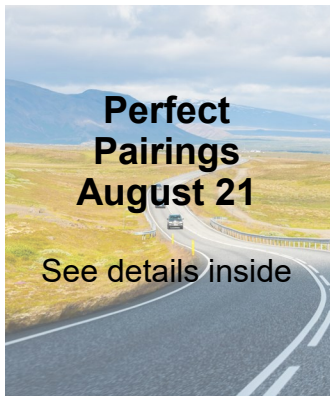


August 2024

# THE MESSENGER



It's hard to believe I've been here for 3+ months already. I've had the opportunity to meet most of you (and only remember 1/3 of your names, sorry). I've learned how the staff and council like to operate, and I think they're learning a little about me, too. There

have been lots of good conversations and ideas and I think it's time to fill you in on some of what you can expect this fall.

## *staff*

We say goodbye to two of our beloved staff members. Rod Parker is moving to Colorado with his family and Becky Poppe has announced her retirement in the near future. Both have brought valuable insight, quality work, and fun to the front offices. We are sad to see them go and pray for continued blessings to Rod, Becky, and their families.

There are also two staff members whose roles will be transforming a bit. Heidi Richmond will focus on her new position as Director of Mission & Outreach. She will continue to work with our ministry partners and coordinating events like the Mobile Banquet and the Food Truck Festival. Kristin Johnson has added children's ministry (KidsFirst, FirstThird) to her role as Deacon of Faith Formation.

And...we are adding two new people to our staff. Aaron Enger will be our new Director of Maintenance, stepping into the vacancy left by Rod. Gina DeBoer will be our new Director of Adult Ministries (a new position). She will be helping adults deepen their relationship with God and God's people. Gina will also handle our publications. A big welcome to Aaron and Gina!

## *worship*

Starting on September 8, every Sunday service will have communion and a children's message! There will also be a few technical/liturgical changes I'm sure you'll notice. With these changes, we will need a few more volunteers on Sunday mornings.

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We will be adding a new Wednesday night worship service (with communion) at 6:15 beginning on September 11. We call this service *PRAY-lude*. It will be contemplative, modern, and no more than 40 minutes.

### *adult opportunities*

Plans are in the works for a few new small groups. There will be a couple of new support groups – one for grief and one for cancer patients/families. I will lead a small group (or two) and we are working on a few activities and other small groups we hope will bring people together.

### *children's & youth ministries*

We're still planning and finalizing the children's and youth ministry opportunities. You can expect details in the next few weeks.

When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus said it was to love God. And the second? To love each other. Everything we do at First Lutheran is designed to help you strengthen your relationships with God and each other. It is our hope and prayer that these strengthened relationships help us be an instrument of God's peace in such a broken world.

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**Please Welcome:** Aaron Egner will start in August as the new Director of Maintenance. Aaron lives in Fremont and has over 10 years of Custodial Maintenance experience. He has one son and he is engaged to be married next June.

Dear Friends,

After prayerful consideration, I have decided to retire from the First Lutheran Church staff at the end of August. As many of you may know, my husband Dave retired recently. Both of our kids live out of state and we are ready to free up our schedule to just go and do.

I have been a part of the staff for more than 13 years. I have enjoyed learning and growing as our communications have adjusted along with changes in technology. Thank you for your encouragement. I am blessed to have taken this journey with amazing co-workers.

I am excited for the direction Pastor Greg is leading First Lutheran and I look forward to worshipping and serving with you as a member of First Lutheran.

Together in Christ,  
*Becky Poppe*

## 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](http://www.flcfremont.org) and click on the Worship with Us button for more viewing options.

### Wednesday Worship returns this Fall!

Take a break from your busy week and join us in the Worship Center for *PRAY-lude* Worship Wednesdays 6:15 - 7pm, beginning September 11.



This mid-week worship service will include a devotion and prayer prompts based on a current contemporary worship song, the hearing of the upcoming Sunday's scripture, a short meditation, a few songs, and the Celebration of Holy Communion each week.

PRAY-lude worship is not only a great mid-week pick-me-up, but also a "prelude/chance to prepare" for the upcoming Sunday's worship. We'll see you this Fall!

## Discipleship

**WOW (Women of the Word)** - The WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet at church on Wednesday, August 14, at 9:30 am in the Heritage Room. Linda Texley 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, August 8, in the conference room. Rita Pratt will lead the lesson found in the July/August edition of *Gather* magazine.

**Chick Flicks**: On Tuesday, August 6, the Chick Flicks will meet in the Youth Room at 6 pm 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. The will begin a study of the Gospel of Mark in August.

### Bible Sponsors Needed:

A person is never too young, or old, to receive a Bible. It is in the Bible that we learn of God's love, through the wonderful stories about people of faith. And in a world that can sometimes be difficult to navigate, the Bible is also a great source of truth and guidance.

At First Lutheran we have a tradition of placing an age-appropriate Bible into the hands of each 3rd grader. This year we would like to begin the tradition of providing each of our confirmation students with one as well. We can use your help to make this happen. Would you be willing to sponsor one of these Bibles?

- ♦ Donate \$30 to help cover the cost of an age-appropriate Bible, plus tabs to help them more easily find the different chapters. Donate from our website or use the special offering envelope in the chair pocket.
- ♦ We ask that you hold this youth in your prayers as they begin to explore God's Word.
- ♦ Watch for more information as we work on more ways to connect you and the whole congregation to the faith journeys of our youth.



## Mission and Outreach

See the many gifts God has given through His people.

**August Mission Focus:** In August, we will have the opportunity to learn more about Mosaic and the services they offer in the Fremont community. The congregation is invited to come and learn as we meet some of the leaders and clients on Tuesday, August 6 with muffins in the morning at 8:30 or lunch at noon. Come to Fellowship Hall and take advantage of this opportunity to see how we do more to share God's love in the community.



**Mobile Banquet:** The next mobile meal will be served on August 8 at the Yorkshire Apartments. We will be looking for donations of chips, whole watermelons, carrots, celery, and treats along with help to pack and distribute the meals and cleanup. Signup from our website, call the church office, or fill out a yellow card at worship to offer your help.



**The Quilters:** Come to the church on Wednesday, August 21, at 1:00 pm to tie quilts. Extra hands always make the work go faster. New faces are always welcome to come help tie the quilt tops people have been busy sewing. The generous fabric donations have produced a lot of quilts this year. The group can always use flat bed sheets of any size to use as layers inside the quilts.

**The Market:** The Market is open on Sunday mornings between services. Thank you to all those who have donated items so far and to those who have shopped. The Market will run through August if we continue to get donations of garden produce, jam/jelly, flowers, craft items, or baked goods. All proceeds will benefit the Fremont Area United Way. Let Heidi know if you are willing to host The Market on a Sunday morning.



## Mission and Outreach

See the many gifts God has given through His people.

**Lutheran World Relief Kits:** First Lutheran has a goal to make 200 school kits, 50 baby care kits, and 125 personal care kits. Please consider donating any of these items below. You can bring your donations to the church anytime.



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

### School Kits

70-page spiral notebooks  
Rulers (with cm)  
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  
Diaper Pins

**\*\*Clothes sizes 6m-2T**

### Personal Care Kits

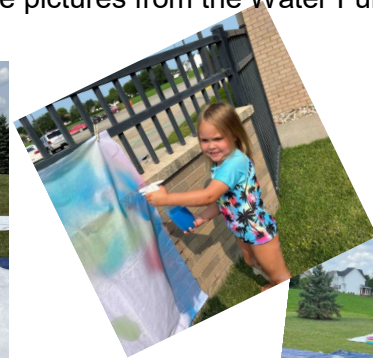
Bath towels (new or gently-used)  
Toothbrush  
Nail clippers

Watch for Soap Sunday later this fall.

## Children and Youth



Above left: Spoudazo 2024. Above right: FLC Night at the Moo. Below are pictures from the Water Fun Days here at the church and the family fun event at Splash Station.



## Children and Youth

Faith Formation for children and youth at First Lutheran begins at Baptism and continues through the 12th Grade. Our principal philosophy comes out of the idea that we never stop learning and growing. The main goal of our Faith Formation ministry is to deepen our relationship with the Triune God and the way we do that as Christians is in community as the Body of Christ.

This coming school year we will begin incorporating more Cross+Generational aspects into our children and youth ministries. For example, beginning in the first grade we will have parents, grandparents, or another trusted adult learning about the Lord's Prayer alongside their young person. The children and their parents will then share what they have learned with the whole congregation in worship. The learning then continues at home; talking, sharing, and practicing the particular habit of faith.

Below is a breakdown of what children and youth, alongside their parents, will be learning in each grade level. It is our prayer that parents will be able to attend each session with their child to share, learn, and discover alongside them.

### 1st Sunday of the Month Faith Formation Sundays @ 9:45am

***Parents and child will be asked to attend this class together. Regular Sunday School would continue that morning for all other grades.***

**First Grade: (Nov. 3)**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Lord's Prayer – the four petitions and how this prayer applies to our lives.  
Lead during 10:45am Sunday worship

**Second Grade: (Jan. 5)**

#### **The Apostles Creed**

The Apostles Creed – the three articles of the creed and how it applies to our lives.  
Lead during 10:45am Sunday worship

**Third Grade: (Oct. 6)**

#### **Introduction to the Bible**

Overview of the OT and NT Books of the Bible  
Presentation of the Bible in the 10:45 Sunday worship

**Fourth Grade: (Feb. 2)**

#### **Ten Commandments**

Walk thru the Commandments and learn how they apply to our lives

**Fifth Grade: (Mar. 2)**

#### **Old Testament**

Dive deeper into the Old Testament

**Sixth Grade: (Apr. 6)**

#### **New Testament**

Dive deeper into the New Testament



Global Warriors, an organization of international students at Midland University, is looking for bicycles as sources of local transportation for students moving to Midland from another country.

If you have a bike in working condition that you would like to share with a new owner, please contact Beth Dorsey, Global Warriors Advisor, at 402941-6461 or Lisa Kramme, Director for Campus Ministry and Spiritual Wellness.

Donations of bike locks are also welcome.



## Children and Youth



Due to recent enrollment growth, The Early Learning Center is looking for staff who have Early Childhood education experience and/or students working towards their Early Childhood or Education Degree. The staff members will get to assist in a room, help in designing curriculum, and work with other experienced teachers. Are you ready to be part of our TEAM?! Please call Mindy at 402-721-2959 or email a resume to [mindy@flcfremont.org](mailto:mindy@flcfremont.org).

**Preschool Openings:** All Preschool classes at the Early Learning Center still have openings for the fall. Contact Mindy at 402-721-2959 or [mindy@flcfremont.org](mailto:mindy@flcfremont.org) if you have a 3 to 5-year-old this fall who you would like to enroll. Classes begin August 15.



ELC Preschool Summer Camp



## Upcoming Events

### Red Cross Shelter Training

The American Red Cross provides training for First Lutheran Shelter Team members. The annual comprehensive training for the First Lutheran Shelter Team will be held Saturday, August 17, in the Mission Center from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

We are seeking additional volunteers to serve on the First Lutheran Shelter Team. Please consider being a team member. For more information contact Carol or Lon Bohling.

All current and prospective team members planning to attend the annual training are asked to signup by August 11. Sign up from the events page of our website or contact the Bohlings.

Your commitment will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have been displaced and are in need of support during those challenging times. Join us in our mission to provide caring and professional services to those in crisis.



# PERFECT PAIRINGS

## WINES AND SNACKS TASTING NIGHT

Join us for a delightful evening of experiencing five wines along with perfect snack pairings!

Date : Wednesday, August 21

Time : 5:00-6:30 PM

Venue: The Wine Experience (415 N. Main St.)

- It would be fun to **PAIR UP** for this event. Bring a significant other, friend, or neighbor to join the fun!
- \$15 each** to be collected at the door. Please **RSVP** by 8/18.

RSVP TO... [Heidi@flcfremont.org](mailto:Heidi@flcfremont.org)

A stylized illustration of a wine glass filled with purple liquid, with a cork and a small orange square floating inside. To the left of the glass is a wedge of yellow cheese with holes.

## Council Highlights - July

- Fall programming is being planned and exciting things for First Lutheran await! Look for changes in the worship space, a return of children's sermons during service, a re-envisioned Wednesday night program, among other things. The kickoff for our fall programming is scheduled for September 8!
- The annual budget forum is scheduled for September 22 and the annual meeting will take place one week later on September 29.
- Vitality Initiative is a Nebraska Synod program the church will be joining in January in order to gather essential data that will help in future planning for FLC's vision. An application will be submitted in August and the program that connects FLC with other Nebraska congregations will last 18-24 months.

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, Secretary of FLC Council

\*\* Full minutes are available upon request

## Monthly Financial Report

	June Actual	June Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 38,717.33	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 665,000.00	\$ 684,572.03	\$ 640,579.23
General Income	\$ 42,052.35	\$ 57,726.66	\$ 712,121.68	\$ 744,934.97	\$ 716,525.06
Mission Income	\$ 3,175.00	\$ 4,004.16	\$ 49,041.68	\$ 86,986.92	\$ 59,970.72
Expenses	\$ 89,524.43	\$ 103,009.50	\$ 854,226.00	\$ 768,766.22	\$ 793,638.90
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ (44,297.08)	\$ (41,278.68)	\$ (93,062.64)	\$ 63,155.67	\$ (17,143.12)
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 1,875.00			\$ 33,862.67	\$ 161,127.36
Build Fund Balance	\$ 32,092.28				

Although pledged giving was softer in June, it remains over budget YTD. Increased giving and decreased expenses have resulted in a much better outlook than budgeted. With 2 months left in the fiscal year, FLC remains in the black budget YTD. Maintenance/Building Fund continues to grow. What a blessing! ELC has had increased number of staff discounts for childcare resulting in a loss for the fiscal year. As a result, adjustments are being made for the new fiscal year. Looking forward, make sure to mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on 9/29 with the Budget Forum on 9/22. ~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator

**Targeted Giving...** (as of 6/30/2024) 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	\$8,451.65	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$6,619.13	Children's WAM	\$604.09
Technology	\$3,332.41	Good Samaritan	\$2,790.46	Spoudazo	\$7,089.05
Church Home	\$7,568.96	Radio Broadcast	\$4,451.00	Zoe!	\$2,693.07
Building Maint.	\$32,092.28	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$0
KidsFirst	\$2,933.58	Quilt Ministry	\$3,997.94	Mobile Banquet	\$8,444.98
First Lutheran Youth	\$5,859.41				

# Planning...Giving...Growing...

Leaving a legacy gift that truly matters requires thoughtful consideration of how you want to be remembered and the impact you wish to have. You might first start by thinking about the causes that resonate deeply with your personal values and beliefs. Chances are these are areas you currently support and are passionate about. Perhaps these are causes that have had an impact on you or a loved one. The First Lutheran Endowment Fund may be the ideal vehicle that fulfills your wishes and will help fund your legacy for years to come.

Following is a letter the Endowment Board recently received from John Patton. John has been a grant recipient since 2020 to help with living expenses while pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Bethel University in St. Paul Minn. Prior to entering the seminary, John was a youth leader at First Lutheran.

**TO: First Lutheran Church Endowment**

***I want to sincerely thank you and First Lutheran Church for your continued support throughout these past five years of seminary. There were times when I thought my class load would get the better of me, but I never had to worry that financial restrictions would stop me from graduating thanks to your long-standing support.***

***I am proud to have reached the end of my seminary journey, and eagerly anticipating the next steps in my career in the ministry.***

***Nicky and I are praying over our future ministry and are asking God to guide us to the place he needs us the most. We are also researching openings at the church I have been working at as an intern. We are hoping to stay in the area we now live with our second daughter being due in late August.***

***Thank you again for all you have done for me and my family!  
Sincerely, John, Nicky and Joanna Patton***

Remember, the most memorable legacy gifts are those that reflect your life, values and the opportunity for you to leave a lasting impression. It's not about the size of the gift but the thought and intention behind it that truly counts.

Endowment Board

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

## 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 Donna Hillrichs, Butch Scott

**Prayers of peace** for:

- Cheryl & Bob Larsen and Carol & Rob Nielsen on the loss of Cheryl and Carol's brother Larry Stratbucker.
- Carl Person on the loss of his mother Sara Person.
- Dick & Jan Anderson on the loss of their grandson Matthew Wackel.
- Noel & Mindy Chandler on the loss of his father Kent Chandler.
- Dawn Koehlmoos on the loss of her stepfather Carl Greunke.
- Janie & John Clopper on the loss of her stepfather Kyler Nelson.
- Sue Wilt on the loss of her husband Bill Wilt.

**70th Anniversary:** The family of Pastor Del & Phyllis Wiemers has invited the congregation to a 70th Wedding Anniversary open house on Sunday, August 11, from 2 - 4 pm at the Diller Community Center (503 Commercial St). Cards may be sent to 315 Girrard Street, Diller, NE 68342.