



May 3, 2023

Dear First Lutheran,

Better Together is not just something we say, it is how we live out the ministry God has called us to in this place. We are better together as a community of faith, and not just as the people of God at First Lutheran Church on Broadway, but as God's people called through the gospel of Jesus Christ and sent out to serve one another as the Spirit leads. We exist to connect people to God and to one another.

I believe the Spirit is leading God's people in the Fargo/Moorhead area to work together to share the gospel and build up the body of Christ.

It's time for us as the Church of God to come together and work as if our earthly life depended upon it. We must unite around our common mission given by Jesus himself "to go and make disciples." No longer can the world afford to watch us build our own kingdoms. We need to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord and work together because together we are better!

First Lutheran Church has been in north Fargo for 150 years. At the core of who we are as a Christ-centered church is an evangelical spirit of outreach. Hope Lutheran is another northside church that shares this value. In fact, in 1958 First Lutheran Church gifted land to start Hope. In recent conversations with their pastoral leadership, we have decided to join together and minister to the children and families of north Fargo through their annual summer Vacation Bible School Experience (VBX).

Many First Lutheran students and Hope Lutheran students attend school together on the north side. We hope that by joining them in a common Christian witness, they will find strength in numbers and be empowered to reach out and share the gospel of Jesus with their friends.

Please consider sending your student in grades Pre-K through 5th grade to VBX 2023, taking place on the evenings of June 12-15 from 5:45-8 p.m. at Hope Lutheran - North Campus. The deadline to register online is May 25 via Hope Lutheran's website (see instructions on reverse side). With registration, students will receive a fun memento and t-shirt for that week. The cost is \$15 per student, or \$30 per family max. However, *no child who wants to attend will be turned away*. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

We are excited about this partnership and believe that the Spirit is leading us to be BETTER TOGETHER!

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Steph". The script is cursive and fluid.

Pastor Steph