



THE MESSENGER

**Baccalaureate
Service**
May 7

**Mobile
Banquet**
May 8

*Extra Item:
Towels*

**May Ministry
Partner: LFS**
**Kick It Up: Shoe/Sock
Collection**

At the end of the Easter services, I said something I'd like to expand on a little. I said, "Easter doesn't end today." So, what does that mean exactly?

From Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, we tend to focus on ourselves, our sins, our own peril. It seems we spend all of Lent preparing for Good Friday and our role in putting Jesus on that cross, then Easter comes and Christ is risen (He is risen indeed!). Death and devil have been defeated. Yay God! Yay Jesus!

And...life goes on.

And...before you know it, it's forty days plus Sundays before the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of Spring. In other words, it's Ash Wednesday again, and we do it all over, again.

Don't get me wrong – Lent is important. But Christ didn't die on a cross for us to walk around guilty and ashamed all our lives. Christ rose from the grave so that we might be saved by his grace. The cross doesn't bring us hope, joy, and freedom, victory over the cross does.

So, what does it look like to live as if every day was Easter?

I imagine it looks like opening the door for everyone. It looks like not assuming the worst in people. It looks like giving up your seat for someone else. It looks like thinking of other's needs and doing what you can to make sure those needs are met. It looks like making sure everyone else has been fed before you fill your plate. It looks like generosity and hospitality and empathy all rolled into one.

I know, this is all could be scary and/or risky. What if somebody takes advantage of your grace and mercy? Isn't that what grace and mercy are all about? Grace and mercy cost Jesus his life (Good Friday) but grace and mercy didn't stop there. Easter came. The Resurrection happened.

God's grace and mercy are still working in you, in me, and in this crazy world, which means we're living in an Easter world. The resurrected Jesus is still resurrected. That resurrection means that we no longer need to fear death or the power of sin. It means we are empowered to be the resurrected Christ's hands and feet and voice to continue bringing a message of hope, peace, and love to this world, nation, and community.

So, again, what does it look like to live as if every day is Easter?

The challenge is to think outside the box, to step outside your comfort zone, to see outside your circle of influence and notice the little things you could do. Go people watching, not with the intent to criticize or judge, but with a servant's heart. Wonder what would make the world a better place for the people you see. Then do something. Be a difference maker.

Reflect on yourself and your actions. Are you willing to acknowledge your thinking could benefit from a little expansion? Is your comfort zone so comfortable you've built a wall to keep the uncomfortable out? Are you truly open to another point of view?

Good Friday saw the tomb sealed shut. Easter opened a whole new world. Do you find comfort in the darkness of the closed tomb? Or is your comfort found in the love of our Risen Lord?

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.



NEW WORSHIP TIMES

STARTING
JUNE 8

SUNDAYS 8:00AM & 10:15AM

New Worship Times: Starting on Sunday, June 8, our worship times on Sundays will be 8:00am & 10:15am. Please help us get the word out to all members and guests to make this a smooth transition.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



SIGN UP TO SERVE ON SUNDAYS!

- USHERS -
- GREETERS -
- COMMUNION SERVERS -
- WELCOME CENTER HOSTS -

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.

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 Janie Baugh, Shawn Brown, Lorna Knudsen, Lyn Robart, Dennis, Gale Merz, Lonnie Reker, Pam Spevak, Ron Pronske, Bob Possin, and Alan Doll.

Prayers of peace for the family and friends of Dean Baugh.

April Pastoral Acts: 4-27-2025 Confirmations—Brody Allen, Landon Beattie, Ava Bohaboj, Jarrett Coon, Landon Emmons, Collin Folkers, Noelle Henderson, Cooper Jacobsen, Lawson Kieborz, Cash Kroeger, Alayna Lamme, Mathew Muller, Brayden Rix, Chloe Schorn, Jasper Semrad, Norah Wagner, Saylor Winn, Addison Yount, Beckett Zahourek

4-29-2025 Funeral—Dean Baugh

DISCIPLESHIP

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

SATURDAYS | 8:30 AM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Room 122

Men's Bible Study will be finished studying the Gospel of Luke in May. The group meets every Saturday at 8:30am in Room 122. All men are invited to join this study.

Sunday Study with Kris Lindgren will finish, "The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi," on May 4. The group will start, "Give Up Something Bad" on May 11. All are welcome to join in on discussions on Sunday mornings at 9:45am in the Heritage Room. ***Watch for new start time in June**

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*. ***Watch for new start time in June**

3 PART SERIES: PART ONE

KNOCKIN' ON
heaven's
DOOR

THURSDAY, MAY 22 | NOON

JOIN US FOR A POTLUCK LUNCH
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL &
LEARN ABOUT HOSPICE CARE
VS. PALLIATIVE CARE.

 **O.W.L.S.**
Older Wiser Loving Souls

GUEST SPEAKER: KATY BONHAM
DIRECTOR OF HOSPICE
METHODIST FREMONT HEALTH

A 3-part series offered by FLC to help people be knowledgeable and prepared for the end stages of life. These conversations can be hard, but the time will come for everyone and being prepared is one of the best gifts you can give your loved ones and yourself. The first part of the series will be held on Thursday, May 22 at noon. Enjoy a potluck lunch, followed by a presentation by Katy Bonham, the Director of Hospice, for Methodist Fremont Health. Katy will teach about hospice care and what this service can provide for people when nearing the end of life stages. She will also share with us more about palliative care and how that is similar and different from hospice care.

FLC Women of the ELCA

FLC First Monday Bible Study will meet at the home of Judy Jorgensen, 1320 Ruth Avenue, Monday, May 5 at 10:00am. The group will study Chapter 9 of *Just Like Jesus* by Max Lucado. JoAnne Jessen will serve as co-hostess. All FLC women are welcome!

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

WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, May 14 at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Linda Texley will lead the study on Chapter 7 of Max Lucado's book, *Anxious for Nothing*. New members are welcome!



Faith Circle will meet on Thursday, May 8, in the Conference Room at 7:00pm. Linda Doll will be leading the lesson.

The quilting room will be open EVERY Wednesday at 1:00pm for those interested in helping with this ministry. The 3rd Wednesday of each month will remain as the "official quilt tying day." Other Wednesdays will provide opportunities for people to cut backs, iron quilt tops, prep quilts for tying and more. As always, quilters love donations of cotton fabric and gently used or new cotton sheets. Drop and donations off at the front desk. Many thanks for your generosity.



TLC (Together Living with Cancer) Support Group meets Tuesdays, May 13 and 27 at 6:30pm in the Youth Room. If you know anyone who has battled or is currently battling cancer as well as those whose lives have been touched by this disease, please take a postcard from the Welcome Center and invite them to join. Reach out to Gina (ginad@flcfremont.org) for more information.

MISSION & OUTREACH


 May Mobile Banquet Extras

Towel Donations

Please consider donating new or gently used towels of any size to share with our friends at Regency.

Deliver to FLC by May 8 at noon!




 **FLC Mobile Banquet:** The FLC Mobile Banquet will be delivering 250+ meals to Regency, LifeHouse, and ASPIRE on Thursday, May 8 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 Wednesday, May 7. For our extra banquet item, please consider donating new or gently used towels of any size to share with our friends at Regency.

LWR SCHOOL KITS MATERIAL NEEDED!

EVERY YEAR, 200 BOOK BAGS ARE MADE FOR LWR SCHOOL KITS AND MATERIALS ARE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE!



ITEMS NEEDED:	• (DUCK) TWILL
• CORDUROY	• FLANNEL MATERIAL
• LIGHTWEIGHT DENIM	• BATH/HAND TOWELS
• COTTON CLOTHES	• BABY CLOTHES
• COTTON T-SHIRTS	• COTTON CLOTHES-LINE
(SIZE: LARGE OR XL)	

SCAN CODE BELOW TO GIVE ONLINE!



MATERIAL & MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED. ALL DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH.

THANK YOU FROM THE LWR COMMITTEE!
 QUESTIONS? CONTACT LUCY KLOCKE (402-237-2602),
 EVELYN ELDRIDGE (402-980-4592), OR PAM SPEVAK (402-719-5595)

 **THE Crayon INITIATIVE**

The school year is almost over! And before you stuff those backpacks in the closet, dig out those used crayons and donated them to

THE CRAYON INITIATIVE!

This organization takes used crayons and melts and remolds them into new crayons to give to children who have been hospitalized.

 You can drop your crayons off in the Fellowship Hall.

MAY MINISTRY PARTNER:

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES

KICK IT UP



 EVERY YEAR FLC KICKS IT UP A NOTCH TO COLLECT SHOES & SOCKS FOR THE LFS FRIENDS AND FAMILY EVENT TO BE SHARED AT THE HEALTHY FAMILIES BOUTIQUE.

PLEASE CONSIDER SHOPPING ON YOUR OWN, USING THE AMAZON WISH LIST OR MAKING A DONATION SO WE CAN SHOP FOR YOU!

GOALS

100 PAIRS OF SHOES

200 PAIRS OF SOCKS

 AMAZON WISH LIST  MONETARY DONATION

May Ministry Partner—LFS: In May, we are partnering with Lutheran Family Services. We will be collecting donations of new children's shoes and socks (birth through age 6) to auction off at the LFS Friends and Family Event on June 4. Shop on your own, through our [Amazon Wish List](#) or make an online donation through our website so we can shop for you. Our goal is to exceed 100 pairs of sweet little shoes and to gather at least 200 pairs of socks. These shoes and socks will be available for eligible families to pick up at the Boutique at the Center for Healthy Families.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

2025 FLY TRIP

Parent/Student Meeting: All HS students going on the FLY trip will meet in the FLY room on Wednesday, May 14 at 7pm. Bring your final payment of \$200 and your parents to the meeting. Details of the trip will be provided and permission forms must be signed by a parent or guardian. Any questions, contact Gina DeBoer at ginad@flcfremont.org.



Parents—A Faithful Foundation Starts with You!

Wow! This school year has gone so fast! There have been many changes and additions to the Youth & Children's Ministries at FLC, and overall they have gone quite smoothly. In reviewing what has happened, I am looking at what our kids learn at each age and how we can better equip them to live out their faith. Throughout the early summer months, I would like to meet up with parents to discuss Faithful Foundations at FLC. I'm open to meeting for coffee, taking a walk, or meeting at a park while the kids play. I can meet with one family at a time or a group of moms (or dads) all at once. There is no formal agenda or checklist for these meetings. My goal is to just talk with you. Get to know you. Find out what role you see FLC helping with to create a Faithful Foundation for your child(ren). I will be reaching out to families to set up a time to talk. If you have a good time or want to set something up before you hear from me, please contact me at ginad@flcfremont.org. I look forward to getting to know each of you more and working together to raise up faith-filled kids!

2025 FLC Baccalaureate WORSHIP

Join First Lutheran Church in honoring our 2025 high school graduates!

Wednesday, May 7 at 6:15pm

If you have a senior that would like to be recognized, RSVP to Gina DeBoer at ginad@flcfremont.org by Sunday, May 4.

Please include a senior picture, baby picture, and their plans after High School

High School News

- **Wed, May 7, 6:15pm**, Baccalaureate Worship Service for graduating Seniors
- **Wed, May 14, 7:00pm**, FLY Trip Family Meeting

Sunday School News

The last day of Sunday School for the school year is Sunday, May 11. Please join us for a celebration of what we have learned this year and a kick-off into the summer with Jesus! Learn how everyone needs a little Jesus no matter where you are and what you are doing!

Trek with us on the ultimate Alaskan adventure!

VBS 2025

July 27-30
5:30-8:15pm

July 31, 6:30pm
Wrap Up Event

Cost: \$10/Child
Includes: t-shirt, 4 days of activities, crafts, fun, Bible learning, and supper (5:30-6:00pm)

7th-12th Grade & Adult Volunteers needed!

Item Donations

Monetary Donations

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

Ways to Support FLC VBS!

REGISTER HERE!

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

Pre-K to 6th Grade Registration is OPEN!

Contact Gina DeBoer with questions:
ginad@flcfremont.org

First Communion Correction: Elet Wagner received First Communion on Maundy Thursday, not Elet Walters.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



April Showers bring May flowers...Spring is on its way, and we are excited to embrace the warmer weather and all the new learning opportunities that come with it! The school year is flying by, and we've got so many exciting things planned as we head into the final stretch!

Themes We're Exploring This Month:

- ♦ **Flowers & Gardens** – We'll be talking about flowers, bugs, rainbows, and how things grow.
- ♦ **Mothers Day** – We're making special crafts to celebrate the important people in our lives!
- ♦ **Family & Friends** – Lots of stories and activities focused on working together and being a good friend.

Classroom Happenings:

- ♦ **Art Projects** – Look out for colorful spring artwork coming home soon!
- ♦ **Garden Fun** – We'll be planting seeds and learning how to take care of them.

We're so grateful for your continued support and love watching your little ones grow.
Wishing you a joyful and sunny May!



CHILDCARE OPENINGS!

4 YEAR OLD CLASSROOM

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A NURTURING, ENGAGING, AND FUN LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR LITTLE ONE, THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY. OUR CLASSROOMS ARE DESIGNED TO FOSTER CREATIVITY, SOCIAL SKILLS, AND EARLY LEARNING IN A CARING ATMOSPHERE.

CONTACT MINDY TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR! SPOTS ARE LIMITED!

402-721-2959

MINDYO@FLCFREMONT.ORG

ELC Summer camp

AGES: 4 & 5

Join us for Fun & Creative Activities

June 2-6, 2025
9:00am-Noon
\$130 Camp Fee
Limited Spots Available

Register Today!

For more information:
Contact Mindy Olson
402-721-2959
mindyo@flcfremont.org

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – APRIL

April FLC Council Highlights

Council Highlights are unavailable at this time. Please reach out to the Church Office if you would like a copy of the Council meeting minutes.

Monthly Financial Report

	March Actual	March Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 96,386.09	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 530,000.00	\$ 614,078.60	\$ 533,242.04
General Income	\$ 109,273.60	\$ 68,035.00	\$ 560,510.00	\$ 675,783.87	\$ 575,557.26
Mission Income	\$ 2,129.78	\$ 8,004.16	\$ 34,529.20	\$ 40,711.28	\$ 74,001.62
Expenses	\$ 74,386.36	\$ 78,944.34	\$ 569,147.30	\$ 587,847.12	\$ 538,537.05
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ 37,017.02	\$ (2,905.18)	\$ 25,891.90	\$ 128,648.03	\$ 111,021.83
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 9,615.00			\$ 29,970.50	\$ 28,857.67
Build Fund Balance	50,470.22				

Once again, pledged giving was drastically stronger than last year in March with continued RMDs contributions. As a result, pledged giving exceeded budget YTD by \$84K and March ended with a profit vs the budgeted loss. YTD there is a positive bottom line that has exceeded budget by \$100K. Historically, summer months will use some of these reserves. That said, the fiscal year ending 8/31 should have a positive bottom line vs the budgeted loss. We have also had generous donors and Endowment funds to purchased new chairs for the conference room and library, office computers, ATV for yard care, Mission Center sound system, and other needed projects which we are extremely grateful for! We continue to build the want and need list for FLC moving forward as the building ages. Budget process for the next fiscal year starting 9/1 is also beginning. Wishes for a safe and fun summer!

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



Targeted Giving... (as of 3/31/25) 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	\$9,756.50	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$5,496.63	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$1,819.08
Technology	\$2,814.66	Good Samaritan	\$2,515.46	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$6,305.37
Church Home	\$7,546.93	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	Youth Trips	\$3,333.20
Building Maint.	\$50,470.22	Quilt Ministry	\$3,719.07	VBS	\$-309.99
Sunday School	\$2,933.58	Children's WAM	\$3,597.16		
First Lutheran Youth	\$5,005.61	Spoudazo	\$5,795.87		

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 CONFIRMANDS!

Congratulations to our 19 confirmands! We celebrated with these students as they affirmed their Baptism and professed their faith during worship on Sunday, April 27 and Wednesday, April 30. It was indeed a special day to celebrate with you. This is the beginning of an incredible journey through life with God at your side. May He love you and guide you to live your life with grace.



Congratulations to our 2025 Confirmands

Brody Allen

Noelle Henderson

Chloe Schorn

Landon Beattie

Cooper Jacobsen

Jasper Semrad

Ava Bohaboj

Lawson Kieborz

Norah Wagner

Jarrett Coon

Cash Kroeger

Saylor Winn

Landon Emmons

Alayna Lamme

Addison Yount

Collin Folkers

Mathew Muller

Beckett Zahourek

Brayden Rix