

February 19, 2014

Dear First Lutheran Family,

The leadership team of council, staff, and committees for worship, adult faith formation, children's and teen ministries are excited about the proposal for a new way of experiencing God and community on a Sunday morning. This Sunday schedule provides separate times for worship and learning. (Remember, we will still have worship on Saturday at 5 p.m.)

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. – Traditional Worship
10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Sunday Morning Learning
11:15 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. – Celebration Worship

You probably have a few questions now. “How will this change affect me?” “Does the church have plans to implement this schedule?” “What can I expect in the way of a worship service format?” “How will I be supported in worship with my child?”

We invite you to one of these forums to learn more about this possibility

Saturday, March XX, 6pm in the Chapel
Sunday, March XX, 9:30 in Luther Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March XX, 10:45 in the Chapel

We also want to hear your thoughts. The council and leadership teams will make a final decision only after this forum time.

Why consider a change?

Worship and growing in faith. We have learned how important it is for kids to be in worship, and for adults to have opportunity to learn and grow.

Perhaps most important, we have learned from national studies that adults who mostly went to Sunday School, but rarely went to worship, are leaving the church when they grow up. They didn't worship as a child, and they don't worship as an adult. We have to ask ourselves—what is important? How shall our children have faith?

We have also learned there can be a great opportunity for adults to make friends and grow spiritually when there is a dynamic time of learning. We have experienced this in part during the summer time with things like Spiritual Parenting, and people have asked, when can we do this again?

**Centered in Christ,
we are
Called, Gathered,
Transformed,
and Sent!**

The Monday through Friday schedule of families is very busy, so is there a better way to offer great opportunities for parents?

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What would happen on a Sunday morning?

There would be two attractive service times to increase the vitality and energy in our worship services. The worship times are similar to the summer worship times. There would be important changes—every worship would have a high impact message for children.

There would be opportunity for exciting kinds of learning for all ages. The learning time is shorter, so we focus on what is most important. There will be great opportunities for parent groups. The pastors will be available each week for a Bible study. There will be high quality offerings from the best teachers from the Seminary and area colleges.

We imagine setting up coffee and refreshments around the building, and creating more spaces and places for people to connect with one another.

Most important, we think this is a schedule that encourages a better way to be a community of faith together—where children learn to worship, where adults find and deepen friendship, and where we learn that being the people of God is something we do together, young and old.

We look forward to this forum and an exciting fall.
Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve Knudson
Senior Pastor

Anne Jahnke
Council Chair

Michael Beckmann
Director of Teen Ministry

Marissa Letscher
Director of Children &
Family Ministries
Celebration Worship
Architect

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