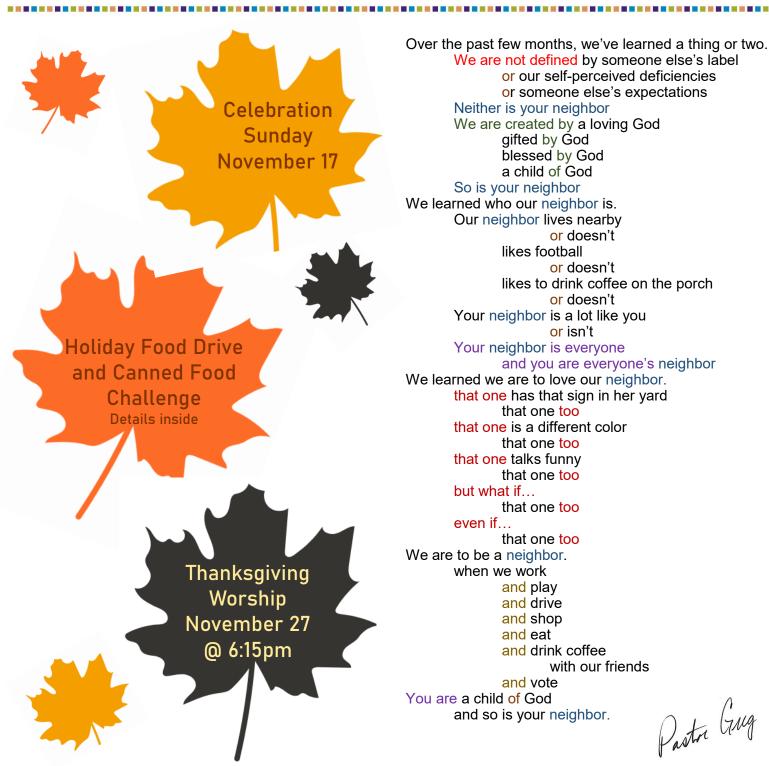


#### **NOVEMBER 2024**

# THE MESSENGER



#### Worship



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Join us for "Pray-lude" worship on Wednesday, November 27 where we will focus on giving thanks for all the blessings God pours on us each day. Worship begins at 6:15. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

#### **Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast sponsors**

Please sign up on-line or contact the office if you are able to cover the \$160 cost of a radio broadcast of FLC's 8:45am Sunday service or the \$50 cost of altar flowers. November and December have some open spots. Thank you!

#### **Sunday Morning Hospitality**

Hospitality means to show care, love and a happy heart for those coming to worship. These practices are for every day, everywhere. FLC has created a church home for people to feel welcomed. We can reach people with smiles and handshakes. Join your church family in greeting, ushering or serving as a welcome center host or a communion server. You can sign up on the <a href="FLC website">FLC website</a> or by calling the office. Please contact Tami Hall at 402-721-2959 with any questions.



#### **Celebration Sunday**

On November 17, we will celebrate what God has done in and through FLC since last November. Our mission continues to focus on raising up disciples and transforming lives. Watch the mail for 2025 estimate of giving cards.

#### **Sunday Snow Touchups**

We know it will eventually happen... snow will fall on a Sunday morning. We are in need of volunteers to help with keeping the entrances cleared of snow during services on Sunday mornings. This is a great service opportunity for service groups, families, or individuals. It would involve keeping the entrances cleared and salted after the snow removal company does their initial sweep. You can pick your own dates and sign up for a part or the whole morning! Sign up in the weekly e-news or on our website.

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

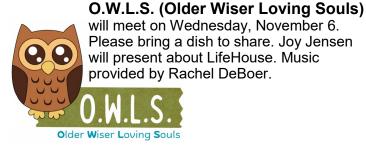
Holy Communion served during both worship services each week.

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

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.

#### **Discipleship**



FLC Quilters will meet Wednesday, November 20, at 1:00pm to celebrate the successful donation of 306 quilts in 2024. Many thanks to Marilyn Freeman for many years of coordinating this ministry. In response to her request to pass the baton, we will take this time to discuss the "Life of a Quilt" and decide what this ministry looks like moving forward. All quilters (new and old) are invited to this celebration to give input and share ideas. Contact ginad@flcfremont with questions.

#### Let's Paint!

Looking for a fun project...then we've something for you to put on your calendar. A couple of our talented carpenters and generous souls have put together 60 tool boxes for families to decorate and fill for Advent. We want to put a base coat on these boxes prior to December 8 so they can be finished, decorated and personalized by our kids and families. We hope those who like to paint, might come to the church at your convenience during the month of November to help us prepare. We will have supplies ready and a space to paint prepped for you. Please call the church office or contact Heidir@flcfremont.org if you think you might be interested.

Men's Bible Study will be starting the study of the Gospel of Luke in November. A perfect time for men interested in coming to study scripture because Luke's gospel starts with the Advent stories of John the Baptist and Jesus. Then we have the shepherd visit to the baby Jesus. It would be a great time to come and prepare for Christmas. Come join us on Saturdays at 8:30 am. In the Heritage Room. Note: Men's Bible Study WILL NOT meet on Saturday, November 30.

**The Chosen** discussion group will continue to meet in the Youth Room at noon and 6pm on Mondays. Deacon Rick will lead the discussion after the group watches an episode from Season 4 together. All are invited!

TLC (Together Living with Cancer) Support Group meets Tuesdays, November 12 and 26 at 6:30pm in the Youth Room.

**Chick Flicks** will meet on November 5, at 6:00pm, in the Heritage Room.

**Faith Study Group** will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, November 14, in the Conference Room. Sheri Wilberding will lead the lesson found in the September/October edition of *Gather* magazine.

FLC First Monday Bible Study will meet Monday, November 4, at 10:00am, at Judy Jorgensen's home, 1320 Ruth Avenue. The group will be studying Chapter 4 of *Just Like Jesus* by Max Lucado. Janet Divis will be the co-hostess. All First Lutheran women are welcome.

**WOW (Women of the Word)** Bible Study will meet at church on Wednesday, November 13, at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Lucy Klocke will lead the discussion on Chapter 3 of *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado. New faces always welcome!

#### **FLC Women of the ELCA**



## FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM PRESENTED BY JAN SCHIFERL Singer—Songwriter—Author

Tickets \$10. Will be available between services beginning November 17

Jan Schiferl, a gifted singer, songwriter and author, lives on a ranch with her husband near Fordyce in northeast Nebraska. Jan has a calling to music ministry and shares her message and inspires audiences with familiar songs and original compositions. Invite a friend to hear Jan's wonderful message, "This Changes Everything."

#### **November Ministry Partner:**



Food insecurity is the focus for FLC Mission and Outreach in November and there is no better local non-profit to partner with than **Care Corps' LifeHouse**. We hope to highlight their mission of "Enriching lives by providing a pathway to stability" by sharing their message with our congregation and providing full support. On Sunday, Nov. 3 we will hear a brief temple talk from Erica Martinez, Director of Fundraising & Media with LifeHouse. She will also be available for Q & A in Fellowship Hall between services. On Thursday, Nov. 14 the **FLC Mobile Banquet** will deliver 50 meals to the LifeHouse Shelter for the evening meal on the way to the LifeHouse Pantry to distribute the other 150 meals. FLC will also serve our traditional **LifeHouse meal** at the shelter on Tuesday, November 19.

In addition to these efforts, there will also be an opportunity to give monetarily to LifeHouse throughout Nov. & Dec by supporting the **RetirePath Advisors Holiday Food Drive** that supports the pantry throughout the year. Historically, this drive has been able to provide approximately 40,000 lbs. of food for the year. Look for a form at the Ministry Center or church office. Checks should be written to FLC. You can also look for the link to give online beginning November 3. This year they are making the drive a competition between local churches so let's be extra generous to help them exceed the goal of providing 150,500 meals through the pantry. Donations must be made by December 20.

Finally, you can support this partner with actual food donations. The Middle School Youth group will be going out on Nov. 13 to do a **Food Scavenger Hunt**. Please contact the church office with your address or an FLC middle school student if you have a donation you would like for them to pick up that evening. You can also bring your donations to the church to participate in our worship space **Seating Section Food Drive**. Since we all tend to sit in the same approximate locations from week-to-week you can put your donations in the box behind your section and on December 22 we will recognize the section with the highest participation.

#### Items in most demand at the LifeHouse Pantry:

Chicken noodle soup
Creamed soups
Spaghetti
Spaghetti sauce
Cereal
Ramen noodles
Canned corn
Canned tomatoes
Canned protein (tuna or chicken)
Saltine crackers
Canned fruits



#### **Mobile Banquet:**

The FLC mobile banquet will serve meals at LifeHouse Shelter and Pantry on Thursday, November 14, from 5:30-6:30pm. Please consider helping make this possible with your donations of food items, money or time. It's easy, sign up online or call the office to offer your help!



#### Ways to participate

- -Donate to the annual RetirePath Church Food Drive -give food items to the MS Youth Food Drive Scavenger Hunt (November 13)
- -Bring items for the seating section competition -Volunteer and/or give to the Mobile Banquet serving at the LifeHouse Pantry and Shelter (November 14)



#### **FLC Mobile Banquet Winter Coat Drive**

Donations of coats, hats, gloves, and mittens can be dropped of at the FLC Office October-December. These items will be distributed with the Mobile Banquet meals the 2nd Thursday of each month. **Children's sizes are the most desired**, but all sizes are needed.

#### **Operation Christmas Child**

Boxes are available in fellowship hall to be picked up and filled with items that are fun and personal. There are items on the tables to begin filling (or complete) your boxes. Volunteers will be at the table to take your photo if you'd like it included with your box. A donation of \$10 per box is encouraged to cover shipping costs, teacher training and other resources. Please include this donation in the box you fill. Bring your boxes back by November 17 for a Blessing.

For children around the world, a shoebox is often their very first gift. It is important to make sure your gift is: FUN—includes a "wow" item and other quality toys FULL—packed to the brim with additional school supplies and personal care items.

PERSONALIZED—prayed over and contains a note and photo, which are often the child's favorite items! One child reports: We had to share everything at the orphanage, including towels. When I got a washcloth in my box I actually thought it was my own personal towel! It was very special because I was the only one who could use it. It was my own personal thing—something that I didn't have before. I also got a notebook. It was awesome because when I was moved to a different orphanage I could use it to write letters to my sisters and stay in touch with them.

#### 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 Colleen Dilley, Steve Schmidt, Steve Hall, and Kelly Schole.

**Prayers of peace** for the family and friends of Donna Hillrichs, Lorene Thomsen, Rita Grosse, Bruce Willnerd, and Leonard Nielsen.

#### **October Pastoral Acts:**

10-26-24 Funeral—Lorene Thomsen 10-27-24 Confirmations—Rory Flanagan, Rafe George, Kate Gifford, Elijah Hansen, Colin King, Jackson Morgan, Lily Rich, Winston Slykhuis, Jax Tighe, Grace Walters 10-30-24 Funeral—Donna Hillrichs

PRAYERS

\*\*No time to shop? Scan or click on this First Lutheran Church QR code to fill a box online. It is \$25 which includes the \$10 donation.

Not only are the boxes bringing tangible, practical items to these children, they also bring God's love and open the doors for them to hear the good news of Jesus!

#### **Full boxes due November 17th**

#### FLC as OCC Drop Off center

Volunteers are needed to work in the mission center November 18-25 as local organizations drop off their full shoeboxes. Hours are Monday-Friday 5-7pm, Saturday-Sunday 12-3pm, and Monday, Nov 25 from 11am-1pm. Sign up on-line if you can help!



#### 2024-25 Council

At the October meeting of the church council, the following officers were elected:

President: Grant Prenzlow Vice President: Andrew Fairhead

Secretary: Derek Fey Treasurer: Michelle Beren

Council Members:
Mike Conrad
Kylie Coon
Julie Grimm
Cheryl Henderson
Eric Lindgren
Jeree Menning
Tracey Vrba
Alison Zuch



#### Giving thanks......

Dear First Lutheran Family-

Whether you kept us in your thoughts and prayers, sent a lovely arrangement, gave a memorial donation, or helped out in any way, your love and kindness brought us great comfort and will always be remembered. The family of Donna Hillrichs

#### Children and Youth



High School FLYs will have a night of celebration and thanksgiving on Wed, Nov 13, 7:00-9:00pm. Bring a friend and a dish to share that starts with the first letter of your last name. Sign up here.



Join FLC High Schoolers and invited friends for outdoor activities, devotionals with discussion, food, hiking, music, and group bonding. Retreat is January 17-19, 2025, at Carol Joy Holing. Cost is \$100 which includes all food, lodging, transportation, and activities.

Register <u>here</u> or by scanning the QR code. Deadline is Wednesday, December 18. Contact Kaleb Jorgensen or Gina DeBoer with questions.

#### **Sunday School News**

#### **Sunday School**

Sunday mornings at FLC are full of great moments for kids! Kids of all ages are welcome at both worship services 8:45 & 10:45 and we now include a children's message at both. At the end of the 10:45 service the band encourages children to come up front to play along! We also have 2 Creation Stations with quiet activities to keep little hands busy while still engaging in worship. We also hope families will be a part of Sunday School from 9:45-10:40 in the education wing. It's never too late to jump into the fun! We are going to mix things up a bit by leading off with large group in Room #105. Everyone should meet us there at 9:45 for uplifting songs (lead by Rachael DeBoer, Levi DeBoer & Jeremy Hansen). We will introduce the Bible story for the day, talk about targeted giving, pray & bless each other before going to rooms for small group activities. Of course, there are simultaneous studies offered for adults, as well as coffee & donuts for all ages. It's a great time to catch up with your FLC friends and family. Consider making this a can't-miss part of your Sunday routine!

#### **Confirmation News**

- Wednesday, November 6—Confirmation class
- Wednesday, November 13—Service project— Food Scavenger Hunt
- Wednesday, November 20—Confirmation class
- Sign up for Confirmation Remind by texting @flccon2024 to the number 81010

#### **Middle School News**

- Wednesday, November 13—Service project— Food Scavenger Hunt
- Wednesday, November 27—NO MS FLYs— Thanksgiving break
- Sign up for MS Remind by texting @flcms2024 to the number 81010

#### **High School News**

- Wednesday, November 6—NO HS FLYS
- Wednesday, November 13—Friendsgiving—
  Bring a friend and a dish to share that begins with
  the first letter of your last name.
- Tuesday, November 19—Service Project—serve meal at LifeHouse, 723 N Broad St, Fremont
- Wednesday, November 20—Games and goodies in the youth room, 7:00-9:00pm
- Wednesday, November 27—NO HS FLYs— Thanksgiving break
- Sign up for the HS Remind by texting @2024flchs to the number 81010



#### **Affirmation of Baptism**

We celebrate with the following 9th graders who affirmed their faith on Sunday, October 27,2024. Rory Kathleen Flanagan + Rafe Erik George + Kate Caroline Gifford † Elijah Jean Hansen † Colin Warner King + Jackson Wayne Morgan + Lily Renee Rich + Winston Alexander Slykhuis + Jax Damon Tighe + Grace Kay Walters +

Many thanks to Confirmation guides Jeremy Hansen, Dillon Rector, and Jamie Rich for supporting these students throughout their confirmation journey.

My name is Trent Hansen and I'm honored to be the volunteer leader for the middle school youth group. I grew up in First Lutheran Church and involved in many activities including: VBS, ZOE, Spoudazo, and FLYs. The reason I was so involved with FLC growing up is because I had people in the church invested in me. I hope we can do the same for



your middle school youth. I have experience in youth ministry as I worked part-time as an Assistant Youth Director at Hope Reformed Church in Spencer, Iowa for 4 years. Now, I'm in my first year of teaching as a math teacher at BoysTown High School. I'm glad to be a part of a church that invests in their youth. Please be praying for wisdom and vision for this new ministry and please be praying for me as I balance this position with my first year of teaching.

#### **Early Learning Center**



If you enroll in the Baker's Community Rewards program, First Lutheran Church Early Learning Center will receive credit for every purchase their members make using their registered Plus Card! This is at no cost to the consumer and does not affect Baker's Plus Points, it is just a great way to help out our Childcare Center!! THANK YOU for supporting First Lutheran Church Early Learning Center.

To Enroll in Baker's Community Rewards Program

1. Please go to:

http://www.bakersplus.com/account/ enrollCommunitvRewardsNow

2. Click on 'CREATE AN ACCOUNT' and create an account and choose this

store: 1531 N. Bell Street, Fremont, NE

3. Click on 'Enroll Now' and choose organization

number: 68698 for First

Lutheran Early Learning Center- Click on 'Enroll'













#### **Council Highlights - September**

#### **October FLC Council Highlights**

- The council appreciates the donation of new computers for the ELC and FLC that were so needed.
- The hail and wind from this past summer has really done a number on the church roof and skylights. The hope is to get repairs completed within the year so our structure is secure for years to come.
- Our September Mission Partner was Midland University and FLC was able to donate bikes, bike locks, and gift cards to help students. They are very appreciative for all that FLC does to support Midland's mission.

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, FLC Council Secretary

\*\*Full minutes are available upon request

#### **Monthly Financial Report**

	S	ept Actual	5	Sept Budget	YTD Budget		YTD Actual		Prior YTD	
Pledged Giving	\$	64,655.05	\$	65,000.00	\$	65,000.00	\$	64,655.05	\$	57,598.66
O a a a a l la a a a a		00 000 45	_	00 040 00	_	00.040.00	_	00 000 45	Φ.	00 704 05
General Income	\$	69,800.15		68,010.00	\$	68,010.00	\$	69,800.15	\$	60,781.65
Mission Income	\$	4,136.00	\$	4,004.16	\$	4,004.16	\$	4,136.00	\$	3,086.67
Expenses	\$	76,196.41	\$	76,870.34	\$	76,870.34	\$	76,196.41	\$	70,922.91
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$	(2,260.26)	\$	(4,856.18)	\$	(4,856.18)	\$	(2,260.26)	\$	(7,054.59)
Duilding Found Contributions	Φ.	2.405.00					Φ.	2.405.00	Φ.	4.004.07
Building Fund Contributions	\$	2,165.00					\$	2,165.00	\$	1,681.67
Build Fund Balance		36,977.63								

September marks the beginning of the new fiscal year with no real outliers. We made budget and pledged giving for the month which is a great way to start the year. Maintenance/Building Fund continues to grow for large unexpected costs such HVAC, fire system, etc. ELC started their fiscal year off with a small profit. As the year comes to a close, it's a good time to remind everyone that that if you are required to receive an RMD, talk with your tax and/or retirement advisor about a charitable rollover to First Lutheran Church. This allows you to give to First Lutheran directly from your IRA without having to pay taxes on that distribution. You can meet your tithing pledge while saving in taxes - it's a win/win! ~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



**Targeted Giving...** (as of 9/30/24) 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 Scholars	ship \$5,096.63	Children's WAM	\$604.09
Technology	\$3,332.41	Good Samaritan	\$2,790.46	Spoudazo	\$5,479.87
Church Home	\$7,508.96	Radio Broadcast	\$4,451.00	Zoe!	\$2,693.07
Building Maint.	\$36,977.63	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	<b>ELC Tuition Assist</b>	ance \$660.70
Sunday School	\$2,933.58	Quilt Ministry	\$3,997.94	Banquet Mobile Me	eal\$7,597.48
First Lutheran Youth	\$3 705 40				

Donate to LifeHouse throughout Nov. & Dec by supporting the **RetirePath Advisors Holiday Food Drive** which supports the pantry throughout the year. Historically, this drive has been able to provide approximately 40,000 lbs. of food for the year. Use this form with your check written to FLC or scan the QR code and chose the LifeHouse Food Drive option. This year RetirePath Advisors are making the drive a competition between local churches, so let's be extra generous to help them exceed the goal of providing 150,500 meals through the pantry. Donations must be made by Dec. 20.

### Holiday Food Drive 2024

LifeHouse Food Pantry - Fremont & surrounding area Please fill out the form below, attach a check made payable to your church for the total amount. Please turn in your order by Tuesday, December 20, 2024

This program is sponsored by:







Quantity	Size		Item	Price	Total		
	48/5 OZ	Tuna in Water		\$67.90	\$ -		
	12/20 OZ	Beef Stew		\$40.00	\$ -		
	12/5.6 OZ	Hamburger Helper - B	eef Noodle	\$15.00	\$ -		
	12/4.7 OZ	Scalloped/Augratin Po	otatoes	\$23.71	\$ -		
	24/10.5 OZ	Chicken Noodle Soup		\$20.00	\$ -		
	24/10.75 OZ	Vegetable Beef		\$30.00	\$ -		
	24/10.5 OZ	Tomato Soup		\$20.00	\$ -		
	24/10.5 OZ	Cream of Mushroom		\$20.00	\$ -		
	24/3 OZ	Top Ramen		\$8.28	\$ -		
	Case	Saltine Crackers		\$36.00	\$ -		
	24/16 OZ	Pork N Beans		\$12.00	\$ -		
	24/15.25 OZ	Com		\$21.00	\$ -		
	24/15 OZ	Mixed Vegetables		\$21.00	\$ -		
	24/15 OZ	Canned Peas		\$21.00	\$ -		
	24/14.5 OZ	Green Beans		\$21.00	\$ -		
	24/14.5 OZ	Diced Tomatoes		\$24.00	\$ -		
	12/15 OZ	Pears		\$35.00	\$ -		
	12/15 OZ	Sliced Peaches		\$37.00	\$ -		
	24/11 OZ	Mandarin Oranges		\$38.00	\$ -		
	12/24 OZ	Applesauce		\$30.00	\$ -		
	12/15 OZ	Fruit Cocktail		\$38.00	\$ -		
	24/3 OZ	Sugar-free Jello - Asso	orted	\$16.00	\$ -		
	12/24 OZ	Pancake Syrup		\$27.00	\$ -		
	12/32 OZ	Pancake Mix		\$28.00	\$ -		
	Case	Oatmeal		\$54.00	\$ -		
	14/14 OZ	Cereal		\$32.63	\$ -		
	16/18 OZ	Peanut Butter		\$28.00	\$ -		
	12/24 OZ	Pasta Sauce With Me	at	\$20.00	\$ -		
	24/16 OZ	Spaghetti		\$25.00	\$ -		
	20/16 OZ	Elbow Macaroni		\$33.00	\$ -		
	24/12 OZ	Macaroni & Cheese		\$13.00	\$ -		
	36/1 lb	Ground Turkey		\$150.00	\$ -		
	30/1 lb	CV Margarine		\$49.00	\$ -		
	36/1 lb	Ground Beef		\$180.00	\$ -		
		Undesignated			\$ -		
						\$ -	
						Ψ -	



Please make check payable to your church

Name

Amount

The pantry manager may use their discretion to substitute food items to meet community needs and maximize stewardship.

first lutheran church ENDOWMENT

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

October was National Estate Planning Awareness Month, a perfect time to reflect on your legacy and ensure your future wishes are clearly outlined. Estate planning is not just for the wealthy — it's for everyone who wants to protect their loved ones, ensure their assets are distributed according to their wishes, and avoid unnecessary stress down the road.

How often should you meet with your attorney to review your estate plan? The circumstances that warrant an evaluation are more important than the amount of time that has lapsed. Many times, the review of an estate plan is prompted by a change in circumstances or intentions.

Here are a few instances that may warrant a review or update of your plan.

A child or grandchild has been born or adopted.

A beneficiary has died, divorced, separated, married or has developed special needs.

A change in intentions such as adding or deleting a charitable beneficiary or the amount to be received.

A trust has been implemented for a beneficiary or that a trust is no longer necessary.

The overall valuation of an estate has significantly increased or decreased.

Business interests have changed.

Changes have incurred in the law which may affect a person's planning.

A change in the appointment of a fiduciary has become necessary (e.g. guardian, personal representative, trustee).

We encourage you to take the opportunity to review or create your estate plan, whether you're just starting or need to update an existing plan.

#### **Grant Requests Approved**

The Endowment Board recently approved \$25,000 to be given to the Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. This grant will help fund one of ten projects in a \$6.6 million dollar Sustaining Sacred Spaces Campaign. A representative will be on hand to accept this grant during a worship service in January or February.

#### Welcome new board members

The Endowment Committee welcomes Dick Norenberg and Carol Nielsen to the Endowment Committee. They will be replacing retiring members Brian Brodd and Steve Pike.

#### **Endowment Board**

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





The church office will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29 for staff to enjoy Thanksgiving with their families.



**CONGRATULATIONS!** To Pastor Greg(15), Deacon Karen(55), Pastor Duane(45), and Deacon Rick(15) as they celebrated milestone ordination anniversaries at the Fall Theological Conference in Kearney.

#### MENARDS®

Did you know? FLC can use your Menards rebate receipts. If you choose not to send in the rebate receipts yourself, you can always drop them off at the church office and we will send them in to be used on supplies/materials to keep our building running and looking beautiful. Thank you for supporting FLC!