

September 2024

THE MESSENGER

Hello

MY NAME IS

**September Sermon Series
Begins Sept 8**

September 8

**2024-2025
Kick-off Sunday**

September 22

**Leadership Voting-
Budget Forum**

September 29

**Annual Meeting
9:45am**



Hello, my name is...?

So, who are you? I might know your name, but that doesn't really tell me who you are. I can use your name to identify you as I talk to other people. It's always good if I can put face to a name. And it's even better if I can put a story or some other identifier with a name. But, still, the question remains: who are you?

Is your identity wrapped in your family tree? You're so-and-so's son. So-and-so is your mother, isn't she? Wasn't your brother the quarterback when we won the championship? Isn't your sister the state wrestling champ? That's not you, that's them.

Is your identity based on what you do? A mom. A dad. Grandma. Papa. Nurse. Banker. Cop. Preacher. Teacher. That's still only a part of who you are.

Maybe you let your failures identify you. Or your accomplishments.

Maybe you let your physical traits identify you.

For the month of September, we're going to focus on who we are (and aren't), and whose we are. At first, that might sound a little pointless – we should know who we are – but sometimes we forget that God created us in his image for a purpose. Those labels we put on ourselves or others only serve as a hindrance to our true identity.

To build relationships with God and each other, it helps to understand who you are and who you are not. And when we're done learning about ourselves, we'll spend October learning what the Bible has to say about our neighbors.

I am really excited about the future of FLC. God has great things going on and more yet to come. So let's take some time to get to know God, ourselves, and our neighbors.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

Worship

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

Holy Communion served during both worship services each week.

We hope to see you in person at worship. However, we know there are times that won't work. FLC livestreams the Sunday 8:45 service. 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.

Wednesday "Pray-lude" Worship at 6:15 pm

Holy Communion served each week.



Beginning Wednesday, September 11, join us for a mid-week worship service; including 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!

FLC Music Ministry Needs You!



Music is a big part of First Lutheran Church. There are many opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to add to worship with the gift of music. Choose the group that is best for you!

Bell Choir - Rehearsals are Mondays from 7:00-8:00pm in the Worship Center. The bell choir plays special music once a month at the 8:45 service. No ringing experience needed - we will work with you! New faces are welcome.

FLC Choir - Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 4, in the Heritage Room. Singers of all skill levels ages Middle School thru Adults are welcome! The Choir meets weekly from 7:00-8:00pm.

Praise Band - The Faith Unchained praise band leads music at 10:45 worship each week. Singers and instrumentalists welcome. Contact Amy to see how you can get plugged in!

Special Music - Singers and musicians of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to share their talent by providing special music during worship. Amy can help you choose music and prepare your musical offering!

Worship Arts Ministry for Kids (WAM Kids) - Students in grades K-8 are invited to learn about leading worship through music, drama, scripture reading, puppetry, and more! WAM meets weekly on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00pm in the Worship Center beginning September 11.

Radio Broadcast sponsor

We are in need of a radio sponsor for Sunday, September 15. Please sign up on-line or contact the office if you are able to cover the \$160 cost of the radio broadcast for the 15th. Thank you!

Children's Messages during worship

Beginning Sunday, September 8, both worship services will include a short time specifically for our youngest members. Children will be invited up front to hear a message given at an age appropriate level. The children's message will be about 3-4 minutes long. There are many resources for adding this time into our services. Contact Amy or Pastor Greg if you'd like to be in the volunteer rotation to prepare (with support) and present children's messages. Thank you!



Sunday Morning Hospitality

There is always a need for people to usher, greet, host the Welcome Center, serve communion, and read scripture on Sunday mornings. Please check out the Hospitality on our website to fill in where you can help. Training is available if you want to learn something new!

Hello
MY NAME IS
Worship Leader
Scripture Reader
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
Worship VOLUNTEER
Computer slides
Connect with Amy to get plugged in!

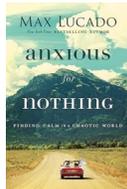
small GROUPS

The Chosen discussion group will begin our Season 4 watch and talk group Monday, Sept 9 at Noon and another group at 6:00pm. The group will meet for 90 minutes each week: watching one of the 9 episodes from Season 4 and then discussing it. The group will be led by Rick Strong and meet in the Youth Room. Sign up on-line or by emailing ginad@flcfremont.org.

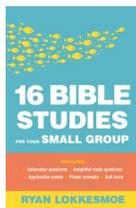


Men's Study Group meets on Saturday mornings at 8:30am in the Heritage Room. The coffee is always on. Come anytime it works into your schedule. The group is working through the Gospel of Mark.

WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet at church on Wednesday, September 11, at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Eileen Thornburg will lead the first study of *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado. New faces always welcome!



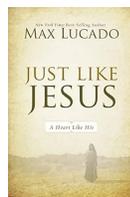
Faith Study Group will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 12, in the Conference Room. Wendy Olson will lead the lesson found in the August edition of *Gather* magazine.



Sunday Study Group led by Kris Lindgren, will resume on Sunday, September 8, at 9:45am in the Heritage Room. The study group will be using the book *16 Bible Studies for your Small Group* written by Ryan Lokkesmoe. The cost of the book is \$10.

Money can be dropped off at church or brought the day of the study. Books can be picked up at the front desk. Please have Chapter 1 read before the 8th for good discussion.

FLC First Monday Bible Study will meet Tuesday, September 3, (due to Labor Day) at 10:00am at Judy Jorgensen's home, 1320 Ruth Avenue. The group will be studying Chapter 2 of *Just Like Jesus* by Max Lucado. Karma Ellemeier will be the co-hostess. All First Lutheran women are welcome.

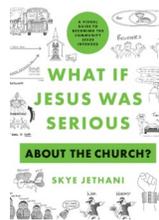


Together Living with Cancer - TLC Support Group

Every congregation has people who have been diagnosed with cancer. Cancer creates a crisis not only for the person with cancer, but the entire family. The diagnosis is frightening and difficult. Families facing cancer often look for a place where they can find the support and understanding needed to cope with the long term affects of cancer. We hope TLC is one of those places. Shawn Shanahan Brown and Nancy Merz will be leading TLC at FLC the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 24, at 6:30pm in the Youth Room.



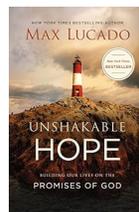
What if Jesus Was Serious? Discussion Group



Join Pastor Greg in room 105 each Tuesday at 7:00pm or Wednesday at 9:00am, beginning September 10, for group study and discussion. Using Skye Jethani's book as a guide, the group will discuss *What if Jesus Was Serious About the Church?* Various themes will be focused on each week, including topics such as: communion, visitors, forgiveness, grace, serving, and more. Come as you can, everyone is welcome.

Chick Flicks will meet in September on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9/3 and 9/17, in the Youth Room. The group will continue rewatching the early seasons of *The Chosen* and discuss them. All women are invited to attend.

Rix Study Group meets on Sundays from 9:45-10:45am in the conference room. The group is studying *Unshakeable Hope* by Max Lucado. New people are welcome anytime, there are extra books for use at church.



FLC Breakfast Club meets Thursday mornings every week to keep the windows shiny, carpets vacuumed, pews restocked, and more! The group welcomes new members. Men and women can join! Come to help with the chores, but, even better, enjoy the treats and fellowship together!



Fantasy Football, Faith & Fellowship



The draft will be held Wednesday, September 4, at 7:45pm, following choir. The group then meets Tuesday nights, starting September 10, from 7-8pm in the fellowship hall.

Mission and Outreach

See the many gifts God has given through His people.

September Mission Focus: Midland University

Bicycles for Midland



Donate a bike, helmet, bike lock or make a monetary donation for repairs to help international students!

Bring your donations to FLC the entire month of September.

global warriors CHANGING THE WORLD ONE LEADER AT A TIME

Mobile Banquet: One of the ways FLC is partnering with Midland University in September is by bringing the Mobile Banquet to campus. On Thursday, September 12, the FLC bus will park in front of Wikert Event Center to distribute 200 FREE meals to anyone that would like one. Please consider helping to make this possible with your donations of food items, money or time. It's easy, sign up on-line or call the office to offer your help!



Lutheran World Relief Kits: Many thanks to everyone who has donated towards the LWR kits. The kits will be packed up in October. There are just a few items needed to complete the kits. Items can be dropped off by the Welcome Center.



School Kits
70-page spiral notebooks
Rulers (with cm)
Unsharpened pencils
2.5 inch eraser

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

Soap Sunday—September 15

On Sunday, September 15, the First Lutheran Women of the ELCA will be collecting bars of soap to finish the kits for Lutheran World Relief. Please bring bath size bars of soap with you to worship, and place in the tub in Fellowship Hall if you'd like to donate.

A Few More Bible Sponsors Needed:

Thank you for the tremendous response. We are still in need of a few more Bible sponsors. The cost is \$30 and will provide a Bible to each Confirmation student and Third grader of FLC. Please remember to also pray for these students as we support the promises made at their baptisms. Payments may be dropped off at the office or labeled "Bible sponsorship" and placed in the offering tray.



The Quilters: Come to the church on Wednesday, September 18, from 1:00-3:00pm to tie quilts. There are many quilts waiting to be tied before the October shipping day. 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. Two FLC quilts were sent to the Carol Joy Holling quilt auction. They brought in \$690 towards the support of the camp.



Help us Rock the Block

FLC will partner with Habitat for Humanity as a ministry partner in October, but would love to get a group together to support the "Rock the Block" project on Saturday September 14. Volunteers are needed to help beautify a veteran's home with a few major repairs and the surrounding neighborhood (roughly 20 houses). Projects include neighborhood cleanup, landscaping, weed-eating, power washing, and more. Please contact Heidir@flcfremont.org if you'd like to be part of the FLC team volunteering at this event.

Date: Saturday, September 14

Time: 8:00-1:00pm

Location: 1303 N. Maxwell Ave, Fremont

Children and Youth

2024 Youth & Children's Registration Open

WAM Kids Register for:

Sunday School Confirmation High School Youth Group
Middle School Youth Group

Middle School News

Middle School youth group will kick off on Wednesday, September 18, from 7:00-8:30pm. We will meet in the Youth Room for games, Bible study, snacks, and more! Bring a friend and join in for this new opportunity to learn and grow so you can live your faith out loud!

Parents, Grandparents, & FLC Adults— Can you be a Confirmation Partner?

We are in need of more adults to support the Confirmation journey of our 7th and 8th grade students. As a Confirmation Partner, an adult would go through instruction with the student. Adults are not expected to teach the student, but learn with them, pray for/with them, and support them on their journey. If this is a ministry you feel called to or have questions about, please contact Pastor Greg (pastordeboer@flcfremont.org) or call the church.

Confirmation Update

7th & 8th grade students, parents, and guides are asked to attend an update meeting on Wednesday, September 11, at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Information including schedules, expectations, and instruction will be shared at this meeting. If you have a 7th or 8th grader and have not received any communication about Confirmation this year, please contact the church office.

First Lutheran Church
CONFIRMATION
7TH & 8TH GRADERS
Instruction with Pastor Greg
Every other Wednesday
7:00-8:30pm
OPPOSITE WEDNESDAY IS
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

College Student Addresses Needed!

Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, a new procedure will be used to reach FLC college students. Traditionally, the FLC Women of the ELCA graciously send cards/gift cards to members of FLC who are in college. Each year it has become more difficult to collect college addresses for these students. If you are an FLC College student or parent of an FLC college student, please be sure to submit your new college address to the office each year. For your convenience, you may submit your 24-25 address using this QR code or by emailing ginad@flcfremont.org.



Sunday School News

Sunday School

Starting September 8, children pre-school through 6th grade meet Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:40am. Children will begin in age-based classrooms and will experience God's love through Bible stories, large group teaching, prayers and praise. This year's lessons are looking at "The Heart of God" as we learn to "reflect God in everyday life." It's a focus on growing a life-long relationship with God.

Please note: There will be NO Sunday School on Sunday, September 29, due to the Annual Meeting. Children are welcome to use the creation station in the worship center during the meeting.

High School News

High School youth group will meet to "Tac-o-bout" where you want to go and grow this year! Come for walking tacos, ice cream, kick-ball, CanJam, discussion, planning, and more on Sunday, September 15, at 6:00pm. Parents are welcome to come and share their ideas and hear about the changes coming up too!

LET'S TAC-O'BOUT HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Bring a friend! Parents invited to come with ideas too!

Kick Ball Bags Can Jam Walking tacos, ice cream, & more!

SEE YOU THERE!

Sunday, September 15
6:00-7:30pm
First Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall/Outside

Early Learning Center



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 mindyo@flcfremont.org.



Many Thanks.....

Red Cross Shelter Training: Thank you to the thirty-seven volunteers who participated in the annual comprehensive training, August 17, for the First Lutheran Shelter Team. Your commitment will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those displaced and in need of sheltering and support during challenging times. Many thanks to Lon & Carol Bohling for coordinating our Emergency Shelter team.



FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN SAY THANK YOU FLC CONGREGATION for your generous donations for Saved to Serve! This is a project coordinated by Lutheran Family Services. Your tangible offerings for the pantry are assisting



19 year olds as they transition out of the foster-care-system in Nebraska. Dana Village in Blair is the physical location.

Thank you to Trudy Tamke for securing a Thrivent Action Card to assist with support, and to Lucy Klocke, Evelyn Eldridge and Carol

Bosshardt who volunteered all day, Saturday, August 3, in Blair; sorting donations and touring apartments at Dana Village.



The Market

Thank you to all those who have donated items, shopped, and hosted the Market. Watch for the October newsletter to see the total donation amount raised by FLC to support the Fremont Area United Way.



The FLC Women of the ELCA Christmas Program, presented by Jan Schiferl, will be held Thursday, December 5, at 7:00pm.

Three Rivers will host a flu immunization clinic at FLC on Sunday, October 6, from 8:00-11:00am. Each person will use their personal insurance. If a person has no insurance, they will be required to pay cash before the vaccine(s) is/are administered.

Council Highlights - July

- The annual budget forum is scheduled for September 22 and the annual meeting will take place one week later on September 29.
- Church attendance continues to rise!
- There has been a great response to the Fantasy Football Faith and Fellowship - might even need two leagues! Group will meet Tuesday nights for a Bible study discussing drafting your team - who do you want on your team?
- Older Wiser Loving Souls (OWLS) group is forming - group will be focused on luncheons as well as an evening session.
- There will be dinner groups forming soon as well! This will be groups of four couples and will be based on commonalities in the group (ex: new empty-nesters, those who love to fish, etc.).

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, Secretary of FLC Council ** Full minutes are available upon request

Monthly Financial Report

	July Actual	July Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 81,632.33	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 720,000.00	\$ 766,204.36	\$ 694,528.10
General Income	\$ 84,379.73	\$ 57,936.66	\$ 770,058.34	\$ 829,314.70	\$ 775,494.76
Mission Income	\$ 4,245.83	\$ 4,004.16	\$ 53,045.84	\$ 91,232.75	\$ 64,800.47
Expenses	\$ 89,573.08	\$ 103,654.50	\$ 957,880.50	\$ 858,339.28	\$ 879,088.95
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ (947.52)	\$ (41,713.68)	\$ (134,776.32)	\$ 62,208.17	\$ (38,793.72)
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 2,305.00			\$ 36,167.67	\$ 165,189.03
Build Fund Balance	34,397.28				

July pledged giving exceeded budget by \$26K and is \$46K over budget YTD . FLC remains in the black YTD and should end the year with a small excess which helps to build the reserve. This is a result of increased giving and cost savings with the Pastor share and transition to a permanent Lead Pastor. Maintenance/Building Fund continues to grow for large unexpected costs such HVAC, roof replacement, and deductibles. ELC will end with a loss for the fiscal year so budget is being adjusted. See you at the Annual Meeting on 9/29 with the Budget Forum on 9/22. ~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator

Targeted Giving... (as of 7/31/24) 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	\$10,203.42
Church Home	\$7,568.96	Radio Broadcast	\$4,451.00	Zoe!	\$2,693.07
Building Maint.	\$34,397.28	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$0
Sunday School	\$2,933.58	Quilt Ministry	\$3,997.94	Mobile Banquet	\$8,208.13
First Lutheran Youth	\$5,548.43				

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

A thoughtful estate plan can help you tell your story through the people and causes you support after your lifetime.

Over the past few months, we have outlined the basics of creating a well-crafted estate plan that reflects your values and protects the people and causes you care about the most. Careful **Planning** may be the most important part of the process as it reflects your wishes as to who and how your assets are divided or managed. The **Giving** portion of estate planning is the “how to” portion of the planning process. Your financial advisor can best help you decide which tools are right for your situation. Finally, the **Growing** segment of developing your estate plan is important as you decide who may benefit from your generosity and how funds are distributed on your behalf.

One of this year’s recipients was a start-up ministry that helped clergy deal with mental health issues and addictions. The ministry is The Center for the Restoration of Impaired Clergy. (CRIC).

Here is an update from Rev. Otto B. Schultz, Executive Director

This note is to give you formal thanks for the grant made to the Center for Restoration of Impaired Clergy (CRIC). CRIC is now formally recognized as an IRS 501,(c), 3 non-profit.

This grant, along with several others and some personal donations has helped to fulfill CRIC’s 2024 budget goal. That enables us to truly focus on developing the program content and making connections with church authorities to put the programming to work.

*Most professions have successful impaired practitioner programs for behavioral health. Most church bodies don’t. Our task is to adapt those programs to church bodies. We want to help all denominations use the best practices in restoring clergy behavioral health. *CRIC does not provide therapy.*

What is CRIC:

Compassionate Accountability describes CRIC’s work in a nutshell. We want church bodies to follow policies motivated by compassion for behaviorally impaired clergy. We also want clergy with addictions and mental health disorders to be accountable for doing the right thing.

We will help church governing bodies establish a consistent program for the recovery of impaired clergy. That program includes therapy, support and accountability for up to 5 years. Other professions have found that this approach is the key to successful recovery.

CRIC’s approach will also offer the governing bodies a system of support for all those affected including clergy family, judicatory staff, colleagues, lay leaders, and individual members. CRIC will also provide for a series of professional educational experiences for all clergy. All these activities will be integrated with the governing body’s current policies for misconduct and employee assistance.

The Endowment Board will continue to keep you informed of the recipients of First Lutheran Church’s Endowment Fund grants and the impact it has made on people, families and our community.

Endowment Board

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

Red Cross Blood Drive

First Lutheran will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, September 8. Signup on our website or at redcrossblood.org, put in the zip code of 68025, and scroll down until you see our drive. If you need help making an appointment, please call Niki at 402-720-1825.



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 Tom Bosshardt.