

THE GROVE



STAY CONNECTED TO FLC

We are doing our best at Farmington Lutheran to be sure we can all stay connected during these unprecedented times. Inside this edition of *The Grove* you will find more information about the different ways you can continue to stay connected with your FLC family, while staying healthy at the same time.

Have another idea? Reach out to Jen at jenf@farmingtonlutheran.com with your ideas!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Stay Connected • P. 3

Letter from Pastor Kevin • P. 4

Holy Week & Easter • P. 5

Children's News • P. 8

Youth News • P. 10



WRITTEN BY JIM OLLHOFF

Jesus Calms the Storm: But that's Not the Point

There's a wonderful story in Mark 4, about Jesus and the disciples. It seems to fit our wild and crazy times.

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Jesus did this, in part, to show His disciples His divinity. Several of the psalms talk about how only God can control the wind and the waves.

But He could have showed them that from the shore. He could have gathered his disciples around him on the shore during a storm, and then told the waves to be still. But He didn't. Why did He wait until He and the disciples were in the middle of the storm? Why did He make the disciples come and find him before he actually calmed the storm?

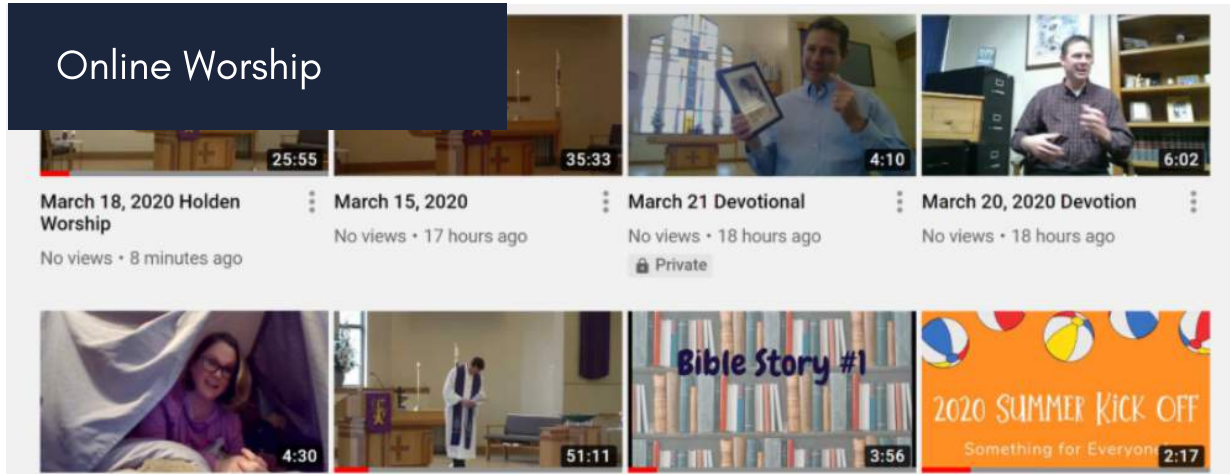
I think that's exactly the point Jesus was trying to get across: He wanted his disciples to find Him during the storm.

Yes, Jesus can calm our storms. But I think He wants us to see Him during the storm. If we think God's only value is to calm the storm, we miss the point. We need to see God during the storm—because sometimes the storm lasts a lot longer than we like. Seeing Jesus in the midst of the storm can calm us.

In these times of a spreading virus, an uncertain economy, and sheltering in place, perhaps our first prayer shouldn't be to calm the storm. Maybe the first prayer should be to see Jesus in the midst of the storm.

Staying Connected During Covid-19

Our office phone will continue to be answered during regular business hours, please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns anytime, 651-463-4100.



We are continuing to stream our worship services to Facebook on Sunday mornings, and Holden worship on Wednesday evenings. We have also added our videos to YouTube so you can access them any time from any smartTV, smartphone or tablet.



Stay up to date with new information and ways you can help the community through our Facebook and Instagram posts. Looking for a more creative outlet? Check out our new Pinterest page for craft ideas, inspirational sayings and favorite Bible verses.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of Farmington Lutheran Church,

God continues to be at work through Farmington Lutheran Church, and we invite your generous support to continue to make it happen.

For the sake of our neighbors' health, following the guidance of the CDC and Department of Health, on-site worship and programming continues to be suspended. Even though we can't physically gather in person (even during Holy Week) we indeed are church together and are carrying out our mission!

We still carry out our core value of meaningful worship by livestreaming **Wednesday Night 7 p.m. Worship, Sunday Morning Worship, as well as Holy Week Worship Services. They are all available at Facebook: Farmington Lutheran Church.**

We continue to foster connections and nurture faith through the increased use of telephone ministries and providing Bedtime Bible Stories, Music Selections, Video Devotions and other online and email resources to keep you connected to God and each other.

God is working through FLC to make a difference in serving and caring through ministries like the March 19th Food Distribution, Meals on Wheels, a drive to collect Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for healthcare workers, and continually connecting volunteers to respond to the continued needs of the homebound. Please feel free to continue to call or email church staff for pastoral care or to make known other needs that you or your neighbors have during this time.

"I got a call from church to check in on how I was doing. I had just finished watching a worship service online. I love my church and the ways we are keeping connected."

In it all, God is with you as we live as followers of Jesus. **Our core values and commitment to connect faith and life are being carried out, but in new ways.**

Thank you for your continued offerings of financial support. Since we have no offering plate to pass during worship, your intentionality in continued generosity is vital in carrying out ministry.

- I invite you to "automate the important" by setting up automated giving to carry out your intended offerings.
- One-time or ongoing offerings can be given online at Farmingtonlutheran.com/give.
- You can text GIVE at (855) 410-8106.
- You can also mail your offerings to the church office.

For those who are able please consider joining me in giving an additional offering at this time. Your generosity is needed and appreciated.

We are the body of Christ together at a time when it is needed most. Thank you for your support and faithfulness.

God bless you,
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

JOIN US ONLINE AS WE CELEBRATE

Easter

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9

5:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10

12:00 PM 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12

6:30 AM

***WORSHIP VIDEOS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE TIMES LISTED ABOVE. VIDEOS CAN THEN BE VIEWED AT ANY TIME.**

54 THINGS TO DO WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Read a Book
- Write a Letter
- Bake a Cake
- Paint a Picture
- Go for a walk
- Read a Devotion
- Reorganize a closet
- Try a new recipe
- Do a puzzle
- Color a picture
- Start a journal
- Video call a friend
- Color
- Memorize a favorite Bible verse
- Learn a new skill (knit, draw, sew, etc.)
- Organize your photos (digital or printed)
- Have a movie night
- Tour a National Park Online
- Build a fort
- Have an indoor picnic
- Dance party
- Pray for a friend or family member
- Sing
- Take a nap
- Make a prayer bracelet with yarn or string
- Host a dinner theme night
- Bake Cookies
- Create cards for your neighbors
- Learn to count in a new language
- Sip coffee and watch the sunrise
- Look through photo books
- Write a story
- Listen to a sermon
- Create a funny video with your phone and share with your friends
- Sort through your clothing (keep, donate, throw...)
- Rearrange your living room
- Exercise
- Ride a Bike
- Stretch/Yoga
- Make Shadow Puppets
- Make a list of your favorite recipes
- Daydream
- Virtual date with BFF's
- Clean the garage
- Start veggies for a garden
- Plan a vacation
- Meditation
- Take an online class
- Study birds, note each one you see
- Finish a project
- Record yourself reading a favorite story
- Create a still motion movie
- Facepaint
- Drop off a card at a neighbor's house



Farmington Foodshelf re-opened on Monday, March 30th and will continue to be open to take donations and serve those in need in our community. If you are able to drop off donations please follow the instructions below:

Donation drop offs:
March 30 and April 2, 12 pm-3:30 pm
Call 651-463-5019 to meet outside at ISC door #4, call upon arrival.
Please do not enter the building.



On Thursday, March 26 members of FLC collected PPE items that will be donated to clinics and hospitals in the surrounding areas. Special thanks to Deb Johnson and Maria Tarpinian for their help organizing this project!



On Thursday, March 19 members of Farmington Lutheran joined efforts with others in the community to help unpack, sort and distribute over 20,000 pounds of food.



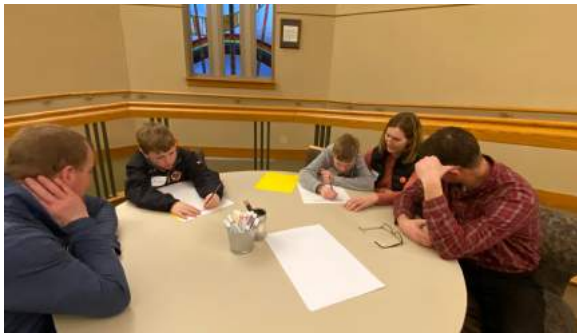
TUBING AT BUCK HILL

KiC had an awesome time tubing at Buck Hill on March 6th. We tubed, drank hot chocolate, warmed up by the fire and had a ton of fun.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, our final event at Feed My Starving Children has been cancelled. Thank you to everyone who had signed up and was willing to help such a great cause!

KiC EVENTS





APOSTLES' CREED

Fourth graders and their parents, sponsors, or other caring adults came together to learn about the Apostle's Creed. We discussed what a creed is, wrote our own family creeds, and then worked on a group creed. Children and families were encouraged to come to worship and lead The Apostle's Creed in the weekend services.



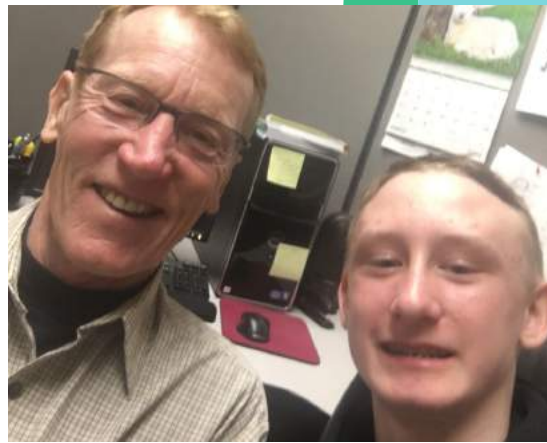
UPDATE

We are missing seeing all of you on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings! Are you looking for ways to stay connected while keeping a safe social distance? Be sure to check out our YouTube channel for Bible story videos with Dawn and visit our Pinterest page for some fun activities to do while you're home! We miss you all and can't wait to see you again soon!

30 Hour Famine

This past February 28 - 29 several FLC youth and adults participated in the World Vision 30 Hour Famine. They went without food to learn about world hunger, raise money and to serve in the local community. The group served at Feed My Starving Children, Caring Hearts in Action, Trinity Nursing Home and did in house service projects to raise money for Camp Wapo Scholarships and made tie blankets for the women's shelter. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered. What a great weekend. We will do again next February!





A Note from Kristine

Hello All,

Looking forward to being together soon. Miss seeing you and being together. Until we meet together in person know that I am here for you. I am praying for you. Praying that you would feel God's peace and comfort.

"God is our refuge and strength" Psalm 46:1, "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10.

Please contact me at kristine@farmingtonlutheran.com, cell 952-913-8709. Blessings and see you soon!

Kristine

SPOTLIGHT MINISTRY: MUSIC

Farmington Lutheran has amazing music opportunities for everyone!

We have two children's vocal choirs and one youth bell choir. Our high school-adult music ensembles include a vocal choir, bell choir, and contemporary band. Each group sings and plays in worship regularly. Except for praise band, these ensembles break during the summer months.

Being part of a musical group is a great way to connect with fellow congregation members through our faith. It is a spiritual experience that can't be explained. Praising God in worship and inspiring our congregation: it is meaningful and uplifting, from contemplative Advent and Lent services to celebratory Christmas and Easter worship.

Contact Karissa Dennis if you are interested in being a part of our music ministry. Join us now!



FARMINGTON MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

The number of people working on the Farmington Mental Health Alliance has quadrupled in size! A wide number of community leaders, state and county leaders, therapists, and people from around Farmington have expressed interest in being a part of the Alliance.

Farmington Lutheran is leading this Alliance. It is one more way that we can fulfill our mission to be rooted in the

Farmington Community. We can make a difference in Farmington with our work. If you would like to participate or be involved in some way, please contact Jim Ollhoff at jim@farmingtonlutheran.com.

OUR GOALS ARE:

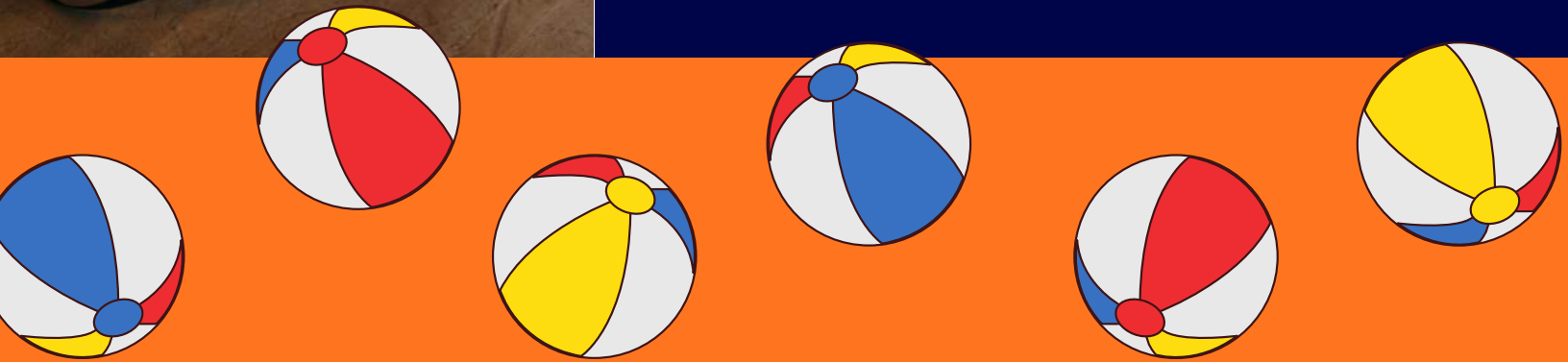
- Goal 1: Raise awareness of mental health issues in Farmington
- Goal 2: Train gatekeepers (a gatekeeper is a person who would be the first to see a mental health warning sign, such as coaches, parents, teachers, etc.)
- Goal 3: Improve care and access to care
- Goal 4: Provide workshops for youth and adults in resiliency skills





INTERN PASTOR UPDATE

Although at this time everything seems subject to change, at this time we still anticipate having an intern pastor from Luther Seminary begin around August 15.



SUMMER 2020: REGISTRATIONS OPEN

WE ARE CONTINUING TO TAKE REGISTRATIONS FOR SUMMER PROGRAMMING AND PLAN TO HOLD CAMP AS SCHEDULED.

CAMP EMMAUS May 29-30
Grades: Currently in 2nd or 3rd

CAMP WAPO June 14-19
Grades: Completed 4th-8th

SEEDS WEEKEND AT WAPO June 19-21
Grades: Completed 1st-3rd

MISSION TRIP July 11-19
Grades: Completed 8th-12th

VBS July 20-24
Grades: PreK*-4th
*with adult volunteer for the week

KIC ROCKS July 20-24
Grades: Entering 5th and 6th

TWO DAY MUSIC CAMP July 21-22
Grades: K-7th

VISIT US ONLINE TO REGISTER, OR [CLICK HERE](#)



WHERE IS GOD IN THESE TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY?

WRITTEN BY LINDA MORRIS

Thinking back to another time in my personal history, this question was often in my mind. It was actually this week of March in 1982. Our daughter was having some health concerns and we thought it was allergy related. On March 28 we found out that she had a malignant brain tumor. She was 10-months-old. Her first surgery was March 30 and she had eleven subsequent surgeries between then and the first week of June. During that time she developed stress ulcers, lost her eyesight, and a feeding tube was how she received her nourishment. I remember our pastor and friend visiting with us in Katie's hospital room. I asked him where was God during all of this? I remember his reply as if it was just yesterday that I heard it. Through tears he said, "God is here and crying with us." That was such a powerful reply.

In November of 1982, Katie went home to be with Jesus, I know He

welcomed her with open arms. Definitely uncertain times and God walked through it with us

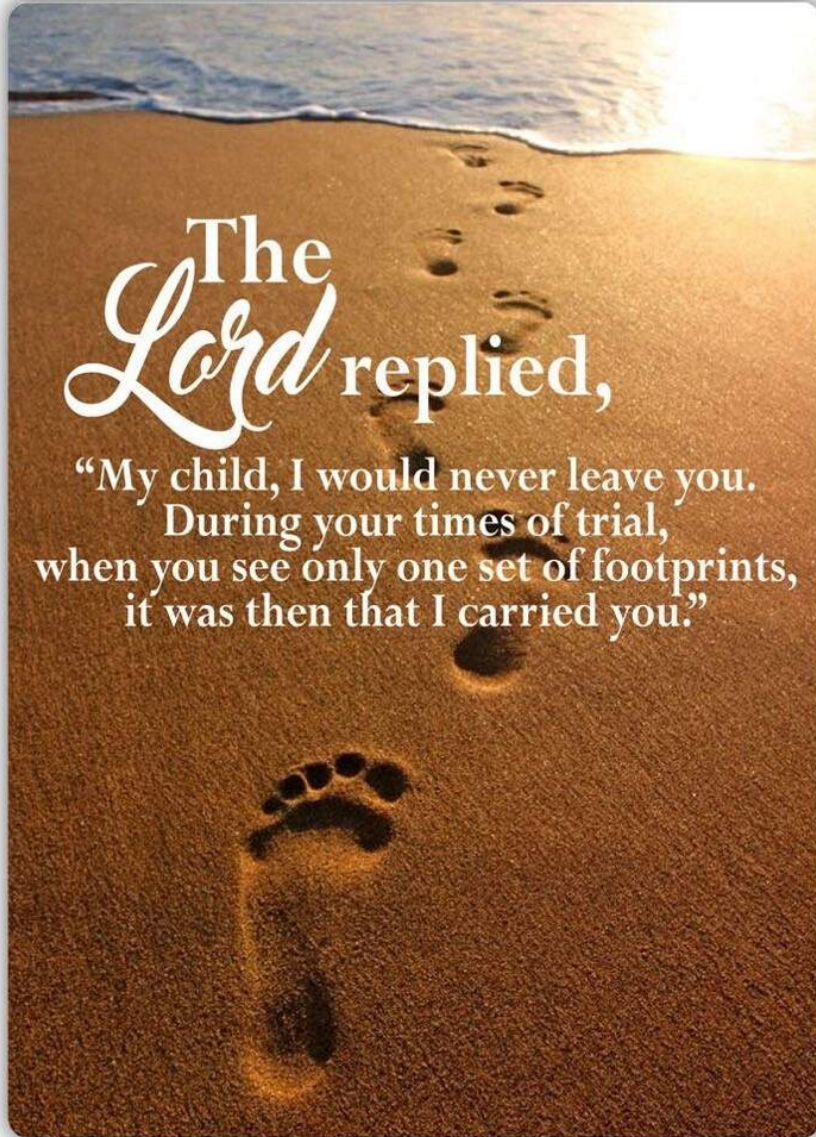
Fast-forward to March 28, 2002, our first grandchild was born, Alexander David. It amazed me that Alex arrived twenty years to the day we had learned such devastating news. His birth was a reminder to us that God is with us as we mourn and with us as we celebrate new life.

Fast-forward to March, 2020. Again we find ourselves in such uncertain times, navigating through the uncharted waters of a global pandemic. We may ask where God is in these times of uncertainty and again the answer is God is walking through it with us.

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

James 4:8

Just A Minute (for spiritual growth)



Visitor's Corner

The Grove Stories are now available on our website under the "blogs" tab. Farmington Lutheran staff contribute to the blog entries that are shared a few times a week.

You will find a wide variety of topics covered, from personal stories to reflections on life.

Be sure to sign up for our emails to get notified when new blogs are available!

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

(online only at this time)

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am and 10:45 am



www.farmingtonlutheran.com

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