
FARMINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH // DECEMBER 2022

THE GROVE

BE STILL,

and Sing

"Be still, be calm, see, and understand I am the True God." -Ps 46:10



BE STILL, AND SING

BY PASTOR KRISTEN EISELE

Somehow it's Advent again, this brief season that often gets filled to overflowing with "getting ready" for Christmas. For some of us, these weeks feel like a race to the finish line. We cook and bake, shop for presents and write letters to Santa, decorate our homes and keep up with traditions, and pack our calendars with parties, family gatherings, concerts, pageants and more. It's enough to leave us stressed and overwhelmed, wondering how we can feel so un-ready despite all the time and energy we've poured into getting ready.

For others of us, Advent feels too empty, rather than too full. The empty place at the table. The dwindling list of Christmas card recipients. The calendar pages that list nothing to do, nowhere to go. The email inbox, with no reply from an estranged loved one. The aching heart, longing for hope that's hard to find. This, too, is enough to leave us feeling un-ready to celebrate anything, much less the arrival of Love, itself.

Whether you're in the first camp or the second one, or maybe a mix of both, this year's Advent theme is for you: Be Still, and Sing. In Psalm 46 God reminds us to "be still and know that I am God." In contrast to the frenetic "getting ready" that many of us do this season, God calls us to stillness, instead. Stop. Breathe. Be still. Remember that the point of the season is that God comes to us – not just once, a long time ago, as baby Jesus in Bethlehem, but also every day, here and now. Rather than focus on the emptiness in our lives, we shift our attention to the fullness of God's presence with us.

When your stillness brings you into God's presence, then sing about it! Sing your joy that God's love is for you. Sing your hope that God is still at work in the world. Sing your longing for Jesus to come again and make all things new. Sing your grief and lament for what's missing or broken in your life, and let others join the song, carrying you with their harmony.

*... we shift our
attention to the
fullness of God's
presence with us.*

This Advent, may the rhythm of stillness and song bring peace to your days and to your heart, and help you to be ready – truly – to celebrate the birth of Immanuel, God with us.

Christmastime

at Farmington Lutheran

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4 YEAR OLD CHRISTMAS STORY MILESTONE

December 4, 9:30am

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

COMFORT AND HOPE WORSHIP SERVICE

December 5th, 7:00pm

CAROLING AT DAKOTA CITY VILLAGE

December 4, 5:00pm

KiC COOKIE MAKING

December 10, 9:00am - 12:00pm

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 11, 8:30am and 10:30am

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING SIGN-UP

Advent has begun! We still have a few spots open to help light the candles on the Advent Wreath during worship on December 11, and 18. If you and/or your family are interested, sign up [HERE](#)



CHRISTMAS CAROLLING AT DAKOTA CITY VILLAGE

Join us in singing Christmas carols at Dakota City Village on Sunday, December 4, at 5:00pm in the small church! If you are interested, contact Karissa Dennis for more details: she will provide caroling books.



Advent Devotions on Facebook



Each week Pastor Ben, Pastor Kristen and Pastor Kevin will share a special Advent devotion on our Facebook page. If you haven't already, be sure to turn on your notifications so you don't miss out on new posts!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP 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 worship hosts, screen operators, and acolytes at all services.

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



Service of Comfort & Hope
December 5, 2022 at 7:00pm

As the Christmas season nears, so can feelings of loss, loneliness, and grief. We're taking an evening to recognize Advent and Christmas as difficult seasons at our service of Comfort & Hope on Monday, December 5th at 7pm, for some songs, scripture, and a word of promise. Service will be live-streamed.

FIRST WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP
December 7 at 5:30pm

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." (Buddy the Elf)

We'd love your help to spread some Christmas cheer! Bring your family and friends to First Wednesday worship on December 7 at 5:30 for some Christmas fun. We'll sing some favorite Christmas songs, hear a little about the Christmas story, and have some hot chocolate. Can't wait to see (and hear) you there!

Merry *Christmas*

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

12:30PM

2:00PM

3:30PM

5:00PM communion

10:00PM communion

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

10:00AM 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.



KIC EVENT: COOKIE BAKING

4th, 5th and 6th Graders! Join us on Saturday, December 10 for cookie baking and taste testing. Help us fill our Sunday morning fellowship time with tasty treats.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Are you looking to have you, or your child baptized? We offer a baptism class almost every other month and ask that everyone wanting a baptism take part in this class. You will learn more about baptism, what it means, and what happens the day of the baptism. We look forward to partnering with you in this journey. Our next class will be held between services on January 15th.

Please register for this event: farmingtonlutheran.com/baptism



KiC (Kids in Christ) is a group that is open to all 4th, 5th, and 6th graders.

We had 13 kids come on November 13 to put together birthday kits for the Farmington Food Shelf. We enjoyed delicious sandwiches, chips, fruit, and cookies before we started creating these kits.



**DROP OFF
NOW
THROUGH
DECEMBER 12**



The Toys for Town collection is underway now through December 12. Please consider dropping a new, unwrapped toy for children in our community. You can drop off toys in the green bin which is in the Gathering Area.

A Spontaneous Unrehearsed Nativity Story

It's happening on Sunday, December 11th at the 8:30 and 10:30am worship services!! You, your family, and your friends are encouraged to participate in the Spontaneous Unrehearsed Christmas program. We have something for everyone! This is a hands-on worship service for ALL AGES.

All children and youth are invited to come and sing at one or both services on the 11th. Please come 10 minutes early the day of the program. If you have any questions, please ask Dawn, Karissa, or Pastor Kristen.

We are looking for a few readers to help with the program- readers can be any age. Please let us know if you would like a role as a reader and we will get the script to you.



YOUTH UPDATES

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN SERVICE NIGHT

Farmington Lutheran Youth had an amazing turnout at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan a few weeks ago. FLY participated in 2 evening shifts, and we had around 150 students and leaders volunteer as we packed meals for some awesome hungry kids. It was a fun and meaningful time for all. Our first shift packed 100 boxes and our second shift packed 105 boxes of packed meals. Way to go, FLY!



SUNDAY MORNINGS at 9:30am

All FLY students are always welcome to join us every Sunday morning at 9am for breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study. We are still in our journey through the Gospel of Mark and we have had wonderful discussion. We would love to have any student that is able and willing to join us for breakfast cereal, Pop Tarts, and Jesus.

KOIN: CHRISTMAS PARTY

Koin students are invited to participate in our Christmas Party. Wear an ugly sweater as we will have an ugly sweater catwalk. The person wearing the most hideous sweater will win a prize. We will also have fun holiday treats to snack on. Bring a white elephant gift for a silly gift exchange and bring a friend. This fun event will happen on Wednesday, December 14th.



Food *on the* James 2:15-17 ~~Fourth~~ **Third** (in December)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

THANK YOU, THANK YOU for the amazing turn out for November Food on the Fourth- 990 pounds were donated!

Food Shelf Needs:

pasta, spaghetti sauce, alfredo sauce, tomato paste, tomato sauce, canned chili, mashed potatoes, peanut butter



MOM'S GROUP DECEMBER 11, 9:30(ish)

Moms Group will meet again on December 11 at 9:30/between worship services in the library at FLC. We'll spend some time in devotions, share tips and tricks for managing the holidays, (hacks for traveling with kids, gift ideas for hard-to-shop-for-people, favorite holiday traditions, etc.,) and do a recipe exchange! Bring a recipe for an easy side dish you like making. All moms welcome!

We're also planning a holiday gathering; stay tuned for more details soon! If you aren't already getting emails about mom's group and would like to, and/or if you have questions, please let Pastor Kristen know (kristen@farmingtonlutheran.com).

BREW ED THE OLOGY

No Brewed Theology
in December

Brewed Theology will
break for December and
resume in January.

Details coming

Voting is
underway for the
first round of
favorite hymns
and least-favorite
holiday songs!



Thanks to all who have
participated and donated to Toys
for Town. Come back each week to
vote for the latest matchups.

Vote (once per person, please)
with the links below:

[FAVORITE HYMN](#)
[BEST WORST HOLIDAY HITS](#)

Could you help a student from Idete, Tanzania get an education?



Farmington Lutheran Church has a sister congregation in Idete, Tanzania. This partnership dates back to the year 2000 when members of Farmington Lutheran Church first visited Idete. Our connection to Tanzania is part of Bega Kwa Bega, a larger partnership between the St. Paul Area Synod of the ELCA and the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania.

In English, Bega Kwa Bega means 'shoulder to shoulder', describing the way in which we accompany one another in a spirit of mutuality, inclusivity, and vulnerability.

The purpose of this partnership is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to extend Christian hospitality, and to strengthen relationships with one another through the shared practices of prayer, presence, and projects.

One way we can show God's love to the people of Idete is to help provide scholarships. It costs about \$400 a year for a child or youth to attend school. Can you join in our efforts to allow five students to attend school in 2023? Students will be heading back to school in January. Scholarships are important, and they're actually a triple gift. First, they are a gift to the student to allow them to get the education they deserve. Secondly, they are a gift to society. These students will have an impact on their world, whether as a nurse or in some other capacity. And finally, they are a gift to the school, and allows them to be able to continue providing education for more individuals.

Our goal is to raise \$2,000 in scholarship monies by January 1st.

Checks can be made out to Farmington Lutheran Church with the memo line, "Tanzania Scholarships."

Thank you for considering how we can make a difference for our partners in Videte, Tanzania!

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2023

REAL Faith For REAL People Making a REAL Difference

Thank you for the great initial response to the 2023 Stewardship Appeal. Over 150 households have returned Statements of Intent.

Let's keep the momentum going!!!

We want everyone to have a chance to respond. You can mail in your Statement of Intent to the church office or complete your intent online at the link [HERE](#).

Next year our hope and intent is that offerings will increase by \$60,000 or more to Nurture Youth with Faith, Deepen Community Relationships, and support people through the Development of Small Groups. You can review more details about the 2023 Ministry Initiatives at farmingtonlutheran.com/stewardshipappeal.

Let's keep furthering the impact we are seeing with the development of Small Groups, Pre-Con, Confirmation and Youth Ministry, and Service Ministries!

If you haven't responded yet, please join in today!

Thanks

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning Worship
8:30 am and 10:30 am
Livestreaming at 10:30 am



www.farmingtonlutheran.com

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