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FARMINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH // ISSUE 16 // NOVEMBER 2020

# *THE GROVE*

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ADVENT IN A BOX

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PREVIEW

COMMUNION  
HOME DELIVERY

2021  
STEWARDSHIP  
APPEAL

*photo courtesy of Karissa Dennis*





# PRACTICING GRATITUDE

BY LINDA MORRIS

*Psalm 100:4-5*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Back in the days when our children were young many of our holidays were spent sharing time between families. David came from a family of five kids, I from a family of three. When you get to the place where you all have children and more than one family to divide your time with, it becomes a challenge to make the logistics work. Grateful to have so many people to love and who loved us.

One Thanksgiving we were spending the holiday at David's sister Cyndi's house. Cyndi always liked to have a game to have us find out more about each other, like two truths and a lie.

This year the tables were set beautifully and by each place were kernels of popcorn. Linus, our oldest nephew (about 13 at the time), was very competitive. As he walked around looking at the kernels noticing some places had more than others. He decided if he took a kernel or two from those with the more, they would not be any the wiser ~ and he would have the most.

Soon we were ready to be seated at the tables. We said grace. Cyndi explained the corn kernels in front of you were to be used to share with everyone the things you were thankful for this year. Glancing over to Linus (because I knew he'd gathered a few extra), I saw his eyes get big and a sense of dread come over his face as he quickly tossed the corn kernels over his shoulder. The other kids decided one of the things they were thankful for was that it was Linus that gathered all the extra corn kernels and not them! The lesson from this day, and many others, was to be grateful for the times we shared together.

Since those days many chairs are empty. Our children have grown up and now have children of their own. The circle of life

continues, as does the gratitude and thankfulness for the memories we have of those special times. Times filled with laughter and love.

This year our holiday seasons are going to look differently than they have in the past. We will make the difficult choice to minimize contacts outside of our own homes for the sake of our own health, and the health of others around us. So, all of us may have to draw on those previous times to remind us of how fortunate we are and have been. God wants good things for us. Despite the craziness this year has brought we have much to be thankful for.

*Colossians 3:15-17*

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*



# family birthday **TRADITIONS**

## **Pam Weiers**

My mom would deliver the honored birthday person a tray of homemade caramel rolls! Loved that! Since she has gone to Heaven, a friend and a sister-in-law have continued on the tradition. Blessed.

## **Emily Voelker**

We do birthday goodie boxes that the child gets to open in the morning of their birthday. Usually a shoe box size, filled with favorite candy/gum/jerky. Only time they don't have to share. Started in my childhood and carried on with my own kids.

## **Rachel Barr**

I put streamers on my kids bedroom door so when they walk out in the morning they walk through them!

## **Sally Bergjord**

Apple pie of my own, could share if I wanted to.

## **Stacy Lammers Shaw**

We always let the girls pick out what cake they want and make it together as a family. We always consider it our birthday "Nailed It" session.



## **COMMUNION HOME DELIVERY**

We will be stating our home communion drop off ministry the week of November 15. We have an amazing number of folks who have volunteered to do no-contact drop off of communion packets to the home of anyone who would

like this service. You will receive a bag at your front door with a few communion kits and a sheet with a prayers and reading to go along with the taking of communion. Please let the office or Pastor Sara know if you would like to receive communion kits at home. We are anxious to be able to connect with you in this way.

# CHRISTMAS AT FLC



## ADVENT IN A BOX

In this year of trying new things, Advent is no different!

Introducing Advent in a Box. This is a multi-generational program so that FLC folks can recognize and celebrate the season of Advent together while staying safely apart. There are two parts to this program: a box of materials that should be picked up at church and weekly videos throughout Advent. Ideally, folks will participate with both the box and the videos but you can

do just one or the other.

Boxes: Boxes will contain an Advent calendar with a verse and activity or reflection/discussion question and a prayer for each day. There will be activities that are appropriate for families with young children as well as ones for older families and adults. They can be used by families, couples or individuals of all ages. Boxes will also contain materials for crafts that can be done throughout the season. Boxes will be sent home with

children who are in Sunday School or Wednesday School. Other families should sign up online or notify the church office if you would like a box. They will be available to pick up beginning on Sunday November 15th.

Videos will be posted online each of the four Sundays of Advent. The 10-15 minute videos will include lighting of the advent candle, a short reading and reflection, music and prayers. They are designed to be played while you are at home so that we can be lighting our candles, singing the same songs and praying the same prayers as a community while we await the fulfillment of God's glorious promise - the birth of Jesus.

[RESERVE YOUR BOX HERE](#)

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES: WEEK OF DECEMBER 21 TO 25

At this time, FLC is planning to host multiple Christmas Worship Services throughout the week of Christmas, December 21 through December 25.

Our traditional Christmas Day worship service schedule will also be different to allow time for worshippers to safely enter and exit

the building while staying socially distanced, as well as to leave time for cleaning.

Please stay tuned for more information on specific dates and times as well as sign up information. If you prefer to worship virtually, we will continue to offer online and livestream services.



# CONFIRMATION MOVES INDOORS

## INDOOR CONFIRMATION BEGAN ON OCTOBER 27

Due to capacity restrictions inside our classrooms and sanctuary, Confirmation will meet on a rotating basis. Indoor Confirmation will be from 7:00-8:15. Youth should come with masks on, bring their Bibles and offering money. If you are not feeling well please do not attend.

On weeks when youth do not meet in person they will meet virtually tuning in for large group time at 7:00 and then virtual small group time afterwards.

### 2020-21 Confirmation In Person/Virtual Schedule

Date	Name of Event	Time	Topic	
Oct. 28	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Lead Strong	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Red
Nov. 4	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Bible Overview	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Blue
Nov. 11	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Creation	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade - Green
Nov. 18	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Noah	All Virtual - Purple
Dec. 2	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Joseph	
Dec. 9	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Moses	
Dec. 16	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	10 Commandments	
Jan. 6	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Ruth	
Jan. 13	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	King David	
Jan. 20	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Bible Overview, intro to OT	
Jan. 27	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Solomon	
Feb. 3	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Ezra & Esther	
Feb. 10	Confirmation	7:00 - 8:15	Nehemiah	
Feb. 17	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lenten Mentoring Orientation	6:00	Ash Wednesday	
Feb. 20-21	30 Hour Famine-Optional			
April 7	Confirmation	6:30 - 7:45	Job	
April 14	Confirmation	6:30 - 7:45	Psalms	
April 17 - 18	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat			
April 21	Confirmation	6:30 - 7:45	Proverbs	
April 24	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mini Retreat	10:00 - 6:00		
April 28	Confirmation	6:30 - 7:45	Isaiah	
May 5	Confirmation	6:30 - 7:45	TBD	
May 12	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Night of Sharing	6:00 & 7:30		
May 15	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Service Rehearsal and Photos			
May 15	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Affirmation of Baptism Service	5:00 p.m.		
May 16	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Affirmation of Baptism Service	1:00 p.m.		

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Red  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Blue  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Green  
All Virtual - Purple  
**On nights that you are not in person you are virtual.**

CLICK IMAGE FOR PRINTABLE VERSION

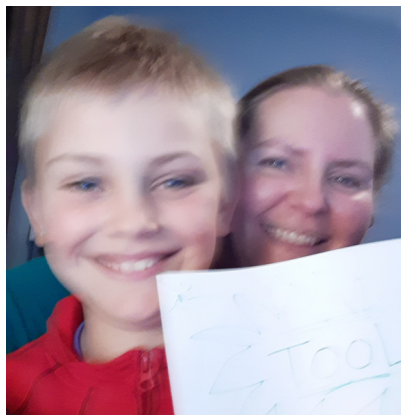


## COMING SOON!

Tune in for another series of daily scripture readings, prayers and encouragement for your days. Devos will post 3 - 5 times a week on Instagram and Facebook through November and December. Kristine and others will lead in daily readings. We hope this is a way to start or end your day with reminders of God's word and love for you.

# VIRTUAL FAMILY CONFIRMATION NIGHT

October 21st was a virtual family night for Confirmation students. The topic for the evening was using our words for good. Families competed in a trivia game and put the lesson into action by writing encouragement notes for their family.



## KOIN

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS  
8:15 - 9:15 PM

High School youth (grades 9-12) will gather for a game and other activities including a Bible lesson each week. We will gather in the Education Wing. Masks will be required and we ask that you do your best to practice social distancing.



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAM UPDATES

We are excited to be back indoors!

## Wednesday FLCTIME

Our Wednesday FLC TIME meets in the Sanctuary from 5:30 – 6:15pm. Please enter through the main church door and head to the check in desk. We will have assigned seating in the sanctuary.

Please note where you will be picking your child up at the end of programming. Families with the last name of A-J will pick up at the side door of the education wing. Families with the last name of K-P will pick up at the main church doors. Families with the last name of Q-Z will pick up from the Sunshine Room.

## Sunday FLCTIME

Our Sunday FLC TIME meets in the Education Wing from 9:30-10:15am. Please note that if you have a preschooler and older children, the family can all enter the same door as the preschooler. Kindergarten – 5th grade will enter the back door to the Education Wing (the doors to the grassy area). Preschoolers will enter the door that leads right into the classroom (just off the small parking lot). These will be the same doors that you pick up your child from as well.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**We will not have programming on  
Wednesday, November 25 or Sunday,  
November 29.**

**Enjoy your Thanksgiving!**

*I CAN'T BELIEVE I MISSED the  
REGISTRATION for Programming! What  
do we do now?*

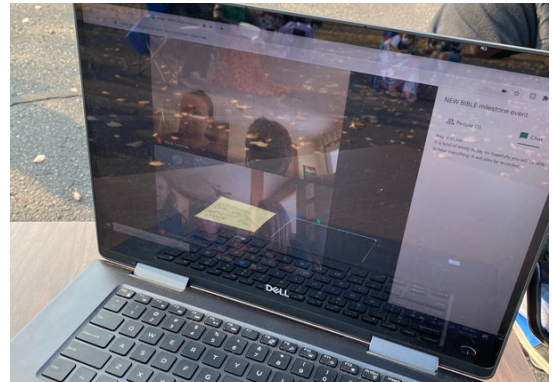
*Join our virtual option or get on our  
waiting list for in person. Contact  
Dawn@farmingtonlutheran.com!*



# MILESTONE EVENT: NEW BIBLE MILESTONE

On Sunday, October 11 third through fifth grade students met in person and virtually with their families to receive their new Spark Bibles. Families met outside under the portico for some socially distanced activities including a Bible scavenger hunt.

If you, or someone you know has not received their Bible, please contact Dawn@farmingtonlutheran.com.



## KIC EVENTS

Some of our 4th and 5th graders came to our Costume Halloween Party on October 30. We had a great time and are looking forward to our next event in November.

Look for more details to come out in a week or two. Remember that KiC events are open to all 4th and 5th graders.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas Program is happening, but in a new way!

Would you and your family want to be part of the program? You can do it right from your home!

Sign up below for speaking part, to sing, or both!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)





# OVERCOMING

***Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Romans 8:39***

Farmington Lutheran Church serves as a connecting place. No matter the circumstances the congregation thrives and lives out their core values and mission of having all people know God's amazing love.

God has been doing a new thing! The congregation learned to innovate, create, and adapt in ministry together. The love and transforming power of Jesus is being experienced through continually developing online resources for worship, confirmation, senior high ministry, children's ministry, Bible stories, music, and devotions. We have connected in faith through both online and in-person experiences like drive-in worship, drive-through communion, outdoor worship, and now carefully prepared indoor opportunities.

“

Though nothing seems really "normal" anymore, the church remains a solid and connecting force. It has offered me a haven, comfort and strength during this challenging year.

KAREN HULSCHER

”

We are called to live for the sake of our neighbors. In connecting our faith to our actions we have responded to local and regional needs for food, PPE, and blood donations. We accompany those who are hurting with pastoral and congregational care. We developed phone call ministries to stay in touch and pray together. A time such as this has its challenges, but in partnership together we experience the reality that 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus!'

We want to address the needs and challenges in people's lives, and overcome those barriers so people know the transforming love of Jesus. Farmington Lutheran Church is trying to further God's mission by:

**Overcoming hopelessness by worshiping a Lord who loves, forgives, and sends us outward to live for the sake of the other,**

**Overcoming isolation with new ways of connecting,**

**Overcoming racism with a desire to better understand and seek justice,**

**Overcoming mental health challenges by training, support, and breaking stigmas,**

**Overcoming limitations of restricted gatherings and busy schedules with tools for the home, online resources, creative and safe gathering opportunities, and other ways to nurture faith each day.**

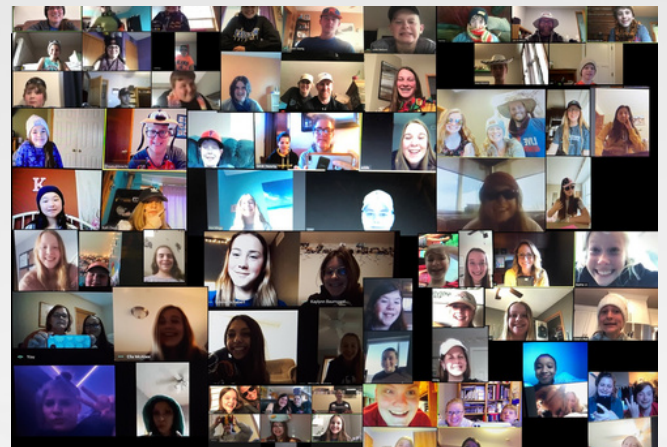
*With an additional \$75,000 in giving in 2021, Farmington Lutheran Church will impact the congregation and community in powerful ways.*

## CONNECTING IN FAITH

Farmington Lutheran Church will invest in building connections and deepening faith through:

- Expanding available Bible Studies and other Spiritual Growth offerings, both online and in person.
- Strengthening and further the reach of pastoral care, congregational care team, and telephone ministry efforts.
- Strengthening our Outreach and Service ministries to better respond to local needs.
- Offering mid-week intergenerational worship both in-person and online as a core part of Children's, Youth & Family Ministries.
- Growing in understanding and actions needed to support racial justice. This includes engagement in book studies, convening conversations, and utilizing guest speakers and further training. These first steps will guide the congregation into the future. The church can't be silent!

Calling a second full time pastor by fall of 2021 to oversee Spiritual Growth, Pastoral and Congregational Care, and Outreach will bring the capacity to reach these goals.



## CONNECTING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Strengthening digital ministries will connect people in faith each day. The addition of a second camera for worship as well as new editing and recording software will enhance not only online worship and music experiences, but online devotions, Bible stories, and other offerings as well. Offering Bible classes and other opportunities in a hybrid style will connect both with those who can meet in person and those who need to connect virtually.

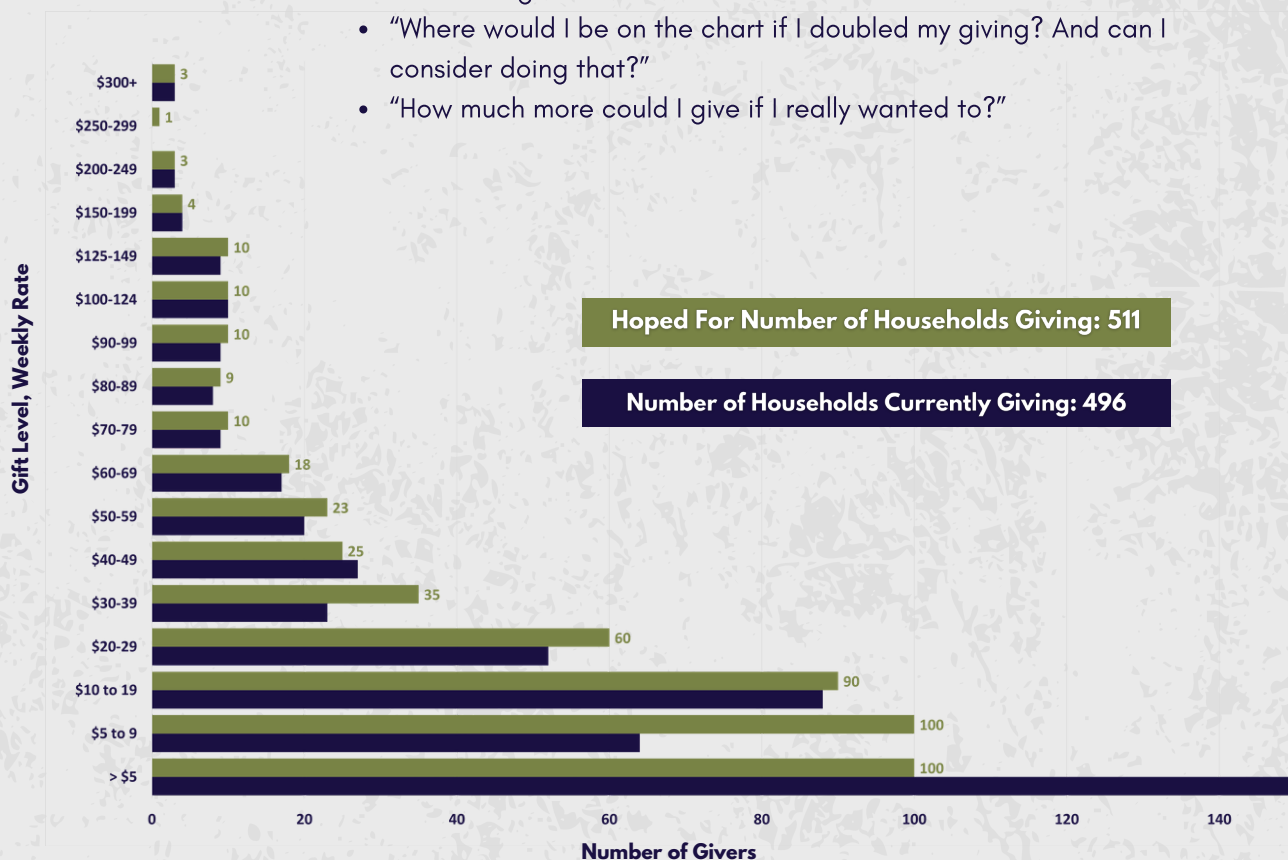
## STRENGTHEN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

Death by suicide has impacted loved ones in the Farmington community, with the pandemic adding to the mental health challenges. Building on existing community partnerships and efforts through the Farmington Mental Health Alliance will provide people the support they need and break negative stigmas.

# APPEAL GOAL FOR 2021: INCREASE OFFERINGS BY \$75,000

The charts below point out where we are now and how we can reach our goal. Study the charts. See where you are now on the current giving chart. Ask yourself these questions:

- “How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?”
- “How adequately does my offering reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?”
- “Where would I be on the chart if I doubled my giving? And can I consider doing that?”
- “How much more could I give if I really wanted to?”



Please pray about our congregation’s mission and ministry together. Pray about your offering for the next year. Pray about your response to the letter from the Stewardship Team which asks you to consider increasing your offering for the coming year.

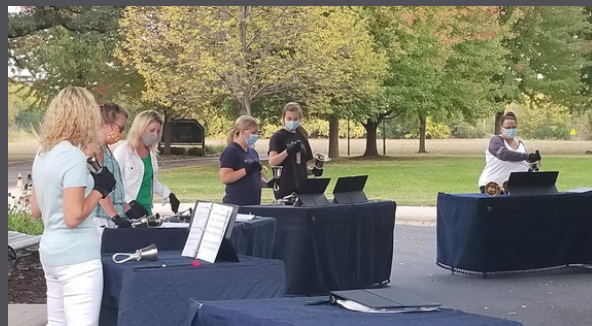
Stewardship Sunday is November 15. Please be ready to bring your intent with

you to worship, complete it online, or mail your response directly to the church office.

Together we can overcome barriers and live out our mission where all people are connected to God and each other. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus! Your partnership makes all the difference. Thank you!

# FLC ADULT MUSIC PROGRAMS ARE BACK REHEARSING!

Joyful Ringer rehearsals are in full swing weekly in the choir room. Praise band is meeting regularly to lead Sunday worship. Online choir rehearsals are starting soon. Contact Karissa if you are haven't participated before and are interested!



## INDOOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AND 10:30AM

Be sure to follow the link below to reserve your spot for Sunday Indoor Worship. Space is limited due to Covid-19 restrictions.

[Sign Up Here](#)

## WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 5:00 pm, available online

Indoor Worship, Please Reserve Your Spot Online  
8:30 am and 10:30 am



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