

THE GROVE

PASTORAL CALL PROCESS: AN EXCITING DETOUR

BY JIM OLLHOFF

As many of you know, we have been in the call process for an associate pastor. We had been hoping to have an associate pastor by the end of spring or the beginning of summer. However, our 2020 pledges have come in a little short, so we will need to delay the start of an associate pastor

Since we were delaying the start date, we thought that this would give us time to look at other options, too. We explored six different options with the staff and council. The idea that has emerged is to apply for an intern (student) pastor from Luther Seminary. The council voted to apply for an intern, who would begin in August.

Interns often bring new ideas and new energy into a congregation. We are excited about this possibility. It will allow us to continue moving ahead with our ministry goals, but still be good stewards of our financial resources.

It will be April before we know if we will be assigned an intern, but our chances of getting one are good. The intern would be with us for one year. Pastor Chris Becker will remain with us during this time. And we can begin the call process for an associate pastor whenever our finances allow.

Farmington Lutheran would be an excellent teaching congregation for a potential intern. And we look forward to the new gifts an intern would bring!



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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

KARISSA DENNIS, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Karissa Dennis, our Director of Music Ministry, is excited to be back home with this amazing congregation! It is a loving, supportive community of volunteers who share their time and musical gifts so generously. Karissa grew up in Clinton, Minnesota, and went to college at Bemidji State University. Her degree specializes in Organ and Piano Performance, as well as Music Composition.

She started playing piano at age 4, and has played regularly for worship services since age 13. Karissa loves writing bell and choral music and is grateful for publishing opportunities, which have opened the door to share her music with the world. She has over 20 pieces in print through 6 publishers. Seeing and hearing her musical pieces performed internationally, touching listeners of whom she'll never even meet, is remarkable.

Karissa has two children and enjoys attending their extracurricular activities such as concert



performances and sports. They play softball and basketball, plus sing, play drums, trombone, ukelele, piano, and guitar...with a bass on the way, making mom so proud!

Karissa likes to experiment with recipes: baking and cooking for her kids and co-workers. She looks forward to traveling to Seattle with her kids this summer to visit her sister's family, as well as visits to her parents' farm.

Karissa's faith has brought her through challenges, as difficulties help build perseverance and appreciation for the beauty in life. God's love, mercy and grace are the reassurance and hope we need throughout each of our journeys.

FARMINGTON FOOD SHELF

Here are some of the community organizations that have supported the food shelf in 2019:

Farmington Wrestling: 355 pounds of food
Farmington Dazzle Days: 700 pounds of food
Farmington Girls Basketball: 785 pounds of food
Dodge Middle School: 145 pounds of food and \$73
Meadowview Elementary: 771 pounds of food
Farmington Police Department: 718 pounds of food
Farmington Fire Department: 380 pounds of food and \$174
Farmington Education Association: \$444
Farmington Municipal Liquor: 2,751 pounds of food
Farmington High School Bowling: 787 pounds of food
Farmington Post Office: 3,586 pounds of food
Farmington Boy Scouts: 773 pounds of food
Farmington High School Theater: 142 pounds of food
Akin Road Elementary: 191 pounds of food



FOOD SHELF NEWS AND UPDATES

- Upcoming closures include Monday, February 17th (Presidents' Day) and March 23rd/March 26th for Farmington Schools Spring Break.
- Construction within the Instructional Service Center has begun (excuse the dust!) and the move to our new location down the hall is still on target for early Spring 2020.
- Like us on Facebook under the Farmington Food Shelf Page to receive important updates!
- During the 2019 calendar year, Farmington distributed 118 boxes for 3,442 meals to Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) participants.
- We are in search of a second volunteer to support rescue pickup at the Lakeville Aldi on Thursday mornings. Additionally, the Thursday 12:00 to 3:00 crew is in need of volunteers to cover vacations during the months of February and March.



Do you shop Amazon? Consider adding Farmington Lutheran as your charity of choice, and FLC will get money back for purchases you make.

Here's how to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Search for Farmington Lutheran Church- be sure you choose the one located in Farmington, MN
4. Select your charity
4. Start shopping!
5. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

**THE AMAZONSMILE
FOUNDATION WILL
DONATE 0.5% OF
ELIGIBLE PURCHASES**



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial? If so, you may qualify for Thrivent's Choice Dollars Program. Eligible members can request that their Choice Dollars be distributed to certain charitable organizations- including Farmington Lutheran Church.

The deadline for distributing Choice Dollars is quickly approaching: March 31, 2020. Click [HERE](#) to visit our website for more information and for the request form to distribute your Choice Dollars today.

IGNITE YOUR F.I.R.E.

Throughout the month of January, we have challenged our congregation to find their ways to connect at FLC and the community. We are hoping you have felt ignited by the many ways you can find connections at FLC and the community of Farmington.

Be sure to stop by the welcome booth and pick up a *Ways to Connect* catalog if you haven't already. In it you will find a wide variety of ways you can be involved. From bible studies to service, and everything in between, we have something for everyone.

Contact Jen at Jen@farmingtonlutheran.com with questions or more information on ways you can connect.



IGNITE YOUR F.I.R.E

fellowship • involvement • relationships • engagement

There's a place for you here.



Would you like to be part of making sure that there is a hot, nutritious meal for those who need it in Farmington? Over 60 people came out for the first meal!

Click [here](#) for the signup link that has various ways you can help with the Wednesday Loaves & Fishes meals that are served each Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 pm at Faith Church United Methodist.

These weekly meals are part of a partnership of people across Farmington. Come and join in these efforts!

#StrongerTogether



2020 SUMMER KICK OFF

Something for Everyone!

Summer Kick Off is THIS WEEKEND! What does that even mean? It means you will get to see all our camp options and begin to sign up for them! Bring your calendars and get these dates saved! All are welcome to participate in some way or form (be a camper, guide, helper, runner). See Dawn if you have any questions.

Youth who have completed 4th - 8th grade and who will be attending week long camp at

Wapo are invited to work at least one Lenten dinner to earn money for camp. Please look for more details on the church website or ask Kristine for more information.

Would you like to donate food for Lenten meals, to help reduce the cost coming out of the campership donations? Would you like to help serve or prepare the Lenten meals alongside of the youth? Contact Kristine or Dawn for more information.



LENT 2020: JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

WRITTEN BY KEVIN WOESTEHOFF

When Jesus went to the cross and then was raised from the dead, the world was changed forever. When people are encountered by Jesus, lives are changed. Jesus has called you to

follow and loves you with a never-ending love.

How is Jesus leading you on a journey of transformation?

LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday Services, February 26
12:00 pm, 5:30 pm and 7 pm

Holden Evening Prayer Worship Services
Wednesdays at 7 pm
March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1

LENTEN SERVICE PROJECTS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday's during Lent we will once again be hosting service projects during our Wednesday School I (5:00-5:40pm) and Wednesday School II (5:50-6:30pm) sessions. All ages are welcome to join us during this time to take part in a fun service project to help make our community a better place. Below you will find the service project schedule:

ALL ARE WELCOME!

March 4th: Food Drive and Sunshine Bags

March 11th: Board Games and Congregational Quilt

March 18th: Mental Health Awareness Bracelets

March 25th: NO PROGRAMMING

April 1st: Faith Activity and Teacher Appreciation Cups



SOUP SUPPERS ARE COMING!

March 4, 11, 18, & April 1

NO MEALS MARCH 25

5-6:30pm

All are invited to come and enjoy homemade soup, sandwiches, and goodies and support youth going to Camp Wapo this summer. Soup week one will be chicken noodle and broccoli cheese.

Suggested donation is \$5 per person, any amount is accepted and appreciated.

Youth and parents of youth going to Camp Wapo this summer can earn money to help with their camp cost. Visit us online to sign up to volunteer for these events.

Donations for meals during Lent go to Camperships for youth at FLC to attend week long Camp Wapo in 2020.



LOOKING FOR MENTORS FOR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS DURING LENT

Confirmation does not meet regularly during Lent. 8th grade confirmation students will meet with a mentor. We are looking for adults to be faith mentors. Mentors will meet with their mentee 4 times during lent. A discussion guide will be provided to help guide your conversations together. Don't miss this great opportunity. If you are interested please email Kristine at kristine@farmingtonlutheran.com.



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY & FIRST GRADE MILESTONE

Last month we had our Baptismal Anniversary and our 1st grade Milestone on The Lord's Prayer. We offer these milestones for all ages starting at baptism. Did you know that when you attend these events it gives you a chance to meet other families with kids your child's age? You also get a chance to ask questions and celebrate all that you do to help your child grow in faith.



save the date

2ND GRADE MILESTONE:

When and where do you pray?

We have our 2nd grade milestone on PRAYER on Sunday, February 9 at 9:30 am. Please sign up on the church website today.

KIC LOCK-IN

Our next KiC event is ready for you to sign your 4th or 5th grader up! We will be having our FLC Lock-In. The fun starts at 7 pm on Friday, February 7 and ends at 10 pm. We will have food, games, songs, and service projects. Get signed up today!

**SUMMER 2020
CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

CAMP EMMAUS

GOD STRONG

Overnight at FLC: Current grades 2-3

May 29-30

Cost: \$40

A first overnight camp experience close to home. Games, fellowship, food, and fun!

WAPO BIBLE CAMP: HOPE FULL

Students can earn money towards week long camp by volunteering at Lenten meals.

Youth Camp: Completed Grades 4-8

June 14-19

Cost: \$370 (*\$100 savings this year for switching dates*)

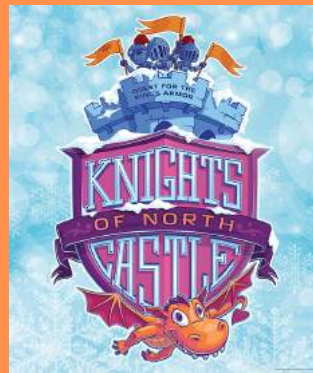
Seeds Weekend: Completed Grades 1-3

June 19-21

Cost: \$185

VBS

Pre-K (with parent volunteer)
through completed 3rd grade
July 20-24 9 am-Noon
\$35 early registration
through February 15
\$40 per child



KIC ROCKS!

Completed 4th or 5th Grade
July 20-24 9 am-Noon
\$35 early registration
through February 15
\$40 per child

TWO DAY MUSIC CAMP



Kindergarten through 7th
July 21-22 12:30 pm-3:00
\$15 per child

Please send a bag lunch to eat from
12:00-12:30 in the education wing.

30 Hour Famine

FEBRUARY 28-29

Youth and friends grade 6-12 are invited to be a part of world visions 30 hour famine. We will go without food for 30 hours and raise money and awareness about world hunger. We will gather at the church Friday afternoon until Saturday evening and participate in a variety of games, service projects, and learning times about poverty in our own city and around the world and how we can help. 30 Hour famine packets can be picked up at the Youth board or front office. We can work with schedules and dietary needs for those that need to eat. 30 Hour famine is a life changing experience for all who participate. Adults are needed to help with service projects and as chaperones.



Senior High Mission Trip to West Virginia

JULY 11-19, 2020

Youth and friends grade 8 - 12 are invited to be a part of the 2020 senior high mission trip to Beckley, West Virginia.

Step out of your comfort zone and make friends, have a ton of fun, serve, grow closer to God and much more. Mission trip packets are located at the youth board and on the website. Commitment forms should be turned into the office at your earliest convenience.



8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION FAITH MENTOR ORIENTATION

*Wednesday, February 26th
6:15 pm*

8th Grade Confirmation students, faith mentors, and parent(s) of youth will meet for mentor orientation in the Education wing.

This is an important time of learning about the faith mentor program. You will receive your mentor packet as well as meet together with your mentor during this time.

CONFIRMATION

FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19

Confirmation youth, guides and junior guides will meet for regular Confirmation on the previously listed Wednesdays. Youth should bring their Bibles and offering money each week.

IDETE LETTERS OF THANKS

For several years, we have supported youth scholarships in Idete, Tanzania. Without these scholarships, the youth would not be able to attend school. Below are a few of the letters that have come to us from the youth we support.

LUTANGILO SEC SCHOOL,
P.O. BOX 523,
IRINGA.
25 JULY 2019.

Dear sponsor

I have a great pleasure to greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. I hope that your fine and your continue with your works well. als o the same to me iam well fine with my studies .

The aim of this letter is to say thanks for your heart of paying school fee, for me untill now Iam a form four with the age of 17 years old and my love be with you

lastly my most lovely subject are science subjects and I believe I will succeed and no more than say thanks.


Your faithful
T. M
TEULWA MOYO

LUTANGILO SEC. SCHOOL,
P.O. BOX 523,
IRINGA KILO.
24.7.2019.

Dear sponsor

I hope that your fine and your going on with your activities

My name is Yohana mgowano iam coming from idete parish and iam having seven teen years old and I am a member of form four class and my parents they are farmers, the matter of writting this letter I want to say thank you for paing for me school fees since form one up to form. Since primary school my dream is to become a tourist and i like science subject such as geograph, chemistry and ^{Biology} agriculture and through paing for me school fees helps me study because without money which you have used to pay to me as a school fees know I was suppose to be a villagers but know am a student and I will make sure I will study hard in order i can pass well and iam sure that God he will pay you the money which you have used to pay to me in order i can study. may God bless you

Your faithful

Yohana mgowano

LUTANGILO SEC. SCHOOL,
P.O. BOX 523,
IRINGA KILILO.

22 January 2019.

Dear sponsor

I hope that your fine and your going on with your business activities for my side am fine and I want to say Thank you God for protecting us until know. My name is Yohana Mgovano am a member of form four class. I like to study Science Subjects Chemistry, Biology, and Agriculture. my dream I want to be a doctor. I want to say Thank you for paying for me school fees since form one up to form four and I know your paying many money. and the money which you paying it helps me to study. and I promise you I will study hard and I will get division I in nation examination and am sure God he will help me.

Your faithful

~~Yohana~~
Yohana Mgovano

LUTANGILO SECONDARY,
P.O. Box 523,
IRINGA.
22 January 2019.

Dear sponsor,

I hope that your fine and also your continue with your activities well also the same to me I am also fine and I am continue with my subject well. the aim of writing this letter is to say thanks for your love of paying the school fees for me and for what I believe I am expect to get division one in my examination, also my combination I like science subject. I don't have many words to say to you but only thanks, also greet your family together with your relative thank you.

Yours,

E. MOTO

TEULINA MOTO

LUTANGILO SECONDARY SCHOOL,
P.O. BOX 523,
IRINGA.

25th JULY 2019.

Dear sponsor,

It is my hope that your well fine not only you but also on my side I am OK and I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ.

The aim of this letter is to thank a lot for your help of paying our school fees and I trust that I will do very wonderful as God help us for your prayer I believe that I am 17 years old in form III class no any bad thing which may affect me because of your prayer.

May God bless you

G. Mangilia

GLORY MANGILIA

Just A Minute (for spiritual growth)

Making lists, reviewing pros and cons, researching – whether it be for vacations, work, family or the future we've all come up with a plan at one time or another.

And then God laughs. We've all heard it, as our plans go awry, life leads us to a place we never expected to be.

But maybe that's an ok thing, an opportunity to learn something new, or to push ourselves to be uncomfortable in unexpected situations.

In Proverbs 19:21 it reads "The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established."

The next time you find yourself in an unexpected, uncomfortable situation, remember, the Lord has a purpose for you and while it may not be what you expected, embrace the moment.

Visitor's Corner

On Wednesday's during Lent (March 4 through April 1) we will be hosting soup dinners and inviting anyone who is interested to join us for service projects each week. There will be **NO PROGRAMMING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25.**

Soup will be served from 5-6:30 with a suggested donation of \$5 a person. Please visit us online or watch the announcement page in the bulletin for more information on the menu each week.

Service projects will take place during two different time slots, from 5-5:40 pm and 5:50-6:30 pm. Everyone of all ages is welcome to join in on these nights of fun serving our community!

We look forward to seeing you! If you have any questions please email Jen@farmingtonlutheran.com

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am and 10:45 am



@farmingtonlutheran



/farmingtonlutheran

www.farmingtonlutheran.com