

I lived in Nebraska long enough to know that you have to take the weather seriously. I still understand that a weather 'watch' means you go outside to watch for it, and a weather 'warning' means that if you don't hurry up, you're going to miss it. Seriously though, weather isn't something to mess around with.

Since I've been in Fremont, there have been tornadoes, hail, and a blizzard. Weather can be dangerous.

Weather can also be a blessing. A three-day-soaker of rainfall in late summer can save an entire crop. Gentle rain in the spring greens up the lawn and helps the rows of crops sprout. Even winter snow replenishes the ground water.

There's an old sermon story that goes something like this:



There once was a rural village suffering from severe drought. The villagers decided they would all gather together and pray for rain. At the appointed time, as the villagers gathered as a community to pray, but only one small child brought an umbrella. The child was mocked and laughed at. Did the young one forget that it hadn't rained in a very long time? Why would an umbrella be necessary? As they prayed, the skies began to darken and the first raindrops fell. Soon, the increasing rain had the villagers scrambling for shelter, all except the child with the umbrella. He was prepared for the answer to their prayer.

As a church we pray for many things for many people – good health or healing, less stress or more confidence, relief or renewal. Sometimes we get the answer we're looking for; other times we don't understand why God doesn't seem to be listening.

We also pray for things for the church – to reach more people, to have adequate financial resources, to see lives transformed, for peace and joy in the world. Just like in our personal lives, sometimes we see answers and other times we wonder what God is waiting for.

We all know about the blessings of answered prayer, but did you ever consider the consequences of answered prayer. Looking back to the villagers in the story above, their prayer was answered but they weren't ready. What happens when God is answering your prayers, but you made no provisions for those answers?

Need an example? The number of youth going on the mission trip next summer has doubled over last year. We have fourteen youth going to the Wisconsin Dells for the Quake Event (a faith forming weekend with great music and awesome speakers and way too much energy). Sunday Small Groups for Kids (formerly known as Sunday School) has grown by 61% and outgrown the space we had prepared for them. Maybe you've noticed the new families that have joined us, many of them young families. *(Have you introduced yourself yet?)*

I know these numbers don't match the Good Ol' Days but we are trending the right way. These are the things we've been praying for. Can you see the blessings? Can you also see the consequences? Transportation becomes a bit of an issue and more expensive. We need more volunteers. We need more kids small group leaders. We need supplies for an infant/toddler room. And this is just the stuff related to youth!

We need drivers to transport the home-bound who wish to worship with us in-person. We've had to increase the number of donut-holes – a lot (and before you blame the kids, it's adults too, and...we prayed for the kids to come). We need to look into check-in process for Sunday Small Groups. We need to update our safeguarding policy. There is so much to do because God is working at FLC faster than we can keep up.

So, the real question is: Did you bring your umbrella?

Pastor Gug



WORSHIP

**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



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 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:

Colleen Routon turning 97 on January 1
Milt Havekost turning 93 on January 27

BECOME A
WORSHIP

Volunteer

Greeter - Usher - Communion Server



Scan the QR code, Go to the "Events" tab on our website, or call the Church Office to sign up!

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.

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 Lyn Robart, Dennis, Bill Miller, Jan Larsen, Shirley Brandert (Amy Spies' mother), Cheryl Larsen, Lorna Berkland, John Clopper, Joy Horn, Gayle Paschall, Gene Anderson, Janie Baugh, & Virginia Gard

Prayers of peace for Jan (John) Anderson, Roger (Rita) Goree, & Linda Betkie on the loss of their mother, Irene Goree; for Ben & Carly Wilcox & family on the loss of Ben's father, Jerry Wilcox.

Pastoral Acts (December) Baptisms: Leila Joyce Hively & Elijah Jeffery Hively (12/14)

DISCIPLESHIP



Grief Share®
Grief Support Group
Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

Join Deacon Rick Strong
for a 13 week Grief Recovery
Support Group
through Grief Share:
Tuesdays | 3:00-4:30pm
March 3-June 2, 2026
First Lutheran Church



Scan the QR code, go to the "Events" tab
on our website or call the Church Office
to get signed up!

Men's Bible Study will continue their study on the Book of Acts. 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 at 9:30am. All are welcome to join. No prep needed — just come as you are, ready to listen, share, and grow in faith.

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

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.



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).

FLC Women

FLC First Monday Bible Study will meet on **Monday, January 5**, at 10:00am at the home of Judy Jorgensen, 1320 Ruth Ave. We will begin the study, *Unshakeable Hope* by Max Lucado. All women are welcome.

Chick Flicks will continue to be the first Tuesday of the month. We have completed the Matthew study and will start devotions inspired by the insights of children called *Out of the Mouths of Babies* by Barbara Gove Gill on **Tuesday, January 6**, at 6:30pm in the FLY Room.



WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet on **Wednesday, January 14** at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Linda Texley will lead us as we continue with Max Lucado's book, *Psalms: Life Lessons*. New members welcome!



Faith Circle will meet on **Thursday, January 8** at 7:00pm in the Conference Room. Trudy Tamke will lead the lesson. We will be using the third Bible study on generosity from the Fall 2025 Gather magazine.



Journey In The
JOY

Winter Day/Retreat for Women of the ELCA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN GRAND ISLAND

\$20 REGISTRATION DUE BY JANUARY 7

CONTACT EILEEN THORNBURG FOR A REGISTRATION FORM:
BTHORNBURG@NEB.RR.COM

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.

MISSION & OUTREACH

January Ministry Partner
Camperships
KEEP FAITH ALIVE!

Help Grow Youth Faith!

faith alive!

If you are passionate about youth & children and want to help grow their faith, consider donating to the
FLC Campership Fund!



This fund provides for 1/2 the cost of early bird fees to any student who is active in Youth & Children Ministries at FLC & attending an ELCA church camp. You can donate through the offering plate, online, or by dropping your donation off at the office.

Your support of this ministry is vital in Keeping Faith Alive!

In January, our focus will be on building up our Campership Fund! This fund allows more children to attend ELCA church camps in the summer, providing unforgettable, faith-forming experiences. Throughout the month, many campers will be sharing stories and experiences.

We hope you will consider contributing monetarily to this fund by scanning the QR code, going online to www.flcfremont.org/events, including your donation in the offering plate, or bringing it in to the Church Office.

Food Packing Event

January 14 & 15
FLC Mission Center

The United Way plans to pack 3000 bags to be shared with local schools to restock their supply for backpack programs. Please look for details to come regarding volunteer opportunities.



FLC MOBILE BANQUET
HELP FLC SERVE
270+ FREE MEALS

Next Distribution
THURS. JAN 8
5:30-6:30 PM
HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Extra Items: Winter Coats, Hats, Mittens/Gloves, Scarves, & Blankets



The Mobile Banquet will be delivering meals to Regency Mobile Park, LifeHouse, and ASPIRE on Thursday, January 8, 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, January 7.

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

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

01.25.2026

7:30am-12:00pm

First Lutheran

Fellowship Hall

Give Blood, Save Lives, Make a Difference



Give blood for chance to win a trip for 2 to Super Bowl LX in Cali!



HOW TO SIGN UP:

 redcrossblood.org

 or Call Niki at 402-720-1825

Thank you to everyone involved for such a beautiful display of generosity and love.

We will continue to collect through January!

December Coat Update:
Mostly brand new!

48 40
WOMEN & GIRLS MEN & BOYS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

NEW YOUTH CALENDARS Available!

Be sure to pick up your
2nd semester
Youth Ministry Schedule
(coral paper)
All planned events for
FLY56, WAM, MS FLYS,
HS FLYS, & Confirmation
can be found on
this schedule.



**Any changes to this schedule
will be publicized in the
messenger, announcements,
and through REMIND.

confirmation news!

RETREAT INFORMATION

All 2nd year Confirmation students are required to attend the **Confirmation Retreat** on **Monday, Jan 19, 2026** from 9:00am-4:00pm. Donuts for breakfast and pizza for lunch will be provided. **Bring your Bibles and something to drink.**

PARENT MEETING

There will be a meeting for all 2nd year confirmation students (8th graders) and their parents on **Wednesday, January 7th** at 7pm to go over the Confirmation project, banquet, retreat, Faith Walk, and service. Please plan to attend this meeting to receive all the information you will need for your last semester of Confirmation instruction.



High School FLY Opportunities

- Wed, Jan 7, 7-9:00pm, FLY Rm
- Wed, Jan 14, 7-9:00pm, FLY Rm
- Wed, Jan 21, 7-9:00pm, FLY Rm
- Wed, Jan 28, 7-9:00pm, FLY Rm

Middle School & Confirmation News

- Wed, Jan 7, 7-8:30pm, Middle Rm
- Wed, Jan 7, 7:00pm, Confirmation Parent Meeting
- Wed, Jan 21, 7-8:30pm, Middle Rm
- Wed, Jan 14, 7-8:30pm, Confirmation
- Mon, Jan 19, 9-4:00pm, 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat
- Wed, Jan 28, 7-8:30pm, Confirmation

FLY56 News

- Wed, Jan 7, 3:30-5pm, Middle Rm
- Wed, Jan 14, 3:30-5pm, Middle Rm
- Wed, Jan 21, 3:30-5pm, Middle Rm
- Wed, Jan 28, 3:30-5pm, Middle Rm

TIS THE SEASON TO BE CAMPING!

WELL...
MAYBE
NOT

**BUT IT IS THE MONTH TO GET YOUR CHILD(REN)
SIGNED UP FOR CHURCH CAMP!**

You can register on-line at
NLOM.org/carjoyholling/register
or mail in your registration.

When registering, please also complete
an FLC Campership Voucher and
submit to Gina or the FLC Office by
January 31 to receive your Campership.


FLC Camperships cover half of the
early bird registration for any student
active in FLC Youth/Children's Ministries
attending an ELCA church camp.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

Ends
January 31, 2026

QUESTIONS? ▼

Contact Gina DeBoer

 ginad@flcfremont.org



FLC will be providing transportation to & from
day camp at Carol Joy Holling the week of
June 8-12, 2026.

The van will leave FLC at about 7am each day
and return around 5pm.

The cost for the week is \$225.

With a completed FLC Campership Voucher, families only
have to pay \$117 for a week of fun, adventure, friends,
and faith building! Vouchers and registration
information can be found at the Ministry Center.



WE'RE HIRING!

ADULT MINISTRY COORDINATOR

JOIN OUR TEAM

Like to plan activities, Bible studies, & day trips?
Do you know someone who would?

Help us grow our Adult Ministry here at FLC!

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

Apply Now Wendy Grosse | wendyg@flcfremont.org

ATTENTION: THRIVENT MEMBERS

If you are a Thrivent member, we need you!

Every Thrivent member has the benefit of applying for an **Action Team** to impact a cause of your choice. These funds can be used to support a ministry at FLC. We are encouraging all Thrivent Members to use their Action Teams so these funds don't go unused. If you need ideas of how to use your Action Teams, please talk to a FLC staff member. We'd be happy to help you through the process.

thrivent®

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Time flies when you are having fun! It's hard to believe that it is January already, but we are looking forward to what 2026 has in store for us!

As we look back on the past year, our hearts are full of gratitude for the many blessings that have touched our childcare community. From the laughter of the children to the support of our dedicated staff and families, we have truly been surrounded by love, joy, and growth.

We are so grateful for: The incredible children who bring so much joy and energy to our center. The loving families who trust us with their little ones and continue to support us every step of the way. Our amazing team, whose passion and care create a nurturing environment every single day. The new programs, improvements, and moments of connection that have strengthened our community.

What's Happening in January Inside the Classrooms:

Winter Activities: We'll be exploring winter through sensory play, art projects, and outdoor fun (*weather permitting!*).

Learning Focus: This month's themes include Polar Animals, Food & Nutrition, and Nursery Rhymes for little learners.

Kindness & Friendship: We'll also be talking about kindness and how small acts can make a big difference. We are blessed in countless ways and look forward to another year of making memories, learning, and growing together.



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! If you are dining in, you must let them know you are there for the ELC Fundraiser. If you order online for pick up, use code **9B9PTK3**.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – December

December FLC Council Highlights

- We are growing in attendance! This exciting news also brings some challenges regarding use of our spaces, ensuring child safety, and having more volunteers for activities. Prayerfully consider where God may be leading you to be involved.
- Authorized \$15,000 of memorial money for the balance due on a new piano
- Authorized \$150,000 of memorial money to be placed in near-term CDs during space and program planning.

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

	November Actual	November Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 79,170.33	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 213,000.00	\$ 205,352.98	\$ 213,638.34
General Income	\$ 87,682.03	\$ 78,047.17	\$ 233,241.51	\$ 234,911.79	\$ 230,075.56
Mission Income	\$ 7,331.61	\$ 11,175.00	\$ 20,675.00	\$ 14,254.61	\$ 27,855.00
Expenses	\$ 72,559.66	\$ 79,845.34	\$ 248,470.02	\$ 227,635.91	\$ 234,141.04
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ 22,453.98	\$ 9,376.83	\$ 5,446.49	\$ 21,530.49	\$ 23,789.52
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 4,825.00			\$ 11,127.57	\$ 8,565.00
Build Fund Balance	47,737.56				

HAPPY NEW YEAR! What a blessed year '25 was for FLC - looking forward to '26! November was a strong month with pledged giving \$9k over budget with year end giving through November is \$21.5K. The ELC ended November breaking even YTD. Many additional blessings through November with CASA and Lifehouse donations as well as many of you donating Thrivent cards to help offset costs for several missions. THANK YOU! We continue to plan for projects and missions moving forward. May the New Year bring you and yours many blessings.

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



Targeted Giving... (as of 11/30/25) 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	\$7,835.51	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$3,893.38	Spoudazo	\$2,286.01
Technology	\$2,814.66	Good Samaritan	\$2,315.46	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$2,130.17
Church Home	\$ -17.52	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$7,248.04
Building Maint.	\$47,737.56	Quilt Ministry	\$3,964.07	Youth Trips	\$3,358.38
First Lutheran Youth	\$4,654.75	Children's WAM	\$2,489.45	VBS	\$422.20



2025 POINSETTIAS & CHRISTMAS DECORATION SPONSORS

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SPONSORED OUR POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS THIS YEAR!

Vickie Anderson in memory of my husband, Tom, & daughter, Deena Jo

Roger & Patty Beier

Tracy & Michelle Beran (2)

Lorna Berkland in memory of Oscar, Alan, & Ron Berkland

Lon & Carol Bohling in memory of our parents

Tasha Bopp in memory of Dennis Bopp & Dan Greger

Arlene Brewer in memory of Roy Brewer (2)

Brian & Pam Brodd in memory of Robert Brodd

Melody & Rod Chvatal in memory of our beloved parents

Mike & Kathy Divis in honor of our church family

Linda Doll

Sherie Ebers in memory of Jim Ebers

Evelyn Eldridge in memory of Edwin Eldridge

Ron & Julie Fechner in honor of staff & volunteers

Shirley Flanagan

Dave & Julie Grimm

Mary Jean Hively in memory of Jan Hively & Delbert Hively (2)

Lyn House in memory of Jim House

Michelle Jacobsen in memory of Marvin & Marlene Peters

JoAnne Jessen

Christie Johnson in memory of Myron Nissen, Prudence Nissen, & Tammy (Nissen) Sukstorf (3)

Beth Kindler

Dwayne & Lucy Klocke in memory of our son, Doug Klocke

Keith Lallman

Eric & Kris Lindgren (2)

Jenny Maenner in memory of Ann Lallman

Joan Martin in memory of Gene Martin

Duane & Judi McKenzie

Evelyn Perry

Faith Perry

Dave & Kathy Pinkall

LaRae Plessing

Marv & Janet Porter

Steve & Linda Prochaska with Keith & Sheryl Tank
in memory of our parents & grandparents (2)

Carol & Stephen Renter in memory of our parents

Joan Sawtelle in memory of my grandson, Emmitt Harmel

Slykhuus Family in memory of Diane Hasemann

Leon & Marge Sperling

Tom & Trudy Tamke

Susan Wilt in memory of Bill Wilt

Jan Wolfe

Ron & Charlotte Young in memory of our mothers,
Elna Young & Pauline Nielsen

God is blessing us with Growth!

AS OUR CLASSROOMS FILL WITH NEW FACES & ENERGY...

**WE NEED ADDITIONAL
SUNDAY SMALL GROUP LEADERS**

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED, JUST A WILLINGNESS TO
SHOW UP AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE!

IF INTERESTED, REACH OUT TO
GINA DEBOER, GINAD@FLCFREMONT.ORG
YOUR TIME & GIFTS CAN MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT!



Join us for our Kickoff Brunch!
Tuesday, January 20 | 9:30-11:00am | First Lutheran
RSVP for the Kickoff and Register for
MOMS Together by going on our website under
the "Events" tab or scan the QR code!
Register & RSVP by January 16 to receive a FREE journal!



Mothers Of Many Seasons Together is a supportive community of mothers who grow in love for God, their families, and their call to motherhood. MOMS Together focuses on mothers of preschoolers through high school seniors. All Fremont and surrounding moms are welcome!
We will meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9:30-11:00am at First Lutheran!

Currently looking for a Childcare Director, Childcare Volunteers, & Table Leaders.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering, please reach out to
Tracey Vrba and Nichole Fairhead at MOMStogetherNE@gmail.com