yet, please do so by June 1!

If you would like for our office to discontinue your SimplyGiving recurring payment for you please send us an email or give us a call to let us know and we will take care of that for you.

If you would like to cancel it on your own, after you log in to SimplyGiving you will see "My Scheduled Transactions". To the right of your recurring giving you will see a "delete" option.

The next step is to register on Tithe.ly. It only takes a few minutes to set up, and has the option to use either a bank account, credit card or Google Pay. You can find that link here: [Tithe.ly Giving](#).

We encourage you to use the top right button labeled "sign up" to set up an account that you can continue to log in and access in the future.

We so appreciate your help in this transition! If you have any questions at all or need assistance please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Indoor Worship, Please Reserve Your Spot Online

8:30 am and 10:30 am

Livestreaming at 10:30 am



www.farmingtonlutheran.com

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