

# *THE GROVE*

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summer might look different this year, but you can  
always count on it being beautiful in Minnesota

## *be sure to check out*

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# Jesus is Divine. We are de Branches.

Written by Jim Ollhoff

In John 15:1-17, Jesus uses a metaphor for the Christian life. He says that he is the vine. In this analogy, we are the branches. The branches produce fruit, which Jesus says is love. Paul extends that analogy in Galatians 5, and says the fruit is “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

Jesus is the vine. We are the branches.  
Branches produce fruit.

But here’s the thing. It is NOT the job of the branches to work hard and produce fruit. Branches produce fruit, yes... but branches don’t have to try hard to produce fruit.

So what’s the job of the branch?

The job of the branch is to cling to the vine. When we are clinging to the vine, fruit will just naturally grow. When we cling to Jesus, the love, joy, peace, patience, etc., will

automatically grow. The branches don’t have to try hard to get fruit. Fruit is automatic when we cling to the vine.

Our job is to abide in Jesus. To stay connected to him. To walk with him. Our job is to cling to the vine.

So when storms of life come? Cling to the vine. When we fear the uncertainty of the pandemic? Cling to the vine. When we’ve been stuck in our house for what seems like 500 straight days? Cling to the vine. When we face endless obstacles in life? Cling to the vine.

The branches have one job, and one job only: Cling to the Vine. Remind yourself often to Cling to the Vine.

*"When we cling to Jesus, the love, joy, peace, patience, etc., will automatically grow."*

## WHAT PRACTICES OR ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU DONE TO KEEP GROUNDED DURING THIS UNCERTAIN TIME?

We spend a lot of time together as a family to feel connected and remind ourselves of how blessed we are. We also spend as much time outside as possible. We go on walks and bike rides. It helps relieve stress and feel connected to nature. We also continue to stay connected to our faith and continue with our routines as much as possible.

- Amy Andrist

I've really been giving myself and those around me a lot of grace. When this first started, I came into it with a whole list of expectations, rules and schedules; slowly, but surely they started to fall apart. Now I approach each day as it comes with no predetermined expectations. If we sleep in until after 8am... no biggie. Cereal for dinner? Sure! Church in our jammies at noon - what's the big deal? There is so much stress and anxiety in this situation, I decided I needed to let go of a lot of the control I'm used to having.

- Susan Nelson-Rinke

We are keeping grounded through a combination of reading, working on jigsaw puzzles, keeping in touch with friends via text, email and social media.

- Peter Elliott

Prayers of gratitude for our blessings, getting outside, being silly and laughing, and family projects have been helpful.

- Whitney Quast

My husband and I are on different schedules. I am working full time at home and he is working a week on/week off for his job. For me to be able to work at home full time really has helped keep my mind busy. I am not sitting in front of the TV all day watching the news and seeing the impact. Maybe ignorance is bliss, but for me and my well-being it works. I try to wake up every morning with the mindset of choosing to be better and not bitter. This economic and health environment that we are in can truly force someone into being bitter every day and I just can't go down that rabbit hole. I am also focusing on my physical well-being by walking daily with our 110lb rottweiler Kiwi. She is the perfect excuse to get out and enjoy nature. With being inside all day I need that reset of my mind by getting fresh air through my lungs and sunshine on my face. One last thing I do daily, even prior to this time, is that I sing daily. It's interesting that lately all of the music I have been singing is contemporary Christian music. I go through phases with my music selection, but something has drawn me to that genre of music lately.

- Lisa Pap

"I'VE REALLY BEEN GIVING MYSELF AND THOSE AROUND ME A LOT OF GRACE."

## IN THIS TIME OF SHELTERING-IN-PLACE, WHERE HAVE YOU FELT THE PRESENCE OF GOD?

I especially felt God's presence during Holy Week when His gift of perfect timing gave me a week off from work. This allowed me to add our own Christian-learning activities to the kids' distance learning days to help them more fully understand the meaning of Easter.

- Whitney Quast

God is everywhere in this situation and I am feeling his presence now more than ever! I feel it every time a friend reaches out to check-in, "just because." When the mail arrives and there's a handwritten letter from a school teacher to her student. When we wake up and there's an anonymous note written in chalk on the driveway. When friends show up to drop food, gifts, toilet paper, etc on the front step, or just to do a silly dance on your Ring doorbell. I'm especially feeling his presence in the calmness of all of this..... yes, the calmness! No rushing around, no place to go or be; just truly enjoying that family dinner or walk with the dogs.

- Susan Nelson-Rinke

By staying connected to our faith through helping the community, the church and continuing our routines at home such as praying and singing/reading about God with our children.

- Amy Andrist

I always have some kind of devotional out in the open at our house, whether it be a book/bible/or a daily devotional calendar. I have noticed that since working at home, and slowing down my pace of life, I am really paying attention to what I feel is drawing me closer to my faith. I have always had these tools at home, and to be honest they collect dust most days, but I stop, take a moment and read something....whatever medium that is. What does it mean? Where does this apply to my life or the current situation? I feel that God is saying take advantage of this time and slow your roll!

- Lisa Pap

I have felt the presence of God through watching the unfolding of spring. The newly blooming daffodils, trees and shrubs starting to leaf out, more birds visiting our feeders and through our Fishers of Men zoom video chats and bible study.

- Peter Elliott

## WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT THE CHURCH COULD PROVIDE THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO YOU?

The short term answer would be daily devotionals posted to the website. I know that Pastor Kevin is posting on Facebook, but not everyone in our congregation uses Facebook. I would love it if our website could have a section that would house a daily devotional area. It doesn't need to be something presented by our Pastors or staff. I am not knowledgeable enough at this point to lead one, but would others be willing to do so? Maybe? Maybe not? Online learning is a huge avenue to go down for the future. It doesn't facilitate the one on one interaction, but it could be explored like our webcast services now.

- Lisa Pap

**FLC: Great ideas Lisa! Stay tuned for online bible studies. We are in the planning process and hope to have them available soon!**

If there would be one thing that FLC could provide we would love to have a drive up, socially distance respecting, communion. Perhaps a table set with wine cups and bread that could be dipped into the wine...words of institution said as each family comes to table. Set up near front entrance would allow for utilizing the "horseshoe" nature of the entry for car flow. Could we also include an offering basket? Just wondering.

- Peter Elliott

**FLC: Thanks Peter, we will start to explore some creative ways to offer communion!**

Our kids have been embracing the music during services at home by playing their instruments during each song. We would love the addition of a maraca-shaking song at the end of each service!

- Whitney Quast

**FLC: That's a great idea! We'd love to share some videos of our FLC kids playing their instruments at home!**

FLC has been doing a wonderful job and has made it so easy to stay connected with our church family. Online services, virtual confirmation, stories from Dawn, Karissa's music and Pastor Kevin's devotions are just a few of the things we enjoy every week. I hope once summer comes that there continues to be some type of content or way to stay connected with the children and youth. I think it's going to be a tough summer for the kids that will be missing VBS, camps, etc.

- Susan Nelson-Rinke

**FLC: We agree, summer could be tough for our kiddos. We're working on some ideas to continue to stay connected if we can't be together in person!**

The communication and services streamed online have been very beneficial. Our family can not think of anything else the church can do.

- Amy Andrist

**FLC: Glad to hear it!**



## THE BUILDING HAS BEEN CLOSED, BUT THE MINISTRY OF CONNECTING CONTINUES!



### MUSIC MINISTRIES

- Special music from Karissa, posted on YouTube and Facebook
- Volunteer musicians performances, posted on YouTube and Facebook
- Recording worship services, hymns, and special music
- Music on Zoom for the ecumenical Good Friday service with area pastors
- Creating bulletins (they're available on our website)
- Connecting with choir, bell, and praise band members
- Contributing to blogs on our website
- Playing music for funerals
- Video meetings
- Caring for the Easter flowers—decorating and watering
- Participating in video meetings with other staff



### CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

- Emailing families with lessons from Sunday School and Wednesday School lessons, including videos
- Creating Craft and chat videos
- Weekly video Bible stories on Facebook
- Creating a new blog series for families
- Contributing to blogs on our website
- Video meetings with children's ministry team
- Exploring what other churches are doing for children and families during the pandemic
- Connecting with kids and families on phone and video
- Participating in video meetings with other staff



# THE BUILDING HAS BEEN CLOSED, BUT THE MINISTRY OF CONNECTING CONTINUES!



## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

- Creating videos for confirmation students
- Contacting confirmation guides, getting them lessons and doing video training
- Connecting with confirmation guides via phone and email, checking in to see how things are going with their groups
- Video chats with KOIN (senior high youth)
- Connecting with parents and families via phone and email
- Sending cards and devotionals to youth and families
- Video chats, phone calls, texts, and emails with youth
- Regular posting on the youth Instagram account
- Upcoming virtual bible study for youth and families



## PASTORAL ACTS AND CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- Worship
- Funerals
- Calls to individuals and families
- Daily video devotions
- Counseling
- Preparing video Bible studies
- Congregational care team send cards and making phone calls
- OWLs Bible study continues via email
- Care ministry team checks in via zoom



## SHARED MINISTRIES AND COMMUNICATION

- Contacting, organizing and connecting a list of volunteers to those who can use some extra help during these times
- Communicating with Farmington Food Shelf, Trinity, Legacy and others in the community to share their needs
- Creating screens for worship, recording worship
- Editing and posting devotional, music, worship and other videos for YouTube and Facebook
- *The Grove* newsletter
- Staff video meetings
- Engaging congregation members in worship services each week



**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](https://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
5. Start shopping!
6. Add a bookmark for [smile.amazon.com](https://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**

## NEW TEXT TO GIVE OPTION!



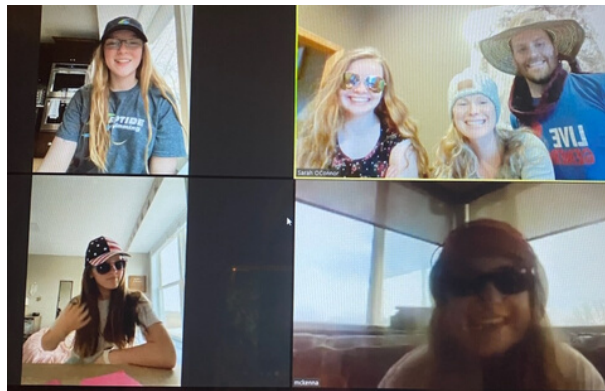
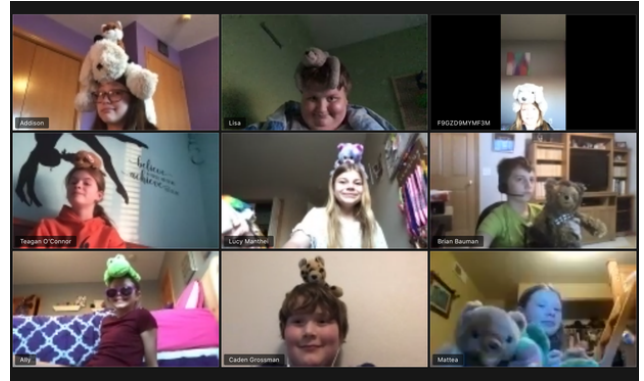
1. Text GIVE to (855) 410-8106.
2. Click the registration link and enter your payment information.
3. Receive a verification text as well as an email receipt.

*For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.*



Confirmation began meeting virtually on April 15th. We will continue to meet virtually until May 6th. Large group meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings via YouTube.

Following large group, small groups will meet together virtually. Thank you to all for a great season of Confirmation this year.



**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**  
 Reserve the dates for 2020 Confirmation service for 9th grade youth. Services are October 24, 5 pm and October 25, 1:00 pm



**CONFIRMATION 2020-2021  
 WILL KICK OFF ON  
 SEPTEMBER 23RD!**

**KOIN ON WEDNESDAYS!**

Wednesday evenings @ 7:00 pm via Zoom!

We will continue to meet in Wednesday this way until we can meet together physically. Time will switch in May to 7:00 pm.





## NEW BLOG! YOUTH and FAMILIES

Kristine has created a new blog for Farmington Lutheran youth and families. Visit [flcfamilies.com](http://flcfamilies.com). The blog will provide devotions, resources for families, games and an opportunity for families to ask questions and post prayer requests.



## HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 8:45 am

High School Graduates and families are invited for a special time together. We will begin with a breakfast. During the breakfast we will honor the graduates, share some memories, pray for you and share devotions and videos.

Following the breakfast families are invited to attend the 10:00 am worship service together for a prayer and blessing from the congregation. Graduates are asked to complete a graduation form. Forms will be emailed out and posted on our website.

*Please note that due to when churches are able to re-open completely this date may be postponed. It will happen!*

# WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP

JULY 11-19

Youth and friends grades 9 – 12 are invited to be a part of the senior high mission trip to West Virginia.

Contact Kristine for more information or to register.

# CHILDREN'S UPDATES

The Children and Family Ministries Team is still working on ways to provide you and your family with tools to help pass on faith at home. We may not be able to meet in person, but that doesn't mean our faith practices have to stop. We

are working on sending out Bible Stories, Caring Conversation questions, and finding ways to connect with the whole family. I am also participating in online conferences and meetings to learn more about intergenerational worship,

faith formation, and mental health. Don't forget to that we are online with our worship services, devotions, and Bible stories! Visit our website to find the out the latest happenings in and around FLC.



## CRAFT SERVICE PROJECT

Make a few and drop them off to your neighbors to brighten their day. Write a little note letting them know that you are thinking of them.

<https://onelittleproject.com/handprint-lilies/>

### Materials Needed:

- Any SPRING color paper
- Pipe Cleaners (yellow and green)
- Pencil
- Scissor
- Tape



HANDPRINT  
*Paper Lilies*  
onelittleproject.com





## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

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Thank you to all the volunteers who helped guide, lead, and serve the children and families. You are a blessing and I can't wait to see you all again. Our year might have been cut short, but your time and commitment to the children didn't go unnoticed. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us.

Romans 12:8-10  
Galatians 5:22-23

Thank you for being present, teaming up, caring, and making a difference! We appreciate you!!

Checkout this fun video:  
<https://youtu.be/pObFOoAwCA0>

## PARENTS AND CARING ADULTS

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Are you taking time to take care of YOU? How are you finding ways to relax or unwind?

What can we do to help you? What would be helpful from Children and Family Ministries?

Please let us know.





## 3rd - 5th Graders

Can you find these verses in your Bible?  
Are they in the old or new testament?

Galatians 5:22-23 Do these verses  
remind you of anything?

John 3:16 MEMORIZE this one. You can  
send me a video of you reciting it!

Books of the Bible song (OT) :  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9DodTRI3vU>

Books of the Bible song (NT):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAx3ITRqqI>

One big song:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixMvFdeo-F0>



How are you doing? What can I do to  
help you during this time? Would you  
like to meet virtually?

What are some ways we can still help  
serve others?

I can't wait to hear your thoughts and  
ideas. I miss you all.



## May is Mental Health Alliance Month

May is Mental Health Month, where we take some time to be extra attentive to those around us who are struggling.

And people, indeed, are struggling.

In the last two months, the prescription rate for anxiety medication in the United States has more than doubled. In the last two months, calls to suicide crisis lines have increased dramatically. All the uncertainty, the sickness, the isolation of this pandemic is taking its toll.

Further, people who are critically sick with the Covid-19 virus are often sure they are going to die. The medications and the ventilators people need often produce their own trauma. Even after the pandemic is over, post-traumatic stress will be a long-lasting consequence of this pandemic.

If you feel anxious, stressed, or frightened, it's okay to feel that way. Talk to a family member or friend. Call your doctor. Take a walk outside.

Pound down a chocolate bar. Do whatever you need to do to take care of yourself.

We have a large group of people across Farmington, with the leadership of Farmington Lutheran Church, who are concerned about mental health. It's called the Farmington Mental Health Alliance. We have committed to working in the Farmington community to reduce depression and thoughts of suicide, to break the stigma that we can't talk about it, and to increase the quality of care that people receive.

Our goal is to keep hope alive and well.

If you would like to help participate in these mental health activities for Farmington or in our church itself, please contact Jim Ollhoff at [jim@farmingtonlutheran.com](mailto:jim@farmingtonlutheran.com). No special training is required. Only a passion to help others, and a hope for the future.



# FARMINGTON FOOD SHELF

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of more Food Shelf Leads to continue important services through 360 Communities! Volunteers are especially needed on Thursdays, and with rescue pick up from local businesses.

There are also opportunities to assist the food shelf from home during this time, such as writing Thank You's and organizing paperwork.

If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact Cherie Rudolph [cherierudolph@charter.net](mailto:cherierudolph@charter.net).

### Food Shelf Needs:

- Pasta Noodles and Sauce
- Canned/Dried Beans
- Flour/Pancake Mix
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Shelf stable Apple/Orange Juice
- Tuna Helper
- Boxed White Rice
- Diapers/Pull Ups

**Drop off, no contact donations are being accepted Mondays and Thursdays from 12 pm- 4 pm.**

# WASHING YOUR FEET

BY KRISTINE CLEMENS

You've heard it said a lot lately the importance of washing your hands. This is very important. Just a few weeks ago we went through Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday we go through the night of the Last Supper. At some point through the meal Jesus got up and washed each of His disciples feet including Judas' who was going to betray him. You can read the full story of Jesus washing his disciple's in John 13: 1 - 17.

John 13: 12 - 17 reads: "When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Foot washing is a very meaningful experience and expression of servant hood and of discipleship. Romans 10:15: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Be encouraged to wash your feet and others and feel God's blessings through that.





# Just A Minute

(for spiritual growth)

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. - Isaiah 43:19

Change. Change can be difficult. People typically thrive off of routine and a set schedule. Familiarity and predictability are comfortable. When expectations don't come to fruition, we are often disappointed.

But, life is constantly changing. It can be overwhelming, confusing, and even scary. Change isn't easy, but God's plans, even if they aren't our own, always include big changes. An amazing reminder that we are not alone is how the body of believers reach out to one another in support and encouragement, especially during times of need.

What changes have or currently are happening in your life? This pandemic has brought about new ways of connecting and caring for one another. Change can be viewed positively: exciting,

renewing, and fulfilling. Our attitude in how we view change is important. How we see things instead of what we see can make the difference. In general, it's not change that we dislike, it's loss. Change is inevitable and necessary in life, which helps in our own personal growth. This is a beautiful thing.

God is our constant that never changes. God's word and promise remain true. God is our rock and our anchor. Christ's resurrection and promise of eternal life is what gives us hope.

We don't need to fear change. God loves us and wants what's best for us. God gives us strength in times of transition. I pray for comfort and peace for you during times of change, fear, and uncertainty. Amen.

***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. - Hebrews 13:8***

written by karissa dennis

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## WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sundays 8:30 am online



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

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