



THE MESSENGER

ELC Applebee's
Fundraiser
February 11

Mobile Banquet
February 13
Details Inside

February Ministry
Partner:
The Bridge

Do you remember playing Follow the Leader when you were a kid? You'd all line up and mimic the one in the front. If he skipped, you skipped. If she twirled, you twirled. If she jumped like a frog while shouting out the Chicken Dance, well, so did you. Being in the line, though, was not the cool place to be. Everyone wanted to be the leader, to be in front, to have control – to be in charge.

Not everyone is cut out to be a leader and that's a good thing. Even the disciples started out as followers (*disciple literally means follower*). Even when they were done following Jesus, they still weren't called leaders. They were called apostles (*which literally means one who is sent, and pastors are ones who watch over*). I guess that means no one in the church is only a leader, we have also been called to other duties – namely, messengers and care-takers.

No less than a dozen times does Jesus say, "Follow me." Sometimes he says it to future disciples. Sometimes, it's to a crowd. Sometimes, it feels like a warning. It doesn't really matter how we interpret how Jesus says it, it is always an invitation.

An invitation to follow Jesus was both exciting and perhaps a little frightening. Think about it – as people walked with Jesus they saw all sorts of miracles – feeding 5,000, healing the sick, casting out demons, etc. But Jesus was also calling on these people to give up their treasures and do things others thought was breaking the Jewish law. That's quite a price to pay!

Jesus' call to follow him didn't end with the disciples or even his death and resurrection. His call to follow him continues to us today.

What would following Jesus look like now?

Certainly, learning from and about him. We learn about him in worship on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights. We learn about him in Bible and book studies. We learn about him through reading our Bible. All of scripture is concerned with Christ. The Old Testament points to him, the Gospels walk us through his life, death, and resurrection, and the rest of the New Testament illuminates his continued work in this world.

In the Gospels, we have the opportunity to hear his words. Jesus says a lot of stuff we still need to hear today. He boils down the 10 Commandments into just two: love God, love others. I think this just might be the most important thing we'll ever need to know. It says nothing about conditions or qualifications. Just love.

It is our prayer that, every time you walk through our doors or open any of our newsletters, announcement sheets, social media posts, or emails, you'll find a new way to follow Christ. It might be through an educational or social opportunity, a service project, worship, or volunteering. When Jesus says the words, "Follow me," there is no limit to the possibilities.

We here at First Lutheran want to give you every opportunity to heed this call.

Follow me.
-Jesus

Pastor Greg

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

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.

Sunday Morning Hospitality Volunteers

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 [FLC website](#) or by calling the office.

Worship Volunteers

If you'd like to help with the Children's Messages, reading the scripture, or providing special music for any worship service, please contact Amy at amys@flcfremont.org.

Sponsor Altar Flowers or Sunday Morning Gathering

Fellowship is an important part of Sunday mornings. Sharing our faith stories over coffee and donuts helps us grow as the FLC family. Altar flowers brighten the worship space and are delivered each week to someone needing a little cheer or celebrating a special event. If you'd like to sponsor the Sunday morning gathering or Altar Flowers, please sign up [online](#) under the Ministry Opportunities section.

Weather Related Closings

The closing of the church would be a last resort but we want to protect the safety of our members and employees. If the occasion arises where we need to close the church and cancel services for weather or other events:

- Sunday worship services and any event(s) at FLC will be held at the discretion of FLC Leadership.
- The Early Learning Center will close or open late at the discretion of the Early Learning Center Director.

The decision to close the office, open late, or cancel service will be made no later than 7 am or 2 hours prior to scheduled events. The notification will be posted on the FLC social media pages and announced on KHUB, KETV, KMTV, and WOWT as able.

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 Pat Trautimas, Butch Scott, Dean and Janie Baugh, Dennis Knudsen, Jerry McPherran, Steve Hall, Lyman Niebaum, Shawn Brown, Maureen (Mo) Carpenter, Dave Henker (Pastor Greg's Uncle), Marilyn Wagner, and Elaine Reber.

Prayers of peace for the family and friends of George Snyder, Gail Feye, and Judy Ellis.

DISCIPLESHIP

Fantasy Football, Faith, and Fellowship continues to meet on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in the Heritage Room. The group is currently studying the book of James.

Men's Bible Study will continue studying the Gospel of Luke. They will meet every Saturday in February at 8:30am in the Heritage Room. The group invites all men to join this study.

Rix Study Group meets Sunday mornings at 9:45am in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion of Max Lucado's book, *Unshakable Hope*.



TLC Together Living with Cancer

SUPPORT GROUP

EVERY 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY
6:30PM | YOUTH ROOM

TLC (Together Living with Cancer) Support Group meets Tuesdays, February 11 and 25 at 6:30pm in the Youth Room. This support group is for anyone who has battled or is currently battling cancer as well as those who's lives have been touched by this disease. Reach out to Gina (ginad@flcfremont.org) for more information.

Sunday Study with Kris Lindgren meets at 9:45am in the Heritage Room. All are welcome to join in our discussions.



QUILT WITH US!

FLC Quilters will meet on Wednesday, February 12 at 1:00pm in the Quilt Room to prep quilts for

the following week. No special skills required; just a desire to work together to put quilt tops, middles, and backs together so they are ready for the monthly quilt tying day.

Join fellow FLC quilters Wednesday, February 19 at 1:00pm to tie quilts for LWR. Enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and tying knots so quilts can be donated to Lutheran World Relief. No sewing experience required.

Fabric Needed: Donations of new or gently used cotton or flannel sheets are needed. These sheets are used as filling and/or backs to the quilts made for LWR. Sheets can be twin, queen, or king sizes. In addition, donations of cotton material are always greatly appreciated. Material can be any size from fat quarters to multiple yards. Donations can be dropped off at the office.

FLC Women of the ELCA

FLC First Monday Bible Study will meet at the home of Judy Jorgensen, 1320 Ruth Avenue, Monday, February 3 at 10:00am. The group will study Chapter 6 of *Just Like Jesus* by Max Lucado. Karma Ellermeier will serve as co-hostess. All FLC women are welcome!

Chick Flicks will meet on Tuesday, February 4 at 6:00pm in the FLY Room.

OWLS will meet on Wednesday, February 5 at 11:30am for a potluck and card bingo. Bring a dish to share with the group. No sign up necessary.

HUGS (Heartfelt, Uplifting, Giving Sisters) is made up of single ladies who meet quarterly, using Ecclesiastes 3 (a time for everything) as their mission. They are sisters in Christ, glorifying God in new seasons of life. If you have experienced loss or find yourself in singleness, please contact Nancy Rix at nancyrix@hotmail.com or Sherie Ebers at 402-721-4646 to join.

The next HUGS meeting will be on Saturday, February 8, at the Opera House from 7:00-9:00 pm to enjoy the Mike & Amy Spies, Joy Jensen and family show! Munchies will be served. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased online through www.fremontoperahouse.org or at the Wise Olde Owl (516 N. Main Street, Fremont). You are responsible for your own ticket, but please let Nancy or Sherie know if you will be able to attend. We hope to see you all there!

WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, February 12 at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Sherie Ebers will lead the study on Chapter 5 of Max Lucado's book, *Contagious Calm*. Fellowship to follow at Village Inn. All are welcome to join!



Faith Circle will meet at 7:00pm on Thursday, February 13, in the Conference Room. Trudy Tamke will be leading the lesson from the Jan/Feb Gather magazine.

The Spring Gathering is on March 8, 2025 in Lincoln. Registration is \$20. FLC Women of the ELCA are in the Midlands Conference and invited to this gathering. More details coming.

MISSION & OUTREACH

FEBRUARY 9



IT'S SOUP-ER TO SUPPORT THE BRIDGE

Show your support by donating microwavable soups and meals, crackers, or even fast food gift cards. Monetary donations are also welcome!



February Ministry Partner:



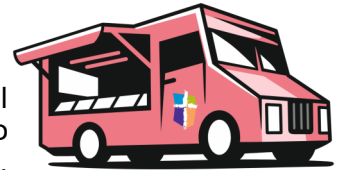
In February, FLC will partner with The Bridge, a local non-profit with a mission to prevent and eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault.

Suzanne Smith, Executive Director at The Bridge, will join us at both worship services on Sunday, February 9, to share more about their work in the Fremont area.

Often, families come to The Bridge in emergency situations. They are given a safe place to stay but need meals that are quick and easy to prepare. We can help fill this need by donating microwavable soups, meals, crackers, and even fast-food gift cards in February. It's SOUP-er easy to support The Bridge. Start shopping now or consider making a monetary donation that can be shared with The Bridge by placing cash or check in the envelopes available in the chair backs in the worship space, by scanning the QR code or by going to www.flcfremont.org/events to give.



Mobile Banquet:



The FLC Mobile Banquet will be delivering 250+ meals to Meadowbrook Mobile Park, LifeHouse, and ASPIRE on **Thursday, February 13 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! Please have your donations to the church kitchen by NOON on February 12.

CAROL JOY HOLLING CAMP

HELP FLC SPONSOR A CAMP COUNSELOR!

FLC GOAL: 1 COUNSELOR

Total Cost: \$4500

WE HAVE CURRENTLY RAISED \$602 OF OUR \$4500 GOAL.



WAYS TO DONATE:

-SCAN THE QR CODE



-GO TO OUR WEBSITE
WWW.FLCFREMONT.ORG/EVENTS

-WRITE A CHECK DESIGNATED TO CJH

LEARN MORE ABOUT SUMMER CAMP 2025 @CAROLJOYHOLLING.ORG



FLC Mobile Banquet — Watch for Winter Sales!

Winter coat distribution is done for this winter, but now is the time to look for winter items on sale to build our inventory for 2025! For questions, contact Heidi at heidir@flcfremont.org.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



SAVE THE DATE — 2025 True North VBS! FLC will be hosting Vacation Bible School again this summer! VBS will be for PS-6th graders at FLC and in the community. It will be held July 27-30 from 5:30-8:15pm with the closing program on July 31. A meal will be served each night for participants and volunteers. Students will get to learn about trusting Jesus when we wonder, feel alone, feel powerless, need hope, and need help. Through games, crafts, storytelling, and songs, students will experience the love of Jesus and why we need Jesus in our lives. Mark your calendars, it is sure to be a fun week for all!

How can you support VBS?

Planning and preparation has begun! We will use the True North curriculum, teaching kids to trust Jesus in this wild world. We are excited to offer this ministry to our families and children in the Fremont area. A successful VBS needs many volunteers. We will be looking for people to prep & serve meals, lead outdoor games, act out the Bible story, lead a small group of kids from station to station, decorate, lead crafts, prep all the supplies, and more! Contact Gina (ginad@flcfremont.org) if you have gifts in any of these areas and would like to join the VBS team!

Sunday School News

The FLC Sunday school program is now in full swing for the winter! All children from preschool to 6th grade are invited to join us for Bible stories, singing, prayer, and games.

Feel free to invite a friend to come along and experience the fun! We can't wait to see what God has in store as we learn and grow together.

Middle School News

- **Wednesday, February 5**—7:00-8:30pm
Woodlawn—Week 1
- **Wednesday, February 19**, 7-8:30pm
Woodlawn—Week 2
- Sign up for MS Remind by texting [@flcms2024](https://www.instagram.com/flcms2024) to the number 81010

High School News

- **Sunday, February 2**, Noon
Pizza & Cookie Making
- **Wednesday, February 5**, 7:00-9:00pm
Cookie Decorating
- **Wednesday, February 12**, 7:00-9:00pm, FLY Room
YOU—Week 4
- **Wednesday, February 19**, 7:00-9:00pm
Pickleball Tournament
- **Wednesday, February 26**, 7:00-9:00pm
FUN Event

Confirmation News

- **Wednesday, February 5 Retreat Make Up Day** —
8th grade Confirmation students who missed the retreat in January will meet in the Youth Room on Wednesday, February 5 from 1:30-5:30pm. Supper will be provided.
- **Wednesday, February 12**, 7:00-8:00pm Class
- **Wednesday, February 26**, 7:00-8:00pm-Class

First Communion Instruction Sign-Up

Pastor Greg and Gina will be teaching First Communion instruction to 4th graders and anyone older who wants a refresher. If your child is not in 4th grade yet, but you feel he/she is ready for communion instruction, please bring your child to talk with Pastor Greg before signing up. We are aware some children are ready before 4th grade and want to work with parents to do what is best for your child. First Communion instruction will be 2 sessions.

- **Part 1 will be held Wednesday, February 26 from 3:30-5:30pm.** Students will be making their own chalice and paten during this class.
- **Part 2 will be held Saturday, April 12 from 9:00am-noon.** Students will be learning about the Sacrament of Holy Communion and making communion bread during this session.

Attending both sessions is expected to complete the training. Following the training, students will take their first communion during the Maundy Thursday worship service on Thursday, April 17.

Contact Gina (ginad@flcfremont.org) to sign up or with any questions you might have.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

February is a short month, but one packed full of learning, as we press forward with our educational goals full of fun, engaging activities. Dr. Benjamin Peters will be visiting the Preschool this month to give presentations to the students regarding proper dental care. This will give the children the opportunity to practice their new dental care.



This month we will have stories and activities related to love, with an emphasis on friendship, family bonding, giving, and kindness. With love in the air this month, we would like to thank everyone for all the love and support that has been given to the ELC throughout the year!

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← FEBRUARY 11 ALL DAY

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Fundraiser

Show your support for FLC Early Learning Center at Applebee's here in Fremont! On Tuesday, February 11, Applebee's will contribute 25% of your order to support ELC! This is an all day event, all you need to do is mention this fundraiser to your server when you order.

2025-26 PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

FEBRUARY 3RD
OPEN ENROLLMENT

Contact Mindy Olson for registration
mindyo@flcfremont.org
402.721.2959



We're Hiring!

**FULL TIME
INFANT & TODDLER
TEACHERS**

We're Hiring!

We're looking for passionate, caring, and dedicated **Infant and Toddler Teachers** to join our team! If you have a love for working with young children, fostering their

growth, and creating a nurturing environment, we want to hear from you!

Responsibilities:

- * Provide a safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate learning environment for infants and toddlers.
- * Plan and implement creative activities that promote cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- * Build strong, positive relationships with children and their families.

Qualifications:

- * Experience working with infants and toddlers.
- * A caring and patient attitude.
- * Early Childhood Education background preferred.

If you're ready to make a difference in the lives of young children, apply to Mindy today with your resume at mindyo@flcfremont.org.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – JANUARY

January FLC Council Highlights

- Attendance over Christmas services approached 800 people over the three services
- Over 1300 pounds of food was delivered for the LifeHouse Food Drive - many thanks to everyone that was involved with giving for the food drive
- The van and bus now have our First Lutheran logos on windows! The Fremont community will now be able to recognize First Lutheran Church wherever we go. A few more signs will go up on the vehicles as the weather improves

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, FLC Council Secretary

***Full minutes are available upon request*

****2024 Giving Statements** have been sent out. If you have not received yours, please let Wendy in the office know.

Monthly Financial Report

	Dec Actual	Dec Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 69,978.59	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 335,000.00	\$ 283,616.93	\$ 341,096.49
General Income	\$ 89,617.11	\$ 145,455.00	\$ 354,920.00	\$ 319,692.67	\$ 372,275.87
Mission Income	\$ 5,714.50	\$ 4,004.24	\$ 18,516.72	\$ 33,569.50	\$ 41,274.17
Expenses	\$100,294.75	\$ 85,287.26	\$ 316,583.28	\$ 334,435.79	\$ 304,145.99
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ (4,963.14)	\$ 64,171.98	\$ 56,853.44	\$ 18,826.38	\$ 109,404.05
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 5,535.00			\$ 14,100.00	\$ 12,247.67
Build Fund Balance	47,216.27				

Pledged giving in December was drastically softer than last year although it appears January will compensate for that. Christmas giving was almost double last year! There was a light loss for December but again, that is rebounding in January.

There have been some unbudgeted HVAC issues in December that we anticipate will produce some large maintenance and repair costs in the next months. The monthly ELC cost share is suspended through February to support the ELC until their next rate increase. They did have a positive bottom line in December. As mentioned, this will be a year of transition.

With all the changes and additions happening, we will begin transitioning accounts to better accommodate and track these changes. As always, if you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



Targeted Giving... (as of 12/31/24) 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	\$10,628.65	First Lutheran Youth	\$4,183.20	Children's WAM	\$ 604.09
Technology	\$2,814.66	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$5,496.63	Spoudazo	\$5,793.87
Church Home	\$7,546.93	Good Samaritan	\$ -809.54	Zoe!	\$2,993.07
Building Maint.	\$47,216.27	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$1,188.82
Sunday School	\$2,933.58	Quilt Ministry	\$4,497.94	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$7,191.63

Come & See

EXPERIENCE WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP AT FLC

Sunday, February 2

8:45am or 10:45am Service

First Lutheran Church | 3200 E. Military Ave

Come see what God is doing at First Lutheran
and how God can change your life.

EXPLORE



firstlutheran
CHURCH

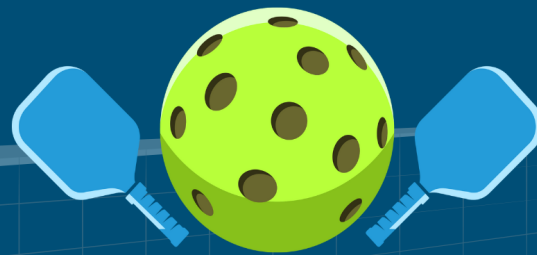
Considering joining FLC?
Sign up for EXPLORE.



Sunday, March 2

5:30pm

Fellowship Hall



DROP-IN

PICKLEBALL

EVERY THURSDAY

6:30-8:30PM | MISSION CENTER

No experience or sign up necessary. Games will be played as people arrive and leave. This is a **FREE** ministry. If you'd like to donate towards another net and a couple more balls and paddles, please contact Gina (gina@flcfremont.org).

First Lutheran Church | 3200 E. Military Ave | Fremont, NE 68025

FAMILY BOWLING FUN!

**\$10
PER PERSON**

FEBRUARY 23 | 3:00-5:00PM

30 BOWL | 1205 E 23RD ST

Price includes 2 hours of bowling & shoe rental. Sign up at the Welcome Desk. Questions? Contact Gina (gina@flcfremont.org)