

A number of years ago, I did a funeral for lady who was only a few years into enjoying her retirement. Her husband had died several years before so her plan was to spend retirement spoiling her grandkids and her brand-new great-grandson. She was active and happy and brought laughter everywhere she went. When you talked with her, she made you feel like you were the only one in the room. She was fun to be around.

One afternoon, while she was spoiling her great-grandson and his parents, she collapsed and died right there. It was a sad shock to the whole community.

A good friend of hers asked to say a few words at the funeral. I trusted this friend of hers, and so did the family, so I let her have the pulpit for a few minutes.

The friend immediately began to talk about how this great grandma was with her favorite granddaughter and favorite great-grandson on the day she died. I was getting a little uncomfortable because there were a lot of family at this funeral and we were hearing about favorites. Uh-oh.

Fortunately, she went on to explain how great grandma treated whoever she was with as if they were her favorite person. And, you know, that's really how she made you feel.

Do you know that feeling of being someone's favorite? Isn't it wonderful?

I've noticed something over the years. There are a few people in this world who always make others feel super important. And those people leave you smiling and feeling good. Those few people have something special that's lacking in all the rest of us and I'm not quite sure how to explain it. If you see it, you know it. And I imagine you all know at least one person who has it.

What isn't wonderful is feeling like you're not the favorite. Again, I imagine you all have felt that way at least once in your life.

The good news is that God doesn't have favorites. He loves us all. In fact, he loves us so much he sent his only son to die for us. His love for us isn't based on some point system, it's based on grace. Grace doesn't always make sense, but that's ok, that's what is so cool about grace.

However, all that leaves us with a challenge – to love like Christ does. But we have favorites. Or, at the very least, we have the opposite of favorites, people we'd rather not do stuff with or offer to help or even ask for help.

The first step in facing this challenge is to recognize, in our own selves, we have this tendency to treat people differently. Maybe you remember some difficult time you've had with a person, and now you're still holding on to that grudge. Maybe you owe someone a favor or you're hoping to raise your status in someone else's eyes. There are many excuses we create for our treatment of others, but they are still just excuses.

Jesus wants us to love others like he loves us (and *those other people*), and we've been given the tools to do so – grace, mercy, forgiveness.... I think you get the picture.

We love because he first loved us. (1st John 4:19)

Relationships matter. They really do.

Pastor Greg

 TOUCHDOWN!

**Ministry
Fair**
"Kick-Off Sunday"
September 7

**Red Cross
Blood Drive**
September 7

**DONATE TO WIN
HUSKER TICKETS!**

**Mobile
Banquet**
September 11

Extra Item:
Dish Soap

**Sunday Small
Groups**
Open House: Sept 7
Starts: Sept 14

WORSHIP

FALL WORSHIP SERIES

ORDINARY PEOPLE EXTRAORDINARY GOD.

STORIES OF THE REDEEMED

Our new worship series starts **Sunday, September 7!** We will dive into the lives of ordinary people God used in extraordinary ways. By the end of the series, you will be confident that God can do great things through you too!

TEAM FLC *Sunday!*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Support your high school/college alma mater or your favorite sports team & wear their apparel at worship!



**Sunday Worship each week
at 8:30am & 10:15am**

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 8:30am 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.



Prayers of thanksgiving for our silver senior friends who have so faithfully shared their time, resources, & friendship with our FLC family.

This month, we honor:

Dorothy Fenske turning 99 on September 18

Keith Lallman turning 91 on September 22

Duane Pedersen turning 92 on September 27

Beth Kindler turning 91 on September 29



Do you know someone from FLC who needs a visit? Please let us know!

Deacon Karen and a dedicated team of volunteers "bring" FLC to those who can't participate. Please let us know about those hospitalized, rehabbing, in care facilities, or stuck at home, needing a friendly visit, a time of prayer, or home communion.

Let Tami or Deacon Karen know by calling the Church Office at 402-721-2959.

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 Lorna Knudsen, Lyn Robart, Dennis, Bill Miller, Jan Larsen, Shirley Brandert (*Amy Spies' mother*), Cheryl Larsen, Rex Kuntzelman, Karen McPherran, John Mayo (*Andrew Olson's friend*), Gail Nielsen, Joan Scott, Steve Schmidt, Ron Pronske, Lorna Berkland, Darlene Pebley, John Clopper, and Judy Jorgensen

Prayers of peace for the family and friends of Lyman Niebaum; for the family and friends of Ed Christoffersen; for Dawn Klein on the loss of her mother, Eileen Kucera.

DISCIPLESHIP

HUGS (Heartfelt Uplifting Giving Sisters) is a group of single ladies who are using Ecclesiastes 3 as their mission statement and proposing the following as their purpose: Sisters in Christ glorifying God in new seasons of life - for those who have experienced loss or find themselves in singleness.

Join us at Bev McKinney's house for a potluck supper! We will meet in the church parking lot (*on the west side*) at 5:00pm on Thursday, September 18th. We'll carpool to her home at 28012 Heron Circle in Valley. Weather permitting, we'll eat outside on her patio, enjoying the view. Bev will provide the utensils, plates and drinks.

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

Rix Small Group meets Sunday mornings between services in the Conference Room. A new study will be starting soon! Everyone is welcome!

NEW! We Read And Ponder (WRAP) meets every 2nd & 4th Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00am at the home of Norma Moxness (800 N. Garden City Rd.). Our next meeting is September 8. Join us as we WRAP ourselves in God's Word. For more information, call Norma at 402-317-9638.



We will pick up with an opening night of "Pickleball 101" on September 7 at 6:30pm in the Mission Center. **Open pickleball will resume on September 14 at 6:30pm and will continue to be on Sunday nights in the fall!**



TLC meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 6:30pm in the Youth Room. If you know someone 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. Whether you've dealt with this disease in the past or are experiencing it for the first time, all are welcome to join at any time! For more information, reach out to Gina at ginad@flcfremont.org.

Quilting Opportunities! The next opportunity to tie quilts will be on Wednesday, September 17 at 1:00pm. We have a lot of quilts that will need to be finished by October. Please come for fellowship and service. Those wanting to sew more quilts will soon see quilt kits available in the office area. We will have more fabric blocks that need to be cut and sewn together. Both can be done at home! All are welcome to come help out!

The quilting room is 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.

FLC Women of the ELCA

FLC First Monday Bible Study will not be meeting in September due to Labor Day. We will pick back up in October.

Chick Flicks will meet on Tuesday, September 2 at 6:30pm in the FLY Room.



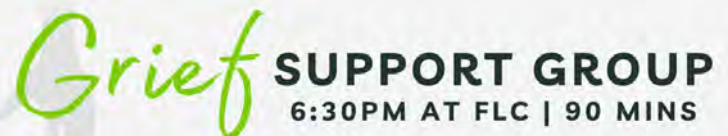
WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, September 10 at 9:30am in the Heritage Room.

Lucy Klocke will lead the lesson on Chapter 11 from Max Lucado's book, *Anxious For Nothing*. New members are always welcome!

Faith Circle will meet on Thursday, **September 11, at 7:00pm** in the FLC Conference Room. Gina DeBoer will lead the third lesson from the summer edition of Gather magazine. All are welcome.



NEW! Sunday Small Group with Kris Lindgren will begin a new study on September 14 in the Heritage Room. Join us on Sunday mornings between services. All are welcome to join. Explore **Matthew — Together by Grace**, an inviting Bible conversation series from Augsburg Fortress. In eight sessions, we'll gather in community, dwell deeply in God's Word, and discover how Jesus' life and teachings speak to our lives today. No prep needed — just come as you are, ready to listen, share, and grow in faith.



**FIRST HALF: GRIEF DISCUSSION WITH A VIDEO
SECOND HALF: OPEN SHARING**

**THOSE WANTING TO JOIN, CONTACT
DEACON RICK STRONG
RSTRONG2547@GMAIL.COM**



MISSION & OUTREACH

FLC MOBILE BANQUET

HELP FLC SERVE
250+ FREE MEALS



NEXT DISTRIBUTION
THURS.
SEPT 11
5:30-6:30
PM
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Extra Item: Dish Soap

The FLC Mobile Banquet will be delivering 250+ meals to Regency Mobile Park, LifeHouse, and ASPIRE on Thursday, September 11, from 5:30-6:30pm. Please consider helping to 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, September 10. **We are collecting dish soap as our extra items for this month's Mobile Banquet.** Sign up at www.flcfremont.org/events, or scan the QR code.



Soap SUNDAY

sunday, september 7

Donate 8oz bars of soap of any brand (in original packaging) to support our LWR Kit Ministry! **300 Needed!**



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

FLC Women are sponsoring kits for LWR! These Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more.

SCHOOL

PERSONAL

BABY

**OFFER COMFORT & CARE TO
THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST!**

Making LWR Kits is a simple way to offer comfort to those suffering & express love to our neighbors in need.

**MONETARY
DONATIONS
WELCOME!**



Items Most Needed:

Dark Colored Bath Towels
Sturdy Combs
70 Sheet Notebooks
Black/Blue Ballpoint Pens
Unsharpened #2 Pencils
Baby Jackets/Sweater*
Baby Socks*
Baby Short Sleeve T-shirts*
Sleepers/Nightgowns*
(without feet)
Diaper Pins

*Baby Clothes: 0-3 months to 24 months

midland university's WARRIOR CUPBOARD

Support Midland students by donating
laundry detergent pods
to be shared by the Warrior Cupboard.

This program serves as a resource for all students, with no strings attached to help fill unexpected needs. Laundry detergent is a constant and high-demand product so your support will help build an inventory.

Lisa Kramme, Midland's Directory for Campus Ministry and Spiritual Wellness, will join us at both worship services on **Sunday, September 14** to share more about plans for ministry for the 2025-26 school year.



Scan to make a monetary donation



RED CROSS + BLOOD DRIVE

SEPTEMBER 7 @ FLC

Sign up at redcrossblood.org
or call Niki at 402-720-1825

DONATE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

Every person who donates blood on Sept 7 will be entered to win either 2-Husker Volleyball Tickets & 2-Husker Football Tickets!



CHILDREN AND YOUTH



**REGISTER FOR
YOUTH & CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY
2025-2026**

**BE SURE TO REGISTER YOUR
CHILD(REN) FOR OUR YOUTH
& CHILDREN'S MINISTRY!**

This assures we have the most accurate
information for each family!

Scan the QR Code or visit www.flcfremont.org/events to sign up!



**our FLY
cupboards
are EMPTY!**

help us restock!

With the new program year about to start,
we need to fill the snack cupboards.
Everyone knows, kids love snacks!
Please bring your donation of
non-perishable snacks to the Church Office.

If you'd like to provide a perishable snack
(cheese/meat sticks & yogurts are a favorite),
we ask that you arrange that
with Gina or Amy.

We thank you in advance
for supporting our
Youth & Children's ministries.



FLY56 KICK-OFF! The 5th and 6th grade youth group will kick off on Wednesday, September 10. Be sure to get your child(ren) signed up so we know they are coming. Once you are signed up, Gina will be in communication with you to verify your child's mode of transportation to FLY56. Looking forward to a great year!

HIGH SCHOOL
FLYS

Calling all high school students! You're invited!
"Campfire Kick-Off" | Wednesday, September 3 at 7:00pm at FLC
Invite your friends and new FLYs (*freshman*) to share a s'more,
roast a hot dog, toss a frisbee, or just catch up.
****Be sure to sign up for FLYS on-line (and in REMIND)
to receive all the latest information.**



CONFIRMATION 2025

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
7:00PM | FLC RM 105

Thank you to all adults who have
volunteered to be a Confirmation
Partner this year. We have enough
volunteers for each student
to have a partner!
What a blessing to these youth!
Don't forget to bring
your Bible and Confirmation
folder on the 10th!

**BE IN THE
KNOW!**



Sign up for [REMIND](#) messages for the
youth groups of your choice.
Schedule changes, weather delays, and
event reminders will be sent through
the REMIND app as needed.

FLY56 - @flcfly56

Confirmation - @flcon25

MS FLYS & Parents - @msflys2526

HS FLYS - @hsflys2526

High School Parents - @flchsrents

THANK YOU!

Each Bible we present on Bible Sunday was sponsored by someone at FLC. Placing the word in their hands is a big step in teaching them about the love of God. Thank you for helping us keep our baptismal promises to our kids!

BIBLE 101



All 3 year olds, 3rd graders, and 7th graders will receive a Bible from FLC on Sunday, September 7 during worship. Join us at 8:30am or 10:15am to receive your Bible. 3rd graders are encouraged to bring their Bible and parent/guardian back on **Sunday, September 14 for Bible 101 with Pastor Greg in Room 138.**

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Do you shop at **Baker's**
located at 1531 N. Bell Street in Fremont?



Do you use a Baker's Plus Shopping Card?

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!

To Enroll:

1. Go to the website:
www.bakersplus.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow
2. Click on "CREATE AN ACCOUNT" to sign up
and select this store: 1531 N. Bell Street, Fremont NE
3. Click on "Enroll Now" and choose organization number: 68698
for First Lutheran Early Learning Center - then click "Enroll"

Please enroll in the
Baker's Community Rewards Program
and help support
FLC Early Learning Center!

Thank You!



JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER



Join us at the Raising Cane's at
1058 E 23rd St.
on **Tuesday, September 30, 2025**
from **3:00PM - 8:00PM**
and mention the fundraiser at the register, and
Cane's will **donate 15% of the Net Sales** to:
First Lutheran Early Childhood Center



Learn more about how we can support you at CanesAndCommunity.com

Minimum donation amount will be 15% of net sales from your purchase donated directly to the participating organization. Not valid on mobile app, online or kiosk orders. "Net Sales" means the selling price of regularly inventoried merchandise, food, and beverages sold during the event for the purpose of supporting your organization, excluding special or limited time offers, discounts, returns, and taxes.

f i t d RaisingCanes



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – August

August FLC Council Highlights

- First study group for The Chosen series was held – eight-week study had 20 attendees at first meeting
- Acolyte training will begin August 27
- Annual meeting is scheduled for September 28
- True North Vacation Bible School was a large success – 68 total attendees with lots of energy and many new faces.

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, FLC Council Secretary

***Please reach out to the Church Office if you would like a copy of the Council meeting minutes.*

Monthly Financial Report

	July Actual	July Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 57,235.34	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 785,000.00	\$ 831,767.43	\$ 766,204.36
General Income	\$ 61,191.81	\$ 68,420.00	\$ 839,845.00	\$ 922,252.69	\$ 829,284.70
Mission Income	\$ 3,595.00	\$ 4,004.16	\$ 51,045.84	\$ 59,603.98	\$ 91,262.75
Expenses	\$ 102,395.80	\$ 116,138.34	\$ 950,034.66	\$ 934,010.36	\$ 860,138.94
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ (37,608.99)	\$ (43,714.18)	\$ (59,143.82)	\$ 47,846.31	\$ 60,408.51
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 2,470.00			\$ 38,726.98	\$ 36,167.67
Build Fund Balance	38,162.69				

Pledged giving was \$8K under budget for July but it remains over budget YTD and over last year at this time. As a result of this and some savings in expenses, the fiscal year ending 8/31 will end with positive bottom line! There have been some unbudgeted HVAC, sprinkler, and other repairs/expenses that have been paid out of the Building Fund. What a blessing is to have that fund! A good reminder that on Celebration Sunday (November 16), there is an opportunity to pledge giving to tithing as well as this building fund. The ELC has not had as profitable year and will end the year with a loss but with the recent tuition increase, should have a better year ahead. The next fiscal year starts 9/1. **Mark your calendars for the Voting and Budget Forum on 9/21 and the Annual Meeting on September 28! See you then!**

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



Targeted Giving... (as of 7/31/25) 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	\$9,574.50	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$3,493.38	Spoudazo	\$5,270.72
Technology	\$2,814.66	Good Samaritan	\$2,515.46	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$2,130.17
Church Home	\$ -486.48	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$5,967.03
Building Maint.	\$38,162.69	Quilt Ministry	\$3,744.07	Youth Trips	\$1,440.20
First Lutheran Youth	\$5,005.61	Children's WAM	\$2,785.27	VBS	\$402.73

STUDENTS & MILITARY PERSONNEL - WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU! -

First Lutheran Women will again be remembering recent high school graduates, college students, and military personnel on their birthday and with a small gift during the year. For your child to be remembered, please send us their name, birthday, current address, and home (family) address. If they are in school please include their year in school & school attending. If they are in the Military, please include their branch of service. We want them to stay connected with our First Lutheran family. Scan the QR Code to fill out the form or email Gina at ginad@flcfremont.org



Calling all FLC Members & Guests!

We would like to introduce “**first forks + friends!**” This ministry is all about building relationships one plate at a time. Every person will get paired into small groups and will meet at least 3 times during the program year (And yes, you are absolutely allowed to meet more than that!) This is a time to meet new people and create memories! Have fun with it!

If you are interested, you can find forms at the Ministry Center or Church Office. Please fill it out and return it to us by September 21! Bev McKinney will host a Kick-Off Party at her home (28012 Heron Circle, Valley NE) on September 28 at 5:00pm for appetizers, foosball, billiards, and fun!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST COMMUNION

FOR TEENS/ADULTS

This class is intended for those in middle school to adults who would like to learn more about the Holy Communion and take their first communion on Reformation Sunday on October 26. More details to come in the October messenger!

Sunday

SMALL GROUPS

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
BETWEEN SERVICES!

We are excited to kick off the program year with a Ministry Fair and Open House. Kids 3 years old (and potty trained) through adults will have an opportunity to meet in a small group setting from 9:40-10:10am on Sundays. We hope you look around on September 7 to find out where your groups meet and sign up for ministries you are interested in.



SEEDLINGS
3 Year Old to Kindergarten
Room 136

JOYFUL SPROUTS
1st to 3rd Grade
Room 132



ROOTED KIDS
4th to 6th Grade
Middle Room

TEEN TALK
7th to 12th Grade
FLY Room



RIX STUDY
Adults | Conference Room

MATTHEW STUDY
Adults | Heritage Room