

July 2024

THE MESSENGER



Adiaphora – ever since I used that word in a sermon, I've had many inquiries into its meaning. So here is Wikipedia's definition:

Adiaphoron (/ædɪˈæfəron, ædɪˈæfəron/; plural: **adiaphora**; from the Greek ἀδιάφορον (pl. ἀδιάφορα), meaning "not different or differentiable") is the negation of διαφορά *diaphora*, "difference".



That's not very helpful is it. Once you know the word comes out of the Greek philosophical tradition, you'll understand why the word and its definition are sort of obscure. Diogenes the Cynic talked about adiaphora 400 years before Christ. Stoicism and Pyrrhonism continued the discussion for another 500 or so years. There is little record of the word being thrown around until the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century when guys like Martin Luther and Phillip Melanchthon were stirring the pot.

It seems that for millennia people have disagreeing about what's important (or what's not important). The ancient philosophers argued things like wealth or prestige were adiaphora. Wealth didn't make you a good person and a good person didn't necessarily become wealthy. Wealth didn't matter. Except it did – to the poor and the wealthy – for the wrong reasons. Wealth, or lack thereof, is no indicator or influencer or character. If the goal of society is to produce good people, and the philosophers would argue it is, wealth doesn't matter.

So, what does adiaphora look like in the church?

Adiaphora in the church takes on a more narrow definition. Adiaphora refers to the all the stuff that has no effect on your salvation. That means that anything other than believing that Jesus died for your sins is adiaphora. That means that anything other than loving God and loving others is adiaphora.

Luther argued that man-made traditions were adiaphora. Tradition says you can only sing Christmas songs during the Christmas season which starts on Christmas and ends at Epiphany (January 6). Lutheran tradition insists on singing *A Mighty Fortress* on, and only on, Reformation Day. According to Luther, human traditions are fine as long as they don't distract the congregation from worshipping God. Sometimes, however, those traditions become mighty important to us.

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A funny thing happens when these things that don't matter start to matter. We start to give more attention to the things that don't matter than we do to the things that truly matter. Pretty soon the things that matter become secondary to the things that don't matter. Before long, we start to believe that the things that don't matter really do matter. And when that happens, we are no longer worshipping God, we are worshipping the things that don't matter.

We need to be careful and cognizant of the baggage we bring to worship. Ask yourself why you're there. Remember why you're there. And remember this also when you leave the sanctuary. It's about God. It's about love. Nothing else matters.

And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love. (1st Corinthians 13:13)

Pastor Greg

Worship

Sunday Worship each week at 8:45 & 10:45 am

Holy Communion served on the first and third Sundays.

We know that summer takes us many places including on Sunday mornings. Don't forget you can worship with us from anywhere, live or on demand. Watch it live or whenever you have time from our Facebook page or go to our website www.flcfremont.org and click on the Worship with Us button for more viewing options.

Summer Hospitality: Greeters, Welcome Center hosts, ushers, and communion servers are a key piece to welcoming all who enter our building on Sunday morning. Please consider helping in one or more of these areas this summer. You can sign up online for the day(s) that work for you or you can call Tami Hall at the church office and she will get your plugged in.

Sponsors Needed: We are in need of sponsors for the weekly radio broadcast on July 28 and Altar Flowers on July 14 and 28. Sign up from our website or call the church office. Radio sponsorship is \$160 and flowers are \$50.



Godspell: New Wine from Cloquet, MN, presented a modern version of Godspell on Monday evening, June 17. The youth and their leaders were very appreciative of the hospitality and the great attendance at the production. The skits even included some participation from members of the audience.

Spoudazo: Don't forget that the First Lutheran music and drama ministry of Spoudazo will perform their home concert on Sunday, July 21, at 7:00 pm. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Summer Settings

We are inviting you to share how you and your family are seeing and experiencing God in your summer settings. Send us your photos or a written sentence or two. They are being shared each week in worship. Email your photos or written descriptions to Amy Spies (amys@flcfremont.org) or drop them at the church office.

There is a colorful Summer Settings display in the Worship Center. You and your family and friends are invited to take photos after worship. Share those on social media.

The staff had fun recently taking this photo.



Discipleship

WOW (Women of the Word) - The WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet at church on Wednesday, July 10, at 9:30 am in the Heritage Room. Eileen Thornburg will lead the study: *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado. New faces always welcome!

Faith Study Group - Faith Study Group will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, July 11 in the conference room. Bev McKinney will lead the lesson.

Chick Flicks: On Tuesday, July 2, the Chick Flicks will meet in the Youth Room and watch a movie and share in fellowship and discussion. All women are invited to attend.

Men's Study Group: Join this group on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in the Heritage Room. The coffee is always on. Come anytime it works into your schedule.

HUGS: Within FLC there is a group called HUGS (Heartfelt, Uplifting, Giving Sisters). It is for senior single ladies using Ecclesiastes 3 as a guide. Their purpose is to share support and fellowship as sisters in Christ glorifying God in new seasons of life for those who have experienced loss or find themselves in singleness. For more information contact Norma Moxness (402-727-7739) or Sherie Ebers (402-721-4646). To have your name on the email list, send an email to nancyrix@hotmail.com.



Synod Assembly

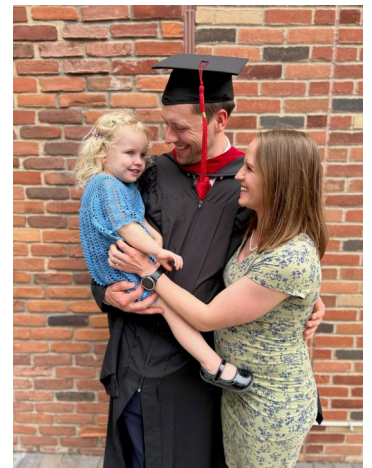
Nebraska Lutherans gathered in Kearney on June 1-2 for the annual Synod Assembly. Faces from First Lutheran in attendance were (back row left to right): Brent Zuch, Deacon Rick Strong, Pastor Greg, John Menning; (front row): Alison Zuch, Deacon Karen Melang, Jeree Menning.

Endowment Thank You

I want to thank our FLC family and the Endowment Committee for their unwavering support throughout this seminary journey. I am still finishing my internship requirements before I officially get my degree, however, I did get to go to commencement.

I will continue to volunteer in my local church, where I get to serve with kids and youth. I will begin seeking a full-time position as a youth pastor. Until then, I will continue to support my growing family as a carpenter at Concordia University in St. Paul, where I have been working for the last three years during seminary. Nicky and I are expecting our second daughter at the end of August.

*Thank you again for your love and support,
-the Pattons*



First Lutheran Elections

The Nominating Team is beginning its job of finding people willing to have their names on the ballot for this September's elections of Church Council, Endowment Board, and 2025 Nominating Team. If you or someone you know would be interested in any of these positions, please contact the church office.

- The FLC Church Council meets once a month (usually the third Tuesday) and helps oversee operational needs and finances along with assisting staff as needed. Each elected term is three years.
- The Endowment Board meets quarterly to review grant requests and manage investment funds. Each elected term is five years.
- The Nominating Team works for a few weeks in the summer putting together the ballot of nominees. The team also counts the ballots and reports the results at the Annual Meeting. Each elected term is one year.

Mission and Outreach

See the many gifts God has given through His people.

Mission Collections:

Shoes and Socks. Thank you for your support of the shoe and sock collection for the Lutheran Family Services Fremont Family Friends event. You donated 98 pairs of shoes and 210 pairs of socks. But the most exciting piece may be that a generous donor added an additional \$5250 to the shoe tree at the auction.



Mobile Banquet: The next mobile meal will be served on July 11 at the Regency Mobile Home Park. Walking Tacos are on the menu. Please consider helping by donating food or with the meal prep, distribution, or clean up. Signup from our website, call the church office, or fill out a yellow card at worship to offer your help.



At the June Mobile Banquet all 200 meals and flip flops were handed out in about 15 minutes. **In July, we are collecting beach towels to distribute. Bring your donations to the church office.**

The Quilters: Three quilts have been sent for the Carol Joy Holling Camp Auction. Two unfinished quilts were found amongst all the fabric received this year. The quilts were finished and quilted by Marilyn Freeman. One was a red and white half finished quilt. Jan Larsen spent many, many hours hand sewing enough blocks to make a large quilt. She also did all the finishing work by hand.

The 36th Annual Carol Joy Holling Camp Quilt Auction will be held on Saturday, July 27. The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of camp. The auction and lunch will be held rain or shine. Bring your friends and families! More information can be found at cjhcenter.org/quiltauction. There will be a silent auction with online bidding. You can also preview all the quilts on CJHC website.



On Wednesday, July 17, The Quilters will meet to work on completing all the quilts everyone has sewing. COME at 1:00 pm and help!!

Saved to Serve

The 2024 Saved to Serve Opportunity/Women of the ELCA Retreat will be at the Lutheran Family Services/Dana Village on the former Dana College Campus in Blair. It will be held Friday, August 2, 6:00 P.M. to Sunday, August 4, 1:00 P.M. with accommodations at a Blair hotel. If unable to attend the entire retreat, one may attend only one day or a portion of the day. Cost is \$39.

There will be get acquainted activities and devotions. Attendees will learn about the purchase of the former Dana College Campus by Lutheran Family Services and the Angel Share program. The Angel Care program assists 19 year-olds exiting out of the Nebraska Foster Care System. A Dutch treat dinner is scheduled for Saturday evening at the Blair Marina. Entertainment is being planned by First Lutheran Women of Blair.

There will be tours of the former Dana College dorms which have been refurbished into apartments. Cooking demonstrations preparing healthy snacks and meals with the young adults already living in Dana Village will be held on Saturday.

Personal care bags will be assembled for the youth at Dana Village. To meet this need, we are asking First Lutheran to donate the following items: shampoo and conditioner, soap, toilet tissue, and feminine hygiene products.

All women are invited to attend the retreat and learn and assist with this important ministry of helping youth exiting out of the Foster Care System. Registration is due July 19. For more information and/or a registration form contact Eileen Thornburg or Lucy Klocke.



Children and Youth



FLY Trip

Eight youth and 2 adults went on this year's FLY trip to Benton Harbor, MI. During the week the group partnered with local organizations to serve the city across age and racial divides.



Thanks to Leon Sperling for sharing his gifts of woodworking with the Early Learning Center. The new cars and trucks have been a big hit!

Summer Settings



Community Clean Up

Thanks to all who helped kick off our Summer Settings by participating in the community clean up on June 1.



July

- 11 Mobile Banquet
- 14 The Market opens on Sunday mornings
- 15-19 Preschool Summer Camp
- 20 FLC Night at the Moo baseball
- 21 Spoudazo Home Concert
- 22 Destination FLC (Messy Fun for PreK-Gr 1 and Grades 2-6)
- 23 Splash Station Staycation: Family Event
- 24 Middle School "Road Trip"
- 25 Food Truck Festival and Car Show**
- 31 High School Staycation pool party

Watch for more information on these and other activities in the weekly e-news or the Sunday bulletin.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about the Food Truck Festival on Thursday, July 25, from 5-7 pm. Each vendor will donate a portion of their proceeds to the Fremont Area United Way. Anyone is welcome to show off their special car at the event.



Pastor Greg was officially installed as Lead Pastor of First Lutheran on Sunday, June 16. We also celebrated his 15th ordination anniversary. His family and friends posed for this fun photo.

Council Highlights - June

- Looking at putting signage on the church bus and van. Currently the church van doesn't have signage indicating it represents First Lutheran. The hope is with new signage on both the church bus and van, people will be interested in learning more about the church.
- Pastor Greg will be meeting at the Synod office and will be discussing strategic planning ideas for First Lutheran – process can take 18-24 months
- The staff is checking on audio issues with the live feed on Facebook for Sunday mornings. The issues seem to be resolved after the service when played on Facebook.

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, Secretary of FLC Council

** Full minutes are available upon request

Monthly Financial Report

	May Actual	May Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 55,887.33	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 610,000.00	\$ 645,854.70	\$ 592,110.10
General Income	\$ 58,390.24	\$ 57,976.66	\$ 654,395.02	\$ 702,882.62	\$ 665,342.02
Mission Income	\$ 4,601.00	\$ 4,004.16	\$ 45,037.52	\$ 83,811.92	\$ 56,473.72
Expenses	\$ 74,563.01	\$ 83,154.50	\$ 751,216.50	\$ 679,241.79	\$ 701,790.89
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ (11,571.77)	\$ (21,173.68)	\$ (51,783.96)	\$ 107,452.75	\$ 20,024.85
Building Fund Contribu-	\$ 1,590.00			\$ 31,987.67	\$ 157,419.69
Build Fund Balance	\$ 23,792.28				

Pledged giving remains over budget for the year and FLC. That with the expense savings this year, FLC remains in the black budget YTD. With this, there is a possibility that FLC will break even this fiscal year. What a blessing that would be as we begin the budget process for next year. The Capital Fund continues to grow for large unbudgeted building expenses. The ELC has had a loss this year so the budget will be adjusted for next year. ~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator

Targeted Giving... (as of 5/31/2024) We want to give people of FLC the opportunity to give in a *targeted* way around their particular interests and passion, as well as the needs of our mission and ministry. The following categories have primarily existed in our Memorial and Special Gift Account, but we want you to be aware of these different funds on an on-going basis. Your financial support in these *targeted* areas will bring critical support to the ministry of our congregation! Thank you for the many ways that you give!



Worship/Music	\$6,401.65	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$6,619.13	Children's WAM	\$604.09
Technology	\$3,332.41	Good Samaritan	\$2,790.46	Spoudazo	\$7,013.02
Church Home	\$7,568.96	Radio Broadcast	\$4,451.00	Zoe!	\$2,693.07
Building Maint.	\$30,247.28	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	ELC Tuition Assistance	
KidsFirst	\$2,933.58	Quilt Ministry	\$3,997.94		\$292.80
First Lutheran Youth	\$6,714.99			Mobile Banquet	\$8,730.97

Maintenance Position: First Lutheran Church is seeking maintenance and/or custodial employees to oversee and coordinate the environmental and maintenance services of the church and church grounds. Prior maintenance experience preferred. This may be a full or part-time position depending on the applicant(s). Great part-time job and a great place to work! Our current Director of Maintenance Rod Parker is moving to Colorado at the end of July.

first lutheran church **ENDOWMENT** Planning...Giving...*Growing...*

When considering the many giving options available when designing your estate plan, your financial advisor may suggest using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) or a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) to accomplish your giving objectives. These may be good options depending on your age, your charitable and financial goals, family needs, estate planning objectives, and desired charitable legacy. Tax benefits, either now or deferred, are also a key factor. Let's look at these two giving strategies...

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are 70 ½ years old or older to donate up to \$105,000 directly from their traditional IRA to a charitable organization. QCD's are tax-free which makes them an attractive option for charitable giving. For those 73 years and older, QCD's also count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year. Your financial advisor can help you set a QCD that distributes funds directly to the charities you care about.

A Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) is a simple, tax-smart way to support favorite charities. It allows you to make an irrevocable charitable contribution to the public institution, receive an immediate tax deduction and then recommend grants from the fund to a variety of charities over time. Plus, any potential investment growth within the account is tax-free, further increasing the charitable impact. Keep in mind that private foundations (think brokerage firms) and donor-advised funds (ie. Fremont Area Community Foundation) are not the same. Be sure to talk with your financial advisor about the differences and if either of these would fulfill your giving objectives.

Finally, estate planning does not need to be complicated. The important thing is that your assets are being administered in a professional manner and your funds are directed to beneficiaries who meet your estate planning goals. In the next few weeks, the Endowment Board will share with you some of the grants that have been recently awarded.

Endowment Board

Barry Benson, Chris Coffman, Brian Brodd, Wendy Olson, Jeremy Hansen, Kent Speicher, Steve Pike.



Thanks to all who donated blood on June 2. Your generous gift saves many lives. And special thanks to those who helped with registration and the canteen!

The dates for the next blood drives at First Lutheran are September 8, 2024, and January 12, 2025.

Remembering in Prayer

Remember to let the church office know if you are facing a health concern or will be in the hospital so someone can be in contact with you. If you request, the prayer chain will also be activated. It is also helpful to our FirstCare ministry if you let us know about someone who could use a caring call.

Prayers of healing for Denny Knudsen, Bill Miller

Baptism June 9

Savannah Marie Schole

Parents: Adam & Kelly Schole





FLC Market

- VEGETABLES
- FRUITS
- ARTS/CRAFTS
- FLOWERS
- BAKED GOODS



**SUNDAYS
STARTING JULY 14**

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
FREMONT AREA UNITED WAY

RADIO SPONSORS NEEDED

July 28

Signup online or call the church office



**JULY
MOBILE MEAL
EXTRAS!**

**DONATE
BEACH
TOWELS!**




Help supply The Mobile Banquet with BEACH TOWELS on July 11.

Altar Flower Sponsors Needed

July 14 and 28

Signup online or call the church office

The church is investigating options to purchase an ATV similar to the one pictured. This would be used to assist with property upkeep, landscaping, snow removal, and similar duties on our vast property. If you or someone you know is looking to sell a gently used ATV in good working condition or know someone who buys and sells ATVs, please let the church office know. Thanks in advance for any help you can provide!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

It is time to start collecting items for the Lutheran World Relief Kits. You can bring your donations to the church office at anytime.

School Kits

70-page spiral notebooks
Rulers (with cm)
Crayons (16 or 24 count)
Blunt scissors
Unsharpened pencils
Black or blue ink pens
2.5 inch eraser
Pencil sharpeners

Baby Care Kits

Hand towel
Receiving blankets
Sweater/jacket
Socks
T-shirts
Nightgown/sleeper/PJs

****Sizes 6m-2T**

Personal Care Kits

Bath towels (new or gently-used)
Sturdy comb
Toothbrush
Nail clippers

Watch for Soap Sunday later this fall.