

FOCUS

newsletter

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH | SPRING 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

To see our church calendar with full details and descriptions of all church events, please visit our website: www.firstlutheranalexandria/events.

MARCH EVENTS

- 3/6: Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 12:10 & 6:15pm worship continues throughout the Lenten season)
- 3/6: No Programming
- 3/7: Prayer Shawl & Lap Robe Ministry
- 3/7: WELCA Luncheon
- 3/10: Daylight Savings
- 3/11: Bookseekers
- 3/12: Baptism Class
- 3/13: Building & Transition Update
- 3/14: Men's Breakfast
- 3/17: Harvest Food Pack
- 3/19: Mission Quilters
- 3/24: No Kingdom Kids
- 3/29: Relay for Life Fish Fry
- 3/31: Youth Fundraising Brunch

APRIL EVENTS

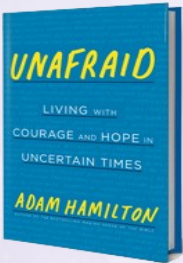
- 4/4: WELCA Luncheon
- 4/4: Prayer Shawl & Lap Robe Ministry
- 4/8: Bookseekers
- 4/11: Men's Breakfast
- 4/12: Lifeworks Retreat
- 4/13: Lifeworks Retreat
- 4/14: Palm Sunday
- 4/16: Mission Quilters
- 4/17: No Programming
- 4/18: Maundy Thursday
- 4/18: 5th grade Communion Milestone
- 4/19: Good Friday Worship
- 4/19: Easter Family Music Class
- 4/21: Easter Sunday Worship
- 4/22: Church Office Closed
- 4/24: Sing For Your Supper
- 4/24: Last Wednesday of Programming

MAY EVENTS

- 5/1: Neighborhood Picnic
- 5/2: WELCA Luncheon
- 5/2: Prayer Shawl & Lap Robe Ministry
- 5/9: Men's Breakfast
- 5/11: Hymn Festival
- 5/12: Intergenerational Mother's Day Special Music
- 5/13: Feed My Sheep
- 5/13: Bookseekers
- 5/14: Baptism Class
- 5/19: Community Preschool All Student Reunion
- 5/20 & 5/21: Community Preschool Program/Graduation
- 5/22&23&24: Community Preschool Picnic/Celebration
- 5/27: Church Offices Closed

LENT 2019: UNAFRAID

During this season of Lent, we journey through fear and into the life of hope that faith brings through Christ. Join us for Lenten meals, worship, and small group opportunities.



Our theme for Wednesdays in Lent this year is *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*. This series will be based on a book by Adam Hamilton by the same name. If you would like to buy a copy of the book, you may do so at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Books are \$17 and must be paid for at the time of pick up. Small group opportunities are also available during the season of Lent to discuss the book and reflect on the sermon themes each week. You can sign up for one of these groups by the Welcome Center through Sun, March 10.

WEDNESDAYS

*12:10PM & 6:15PM WORSHIP

- March 6 - Ash Wednesday
- March 13 - The Anatomy of Fear
- March 20 - Fearing an Enemy We Don't Understand
- March 27 - Fear and Personal Relationships
- April 3 - Anticipating the Worst Case Scenario
- April 10 - Living with Fear, Yet Unafraid

*Please join us for soup suppers offered throughout Lent on Wednesdays 4:45-6:00pm prior to 6:15pm Worship.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- April 14 - Palm Sunday
- April 18 - Maundy Thursday
 - 12:10pm Worship
 - 6:15pm Worship
- April 19 - Good Friday
 - 10:30am Children's Worship
 - 12:00pm Joint ELCA Worship
 - 6:15pm Worship at FLC
- April 21 - Easter Sunday
 - 7:00am Worship/Communion
 - 8:30am Worship/Communion
 - 9:45am Worship/Communion
 - 11:00am Worship/Communion

WE ARE THE CHURCH...IN CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Over and over again in the Bible, we are encouraged to go and proclaim the Gospel, share the love of Christ, give unto others, and be the hands and feet of Christ.

Our children and youth at FLC are always asking to do service projects. They love being able to make a difference. Each year our students do multiple projects as part of Kingdom Kids, KICK and FLY. Our 9th grade students do service learning and, in doing so, learn how to do the projects from start to finish. They brainstorm ideas, contact agencies, make a plan and implement the plan. This is a hands-on way of learning why and how we can make a difference. We’ve had many projects over the years from visiting nursing home residents to peer talks at our local schools to blankets for the homeless and new-born babies in our community. This year was no different. One of our groups made baby kits for new moms. They researched what would be good to give, applied for a Thrivent Action team, purchased the items, wrapped them and delivered them to the hospital. They got to hand deliver a few to some new moms at the hospital. The remaining gifts will be given out as more babies are born. Another group played games with residents at a nursing home, while yet another made tie blankets for newborn babies. Each of these projects shows the personal impact the kids had on others in our community. Our hope is that each time these new moms wrap their babies in the blankets or use an item from the kit, they will be reminded of the love of Christ.

Another service learning project we did in February is Bags of Love. We made items to go in a gift bag that is delivered by members of the congregation to

those who are either homebound, have had health issues or who might just need a little splash of love in their lives. The students spent the afternoon and evening making cards, fridge magnets, bookmarks, and other little trinkets that show love to another person. They didn’t know who is going to receive their gift; they just knew that it will make a difference to the one who receives it. We made 115 bags this year to be given in love to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As St. Francis of Assis has been quoted to say, “Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.” Our young people at First Lutheran do this all of the time and rarely do they use words! They are truly the hands and feet of Christ.

Kim Taylor
Director of Youth Ministry
Randi Rach
Director of Children Ministry



Clarette Johnson, Lowell & Wendy Pratt, Kent & Pamela Carlson, Dan & Deb Loken, Roger & Linda Anhorn, Richard & Julie Geiselhart, James & Catherine Norman, Ivan & Lois Wambheim, Mark & Debra Grandgenett, Gloria Pulscher, Thomas & Leeann Edwards, Michael & Paula Morgan, Richard Stewart, Ronald Struck, Christopher & Jennifer Chapman, Luther & Marjean Larson, James Loaney, Robert & Barbara Porter, Phyllis & Kathleen Hullett, Thomas & Joyce Carlson, Jill Isakson, James & Kathleen Lingor, Paul & Kathleen Peterson, Wayne & Pamela Carlson, Wayne & Carol Wiken, Curtis & Debra Folkestad, Allen & Karleen Ras, Michael & Juleann Kelley, Clarence & Lois Leen, Terrence & Karen Bjorklund, Dennis & Corliss Stark, Larry & Marilyn Johnson, David & Loretta Lundy, Ronald & Dianne Verant, William & Constance Rosso, Roger Wambheim, Lowell & Donna Glebe

In memory of Bill Kuhnau, given by Ralph Hornberger, Darrel & Margaret Kalina, Stan & Helen Johnsrud, Bret & Karen Brazel, Jerry & Joyce Hansen

In memory of Lillian Heinrich, given by Sandra Doege

In memory of Harold Diedrich, given by DiAnn Ness

In memory of Donna Tripp, given by Carol Serum

In memory of Ike Rindelaub, given by Glenda Seela

In honor of Pastors Greg, Kari & Ben, given by Ken & Cindy Losch

CHANCEL CHOIR

In memory of Les Dehlin, given by Gregg & Mary Sonstegard, Bret & Karen Brazel, Lisa Colen, Darrel & Margaret Kalina, John & Jan Lervick, Minton & Diane Larson, DiAnn Ness, Tom & Linda Akenson, Ivan & Lois Wambheim, Gary & Nancy Ekdahl, Randy & Mary Morken, Art Haug

In memory of Stan Max, given by John & Jan Lervick

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

In honor of Grant & Kyle Mages’ Baptismal Birthdays, given by Janemarie Hennen

DISCOVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOD SHELF

In honor of Mike & Julie Shaughnessy’s 50th Wedding Anniversary, given by Mike & Julie Shaughnessy

FEED MY SHEEP

In memory of Dale Serum, given by Steve & Kathy Haug

RADIO SPONSORSHIP

In memory of Ruth Martinson, given by Lu Johnson, Paul & Joan Thompson, Ruth Irgens, Terry & Connie Brueske, LaVina Larson

In memory of Matt Kjelland, given by Mike, Sue & Andy Kjelland

In memory of Avis Haug, given by Art Haug, Dave & Lola Anderson, family & friends, Greg & Val Trumm

In memory of Shorty Olson, given by Dave & Lola Anderson, LaVina Larson

In memory of Les Dehlin, given by Gordon & Sharon Kalland, LaVina Larson, Sonia Bale, Cortlan & Joanne Krogstad, Robert & Sonja Loucks, Lillian Schuneman, Jim & Ardis Danielson

In memory of Russ Osterberg, given by Gordon & Sharon Kalland, Glenda Seela, LaVina Larson, Sue Johnson, Pat Johnson, Greg & Val Trumm, Ruth Nelson

In memory of Donna Johnson, given by Sue Johnson, Pat Johnson

In memory of Orris Olson, given by Janice Olson & the Thoennes Tribe, given by Joan Moore

In memory of Dan Moore, given by Joan Moore

In memory of Ruebin Olson, given by Joan Moore

In memory of Diane Huber, given by Lillian Schuneman

In memory of Irene Larson, given by Stephen & Sharon Huemoller, Delores Lind, Alyn & Jane Baumgard, Jola Amundsen, Eugene & Audrey Ley

In memory of Arnold & Rosella Olsen, given by Family

In memory of Darren Nelson, given by Gordon & Sharon Kalland, Karen Winter

In memory of their parents, given by Don & Sandra Van Valkenburg

In memory of Dale Serum, given by LaVina Larson, Jim & Ardis Danielson, Glee Domschot, Corky & Joanne Krogstad, Robert & Sonja Loucks, Minton & Diane Larson, Luella Vendell, Gordon & Sharon Kalland

In memory of Archie Zeithamer, given by Corky & Joanne Krogstad, Robert & Sonja Loucks

In memory of Paul Arneson, given by Sonia Bale

In memory of Stan Max, given by Audrey Gustafson

In memory of Jerry Amundsen, given by Jola Amundsen & Family

In memory of Tammy Amundsen Reigner, given by Jola Amundsen & Family

In memory of Jere Anderson, given by Dianna Anderson & Family

In memory of Larry Johnson, given by Sue & Pat Johnson & Families

In memory of Dan Ness, given by DiAnn Ness & Family

In memory of Avis Haug, given by Art Haug & Family

In memory of her brother, Darren, given by Cheryl Doose

In memory of Bill Kuhnau, given by Pat Johnson, Sue Johnson, Audrey Gustafson

In memory of Ike Rindelaub, given by Pat Johnson, Sue Johnson

In honor of Arnie Gunness’ 90th Birthday, given by his family

In honor of his 94th Birthday, given by Don Leland

In honor of their 58th Wedding Anniversary, given by Gene & Carol Westphal

In honor of Wes Thomas Gibson’s baptism, given by Al & Kathy Patton

TREES AT NEW LAND

In memory of Archie Zeithamer, given by Darrel & Margaret Kalina, Syed Rashed Amir, Brenda Levinski, Marjorie Van Gorp, Harold & Darline Knutson, George & LaVerne Dyrstad, John & Judith Moeller, Marcia Gae Schmitt, Keith & Gaye Mounsdon, Gregg & Mary Sonstegard, Robert & Linda Brezina, Jeff Carlson, Gerald & Kathlyn Nordos, Fred & Terri Bursch, Marianne Policastro, Gary & Susan Chan, Renee Parduhn, Ron & Linda Droppo, Robert & Mary Alexander, Gary & Shelley Suckow, Chuck & Glory Tillmann

UNDESIGNATED FUND

In memory of Oscar Pederson, given by Patricia Pederson

In memory of Dale Serum, given by William & Nancy Estes

In memory of Janis Aitchison, given by Dwight Aitchison

In honor of FLC Staff, given by Ruth Osterberg

WORSHIP & MUSIC

In memory of Dale Serum, given by John & Jan Lervick

GARAGE BUILD

You are invited to be part of First Lutheran’s “Garage Build” in early summer 2019. This garage raising will be at our new site in May or June. Watch the church website calendar and your weekly bulletin for further details as the time gets closer.

SERVANT SPOTLIGHT



Name: Pat Johnson

How long have you attended/been a member of FLC?
I became a member when I was baptized in 1952.

Tell us about yourself: I retired in 2015 after serving on staff at FLC for 22 years. Prior to that I lived and worked in the Twin Cities where I developed many life-long friendships. I like to read, quilt, and have coffee with family and friends. My Mom and I enjoy short trips together and having breakfast after church on Sunday.

What is your dream vacation destination?
I have been able to relax in the warmth of Hawaii a few times, and have a trip to Alaska on my bucket list.

What is your favorite sports team? The Twins, despite the many ups and downs!

What is your favorite Bible verse? Micah 6:8

In what ways do you volunteer at church? I read scripture, greet, help serve communion during worship; drive people to appointments; help with funeral lunches.

Why is it important for you to volunteer at church?
While serving on staff at FLC, I appreciated first-hand how the many faithful volunteers strengthened and supported the ministry of the church. Now it’s my turn to do the same thing.

If you could encourage someone else to serve at FLC, what would you say? Do what you can, when you can. You’ll get so much more in return.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Memorial gifts are a meaningful way to convey sympathy to the bereaved and acknowledge the loss of a loved one. They are another way that we give thanks to God for the ways we have been blessed. Gifts may be designated to a particular fund or left undesignated, which allows them to be used for special projects and areas of greatest need.

BUILDING FUND
In memory of Avis Haug, given by Art Haug, Bernita Darveaux, James & Phyllis Norton, Ruth Amundson, Jola Amundsen, Joyce Kakac, Elrene Rosell
In memory of Irene Larson, given by Ivan & Lois Wambheim
In memory of Les Dehlin, given by Jerry & Joyce Hansen, Virginia Hegre, DeWayne & Dorothy Bisek, Darrell & Sharon Klimek, Ruth Irgens, Ron Otterson, Paul & Linda Engebretson, Dennis & Corliss Stark, Dennis & Beverly Meyer
In memory of Russ Osterberg, given by Ray & Kim Kallstrom, Ivan & Lois Wambheim, Jerry & Joyce Hansen, Dennis & Bonnie Miller, Joan Suckow, Gary & Nancy Ekdahl, Naomi/Ruth Bible Study Group, Virginia Hegre, Dave & Barb Raymond, Junnell Widmark, Ruth Amundson, Mary Norlien, De Wayne & Dorothy Bisek, Ken & Cindy Losch, Arlou Schwendemann, Gene & Carol Westphal, Verdell & Darlene Bartelt Berger, Del & Cathy Kirkeby, Randy & Jan Gilbertson, Corinne Ehlke, Ruth Irgens, Lois Lubeck, Evelyn Peterson, Bob & Mary Hanson, Larry & Teri Hanson, Dorothy Jacobson, Ron & Judy Jacobson, Bob & Eunice Dewey, Warren & Mary Weber, Bob & Norma Klimpke, Carol Anderson, Diane Raymond, Shannon Sweeney Family, Dan & Linda Zismer, Lillian Schuneman, Jackie Walsh, Cliff & Jean Mogard, Fred & Jane Lamca, Larry & Joan Holverson, Al & Joyce Nelson, Marv & Judy Trana, Orin & Lois Lundberg, Jim & Shirley Brakken, Luella Vendell, Ken & Jill Dietz, Mel & Lourdes Tangen, Mark & Amy Blackwelder, Lana Anderson, Kenny & Sharon Nelson, Crystal Osterberg, Jim & Sara Heintzelman, Elizabeth Schaefer, Gracie Lewis, Jenny Trumm, Norman & Audriene Kvitek, John & Marie Stellner, Ann Pokel, Steve & Sharon Huemoller, John & Margaret Schroeder
In memory of Dale Serum, given by Jerry & Joyce Hansen, Marlene Murtonen, Dan & Linda Zismer, Greg & Val Trumm, Ralph Hornberger, Richard & Sandra Telander, Gordon & Cheryl Doose, George & LaVerne Dyrstad, Junnell Widmark, DeWayne & Dorothy Bisek, Allen & Cynthia Crowser, Carol Feldmann, Dennis & Corliss Stark, Ray & Kim Kallstrom, Mike & Barb Golden, Ruth Amundson, Paul & Joan Thompson, Mary Norlien, Paul & Linda Engebretson, Ruth Nelson, Arlou Schwendemann, Jeff Carlson, Ron Otterson, Gene & Carol Westphal, Gregg & Mary Sonstegard, John & Margaret Schroeder, Duane & Constance Shelden, Jenny Trumm, Dianna Anderson, Gene & Janice Hartwig
In memory of Archie Zeithamer, given by Brian & Shelly Suckow, Joan Suckow, Norman & Audriene Kvitek, Dennis & Beverly Meyer, Stan & Helen Johnsrud, Dennis & Corliss Stark, David & Cheryl Larson,
In memory of Darren Nelson, given by Ruth Osterberg, Arlou Schwendemann
In memory of Arvin Graff, given by Gene & Jackie Harstad, Arlou Schwendemann
In memory of Glenda Nelson, given by Ray & Kim Kallstrom
In memory of Kim Clayton, given by Mike Clayton
In memory of Orlyn Struck, given by John & Paula Glieden, John & Janet Zimmer, Julie Conway, Gene & Janice Hartwig, Allen & Jeanette Hill, George & Gretchen Hile, David & Jennifer Solon,

ALL PRESCHOOL REUNION

WHAT: Join us as we celebrate Community Preschool’s 40th year association with First Lutheran Church!

WHO: All past and present preschool students and staff

WHERE: First Lutheran Church playground (or Fellowship Hall in case of inclement weather)

DATE: Sunday, May 19

TIME: 2:00-4:00pm



NEW IN 2019!

Christmas Boutique

NOVEMBER 1 & 2, 2019 | 9:00AM-5:00PM | FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join us as we transform our new church space into a Christmas wonderland. We will be part of the Crafter's Tour with our First Annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale! There will be Christmas crafts, a bake sale, quilt raffle, lefse demonstrations and purchasing, musical entertainment, a style show, and friendship tables, and more. If you have questions or want to be involved in this great community event, contact Sally Baumann (320.763.6006 or sally.baumann@icloud.com) or stop by the church office and talk to Greg T.

PASTORS’ PEN

It is a feeling that each of us have come to know too well. For some it comes in the dark of night, our eyes adjusting to the moonlight as we lay in bed and wonder about that unpaid bill or that problem at work. For others it is a daytime visitor, thoughts about aging parents or a new diagnosis. It takes us from our concentration, or worse, our sense of stability and comfort. It goes by many names - fear, worry, anxiety - each with their own distinct qualities and nuances. This world is unsteady and uncertain. The challenges of our time and place are unique, but the fear that often grips us is not. It is part of being human and part of living in a world that is broken. Scripture never shies away from these harsh realities of life but it does offer an alternative to a life of fear.

Perhaps one of the most repeated phrases in scripture is some variation of the call to “be not afraid.” It is an invitation that has been spoken through the prophets, the poetry of the Psalms, to shepherds, to worried crowds, to the soon-to-be mother, and to us today. It is an offer that nudges us to remember that though this life is filled with things that disrupt our sense of peace, our God is with us to help and encourage us in the midst of worry and fear.

This season of Lent, the people of First Lutheran will journey through these promises of Scripture and the hope that comes in knowing that Christ Jesus has overcome the world. Together we will be reminded that with God’s enduring presence through all of life’s seasons, we can live with confidence and hope.

We will gather around this theme in several ways. Our midweek Lenten worship services will be held at 12:10pm and 6:15 pm on Wednesdays. Prior to the evening worship, a soup meal will be served from 4:45-6:00pm. We also invite each of you to go deeper by reading Adam Hamilton's book, *Unafraid*, which wrestles with how we, as people of faith, can live with hope and courage in the midst of uncertainty. Members of our congregation will be leading small group studies on this book. You are invited to join one of these groups. Or if you would like to start your own, feel free!

What a joy it is to journey through this life together as God’s people to grow and to know Christ more! As we move from the cross to the empty tomb, may we be filled with the hope that is ours and live unafraid.

Blessings,
Pastor Ben

PASTOR KARI'S SABBATICAL OVERVIEW

As you've heard, Pastor Kari has received a Clergy Renewal Grant from the Lilly (Pharmaceuticals) Foundation, enabling her to go on sabbatical May-July of this year. The timing of her sabbatical is right in line with what is recommended by ELCA church-wide and our synod, that rostered ministers be granted a period of extended study and renewal of 1-3 months every 5-7 years in their present call.

During Pr. Kari's renewal time, we will have pastoral help from Pastor Judy Holmen of Moorhead. Pastor Judy is an interim pastor, most recently serving Our Savior's Lutheran in Moorhead. Pastor Judy's gifts

include visitation, identifying and matching individual gifts to opportunities to serve, and team-building. While with us at First, Pastor Judy will primarily be serving in the areas of caring ministry and worship leadership.

The theme of Pastor Kari's clergy renewal application was: Be Still and Know and the focus is on writing as a spiritual practice. As part of the grant, we had a workshop in January led by S. Mara Faulkner through which members of the congregation and community were introduced to the concept of writing as a down to earth spiritual practice. This workshop was able to be offered to participants free of charge through the grant. The hope is to

do another writing class next fall.

While on sabbatical, Pastor Kari will be taking time for spiritual refreshment. She and her family will take a couple of short trips to connect with family and friends. The main focus of her time will be writing a book, with the help of Sister Mara, who will serve as Pr. Kari's writing coach during this time. The book will reflect on being a woman, wife, and mom in ministry.



HARVEST FOOD PACK

Sunday, March 17 | Fellowship Hall

Through diligent stewardship of our budget and finances and with God's continued leading and provision, FLC closed 2018 with a \$47,171.20 surplus. Now it is time to celebrate and to share a tithe of this abundance! Using a part of our surplus, we at FLC will join with Harvest Pack to pack meals

that will go all over the world to provide food for hungry children. Please join us for this fun-filled, high energy, packing event. Together let's use what God has given us to share the message of Christ with all the world! Check the church website calendar for further details.



WE ARE THE CHURCH... JED BURKEY

"I take pride in what I do and this [church] project has been extra special to me and my family."



Jed Burkey was baptized and grew up at First Lutheran. He now works for Innovative Builders out of Alexandria and is the Construction Manager on our church project. We are excited to have a lifelong FLC member have such an integral part of the building of our new church home.

As Lutherans, we believe that everyone's vocation is a calling from God and that God uses us in various ways to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. It has become evident over the course of our building project that Jed's wealth of experience, patience, and temperament are all gifts that enable him to be the right person for this important project.

Since Jed was a young boy he wanted to work in construction. In fact, he started working for a contractor after school while he was still in high school. This eventually led him to his position at Innovative.

Jed's grandpa, Myron Burkey, was a long time member of First until he passed away 8 years ago. Myron thought the world of Jed and that feeling was mutual. Reflecting on if his grandpa was still here, Jed said, "He definitely would have stopped by the site daily and checked on me and the progress of the church project."

Jed's pride in his work and his dedication is all too apparent. Jed said, "I have worked on many buildings over the years and I can tell you that the design of this church has been well thought out. I am very excited to see the growth that will happen for us as a congregation as we move into this new space."

Jed is just one example of members from this church who live out their faith and use their gifts to make this world a better place.

MEET JIM LADOUX



"...as we move forward and look at the heart of who we are and how we do what we do as a congregation, we have decided to seek professional guidance as well."

2019 is a strategic year for First Lutheran as we complete our building project and make the transition to our new church home. It is also strategic in that as we make this move, we want to make sure that we are functioning in a healthy manner for a congregation our size.

When we were at a point where we needed to make a plan for our new building, and we needed to do a capital campaign and begin the construction phase, we hired professionals to assist us. In the same way, as we move forward and look at the heart of who we are and how we do what we do as a congregation, we have decided to seek professional guidance as well.

We have entered into a one year contract with Jim LaDoux of Vibrant Faith ministries based out of Minneapolis. Jim has worked with hundreds of churches across the country and brings a wealth of experience in coaching and equipping congregations. Jim will serve as our coach and consultant through this process. He will help us as a congregation to assess areas that need attention, to chart new pathways forward, and equip us as a staff, leaders, and members to develop a system that supports and sustains the future of our mission and ministry.

There are many positive things happening at FLC, but as a large and giving congregation, we also have unique needs and challenges. We believe that this process will help us to learn about ourselves and to continue to become better at both being and doing all that God is calling us to do.