



The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH

From Pastor David King of Kings

*Then one of the elders said to me, "Don't weep. Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has emerged victorious so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals."
-Revelation 5:5*

Let's find the king in the wondrous land through the wardrobe! This fall we join four wandering kids on their expedition to find the king. When entering through a mysterious wardrobe, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy find themselves in the strange and marvelous land of Narnia. The talking animals and mythical creatures tell of the return of their mighty king, a lion named Aslan. King Aslan will restore the kingdom and bring the renewal of spring. The kids set out to find the king and follow him.

The King that you and I seek this fall is Jesus, whom the Bible calls King of Kings and Lord of Lords. As Jesus followers, we pledge our allegiance and lives to our Savior-King, committing to following where He leads us.

But that's our struggle. We don't do kings! We in America live in a governmental system of democracy, and we fiercely value our individual autonomy. We don't understand how to relate to a political king, and we don't know how to live under one. So, when it comes to following King Jesus, we struggle to live in obedience, submission, devotion, and allegiance. We instead strive for our own independence, but as we do, we find life is fraught with trouble and failure. Yet we are drawn to the biblical promise that only a life committed to Jesus as our King is full, complete and whole.

So, what does it mean that Jesus is our King? The Messiah promised in the Old Testament is described as a King who reestablishes the royal line of Israel. Isaiah proclaimed that with the coming of the Messiah, "There will be unending authority and endless peace for David's throne and for His kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever" (Isaiah 9:7). Jesus is the King who reestablishes Israel's throne, but not just politically or geographically on earth (although eventually His kingdom

Monthly Church Events

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| Sept 1 | 6:30 pm - Sanctify Rehearsal |
| Sept 2 | 10:30 am - Book Club 12:00 pm - Sarah Circle |
| Sept 3 | 8:00 am - Grow Group |
| Sept 4 | 9:00 am United Methodist Men |
| Sept 5 | Holy Communion 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service |
| Sept 6 | OFFICE CLOSED - Labor Day 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knit- ters |
| Sept 8 | 10:00am - Birchwood - All are welcome to attend 5:30pm - Dinner & All Church Game Night 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal |
| Sept 9 | 1:00pm - UMW Meeting |
| Sept 10 | 8:00am - Grow Group |
| Sept 12 | 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service |
| Sept 13 | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knit- ters 5:00pm - Confirmation |
| Sept 15 | 11:00am - Romeos & Juilets 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Echo & Youth Group 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal |

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Pastor David Cont.

will be on earth), but spiritually and eternally. In Revelation 5:5 Jesus is described as “The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David.”

Wait a moment: a lion? Aslan is a lion! Perhaps it will be helpful for us to join along with the four children to find their savior-king of Narnia, the lion king Aslan.

Each fall I take a popular image or reference from secular media to help us make the connection to biblical truths for our lives. This year we will look at the world of Narnia (constructed by C.S. Lewis in his Chronicles of Narnia, particularly in the movie adaption The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe) and its lion king Aslan to see how we can relate to Jesus as our good and mighty King. Further, next summer I hope to lead a Christian History Study Tour to Ireland, and C.S. Lewis drew upon his childhood home near Belfast, Ireland, particularly the local landscape and local castle, in constructing the world of Narnia.

We’ll have clips from the movies and references from the books during Sunday morning worship, as we dive into the Bible—both the New and Old Testaments—as we seek to find our Lion King and learn how to follow Him. Seeing Jesus as our King will change our understanding of Jesus!

We will discover that the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, is also the Victorious Lamb Who Was Slain. We who follow Him, are called “faithful.”

Revelation 17:14 says, “the Lamb will emerge victorious, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings. Those with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.” We want to be called “faithful!”

Don’t miss this incredible, all-new and original fall message series. You should also reach out and invite your neighbors, friends and extended family to join you in worship. With the change of pace and schedule, particularly with the beginning of the school year, people are more open to give attending worship a try. Don’t be shy: invite them! And don’t give up after the first invite. Extend your invitation a few times, as sometimes it takes a bit for people to actually get it all organized to come.

So, I invite you through the mysterious wardrobe into the land of Narnia. There we pursue the Lion King: not just Aslan, but Jesus!

Pastor David

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|----------------|---|
| Sept 16 | 6:30pm - AMT Meeting |
| Sept 17 | 8:00am - Grow Group 2:00pm - Unload Food Truck |
| Sept 18 | 6:00am - Set up Community Care 8:00am - Community Care |
| Sept 19 | 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service |
| Sept 20 | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters 5:00pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - CMMT Meeting |
| Sept 21 | 10:00am - Rebecca Circle |
| Sept 22 | 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Echo & Youth Group |
| Sept 23 | 9:00am - Rummage Sale |
| Sept 24 | 8:00am - Grow Group 9:00am - Rummage Sale |
| Sept 26 | 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service |
| Sept 27 | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters 5:00pm - Confirmation |
| Sept 29 | 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Echo & Youth Group |





Echo Update

This past year has been full of challenges. Covid has thrown a wrench into life as we know it. One of the most prevalent changes has been the increased amount of time spent at home. For some, this has been a welcomed opportunity to spend extra time with family, but for many, it has caused strain and stress within the home.

Starting September 15th, we want to help equip parents with biblical principles that they can apply to their homes. This group will run along our normal Wednesday night schedule.

What: Echo: Parents Applying the Bible to everyday parenting!

Who: All parents (or grandparents) and kids 4-12 years of age.

When: Wednesday nights during the school year. 5:30- Dinner 6:15 Class begins

Why: Because the job is too important to do it alone.

Where: Forest Hills Church

“Echo” refers to the good news found in the gospel. The story we need to hear AND tell over and over again. “Parents” is all about those entrusted with the raising of children. What greater challenge could there be? Why would we do it alone?

“Echo: Parents” will provide a place where parents and kids can engage together with fun and entertaining activities. Kids will have a separate time to learn important stories from the Bible through crafts, snacks and songs. It will also provide a time for parents only where we will review biblical foundations to guide our parenting practices. Meaningful teaching, and open discussions are a great place to review and reflect on the past year and prepare for those to come.

As a father of six myself, I have more questions than answers, but I do not want to stay there. Please join me so we can support and encourage each other while looking at God’s word for much needed wisdom.

For the King,

Pastor Andrew

Youth Group & Confirmation

This year we are changing up the schedule a bit. Confirmation classes will be on Monday nights from 5pm -6:30pm. This will be for grades 6th-8th. They will be covering the fundamentals of Christian faith and what it means to be Methodist.

Youth Group will remain on Wednesday nights starting 6:15pm after the free community meal. This means we are opening up Youth Group to 7th-12th grades!

Youth Group starts Sept 15th. We will begin the year with KING. In any kingdom, there can only be one king. And for those who call ourselves Christians, Jesus is our King. Hebrews 13:8 (NIV) says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." This four-session retreat or small group series focuses on Jesus as the King based on the passage above. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He has never changed. He has always been the King. He is the King of our past, present, and future.

- Sept 15: In order for us to have a healthy, growing relationship with Jesus, we must have an understanding of who Jesus is and who we are in our relationship with Him. Jesus is a King, not one of us.
- Sept 22: Hebrews 13:8 (NIV) says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Over the next three lessons, we look at Jesus being the King of our past, present, and future. First, we begin with the past.
- Sept 29: We continue looking at how Jesus is King every day. In our everyday lives, we must realize that everything matters when following Christ.
- Oct 6: Now, we have an opportunity to make some decisions about how we're going to live from this point forward. If Jesus is King, then we need to examine our lives and see how we can live for the King every day.

Can't wait to see all the youth.

Pastor Cassi



Sept Birthdays

May your special day be blessed and filled with joy! If your birthday isn't listed, please call the office and let us know so we can add you to the list!

Isaac Hendrikson 9/10
Doris Richardson 9/18
Colten Johnson 9/22
Steve Ruter 9/30

Mary Weaver 9/14
Ezra Bonsell 9/18
Steve Betker 9/27



Feed My Starving Children

Way back in 2019 we raised money for the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack being held at Hosanna Lutheran Church. Then COVID happened at we had to put the pack on hold. We have EXCITING NEWS! It is back on this fall! Just a heads up that volunteering looks different. We need people to sign-up- we are calling them TEAMS of TEN- and you team will stay together to pack at a "T" station. ONLY 9 "T" stations will be set up so only 90 people per shift. Each group of 10 will pack together and will be safely separated from the other groups- so be sure folks sign up with those they want to pack with.

As a church we have agree to fill two timeslots **Thursday- 9/30-- 6:30-8:00pm and Friday- 10/1- 12 Noon- 1:30pm**. Please call the office to sign up.

Pandemic Protocol Changes

I have been following positive rate numbers for Washington County. A couple of weeks ago it was less than 5%, now it is now 6.3%. As per the MN United Methodist Conference, if the positive rate is greater than 5%, they recommend churches take appropriate action to protect their community.

I have made the decision as lay leader to change our church from "green" to "blue".

We will continue to have our services indoors during this time. Our community meals and weekly activities will continue, starting September 8th. Masks and social distancing are encouraged, nursery will continue. Our current protocol will be followed according to the "blue" phase.

Thank you for supporting our church with this decision.

God is good, all the time!

Marilee Leonard
Lay Leader

Grow groups starting in Oct.

Save the date, Grow Groups will be starting back up Oct. 3rd! Information regarding topic and times will be coming out later this month. Watch for all the amazing topics we have coming this session.

Fall Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale will be Sept 23-24. We will start collecting items on Sunday the 19th in Fellowship Hall. Please make sure all large items are labeled and picked up by Sunday Sept 25th. Proceeds for the sale is still to be determined.

Fall Craft / Vendor Show and Luncheon

Save the Date: Oct 30th 9-3pm will be our annual craft sale. You have three ways to participate! You can drop off items in Oct. to be sold at the UMW booth, you can rent a booth as an independent vendor and you can make soup or baked good to be sold during the sale itself. Proceeds from UMW, Food and booth fees will be divided between Forest Hills Ministries.

UMCOR Cleaning Kits for Ida relief

Forest Hills Church has a long and deep connection with the people of Louisiana through our past mission work in Dulac, LA. We watch with a heavy heart the destruction of Hurricane Ida of our beloved area. We prayer to God for lives effected but we want to do more. Forest Hills is going to do just that.

We will gather kit supplies for the whole month of Sept. You can bring in supplies or a completed kit. Bring your donations to the lobby on the wood shelves. Relief supply kits help provide care for the most vulnerable during times of crisis. UMCOR collects school kits, cleaning buckets and hygiene kits assembled by United Methodist volunteer for distribution after disasters in the United States and its territories. UMCOR Sager Brown is located in Baldwin, Louisiana and works with a network of depots across the United States.

KIT SUPPLIES

- One five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
 - No screw lids
 - May be used, but must be free from all residual product
 - Advertisements on the outside acceptable
- One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner
 - No spray cleaners
- One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener
- One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)
 - Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- One scrub brush
 - With or without handle
- 18 re-useable cleaning wipes
 - No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels
 - Remove from packaging
- Five scouring pads
 - No stainless-steel pads with soap in them
 - Remove from packaging
- 36-50 clothespins
 - Clothes pins may also be placed in a small re-sealable bag.
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)
 - Remove from packaging
- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)
 - No surgical masks
- Two pairs kitchen gloves
 - Durable for multiple uses
 - Remove from packaging
- One pair work gloves
 - Cotton with leather palm or all leather

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

- All items must be new with the exception of the bucket and lid.
- All cleaning agents must be liquid form. No powders are accepted.
- Sponges have been removed from the list of supplies due to the challenge of locating the non-cellulose sponges that prevent mildew. Non-cellulose sponges will be added to each bucket upon arrival at the affiliate warehouse.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

Spiritual Assessment Tool

Hello church! Forest Hills is continuing to strive to build disciples who love God and others. In order to help evaluate the church's ability to do this, we (AMT) have developed a short assessment, or survey, that we are asking all Forest Hills attendees to participate in. The goals of this assessment are to allow each person to self-evaluate and for the church as a whole to see where its strengths and weaknesses lie.

In the last week of the month, you will receive the survey via email with links and instructions to help you complete this helpful questionnaire. We ask each participant to answer honestly with where they are at currently. Your responses will be kept anonymous unless participants would like to include their email for future scoring reference. This is completely optional.

As the month of September rolls on, keep an eye out for more information regarding this spiritual survey. Thank you in advance and we look forward to participating with you in this endeavor!

Action Ministry Team

From the Desk of the Church Historian

"Remember the days of long ago; think about the generations past. Ask your father, and he will inform you. Inquire of your elders, and they will tell you." Deuteronomy 32:7

It is hard to believe that September is upon us and the new school year is nigh. This time of the year often causes me to reflect on those days of learning and education as well as the educators that impacted my life.

As you know, Judy Dittberner's passing earlier this year left an empty place not only in our hearts but in our church family as well. Judy was the church historian for Forest Hills for many years and a teacher at Forest Lake Area High School. A number of us connected to this church have had the pleasure of taking one of her classes while she was a pillar in the Social Studies department prior to her retirement a few years ago. Judy's commitment not only to her teaching career and students but also to the preservation of our church's history was of the highest degree. I consider it a distinct honor to take up the mantle and follow in her footsteps as the next historian for Forest Hills.

As church historian, my desire is to begin to preserve our church's history in a digital format but also to develop ways that we can share it more easily with others. How that might look remains to be seen at this point but I do wholeheartedly believe that Forest Hills has an important story that we need to share with the world as we bring the Word of God to our community. Who we are now is very important but also knowing where we have been plays a key role in our congregation's identity as well.

I look forward to continuing this great work that Judy so tirelessly began and maintained for the past many years. Again, thank you for the honor of serving as your next church historian.

History is God's Story,

Amanda Lucas

St. Andrew Shelter

St. Andrew's Family Shelter temporary closed due to lack of staff and our week of support is suspended till further notice. We will let the church body know as soon as we hear changes to this.