

From the Pastor's Perspective



But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.”

1 Peter 1:15

Grow Groups are back...and better! After a year with three series of small groups, we are launching a new initiative of small groups. In line with our Love.Grow.Serve. vision, we are calling them Grow Groups.

Jesus calls His followers to grow in faith. Growing in faith is a key component of being a Christian. We are called for more, and Jesus doesn't want us to stay the way we are. He loves us the way we are, but He loves us too much to leave us that way. Instead, He calls us to grow in holiness, of mind, heart and life. As Christians, we can “get by” by attending worship and doing occasional devotions and prayers on our own. Does this describe your faith walk? If so, I say you need more! I am convinced that although we can be a Christian like this, *we will not grow*. To grow, we need more. We need grow groups. We need to be a part of small groups that challenge us, push us, and keep us going deeper.

You need to be a part of a grow group, to grow! The good news is that you have all kinds of possibilities and variety! Last year, each of the group series followed the Sunday messages, and each group followed the same outline. As we grow in

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Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

October 3	5:30 pm Shared meal—pot luck 6:15 pm Storytime/ECHO/ Confirmation/Youth Group
October 4	12:00 pm Sarah Circle 2:00 pm Baby Shower for Lakes Life Care Center (sponsored by Sarah Circle)
October 5	REACH! CONFERENCE
October 6	REACH CONFERENCE 9:00 am United Methodist Men
October 7	WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30 am Prayer 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Grow Group 5:00 pm YPA
October 8	10:00 am Grow Group 10:00 am Grow Group
October 10	5:30 pm Shared meal—Pancakes 6:15 pm Storytime/ECHO/ Confirmation/Youth Group
October 11	1:00 pm UMW Board Meeting 6:30 pm AMT Meeting

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

Christ, however, we each have different needs and are at different places in our faith journeys. That is why we need variety. We are planning on offering three series of grow groups each year: once in the fall (Oct.-Nov.), once in the winter (Feb.-March), and once in the summer (July-Aug.). Each series will offer groups focusing in three different areas:

Learn: (Bible) Groups will learn about the Bible and do Bible studies together. Topics could include introduction to the Bible, overview of the Bible, themes in Scripture, difficult teachings, and studies of biblical characters and books.

Live: (Life application) Groups will concentrate on living out their Christian faith in daily life. Topics could include spiritual disciplines, faith sharing, and discipleship.

reLate: (Specific issues) Groups will explore specific issues or topics that relate to the current needs and issues people are facing. People will learn more about the different aspects of the issue or topic as well as how their Christian faith informs their understanding about them.

Notice the variety! Not only that, no two grow groups will offer the same study. And, groups will be offered by different hosts, at different times, on different days. There will certainly be something that will fit for everyone.

This October, grow groups are being offered Sunday mornings (before and after worship), Monday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Friday mornings. Some groups are starting early in October, others later. The Wednesday evening groups, for example, won't start until Oct. 24. Yet all groups will be finished before the holidays.

During the year, when small groups are not offered, we will have ECHO. Parents and children are asked to be a part of ECHO when it is held, and then also be a part of a grow group when they are offered. Yes, there will be a grow group for kids, too! Youth will stay with their Wednesday program all year, in either Confirmation or Youth Group.

You can sign up for a grow group on the church website under foresthillsunc.net, in the church lobby, or by calling the office. Invite someone to come with you. Offer to pick them up or tell them you will save them a seat. That person doesn't even have to be a part of our church. Invite a neighbor, friend, or family member.

This is one of the best things our church offers: it is a way for you to keep growing. Don't miss out! Let's grow, group!

October 12	7:00 am Grow Group
October 13	5:45 Adult Fellowship
October 14	8:30 am Prayer 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00am Worship 11:15 am Grow Group 5:00pm YPA
October 16	10:00am Rebecca Circle
October 17	NO MEAL OR PROGRAMMING DUE TO MEA WEEKEND
October 19	7:00 am Grow Group 5:00 pm Unload Community Care Truck
October 20	6:00 am Community Care Set-up 8:00 am Community Care
October 21	8:30 am Prayer 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00 am Worship/HYMN SING 11:15 am Grow Group 2:15 pm CMMT Meeting 5:00 pm YPA 6:30 pm Lifeline
October 24	5:30 pm Shared Meal (Nancy) 6:15 pm Grow Groups/ Confirmation/Youth Group
October 25-28	Walk to Emmaus—Men
October 28	8:30 am Prayer 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Grow Group 5:00 pm YPA
October 31	5:30 pm Shared Meal (Nancy) and TRUNK OR TREAT!

Pastor David

Forest Hills Youth!



Forest Hills Youth Group had a great start this Fall. We have an average of 8 teens meeting on Wednesday nights. This month, we are discussing why it's important to "Not Fly Solo," and how it is important to fly with Jesus, a mentor and a mentee. We are using the same Star Wars context as our Sunday services.

In other exciting news, the church will be sending our youth on a mission trip to Alaska next summer. The trip will be July 13-19, 2019. We will be partnering with Praying Pelican, a mission trip organization out of Minnesota, to help a local church in Anchorage. Our group will be building relationships with local families,



connecting them to the ministries the church provides. I am excited to see how God uses Forest Hills to further His kingdom in Alaska. This trip will truly be life changing for those that go. If you are a teen and interested in going, or if you are an adult and interested in helping fund or chaperone, please contact Cassi Betker at youth@foresthillsunc.net

KID'S CORNER

If you are not getting tired of the word 'discipleship' by now, you have not been paying enough attention! This is what we are all about as a church. The same is true of our Kid's ministries. If we are not setting out to make disciples, we are failing our call as a church! Moreover, there is a big difference between setting out to do something, and actually getting that thing done. Over the past year, our church leadership has stopped to take a good look at what is God's heart and intent for our church. After prayer and retreats and meetings and more prayer, we have concluded that our purpose and call is, you guessed it, discipleship!

We have also concluded that this is easier said than done. If we really want to make disciples out of our kids, we are going to have to involve their parents. Pastor Tad Thompson writes: "Parents have the greatest opportunity to influence their children for the Kingdom of God." He goes on to say that "the church's emphasis on attracting the unchurched through entertainment and child-centered programs has not only not helped, it has hurt." This indictment is simply another way of pointing out that in the noise of flashy kid's ministry, the main point, discipleship, can easily be lost.

Our new Wednesday night program, ECHO, combines kids with their parents, so the task of discipleship remains with parents where it should be. Yet we as a church can come alongside and provide resources, encouragement and other means of support.

That said, we also recognize the importance of grow groups in the discipleship process. Grow groups allow you to study a particular topic in the context of what amounts to a mini-church. This environment can be important to kids as well. That is why, throughout the year, parents and kids can enjoy a consistent variety in what could be termed the “Discipleship Cycle.” We move together between seasons of ECHO and Grow groups. During ECHO, we ask that families stick together so parents and kids can be on the same page. During Grow groups, parents can join a group of their choice and we will have a separate group just for kids. However, we must be clear: While Grow groups are in session, parents are not off the hook! There is still work to be done in the lives of their children. The church cannot pretend to adequately take on all the duties that discipleship demands.

The good news is that we are in this together. The partnership between the church and parents can have a powerful effect on the lives of kids. We hope this unique layout can engage families in different ways, but most importantly, we want to adhere to our main goal: making disciples!

For the King,

Andrew

ECHO: September 12-October 10

Grow Groups: October 24 - December 19

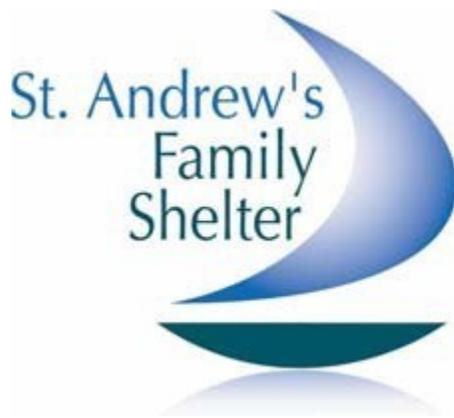
ECHO: January 2-February 6

Grow Groups: February 13-March 20

ECHO: April 3-May 29

Finance Secretary

We have a service opportunity open for the position of Finance Secretary. This volunteer position is responsible for entering deposits in our finance application, ensuring member contributions are accurately recorded for reporting. This is an extremely flexible position, requiring about 5-10 hours per month. We use a church management software application that is web-based - you can enter information from home, or even while out of town. In addition to learning the software, this position requires a high degree of confidentiality. If interested, please talk to Teresa Gruber or Pastor David.



Our volunteer week at St. Andrew's was a rousing success, and everyone who participated said they really enjoyed it, and are excited to do it again! St. Andrew's was also very pleased with Forest Hills Church, and how well we worked with them. We received a very nice Thank-you card, outlining how many volunteers we had, and how many hours we put in! As one who was a volunteer, I can say that the experience was wonderful, and I really encourage those of you who couldn't participate last time, to participate the next time we are asked! We will be on an approximate 13 week rotation with other churches. The total number of volunteers

was 18, the total number of hours put in was 212! The Thank-you card is on the bulletin board if you would like to see it.



Thursday, October 4th, at 2:00 pm, there will be a Baby Shower to collect items needed by Lakes Life Care Center. Everyone is invited! There will be a game, cookies, and one of the owners from Lakes Life Care will be speaking for a few minutes. The shower is being sponsored by Sarah Circle, and if you have any questions, please call Carol Humphrey.



Our meals for October are as follows:

October 3rd—Pot luck

October 10th—Pancakes (UMM)

October 17th—**NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING (MEA WEEKEND)**

October 24th—Nancy's Choice

October 31—Nancy's Choice (Trunk or Treat)



Wednesday, October 31st 5:30-7:30 pm, Free Come and Go Meal included!

We are bringing back the Trunk-or-Treat in our church parking lot again this year! Everyone is invited to come dressed up in a fun costume, open your trunk (and decorate it), and then hand out treats when the trick-or-treaters come by! This is a way for us to build relationships with our local community, and invite them to come back for our Wednesday program. Invite your friends and neighbors to bring their kids! Groups that would normally meet on Wednesdays are asked to make this an outreach event that they can do together. Or, if you meet as a group in our church, consider your group sponsoring one or more trunks. Let's make this a great invitation!

ADDRESS CHANGES

We have some address changes! Below is a list of those who have moved, and their new addresses:

Jack and Judy Bull
2925 Lincoln Dr. #409
Roseville, MN 55113

Arlene Fredericksen
253 Cedar Cover Lane NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

Bob and Pat Rosenbaum
25242 Grizzly Court
Wyoming, MN 55092

Rudy and Kathy Peterson
22014 Jason Ave. N.
Forest Lake, MN 55025

Walk to Emmaus

Below are the dates for the Fall/Winter Walk to Emmaus:

Camp Koronis

Men October 25-28 2018

Women November 1-4 2018

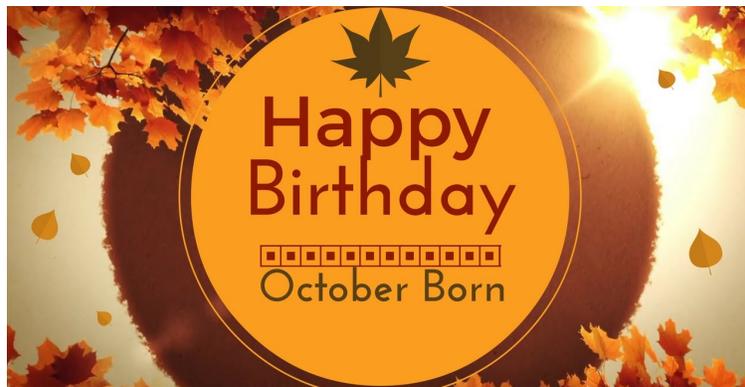
Good Counsel (Mankato)

Men January 17-20 2019

Women January 24-27 2019



If you are interested in participating in the walk, or would like more information about it, please contact Teresa Gruber.



Happy Birthday to our October born! This month we celebrate:

Nancy Frederick - October 4th

Delores Ford - October 10th

Kay Bergerson - October 12th

Erik Kargel - October 17th

Shane Kargel - October 25th

Judy Dittberner - October 5th

Roy Pope - October 11th

David Werner - October 16th

Silas Bonsell - October 18th

Julianne Benson - October 26th

Bev Johnson - October 7th

Nathan Werner - October 12th

Amanda Rydell - October 16th

Mason Lindholm - October 18th

Happy Birthday to you all, and we hope you have a wonderful day, filled with much love and joy!

If your birthday is in October, and you don't see it listed here, make sure you contact the office to give it to them. Please do not assume that if you are a member, we should have your birthday!



Do you have a family member at Mayo and need a place to stay?

Christ UMC in Rochester offers a hospitality house for those receiving care at Mayo Clinic. Please contact the church at 507-289-4019 or at email@cumethodist.com. All that is needed is a pastor's recommendation and a free-will donation!



Community Helping Hand is in need of donations of both food and money. They also need volunteers! If you can help out, please contact Chrissie Lee at 651-464-0061. She is the new coordinator, replacing Angela, and can give you more information about what they specifically need.



Events and Info

Adult Fellowship

Saturday, October 13th, 5:45pm See Rozanne Foster for more details!

Romeos and Juliets

Romeos and Juliets meet on October 17th at 11:30 am. If you'd like to go out for lunch with a great group of folks, feel free to join them. More details will follow!

Lifeline Sunday October 21st at 6:30 pm

Lifeline is a way for us to come together to be with God. There will be songs to sing and prayers to pray, but you can simply come to enjoy the presence of God. All are encouraged to attend. because we need Jesus! Our church needs Jesus! Hang on tight to the lifeline.

Community Care

**5pm 10/19 - Unload Truck
6am 10/20 - Set-up
8am 10/20 - Community Care Distribution**