

I noticed today that the leaves on our neighbor's tree were changing colors. Fall is my favorite season. I love the cool nights and the crisp air. I like the fall decorations – the pumpkins and mums – not the skeletons and witches. I like flannel and hot chocolate and fires with friends. Of course, there are the pies – pumpkin with whipped cream and apple a la mode. I like the smell of fall (I even like the smell of burning leaves).

Did you ever burn leaves? My childhood home had several mature trees, which meant lots of leaves, which meant lots of raking. Early in the fall, we would rake the leaves into the shape of a football field and play a game or two before the wind messed the field up. Eventually, however, all the leaves were raked into a long line along the street (not touching the street though) and we would burn them. I love that smell.

When we were in seminary, with many more mature trees and a seemingly infinite number of leaves, the campus groundskeeper would blow all the leaves into a single mountain in front of our house. He would do this on a day the kids had no school and the seminary would grant us seminarians a reading day (which meant no classes, we were supposed to take this day to catch up on our reading). We all played in the leaves – from toddlers to would-be theologians – all together, all day long.

We don't play enough anymore.

We might play *pitch* or *cribbage*, maybe *Monopoly* or *checkers*, but we don't use our imagination anymore, we aren't creative in our interactions with other people. What we now call 'play' is centered around following the rules and pre-set strategies. Now, don't get me wrong, rules and time-tested strategies are great things, but we do need to exercise our brains with creativity and imagination from time-to-time as well.

...it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.
(Ecclesiastes 3:13)

Who is that person you can let your guard down with?
When is the last time you laughed so hard your sides hurt?
When is the last time you were foolish on purpose?
When is the last time you played like a child?

*A cheerful heart is a good medicine,
but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.* (Proverbs 17:22)

Maybe that's the problem with the world right now – that we don't remember how to laugh at silliness and not at someone. Maybe we're too stuck in the rules to think of a better way. Maybe we've forgotten how to come up with our own plans. Maybe we should learn the difference between critical thinking and thinking critically.

Maybe we should give up on adulting for a while and jump into a mountain of leaves and remember what it is to enjoy what we've been given.

Pastor Greg



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.

If you have a beverage in the building, please have a cover on your cup to prevent spills. *Thank you.*



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:

Alyce Wilke turning 95 on October 10

Elaine Ross turning 95 on October 16

2025 ELECTION RESULTS



Congrats to our newly elected leaders and thank you to all who were nominated for your willingness to serve your church.

New Council Members:

Pam Brodd, Jill Norenberg,
Dave Poppe, & Ron Young

New Endowment Board Member: Keegan Menning

2026 Nominating Committee:

Randy Fauss, Shriley Flanagan, & Jon Rensch

Thank you to our out-going elected leaders for their dedication and service:

Council: Michelle Beran, Kylie Coon, Eric Lindgren, & Jeree Menning

Endowment Board: Barry Benson

2025 Nominating Committee: Bob Beaver, Dave Mille, & Trudy Tamke

GIVING THANKS & LOOKING FORWARD

Thank You Mowers: A BIG thanks you to all who volunteered their time this summer to help mow and trim the lawn. It takes volunteers who mow & trim by the building approximately 3 hours & those that mow the outer field area approximately 8 hours. What a great gift of your time to the church! Not only does this keep the church looking nice, it also saves the church around \$800-\$1,000 per week in mowing costs! We appreciate you're generous gift of time!

Sunday Snow Touchups: We all 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 Sundays. 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 & sign up for a part or the whole morning! Sign up will be coming soon!

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, Karen McPherran, Gail Nielsen, Steve Schmidt, Ron Pronske, Lorna Berkland, and John Clopper

Prayers of peace for family and friends of Lil Jurgens; for Michelle Marfisi on the loss of her brother, Edward Buchta; for Stacy and Erich Meyer on the loss of Erich's dad, Dr. Mark Meyer; for Gaylord and Vali Mussman on the loss of their son, Grant; for the family and friends of Caren Lillie; for Butch Scott on the loss of his wife, Joan Scott; for Kristal Kuntzelman on the loss of her father, Rex Kuntzelman.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A sincere thank you for all the thoughts and prayers. They really helped and were appreciated. —Steve Schmidt

DISCIPLESHIP

Grieving? Know someone who is?
Join Deacon Rick Strong for:

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Come and prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future!

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23
2:30PM – 90 MINS
FLC MIDDLE ROOM**

GriefShare

Scan the QR code,
go to www.flcfremont.org/events,
or call the Church Office to sign up!



Men's Bible Study will be studying the Gospel of John. The group meets every Saturday at 8:30am in Room 122.

Sunday Small Group with Kris Lindgren will continue their study on *Matthew — Together by Grace* in the Heritage Room. Join us on Sunday mornings between services. All are welcome to join. No prep needed — just come as you are, ready to listen, share, and grow in faith.

Rix Small Group meet Sunday mornings between services in the Conference Room. The group will continue their study on Max Lucado's *Gospel of Luke*.

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.). Join us as we WRAP ourselves in God's Word. For more information, call Norma at 402-317-9638.

OWLS: Swoop & Sundaes, Thursday, October 23, 2:00pm. Join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship while learning a new, easy group card game. Bring a sundae topping to share. Ice cream will be provided. All FLC members and friends are welcome!



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, October 15 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, quilt kits are available in the office area. We 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!

We are looking for people to sort donations and organize the quilting materials. Contact Gina (ginad@flcfremont.org) if you are able to volunteer your time.

FLC Women of the ELCA

FLC First Monday Bible Study will meet on Monday, October 6, at 10:00am at the home of Judy Jorgensen, 1320 Ruth Avenue. The group will continue their study of *Just Like Jesus* by Max Lucado. Carol Bohling will serve as co-hostess. All FLC Women are welcome!

Chick Flicks will meet on Tuesday, October 7 at 6:30pm in the FLY Room.



WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, October 8 at 9:30am in the Heritage Room.

Norma Moxness will guide us through the first chapter of Max Lucado's book, *Psalms: Life Lessons*. We are pleased about our new members and welcome anyone else who would like to study God's word and be a part of this caring and supportive group of women. New members are always welcome!

Faith Circle will meet on Thursday, **October 9, at 7:00pm** in the FLC Conference Room. Rita Pratt will lead the lesson from the Sept/Oct Gather magazine. All are welcome.



SAVE THE DATE!

First Lutheran Women's Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 2 | 7:00pm

"Worship the King"

Performance & Message by The Zellmer Family

Mark your calendars for the First Lutheran Women's Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 2, at 7:00pm in the Worship Center. The performance and message will be by the Zellmer Family, a family of six from Council Bluffs. Tickets will be available in November. Come enjoy a wonderful performance for the Advent season.



MISSION & OUTREACH

FLC MOBILE BANQUET

HELP FLC SERVE
250+ FREE MEALS

THURS.
OCT 9
5:30-6:30 PM

Extra Items: Halloween Candy, Coats, Hats, Mittens/Gloves, & Scarves

The FLC Mobile Banquet will be delivering 250+ meals to Meadowbrook Mobile Park, LifeHouse, and ASPIRE on Thursday, October 9, 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, October 8.



We are collecting Halloween candy, coats, hats, mittens/gloves, and scarves as our extra items for this month's Mobile Banquet. Sign up at www.flcfremont.org/events, or scan the QR code.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD KICK OFF OCTOBER 19

Stop by before or after service at the table in the hallway that is FILLED with wrapped shoe boxes, READY for you to take home. Watch for more info in the coming Sundays on how to fill your boxes in a FUN, FULL, and PERSONAL way! Each box represents a child and you are not only sending a tangible gift to that child, it is opening doors for them to hear the GOOD NEWS of JESUS!

For children around the world, a shoebox is often their very first gift. Given together with the good news of Jesus Christ, it communicates God's love to a boy or girl in need. So, it is important to make sure your gift is...

FUN—include a "wow" item & other quality toys

FULL—packed to the brim with additional school supplies and personal care items

PERSONALIZED—prayed over and contains a note & photo, which are often the child's favorite items!

Full boxes due November 9th



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our projects for Lutheran World Relief! We couldn't have done it without the support of our FLC family! We collected **390 bars of soap** on Soap Sunday, and were able to collect items to make **200 School Kits, 100 Personal Kits, and 50 Baby Kits!** Thank you again & praise the Lord! -First Lutheran Women

OCTOBER MINISTRY PARTNER

the Bridge
VIOLENCE FROM VIOLENCE

SUPPORT & SAFETY

You can support The Bridge by donating TracFones and TracFone minute cards for victims to use in emergency situations.

Phones & Minutes can be purchased at various big box stores. Monetary donations are also welcome!

Help Someone Today!

Amazon Wish List

Monetary Donations!

Our October Ministry Partner is The Bridge From Violence, a local non-profit that provides 24/7 crisis support, emergency shelter and advocacy services for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. Suzanne Smith will be at both worship services on Oct. 5 to share stories of the work they do in the Fremont area.

You can support The Bridge by donating TracFones and TracFone minute cards for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to use in emergency situations. You can also purchase these at Wal-Mart, Target or other big box stores. Monetary donations are also welcomed. You can give by scanning the QR code, going online to www.flcfremont.org/events or dropping off a check at the church.

In addition, you can support The Bridge with these upcoming events:

The Bridge Candlelight Vigil at Midland University

October 30 | 6:30pm | Olson Community Center

Free to all students and community members.

Speaker: Brianna, survivor who spoke at the Take Back the Night event back in April.

Festival of Hope Online Auction

November 26 through December 7

We are currently looking for sponsors and items for this year's auction. You can view current auction items at Abe Krasne's downtown. If you are interested in being a sponsor or donate items to this auction, please contact Info@BridgeFromViolence.com.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Join us for FLY FALL FEST at Camp Fontanelle!

Wednesday, October 15

FLY56: 3:30-5:30pm | MS & HS FLYS: 6:00-9:00pm

FLY56: FLC 5th & 6th graders will be taking a trip to Camp Fontanelle during FLY56 on Wednesday, October 15 from 3:30-5:30pm. We will enjoy a fall snack, corn maze, jumping pillow, hayrack ride, and more! Friends are welcome to join! **Please Note:** Because of the drive, FLY56 will not get over until 5:30pm on October 15. Contact Gina to sign up!

Middle School & High School FLYS: MS and HS FLYs are invited to join us for a trip to Camp Fontanelle on Wednesday, October 15 to enjoy the corn maze, jumping pillow, s'mores, and more! Sign up in the FLY Room so we can assure we have enough transportation. Friends are welcome to join us for a night of fall fun! We will meet at the church by 6:00pm and return from Camp Fontanelle around 9:00pm

High School FLY Opportunities

- **Wed, Oct 1:** HS FLYs, 7-9:00pm FLY Rm
- **Sun, Oct 5,** 7-8:00pm 1st Communion Make-Up Class **Note date change*
- **Wed, Oct 8,** HS FLYs, 7-9:00pm FLY Rm
- **Wed, Oct 15,** 6-9:00pm Fall Fest, Camp Fontanelle
- **Wed, Oct 22,** HS FLYs, 7-9:00pm FLY Rm
- **Sun, Oct 26,** Boots, Bites, & Bids Fundraiser
- **Wed, Oct 29,** HS FLYs, 7-9:00pm FLY Rm (*Pumpkins*)

Make sure you are signed up for HS FLY Remind messages "hsflys2526" to receive changes or updated to the schedule.

Middle School & Confirmation News

- **Wed, Oct 1,** MS FLYs, 7-8:30, Middle Rm
- **Sun, Oct 5,** 7-8:00pm 1st Communion Make-Up Class **Note date change*
- **Wed, Oct 8,** Confirmation, 7-8:30pm, Rm 105
- **Wed, Oct 15,** 6-9:00pm Fall Fest, Camp Fontanelle
- **Wed, Oct 22,** Confirmation, 7-8:30pm, Rm 105
- **Wed, Oct 29,** 7-8:30pm, LWR Kit Packing, Mission Center

FLY56 News

- **Wed, Oct 1,** 3:45-5pm, Middle Rm
- **Wed, Oct 8,** 3:45-5pm, Middle Rm
- **Wed, Oct 15,** 3:45-5:30pm Fall Fest, Camp Fontanelle
- **Wed, Oct 22,** 3:45-5pm, Middle Rm
- **Wed, Oct 29,** 3:45-5pm, Middle Rm

2026 FLY TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

FLYS, BRING YOUR PARENTS TO TEEN TALK ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 TO HEAR ABOUT THE TRIP OPPORTUNITIES IN 2026. THERE ARE OPTIONS FOR MS & HS FLYS. TEEN TALK IS HELD IN THE FLY ROOM FROM 9:40-10:10 EACH SUNDAY. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

MS YOUTH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!

**Wednesday, October 29
7:00pm | Mission Center**

During our MS FLY meeting time on Wednesday, October 29, all MS youth will be helping bundle school, personal, & baby kits for Lutheran World Relief in the Mission Center. We will make kits, fill boxes, & load them into the trailer. This is a perfect opportunity to complete a Confirmation service project.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS:

BOOTS

Bites & Bids

HS FLY SUMMER TRIP FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Mark your calendars to dress in your best western attire and have a rowdy good time while supporting our FLC High School FLYS! More details about the event to come!

We are looking for Silent Auction Items, contact Gina if you'd like to donate.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



The first month of school seemed to fly by and now we're off and running! September was the month for getting acquainted. We're getting to know the routine, our school and each other. We're making new friends and learning how to get along in our classroom.

We've been focusing on building friendships and discovering the world around us. Our themes coming up in October are Cooking, Baking Fun, Pumpkins, and Halloween.

The crisp fall mornings are here! Yippee! Our playground is once again surrounded by vibrant fall colors and lots of falling leaves! The children are immersing themselves in friendships, playing and learning! The children are joyous and actively engaged in every aspect of our school! It is such a refreshing and rewarding community to be a part of. We are truly blessed!



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!



CRUSH
PIZZA AND ALEHOUSE

EARLY LEARNING CENTER FUNDRAISER

Grab a bite to eat at
Crush Pizza & Alehouse on
Thursday, October 23

11:00AM-8:00PM

Mention this fundraiser &
Crush will contribute 10% of
your order to the ELC

102 N Main Street | Fremont, NE

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – September

September FLC Council Highlights

- 29 Bibles were given out at the Bible Handout on September 7
- Explore New Member class is scheduled for October 5
- Operation Christmas Child Kick-Off set for October 19
- Mobile Banquet on October 9 will take place at Meadowbrook

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

	August Actual	August Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 45,375.33	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 877,142.00	\$ 806,424.00
General Income	\$ 50,862.33	\$ 70,010.00	\$ 909,855.00	\$ 973,115.02	\$ 917,920.90
Mission Income	\$ 4,351.00	\$ 4,004.16	\$ 55,050.00	\$ 63,954.98	\$ 95,382.09
Expenses	\$ 97,444.12	\$ 77,870.34	\$ 1,027,905.00	\$ 1,030,451.55	\$ 951,733.31
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ (42,230.79)	\$ (3,856.18)	\$ (63,000.00)	\$ 6,618.45	\$ 61,569.68
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 1,690.00			\$ 40,416.98	\$ 43,088.64
Build Fund Balance	38,162.69				

Pledged giving was \$20K under budget in August but ended the fiscal year \$27K over budget and \$71K over last year at this time! As a result, the fiscal year ended 8/31 with a \$6.6K profit! What a blessing considering the number of large unbudgeted expenses there were such as HVAC repairs, concrete work, gym/fellowship hall floors re-waxed, and fire panel replacement to name few. The Building Maintenance fund was also used - a good reminder of the importance of contributing to that fund! The roof and skylight invoices should be coming in the next month. Investing the money from the insurance during the planning process helped to narrow the increased costs of the new roof by \$21K!. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during that project. The ELC ended the fiscal year will a \$15.5K loss but with the recent tuition increase, has a budgeted profit for the new fiscal year. Happy fall to all!!

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



Targeted Giving... (as of 8/30/25) 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	\$2,193.96
Technology	\$2,814.66	Good Samaritan	\$2,515.46	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$2,130.17
Church Home	\$ -456.19	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$6,262.04
Building Maint.	\$39,422.00	Quilt Ministry	\$3,744.07	Youth Trips	\$824.36
First Lutheran Youth	\$5,005.61	Children's WAM	\$2,693.07	VBS	\$919.62

EXPLORE



Considering joining FLC?
Sign up for EXPLORE.

Scan to Sign Up!



Next Class:
Sunday, Oct 5
5:00pm
Fellowship Hall

OCTOBER 5 | 7:00-8:00PM

FIRST COMMUNION FOR TEENS/ADULTS

Did you miss First Communion Training?

FLC is offering a refresher for middle schoolers, high schoolers, & adults who want to know more about this sacrament & wish to begin taking communion with a better understanding of why.

Those who complete this class will take their first communion during worship on Reformation Sunday, October 26.

Contact Gina (ginad@flcfremont.org) with questions or to sign up!



FLU SHOT CLINIC

Sunday, October 12
8:00-11:00am | FLC

Bring a copy of your insurance card
if you'd like to bill to insurance.
Out of Pocket Cost: \$45 Cash/Check



WEAR RED FOR
REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 26, 2025

PARENT CONNECT

PARENTS SUNDAY SMALL GROUP

COMING SOON!

SUNDAY MORNINGS | 9:40-10:10AM
FLC HERITAGE ROOM



PARENTING WITH GOD'S HELP

WE WELCOME PARENTS TO JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND DONUTS WHILE WE DISCUSS RAISING CHILDREN IN GOD'S IMAGE THROUGH CONSISTENT SPIRITUAL INSTRUCTION, LOVE & DISCIPLINE.

first lutheran church ENDOWMENT

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

You finally "got to it" and created an estate plan that outlines your final wishes on how you would like your assets shared upon your death. You've taken a significant step in ensuring your wishes are honored and your loved ones are cared for. You and your financial advisor have determined what financial vehicles will best manage your wishes. Occasionally reviewing this plan will be important to make sure any changes in your financial situation are captured and there have been no changes to your list of beneficiaries. You have done the hard work! However, your work is not yet finished.

The final step in estate planning is communicating the details of that plan with family members or charitable organizations you have listed as beneficiaries.

If you have included First Lutheran Endowment or First Lutheran Church in your estate plan we encourage you to let the church know by contacting Pastor Greg or Wendy Grosse. First Lutheran respects your privacy and will not share this information without your permission.

Would you like to know more information about the FLC Endowment? Please grab a brochure at the Ministry Center or contact Wendy Grosse at 402-721-2959 or wendyg@flcfremont.org.

Endowment Board:

Chris Coffman, Jeremy Hansen, Kent Speicher,
Wendy Olson, Carol Nielsen,
Dick Norenberg, Keegan Menning