

Welcome to Advent! This is the season in which we prepare for the coming of Christ. We remember the darkness from which the world has come and celebrate the light that is Christ. We enter into the Joy of God's love and the Hope of Christ's mercy. We get a glimpse of the promised Peace and the Love of God's grace.

Too many of us, however, struggle with the happiness and merriment of the Christmas Season. Perhaps memories of Christmas Past are too painful to shelve away somewhere. Maybe a loved one passed away and this is the first Christmas without them. Maybe there aren't the resources necessary for a 'proper' celebration. It could even be the literal darkness of this time of year. Whatever the reason, it is real and it can feel alienating.

There is this supposition that all should be merry and bright. This is a festive season after all, so deck the halls and rock around the Christmas Tree like you're supposed to. The world tells us to fake it until we make it, put on a happy face, and don't drag the rest of us down. In other words, don't be you.

The American Psychological Association, Psychology Today, and the American Heart Association all report the same thing – nearly 9 out of 10 Americans are stressed out, and 8 out of 10 ignore their health. So, it seems to me that struggling through the Christmas Season is normal, even though we act as if those struggles are a weakness at best, and imaginary at worst.

I don't believe Christmas was ever meant to bury anyone's sorrow, anxiety, or depression. Think about what Joseph and Mary were going through. How about Mary's parents? Their little girl was pregnant, not married, and sounds delusional when she talks about being the mother of God's child, and now she ran off to who knows where with that carpenter fella!

Christ came into this world at precisely the right time, not to bury the darkness, but to bring the light to it. We try to hide what we perceive as shortcomings somewhere where they will never be found, never brought to light. But Christ brings the light into the darkness. He already knows our heart and mind and loves us still. Christmas is all about bringing the light to the darkness. There is comfort in that light. There is warmth. And there is love.

I'd like to personally invite you all to our **Blue Christmas Worship Experience** on December 7th at 6:00pm. My friend, Brian Spahr, created this experience specifically for those of us who struggle with the darkness of the season, of the heart, of the mind.

And I like to encourage you to read and re-read the Christmas Story as Matthew and Luke tell it, remembering that the world wasn't at all merry and bright, and then hope was born.

There is hope, even in the darkness.

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. (John 1:5)*

Pastor Greg



# WORSHIP



*From midnight hope to heaven's dawn,  
Christ the Light is given;  
To us, for us, love shines on —  
Our Shades of Hope in Him.*

## Shades of Hope

An Advent journey from  
midnight darkness to Immanuel's radiant light.

Join us this Advent season as we explore the Shades of Hope,  
from the deep darkness of the night sky to the  
blinding brightness of the Savior's light.

**Sundays at 8:30am & 10:15am | Wednesdays at 6:15pm**  
**Christmas Eve Services: December 24, 2:00pm, 4:00pm, 11:00pm**

### Sunday Worship 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](http://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.

### Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 2:00pm | 4:00pm | 11:00pm

### No Christmas Day Service

We will not have worship on Thursday, December 25

### Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 28 | **One Service** | 9:30am



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:**

**Sid Dillon turning 93 on December 13**

## WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS

The closing of the church would be a last resort but we want to protect the safety of our members & employees. If the occasion arises where we need to close the church & 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 services 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.*

## CHRISTMAS EVE HOSPITALITY NEEDED



If you are able to help with hospitality on Christmas Eve, please sign up on our website under the "events" tab, or scan the QR code. We need Ushers, Greeters, and Communion Servers for all 3 services.

## 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 (Jon Rensch's Father), Bill Miller, Jan Larsen, Shirley Brandert (Amy Spies' mother), Cheryl Larsen, Karen McPherran, Steve Schmidt, Lorna Berkland, John Clopper, Ron Pronske, Joy Horn, Gayle Paschall

**Prayers of peace** for Michelle Jacobsen on the loss of her father, Marvin Peters; for Becky and Ryan Tighe, Kolby and Jax, on the loss of Becky's father, Roger Horstmann; for Mary Ann Thomas and her family on the loss of her son-in-law, Rick Haskins; for Janet Lowe on the loss of her mother, Priscilla Abercrombie.

**Pastoral Acts (November) Baptisms:** Isabella Annette Morgan (11/9); Logan Poast (11/26)



# DISCIPLESHIP



**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.

**Sunday Small Group** with Kris Lindgren will continue their study on *Matthew — Together by Grace* in the Room 138. 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. **We will not meet on Sunday, December 28.**

**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.



Don't necessarily know how to sew but would like to help? No problem! We need individuals who can cut, color match, tie knots, and more! If interested, reach out to Gina DeBoer (ginad@flcfremont.org).

Quilters meet every Wednesday at 1:00pm in the FLC Quilting Room (RM 141). **\*Quilters will not meet on Wednesday, December 24 or Wednesday, December 31.**

## FLC Women

**FLC First Monday Bible Study** will enjoy a Christmas luncheon together on **Thursday, December 18** at 11:30am at the Fremont Golf Club. **No Bible study on December 1.**

**Chick Flicks** will meet on **Tuesday, December 16** at 6:30pm in the FLY Room.



**WOW (Women of the Word)** Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, December 10 at 9:30am in the Heritage Room for a special Christmas party! We will share food, fun, and fellowship as we wrap up 2025! New members are always welcome!



**Faith Circle** will gather for a potluck supper on **Monday, December 8 at 6:30pm**. Wendy Olson will host at 3136 Deer Run in Fremont. The meat and dessert will be provided. Please bring a side to share.

**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. **\*TLC is taking the month of December off and starting back up in the new year!**



JOIN OUR TEAM!

## WE ARE HIRING!

LIKE TO PLAN ACTIVITIES, BIBLE STUDIES, OR DAY TRIPS?

HELP US GROW OUR ADULT MINISTRY HERE AT FLC!

### POSITION: ADULT MINISTRY COORDINATOR

- Part Time (14-20hr/week)
- Some Sundays & Evenings
- Organize Adult Ministry Opportunities

### CONTACT

Pastor DeBoer  
pastordeboer@flcfremont.org  
or  
Wendy Grosse  
wendyg@flcfremont.org

APPLY NOW



# MISSION & OUTREACH

## FLC MOBILE BANQUET

HELP FLC SERVE  
270+ FREE MEALS

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



Extra Items: Full Size Candy Bars, Winter Coats, Hats, Mittens/Gloves, Scarves, & Christmas Coloring Books



The Mobile Banquet will be delivering meals to the YMCA, LifeHouse, and ASPIRE on Thursday, December 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, December 10.

We are collecting winter coats, hats, mittens/gloves, scarves, full size candy bars, and Christmas coloring books as our extra items for this month's Mobile Banquet. Sign up at [www.flcfremont.org/events](http://www.flcfremont.org/events), or scan the QR code.

## LIGHT UP YOUR FLC FAMILY CROSS!

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."  
- John 8:12



Remember to light up your star crosses beginning, this Sunday, November 30 for the first day of Advent. Star crosses should remain lit through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. If you are a new member and have not received your Star Cross, please contact the Church Office.

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE



The RetirePath Holiday Food Drive for LifeHouse continues until December 18! Scan the QR Code or go online to our events page to make a monetary donation. Cash and checks are also accepted and can be dropped in the offering plate or brought into the Church Office. Checks should be made out to FLC. Food donations can be brought to the Church Office.



Our December Ministry Partner is C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Keeping up with the spirit of giving, we have the CASA Giving Tree set up in the Fellowship Hall where you can pick up tags to shop for gifts from a child's wish list. **All gifts should be wrapped labeled and returned to the tree in Fellowship Hall no later than December 14. Please be sure to tape the child's tag you take to the gift.**



**Don't want to do anymore shopping?** The High School FLYs will be shopping for CASA families on Wednesday, December 3 and can do it for you! If you would like to give towards this ministry but don't want to/are unable to shop, you can donate funds. Be sure to designate **CASA Shopping** on your check, envelope, or online donation.

## FLC MOBILE BANQUET

# Winter Coat Drive

### Drop-off Location: FLC Office

These items will be distributed with the Mobile Banquet meals the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Most desire is for children's sizes,  
but all sizes are needed.  
Coats - Hats - Gloves/Mittens - Scarves

Thank You for Your Donations!





# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

All youth groups, and Sunday Small Groups, will take a break from December 24 – January 6.  
Enjoy the time of rest.  
We will see you back on January 7

## FLY CHRISTMAS PARTIES



### MIDDLE SCHOOL FLYS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 | 7:00PM

Please bring a \$10 gift for a present swap game! If you need help with a gift, please let Gina know. Treats provided.  
Ugly Sweaters are encouraged and friends are welcome!

### HIGH SCHOOL FLYS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 | 7:00PM

Please bring a \$10 gift for a present swap game! If you need help with a gift, please let Gina know. Treats provided.  
Come celebrate our Savior's birth with friends and fun!

## FLY Sweets & Treats

December 14 & 21 | Between Services

We have 14 Youth & 4 Adults attending the QUAKE Ministry Conference in Wisconsin Dells. Our FLYS will be selling Christmas sweets & treats between services on December 14 & 21. All proceeds will go towards the QUAKE trip. Donations towards this ministry event may be placed in the offering basket, dropped off at the office, or made online.  
Thank you for supporting the FLC Youth!

QUAKE

#### SHOPPING FOR CASA GIVNIG TREE!

The HS FLYS will be shopping for CASA families on Wed, December 3. If you want to give towards this ministry, but do not want /are unable to shop, you can donate funds and the FLYS will do the shopping for you! Indicate CASA Shopping on your check or envelope.  
Contact Gina with any questions.

## High School FLY Opportunities

- Wed, Dec 3: 7-9:00pm, CASA Gift Shopping
- Wed, Dec 10, 7-9:00pm, Caroling
- Wed, Dec 17, 7-9:00pm, FLY Rm, Christmas Party
- Sun, Dec 21, No Sunday Small Group
- Dec 24-Jan 6, Winter Break, No Activities
- Wed, Jan 7, Activities Resume

## Middle School & Confirmation News

- Wed, Dec 3, Confirmation, 7-8:30pm, Rm 105
- Wed, Dec 10, 7-8:30pm, Middle Rm, MS FLYs Christmas Party
- Wed, Dec 17, 4:30-6:00pm, Family Christmas Event
- Wed, Dec 17, Confirmation, 7-8:30pm, Rm 105
- Sun, Dec 21, No Sunday Small Group
- Dec 24-Jan 6, Winter Break, No Activities
- Wed, Jan 7, Activities Resume

## FLY56 News

- Wed, Dec 3, 3:45-5pm, Middle Rm
- Wed, Dec 10, 3:45-5pm, Fellowship Hall, Christmas Party
- Wed, Dec 17, 4:30-6:00pm, Family Christmas Event
- Sun, Dec 21, No Sunday Small Group
- Dec 24-Jan 6, Winter Break, No Activities
- Wed, Jan 7, Activities Resume



Sunday, December 21  
10:15am Worship Service



Kids from Sunday Small Groups will be practicing for their Christmas program during small group time on Dec 7, 14 & 21. Please have your child(ren) at Sunday Small Groups in December so they can be a part of the fun! Contact Gina with any questions.

#### YOUTH FORMATION CO-OP UPDATE

We thank everyone for their stories and input. If you have not had a chance to talk to someone on the team about your experience with youth ministry, please reach out. The committee meets again on Thursday, December 4 at 5:30pm. We look forward to learning the next steps of this process at a retreat at CJH in January.



# SHADES OF HOPE SPECIAL WORSHIP

FEATURING:

## THE LIGHTNING BUGS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES



Come worship & sing along to Christmas music in a Jazz/Blues form with us & The Lightning Bugs out of Lincoln, NE!

## SUNDAY MORNING CAR POOL



### We are changing things up!

We have a big need for transportation for individuals at FLC who are normally unable to attend worship in person. If you are willing and able to provide a ride for the 8:30am worship service, your church family could really use you! We would love to give everyone the opportunity to attend worship in person and create/sustain relationships that they wouldn't be able to do from home. Please contact the Church Office if you can help!

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Do you feel it? The holiday season is among us, and it is creeping up fast! We are focusing on reflection of this past year, our goals, accomplishments, and all that the Lord has given us. We would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the educators, to thank you for such a fantastic year! We are truly lucky to have such supportive families that embrace all the fun and learning that happens in the ELC.

December is an exciting month and so much to look forward to! We will be concentrating on experiencing the holiday season through our senses. We learn about the feelings, textures, colors, and smells (cinnamon, pine...) and the symbols (candles, stars, bells...) that make this part of the year so special.

There is magic all around us these days! It is so special for us teachers to share the joy and anticipation of the holiday season with the children. As we move into the month of December we will be learning about Christmas and all that it entails! From the birth of Jesus to Santa, Christmas and everything up until the New Year!

We appreciate all of the ways so many of you have shown your support throughout the year.

Christmas blessings to you and your family from all of us in The Early Learning Center.

Blessings,

Mindy Olson and Team



### Mark Your Calendars For Our January Fundraiser!

**Chipotle Fundraiser | January 13 | 4:00-8:00pm**

We will have a fundraiser to support our Early Learning Center at Chipotle on Tuesday, January 13, from 4:00-8:00pm. 25% of event sales will benefit the ELC! The flyer will be posted in January. If you are dining in, you must show the flyer. If you order online for pick up, use code **9B9PTK3**.



## CHURCH OFFICE & EARLY LEARNING CENTER CLOSURES

Church Office & ELC — Christmas Eve, December 24

Church Office & ELC — Christmas Day, December 25

ELC — New Year's Eve, December 31

Church Office & ELC — New Year's Day, January 1

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS — November

### November FLC Council Highlights

- 31 people were on the FLC Branson Bus Trip
- Nearly 15 youth are planning to attend each of these events next year:
- Quake Youth Conference in Wisconsin Dells in February
- FLY trip to Nashville, TN in the summer
- The staff applied for and received two \$250 gift cards for coats to be given away at the Mobile Banquet
- Cheryl Henderson and Grant Prenzlów were elected to be council representatives on the Nominating Committee
- Thanksgiving and Advent special offerings designated for Holiday Food Drive 2025

Respectfully Submitted by Dave Poppe, FLC Council Secretary

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

## Monthly Financial Report

	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 59,866.32	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 143,000.00	\$ 126,182.65	\$ 149,471.01
General Income	\$ 72,754.17	\$ 77,997.17	\$ 155,194.34	\$ 146,229.76	\$ 159,054.63
Mission Income	\$ 3,260.00	\$ 4,575.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 7,923.00	\$ 24,351.00
Expenses	\$ 70,322.09	\$ 78,170.34	\$ 168,624.68	\$ 155,083.25	\$ 157,697.38
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ 5,692.08	\$ 4,401.83	\$ (3,930.34)	\$ (930.49)	\$ 25,708.25
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 3,642.57			\$ 6,302.57	\$ 4,325.00
Build Fund Balance	42,997.56				

Merry and blessed holiday season to all! The pledge cards for 2026 are coming in - thanks for the generous donations of time, talents, and treasures to further the Mission of FLC. Year end reminder that Required Minimum Distributions can be directed to First Lutheran. By doing this, you can meet your pledge and save some tax dollars! Even though the calendar year is ending, the FLC fiscal year is just starting! In October, pledged giving was \$12K under budget but expenses were under budget as well. As a result, October ended with a \$5.7K profit. The ELC ended October with a \$2.7K loss which is slightly lower than budget but they maintain a positive bottom line YTD. May your holiday season be filled with all things merry and bright and may we all remember the reason for the season. Merry Christmas!

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



**Targeted Giving...** (as of 10/31/25) 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	\$11,519.50	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$3,493.38	Spoudazo	\$2,986.01
Technology	\$2,814.66	Good Samaritan	\$2,515.46	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$2,130.17
Church Home	\$ -152.87	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$6,146.82
Building Maint.	\$42,997.56	Quilt Ministry	\$3,744.07	Youth Trips	\$4,654.75
First Lutheran Youth	\$4,654.75	Children's WAM	\$2,189.45	VBS	\$422.20





BE A  
**CHRISTMAS  
DECORATION  
SPONSOR!**

**\$20**

HELP SPONSOR POINSETTIAS AND OTHER CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS! ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE WELCOME CENTER OR YOU CAN GO TO [WWW.FLCFREMONT.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.FLCFREMONT.ORG/EVENTS) TO MAKE A DONATION ONLINE.

WE ALL KNOW IT WILL  
EVENTUALLY HAPPEN...  
**THE SNOW  
WILL FALL.**

SO WE NEED  
**VOLUNTEERS FOR  
SNOW REMOVAL  
FOR WORSHIP!**

- SHOVEL & SALT ENTRANCES -
- PICK YOUR OWN DATES -
- FULL OR PARTIAL MORNINGS -

**SIGN UP IS ONLINE! VOLUNTEER TODAY!**





*A Blue Christmas*  
**WORSHIP EXPERIENCE  
WITH BRIAN SPAHR**

**DECEMBER 7, 2025**

**6:00PM | FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PIE SOCIAL TO FOLLOW**




Brian Spahr is a singer/songwriter whose music carries the weight of grief and the light of grace. With the heart of a pastor and the soul of a storyteller, he writes honest lyrics wrapped in simple, memorable melodies—songs that feel like quiet companions on the journey.

Follow the Light,  
Discover the Story,  
& Experience the  
Hope of Christmas!

**STAR OF  
HOPE**

**A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY**

Sponsored in part by First Lutheran Women



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17**  
4:00–6:00pm | FLC Mission Center

We welcome your family to join us  
for a night of wonder!  
Journey through our Interactive Live Nativity  
with your star map to guide you.

**Extra Activities For All:**  
Snowball Pit ✨ Nativity Snacks ✨ Hot Cocoa  
Craft Activity ✨ Christmas Story  
Interactive Live Nativity (Indoor/Outdoor)

**NEW  
2026  
SIGN UP!**

**Sunday Morning Gathering  
& Altar Flower Sponsors**

**SUNDAY MORNING  
GATHERING \$150**

**ALTAR FLOWER  
SPONSOR \$50**

**3 WAYS TO SIGN UP:**

- SCAN THE QR CODE
- CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 402.721.2959
- SIGN UP ONLINE AT [WWW.FLCFREMONT.ORG](http://WWW.FLCFREMONT.ORG)