

In our little corner of the world, the weather can be downright infuriating. One day it's nearly 80 degrees, and two days later school is cancelled because of winter weather. I'm convinced these wild swings aren't good for anyone or anything. Should the daffodils poke their heads through the ground or not? Should the lilacs start to bud or not? Should we be working in the garden already?

(The answer is a very firm no. No matter what the groundhog says, Spring is not around the corner. Or six weeks away. It's a long, long time from now.)

But in our hopefulness, we know it's almost Spring. The grass is almost green. The air is almost warm. It's almost time to open the windows and air out the house. It's almost time to get the lawn mower ready. Almost.

And Lent is almost Easter.

These late-winter weeks are about as far from beautiful as the world gets. Lawns are brown. Whatever snow is left is dirty. Trees look dead. Fields are barren. We know Spring is coming, but we can't see it yet. We can almost see the world changing.

All the work that brings Spring about is invisible. We can't see the tilt of the earth warming the northern hemisphere. We can't see the sap beginning to rise in the maples. We can't see the tulips struggling upward through cold soil. We can't see chlorophyll waking up the grass.

But it's happening—quietly, faithfully, beyond our sight.



Jesus once said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow—he does not know how." (Mark 4:26–27)

Lent is almost Easter. And the work God does in us is just as hidden. In our waiting, in our hoping, in our longing, God is at work. We can't always see it. We see the coldness and divisiveness of the world, but not the compassion God is stirring in His people. We see entitlement everywhere, but not the grace God is pumping into His children's hearts. We see people struggling under depression, poverty, and indifference, but not the quiet ways God is clearing a path for them to flourish. We see the world fading into grayness, but not the creativity God is breathing into His broken creation.

God is most definitely at work. But sometimes we get so wrapped up in our own discouragement that we stop looking. Maybe we've grown numb to the evil or colorblind to the decay. Or maybe we've simply forgotten what we're supposed to be watching for.

Maybe what God is doing is just outside what we can see—like Spring. We know it's coming. We know something is happening. We just can't quite see it yet.

Lent is almost Easter. Not quite, but almost. God is at work. Not almost, but absolutely. And in you, God is bringing new life.

Pastor Greg



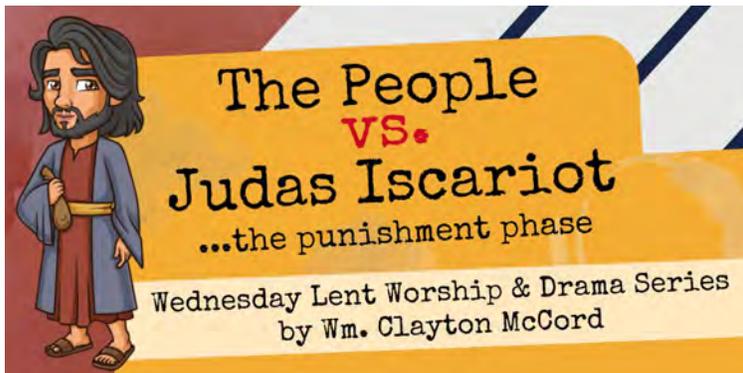
WORSHIP

SUNDAY LENT SERIES:

GROWING IN
CHRIST
FROM ASHES TO NEW LIFE.



Sundays during Lent we're following the theme **"Growing in Christ from Ashes to New Life,"** exploring how God nurtures new life in us. From ashes becoming soil to seeds taking root, from living water to new life breaking through, each Sunday traces a step in God's transforming work. Together we'll discover how Christ plants hope, strengthens our faith, and grows a kingdom that changes the world. This season invites us to open our hearts to the growth God is already beginning.



Wednesdays during Lent we're following, **"The People vs. Judas Iscariot ...the punishment phase"**

Come follow the court hearing in which Judas undergoes his punishment phase. Prosecution and defense attorneys will attempt to sway the judge & congregation with evidence based upon the Bible & tradition. We will be using a 5-part series by William Clayton McCord as the message during worship.

Lent/Holy Week Schedule

Every Wednesday, February 18—March 25:

Lenten Meals: 5:00-6:00pm

Lenten Services: 6:15pm

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 29

Worship Services: 8:30am & 10:15am

Palm Sunday Activities for Everyone:* 9:40am

*During Sunday Small Groups time

Wednesday, April 1: No Worship Service

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 2

Worship Service: 7:00pm

*First Communion celebrated with students

Good Friday: Friday, April 3:

Worship Service: 7:00pm

*No Holy Communion

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 5:

Worship Services: 8:30am & 10:15am

*With Holy Communion



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

This month, we honor:

Judy Vitters turning 92 on March 4
Vivian Clapham turning 99 on March 17
Paul Morris turning 90 on March 21



GET INVOLVED AT FLC!

There are many ways!

Visit www.flcfremont.org/events, scan the QR code or call the Church Office at 402-721-2959 to see how you can help! Your time, effort, and resources are **PRICELESS** to us!

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*), Lorna Berkland, John Clopper, Joy Horn, Gayle Paschall, Gene Anderson, Janie Baugh, Virginia Gard, Ron Pronske, Gail Nielsen, & Butch Scott

Prayers of peace for Michelle & Tracy Beran, Stacy Harbaugh, Terri McNulty, & Niki & Dwayne Jesse and their families as they grieve the loss of their mother, Alice Day.

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!



Every congregation has people who have been diagnosed with cancer. Cancer creates a crisis not only for the person battling it, but the entire support group! The diagnosis is frightening and difficult. All individuals facing cancer often look for a place where they can find support and understanding

NEW FOR 2026!

Second Tuesday, Every Month
6:30-7:30pm | At FLC

needed to cope with the long term effects of cancer. **We hope TLC is one of those places!**

- No Cost, No Commitment
- Completely Confidential & Safe Environment
- New Topic Each Week, Materials Provided
- For Anyone Affected By A Cancer Diagnosis (Patient, Caregiver, Friend, Family Member, etc.)

TLC is designed to provide emotional & spiritual support to all those whose lives have been touched by this disease.

Facilitators are Nan Murz & Jill Norenberg
Questions? Contact the Church Office

Next Session: Tuesday, March 10, 6:30pm

FLC Women

FLC First Monday Bible Study will meet on **Monday, March 2**, at 10:00am at the home of Judy Jorgensen, 1320 Ruth Ave. Judy McKenzie will serve as co-hostess. The study will be Chapter 3 of Max Lucado's book, *"Unshakable Hope."* FLC women are invited to participate in this one hour study.

Chick Flicks meets first Tuesday of each month. We will continue watching *"The Chosen"* on **Tuesday, March 3**, at 6:30pm in the FLY Room.



WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet on **Wednesday, March 11** at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Theresa Adams will lead us through Chapter 5 of Max Lucado's book, *Psalms: Life Lessons*. New members are always welcome! **Please bring a non-perishable food item, and/or hygiene item to support Saunders County Pantry & Lutheran Family Services.**



Faith Circle will meet on **Thursday, March 12** in the Conference Room at 7:00pm. Evelyn Eldridge will lead the lesson of Session Two in the Dec/Jan/ Feb Gather Magazine.

We Read And Ponder (WRAP) meets every 2nd and 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.

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 *Out of the Mouths of Babies*, a booklet of devotions inspired by the insights of children. Join us on Sunday mornings between services at 9:30am in Room 138. 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*.

NATIONAL QUILT DAY — MARCH 21!

This year Lutheran World Relief has 800,000 quilts donated! They will be sent to 15 countries and the US when disasters happen. Our quilters have made and sent over 3,000 quilts to LWR in the past 10 years. Over 100 quilt tops are on shelves waiting to be finished! **PLEASE HELP!**

Quilters meet every Wednesday at 1:00pm in the Quilting Room (RM 141). Don't know how to sew? No problem! We need individuals to cut, color match, tie knots, and more! All are welcome to come help. Contact Gina (ginad@flcfremont.org) with questions.



MISSION & OUTREACH

LENTEN MEALS

COMMUNITY MEALS

FEED IT FORWARD

YOUR LENTEN MEAL CREATES MEALS FOR THE FREMONT COMMUNITY THROUGH THE MOBILE BANQUET!



Support our Mobile Banquet by enjoying a meal with your FLC family & friends during Lent! **ALL proceeds** benefit the Mobile Banquet

**EVERY WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 18–MARCH 25**

5:00–6:00PM | \$8/Adult, \$5/Youth (3 & Under FREE)

March 4
Taco Bar

March 11
Spaghetti

March 18
Homemade Hamburger Helper

March 25
Pizza

March Ministry Partner: FLC Mobile Banquet

The March Ministry Partner is the FLC Mobile Banquet! The Banquet is offered the 2nd Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30pm. 270+ meals are prepared, packaged, and delivered to a different location in Fremont each month as well as ASPIRE, and LifeHouse. Volunteers are needed to help cook, pack, serve and clean up. Food donations are also needed as we work toward fighting food insecurity in our community. **NEW volunteers are always welcome!**

We are accepting monetary donations/offerings through our Lenten Meals and Wednesday night Lent services. **ALL** proceeds will benefit the Mobile Banquet. Support this wonderful ministry that gives back to the community!

Get Involved! — Sign Up to Help with our March Mobile Banquet.



The Mobile Banquet will be at Meadowbrook Mobile Home Park from 5:30-6:30pm on Thursday, February 12. Please consider helping to make this possible with your donations of food items, money or time. It's easy! Sign up by scanning the QR code, going online at www.flcfremont.org/events or calling the Church office! Please have your donations to the church kitchen by NOON on Wednesday, February 11. **We are collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste as our extra items for this month's Mobile Banquet.**

2026 FLC Mobile Banquet Distribution Schedule

► **April 9 — Linden Elementary**

Extra Item(s): Easter Candy & Plastic Eggs

► **May 14 — Regency Mobile Home Park**

Extra Item(s): Beach & Bath Towels

► **June 11 — Meadowbrook Mobile Home Park**

Extra Item(s): Flip-flops

► **July 9 — John C. Fremont Park**

Extra Item(s): Haircare — Brushes, Combs, & Accessories

► **August 13 — Schools**

Extra Item(s): Hand Soaps & Sanitizers (fun sized for backpacks)

► **September 10 — Regency Mobile Home Park**

Extra Item(s): Dish Soap & Dish Towels/Cloths

► **October 8 — Meadowbrook Mobile Home Park**

Extra Item(s): Halloween Candy & Coats, Hats, Gloves, Scarves

► **November 12 — Linden Elementary**

Extra Item(s): Coats, Hats, Gloves, Scarves

► **December 10 — YMCA**

Extra Item(s): Full Size Candy Bars & Coats, Hats, Gloves, Scarves



Creating memories while preparing dry onion soup mix to sell! Pictured above: Carson, Evan, Creighton, Becky, Nichole, and Trudy.

Thank You!

Thank you all for your support of our February Ministry Partner:
Roots To Wings

Your donations and volunteering directly support the opportunities to foster an environment that promotes teamwork, camaraderie, and quality of life improvement for their "Farmers."

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Activities Together: Palm Sunday Edition!

Sunday, March 29 | 9:40-10:10am

Kids — Families — Couples — Friends

Activities for Everyone!

Together we will make family resurrection gardens to highlight this year's Lent theme; "**From Ashes to New Life.**" Each person will also get to make their own cross windchimes to celebrate the joy of Easter. Palm whips and directions will be available to make traditional folded palm crosses.

We can't wait to celebrate Palm Sunday with you!

1st Communion Training Part 2

Pastor Greg will be leading the second part of First Communion training on

Saturday, March 28 | 9:00am-1:00pm

Students are asked to bring a packed lunch.



They will be learning about the sacraments, sharing a meal together, and making the bread that will be used during worship on **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:00pm;** when they will take their 1st Communion.

If you are not able to attend this training, please make arrangements with Gina DeBoer.



Spoudazo NextGen 2026: "Know ~~N~~ God"

Do you have a passion for sharing the gospel? Do you love to sing or act? Do you want to grow your relationship with other teens and God? **If yes to any of these, Spoudazo NextGen is for you and registration is open!**

Rehearsals begin on May 26 and will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm. Camp is July 7th-9th from 9am-3pm. Tour dates are July 15-19 with the home concert being held at FLC on July 26. The group will head West into Colorado on tour, the cost is \$350. **Registration and \$100 of the total cost is due by April 30, 2026.** Scan the QR code or go online to www.flcfremont.org/events to register.



College leaders are an integral part of the Spoudazo team. We are currently accepting applications from college aged students wanting to be a small group leader in Spoudazo NextGen. Go to www.flcfremont.org/childrenministry to fill out the application.

High School FLY Opportunities

- **Wed, Mar 4,** 7-9:00pm, FLY Rm
- **Wed, Mar 11,** 7-9:00pm, FLY Rm
- **Wed, Mar 18,** 7-9:00pm, FLY Rm
- **Wed, Mar 25,** 7-9:00pm, FLY Rm

Middle School & Confirmation News

- **Wed, Mar 4,** 7-8:30pm, Confirmation
- **Wed, Mar 11,** 7-9:00pm, MS FLYs, *Join HS FLYs for Game Night!*
- **Wed, Mar 18,** 7-8:30pm, Confirmation
- **Wed, Mar 25,** 7-8:30pm, MS FLYs, Middle Rm

FLY56 News

- **Wed, Mar 4,** 3:30-5pm, Middle Rm
- **Wed, Mar 11,** NO FLY56, Spring Break
- **Wed, Mar 18,** 3:30-5pm, Middle Rm
- **Wed, Mar 25,** 3:30-5pm, Middle Rm

Camp Carol Joy Holling

HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN

March 20-21, 2026



Looking for a mid-winter pick me up, time in nature with God, or a re-connection with friends?

Join the HS FLYs for fun, energy-filled, all-night activities at Carol Joy Holling at the high school lock-in on March 20-21. During worship, activities, and fellowship you will learn about the 2026 Summer Camp theme and dive into God's grace! Cost is \$20 when signing up through FLC.



REGISTRATION: Register online at [CJH Lock-In](#) and pay the **\$20 registration fee only**. FLC will pay the balance directly to CJH. Transportation will be provided to and from FLC for the lock-in.



We have 5 spots left in the van for Day Camp at Carol Joy Holling and we have a generous donor that is covering the cost for each child in the van! If your 1st-6th grader is interested in spending a week in nature, learning about God, and connecting with other kids, now is the time to sign up! Day camp is June 8-12, 2026. Transportation to and from CJH is provided by FLC. Students will leave from FLC at 7:00am each day and return home by 5:00pm. A program is held at CJH on Friday afternoon for parents to see what the kids have learned all week. Any questions, please contact Gina DeBoer.

OUR WEBSITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

We are in the process of making updates to our website.

Our goal is to make the site easy to navigate and find information quickly.

The site is still active and accessible!

Please be patient as we work through the kinks. If you have any questions about our ministries or events, please contact the Church Office.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

SPRING GATHERING

Saturday, March 28

Bethlehem Lutheran, Wahoo
9:00am-3:00pm

Registration deadline is March 18
\$20 per person

Continental Breakfast, Lunch,
Worship, Bible Study,
Area Mission Project Learning, Fellowship

Contact Eileen Thornburg
(bthornburg@neb.rr.com)
for a registration form.



Star Cross Reminder

A reminder that your star crosses should be turned off for Lent.

We will re-light our star crosses on **Easter Sunday, April 5** to show that we are shining bright with Christ's light!

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."
~ Ephesians 4:32



It's time to say goodbye to the month of love and welcome the month of luck! We expressed our love and peace in the classroom with fun activities and stories about being friends and having peace and respect for our peers. We have learned about friendship, Valentine's day, and Pediatric Dental Health; how to keep our teeth healthy. The Preschool classes were blessed to have Dr. Ingram from Fremont Family Dentistry visit and help guide our children with teeth brushing and making good choices for their teeth.

We are also excited to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday this month with all his famous stories that children love. For March, we are eager to learn math concepts such as sorting and matching, shapes and sizes, and vocabulary like rhyming words, which will be incorporated with Dr. Seuss's books. We are also excited to learn about March celebrations such as St. Patrick's Day!



LET'S TACO 'BOUT IT

LA HACIENDA Fundraiser

MONDAY, MARCH 9
11:00AM-9:00PM

10% of your order will go to support ELC
Mention this fundraiser when you order!

LA HACIENDA
Mexican Restaurants
3140 Elk Lane,
Fremont



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS — February

February FLC Council Highlights

- Authorized about \$3,500 for blinds in the Sunday School Pod rooms to match with other shades blocking too much sunlight that comes in at times.
- Authorized about \$7,000 to replace the couch and related furniture in the Heritage Room.
- Authorized obtaining a quote for remodeling in the Mission Center and Early Learning Center to better match the current uses of these spaces. There is a greater number of younger children being served. There are needs for larger equipment in the kitchen.
- A task force to review and possibly revise the church's constitution is being formed. The council is contacting members to be invited to serve on the task force.

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

	January Actual	January Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 106,239.07	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 433,000.00	\$ 454,600.38	\$ 431,695.18
General Income	\$ 113,327.64	\$ 113,297.17	\$ 478,740.81	\$ 515,133.91	\$ 474,449.17
Mission Income	\$ 4,024.00	\$ 4,175.00	\$ 29,775.00	\$ 27,703.83	\$ 37,596.50
Expenses	\$ 70,210.83	\$ 77,938.37	\$ 442,928.62	\$ 442,450.56	\$ 433,755.76
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ 47,140.81	\$ 39,533.80	\$ 65,587.19	\$ 100,387.18	\$ 78,289.91
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 3,566.00			\$ 23,983.57	\$ 18,195.00
Build Fund Balance	48,647.06				

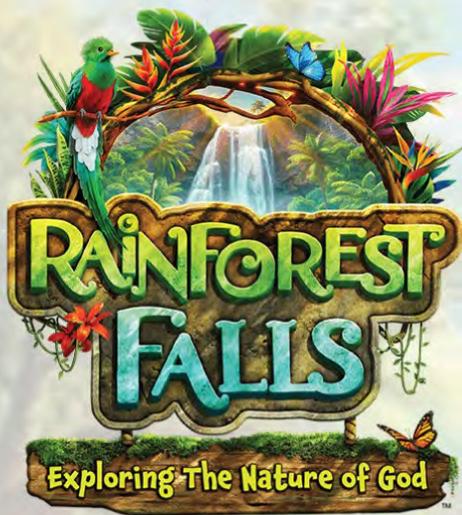
Required minimum distributions (RMD) continue to come in so pledged giving remained strong in January. Expenses remain in budgeted overall even with some larger building expenses this fiscal year including HVAC, fitting the parking lot lights with LED ballast bypass, stove/dishwasher/freezer repairs and replacements, fire panel slave card replacement, exterior door weather stripping, worship space shades, and a cell phone communicator for the fire/security system. We continue to work through our project list with donors including a new snow blower, new conference tables, and new Library furniture. FLC remains ahead of budget and last year at this time. ELC remains in a deficit YTD with rate increases going in effect in March. With the generous support of the congregation, the church is in a strong financial state. May March bring you and yours many blessings!

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator

Targeted Giving... (as of 1/31/26) 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	\$835.51	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$5,122.51	Spoudazo	\$3,288.01
Technology	\$923.14	Good Samaritan	\$2,315.46	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$2,130.17
Church Home	\$242.35	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$7,515.72
Building Maint.	\$47,313.06	Quilt Ministry	\$3,964.07	Youth Trips	\$5,778.30
First Lutheran Youth	\$4,654.75	Children's WAM	\$2,388.56	VBS	\$-1,513.43



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL A CHURCH WIDE MINISTRY!

"As a helper in the kitchen in 2025, I could feel the enthusiasm and see the kids really getting into it. When I listened to them singing, I could just feel the power of God working through the volunteers and participants. The kids are all God's children and the parents have given them the opportunity to learn more about the power and wonder of their Savior by attending VBS."



2026 VBS
July 19-23
5:30-8:15pm

VBS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

FLC's 2026 VBS is Rainforest Falls

Kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

WHEN: July 19-23 | 5:30-8:15pm | **WHERE:** First Lutheran Church

WHO: Children Ages 4 through 6th Grade

Cost: \$10/child

(Includes: supper each night, a t-shirt, activities, & crafts)

Come participate in a week of music, crafts, activities, Bible stories, & MORE!
Bring friends and dive into a closer relationship with God!



Join the VBS Volunteer crew to feel and see God's power working through FLC.

We need decorators, small group leaders, food servers, teachers, donors, prayer warriors, and more to provide VBS at FLC.

Contact Gina DeBoer to see where your gifts can best be used!

Watch the board in Fellowship Hall to see what areas you can help in.



How to Register Students and/or Volunteer to Help:

1. Scan the QR Code
2. Go online to www.flcfremont.org/childrenministry
3. Call the Church Office for help

