

June 2023

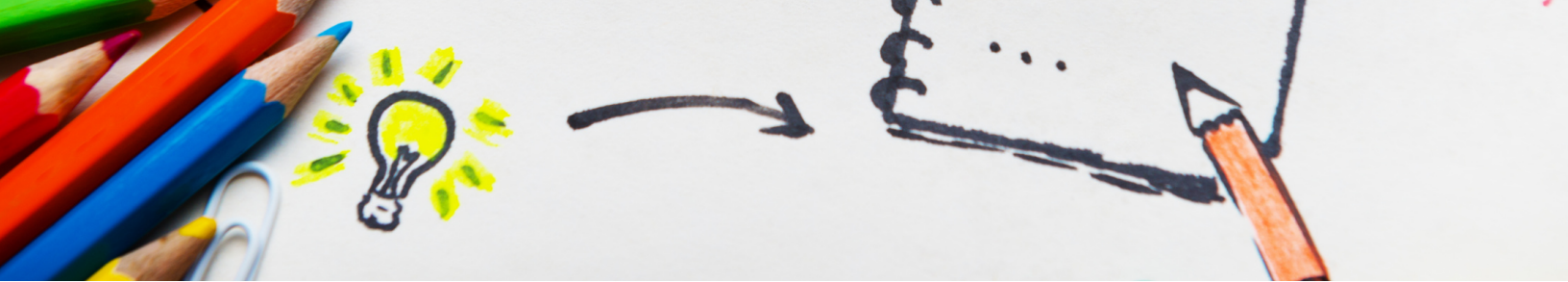
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# THE GROVE

## EXCITING CHANGES ARE COMING TO THE GROVE NEWSLETTER!

FLC staff is continuously reflecting, reevaluating and thinking creatively for new ways to share the stories of Farmington Lutheran Church. *The Grove Newsletter* has been a great tool to share these amazing stories. Starting in September, *The Grove Newsletter* will become *Stories from The Grove* and will become a seasonal newsletter with 4 to 5 issues each year. For the next couple months you won't find a monthly edition of *The Grove* landing in your inbox. Come fall, *Stories from the Grove* will be shared through email just like before, as well as paper copies in the welcome booth.





## Youth [Everyone's] Ministry Update: Planning to make a plan.

Summer is finally/suddenly here. Along with it comes a break in regularly scheduled Children, Youth & Family programming. Staff and volunteers take the opportunity to breathe, reflect, and recharge, even as we look to the coming fall.

This past year was a great one. Our 6th grade “PreCon” experiment was a success, bridging Sunday/Wednesday School and Confirmation. Our 7-8th grade Confirmation students explored the Apostle’s Creed. Senior High KOIN met on Wednesday evenings in growing numbers, and all of FLY (6-12th grades) were invited to Sunday morning Chill & Chats, as well as regular service and fellowship activities together.

The intent is to continue to build on these things. They will happen differently. Nick Madsen, our youth director, departed at the end of April. We’ll miss Nick’s energy and passion, and we wish him well. We do not currently have a youth director, or an expectation to fill a position soon. We’ve reasonably been asked: “So... what’s the plan?”

In brief: the plan is to make a plan. If that sounds weak, and for those of you who want the things (like details), here are some concrete-ish things:

We’re planning monthly activities for FLY. Additional casual, social events for FLY are likely. We’ve launched a Minecraft Lab and may open another section. Students are going to camps, like Wapo and Outlaw Ranch. Opportunities to participate in worship and VBS are available. Youth ministry will continue, in the summer and into the fall. We promise.

But right now, things slow down a little. I want to dig into the slowness to survey the landscape of youth ministry, both at FLC, and more broadly. A transition in youth director affords us the chance to step back and ask big questions: *What do we want youth ministry to look like at Farmington Lutheran? What value do we put on youth ministry? What can we do*

*to live out this value as a congregation? And what could that look like in ways other than (or in addition to) having a staff position to do it for us?*

A growing team of invested people will explore these questions together this summer. We’re going to review, read, reflect, and rethink youth ministry a little. As for a youth director, there’s not an active search underway. And that’s ok. (Really.) Part of our work together will be discerning what we’re searching for. We don’t know when that will be determined. But we trust the Holy Spirit is (at least) one step ahead of us.

One thing I do know is this: **whatever youth ministry at Farmington Lutheran is going to look like, it will (it *must*) involve adult volunteers.** More of them. Lots of them. And by “them,” I quite possibly mean *you*.

I’d love parents, grandparents, and others to greet and learn with our PreCon kids. I want more adult Guides to make Confirmation groups smaller, so conversations and sharing are easier. I’m picturing Sunday morning Chill & Chat being co-led by excited adults who may or may not have any answers, but who want to read the Bible with some youth. I’m imagining volunteers providing food for KOIN, and adults sharing their stories of why they’re Christian, or a time when faith was hard, or when Jesus made all the difference. I want intergenerational participation in youth ministry (because it’s everyone’s ministry) in ways we haven’t thought of yet. And all the while, we get to wonder, question, support, celebrate, and be church with one another.

If any of these possibilities interest you, or you want to help but don’t know how, please be in touch. It’s going to be fun. I’m looking forward to seeing what takes shape, and doing the work together.

Thanks & Peace,  
Pastor Ben



# New Member Orientation

FLC hosted New Member Orientation class on Sunday, May 7th and welcomed new members in worship the 21st. We're excited to welcome four new families! Take a few minutes to say hello, and introduce yourself if you see them in worship.

*Top Row Left to Right: Bob Horvath; Jillian, Chris and Callum Lewis*

*Bottom Row Left to Right: Mike and Linda Thurk; Kristen, Robb, Carson, Mila and Callan Hall*



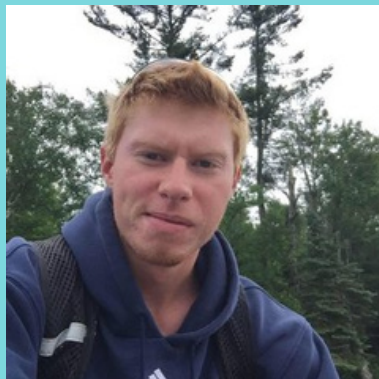
## WELCOME LOIS LUECKE! FLC'S OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

I was born and raised in Fairbault, MN. My faith growth started with eight years at Peace Lutheran Schools. I graduated from Augsburg College in Minneapolis as a business education teacher. I retired after 43 years in a job that I loved. Once I retired, I realized that I needed another purpose, and I found it at FLC. I am a people person so working here with the congregation and the fun and dedicated staff fulfills this purpose.

My favorite things are spending time with my family on everyday activities and vacationing. My spare time is filled with lunches with friends, gardening, sewing, crafting and craft fairs, quilting, garage sales, reading, and whatever else I can find to do.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO FLC'S FACILITY MAINTENANCE, CLAY FLECK!

It has been a very hectic few weeks with programs ending, multiple funerals, church services, tables/chair/facilities rentals, etc. Clay works extra hours to get us ready and prepared for the next event. THANK YOU, CLAY!



# FLC SUMMER CAMPS, VBS, KIC ROCKS!

Check out the numbers below!! We are so excited to share with you the number of children and youth we have signed up to be a part of FLC programming this summer.

And there's still a few spots left for volunteers. Contact Dawn@farmingtonlutheran.com and don't miss out on these fantastic opportunities to share God's Love with FLC's youth.



## **Camp Emmaus: June 2, 2023**

15 2nd and 3rd graders

6 older youth volunteered for this event



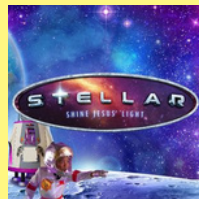
## **SEEDS at Wapo: June 23 - 25**

21 1st-3rd graders

## **Week-long at Wapo: June 25 - 30**

60 4th-9th graders

Dawn stays onsite for the Wapo camp adventures.



## **VBS: July 17 - 20**

97 Pre k- 4th graders

We are still adding a few volunteers to these events. We are currently sitting at 17 Station helpers and 30 group leaders.



## **KiC ROCKS: July 17-20**

28 5th-6th graders

We need some more volunteers to hang out with our 5th and 6th graders- can be 1, 2, 3 or 4 days. Flexible with your schedule! Aren't able to volunteer but willing to drive? We could use help from a few drivers on Tuesday and Wednesday



## **Outlaw Ranch Impact Trip: July 22 - 28**

9 8th through 12th graders

Youth will be head to Outlaw Ranch in Custer, South Dakota with Pastor Kevin .



## CAMP EMMAUS 2nd and 3rd Graders June 2, 2023

This year for Camp Emmaus we had a GLOW party. The campers created glow shirts, played games, enjoyed a campfire, and singing songs with our youth volunteers. Everyone was decked out in glow in the dark items. We heard part of the story of the Good Shepherd and discussed it in small groups. We had s'mores, snacks, and drinks to help us get through all the activities. A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers, those that donated to this event, and for those that kept us in your prayers.



Are you creative and want to join others in decorating for VBS? This year is going to be STELLAR! Check out some of the ideas here or jump on Pinterest and get your creative juices flowing. Let us know if you'll be making something.

## End of FLCTime for the 2022-2023 School Year

We are so thankful for those that took time to volunteer in the classrooms and behind the scenes prepping, shopping, and serving. It takes a village. Thank you for sharing God's love with the children and families.





# YOUTH HAPPENINGS

## GRAD SUNDAY

June 4, 2023

On Sunday, June 4 FLC celebrated the graduating Class of 2023 during the 10:00am Grad Sunday Service. 15 High School Seniors were in attendance and shared their plans for the future. Congratulations to the Class of 2023!



LUNA  
JOHNSON



ETHAN  
HAGMAN



ISAAC  
PATSCHE



ISAAC  
ALBRECHT



NICK  
THOMPSON



ADAM  
JOHNSON



KAI  
DENNIS



RILEY  
WATSON



CADEN  
GROSSMAN



CHRIS  
PATSCHE



LIZ  
GROSSMAN



KEVIN  
WOESTEHOFF

## OUTLAW RANCH July 22 - 28, 2023

On Saturday July 22, 9 of FLC's youth and 3 adult chaperones will be heading to Outlaw Ranch in Custer, South Dakota. Please keep them in your prayers for safe travels, learning, experiencing new things and wonderful time in nature.





## HAPPY PRIDE MONTH

In the gospel of Matthew, when asked which of the commandments was greatest, Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." When someone asked him in Luke's gospel to define "neighbor," Jesus told a shocking story to illustrate the truth that everyone is a neighbor.

As followers of Jesus, we do our best to do as he said and love our neighbors- all of them. That looks like lots of different things, of course. Part of what it looks like in June is celebrating Pride Month with our LGBTQIA+ neighbors. We give thanks for the beautiful complexity and diversity of what it means to be made in God's image. We celebrate that the body of Christ has more than enough room for us all. We commit to keep working on welcoming and serving all God's people. If you want to have more conversation about this, please reach out to any of the FLC staff. Happy Pride!



**NEW DATE FOR S'MORE SUMMER FUN:**  
Sunday, July 30 after second worship

The original date of S'more Summer Fun was coming up quick, and with everything going on in our community FLC Staff has decided it will be even S'MORE fun to reschedule the date of this event to July.

Join us now on Sunday, July 30 after second worship for lunch, bags tournament, fellowship and more!

## Food *on the* Fourth

James 2:15-17

May brought in 507.5 pounds of food for the Farmington Food Shelf. Thank you so much for your continued support in fighting food insecurities within our community! The next "Food on the Fourth" will be June 25. Below you'll find a list of requests from the food shelf:

- Snacks for kids (small boxes)
- Cereal
- Cleaning supplies
- Juice boxes
- Large beverages (ex. 64oz apple juice)
- Powdered sugar
- Brown sugar
- Pancake/waffle mix
- Cake mix
- Muffin mix
- Snack crackers
- Tampons
- Pasta
- Kidney beans
- Chili beans



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Save the date for the 44th annual Farmington Dew Days event! Dew Days is a weekend-long family friendly event celebrating our community right here in Farmington. All events are open to the public and are being held in downtown Farmington or at the Dakota County fairgrounds (& most events are free!). There will be a Grand Parade, teen block party, rib cook-off, bingo, live music, car cruise and so much more! The Farmington Dew Days committee is looking for volunteers to help put on this great event - volunteer shifts are only a few hours, leaving plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the activities. Please consider giving just a little of your time to help make our community event a success by signing up for a shift!

You can find out more about signing up for a shift at <https://www.farmingtondewdays.com/participate/VOLUNTEER>.

## Screens, Sound and Livestream Volunteers

We have space for a few more volunteers to help in the audio booth during worship services on Sunday mornings! Volunteers are trained in how to operate the worship screens, adjust audio levels as needed, and how to turn on and/or run the livestream. All ages are welcome to learn, but we do ask that youth under 16 have a parent with them in the audio booth. Training will be provided before hand, and hands on training during worship until you feel comfortable on your own. Reach out to Jen@farmingtonlutheran.com with questions or to set up training times.



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## WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning Worship  
8:30am and 10:00am  
Livestreaming at 10:00am



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

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