

THE MESSENGER

"I chose you."

~ Jesus in John 15:16 (NLT)

We were created as social beings. Notice I didn't say 'social media' beings. Social beings. We were created to be with other people. To talk to them. To listen to them. To walk with them. To love them. To serve them. And in turn, they were created to do the same with you.

We like to blame the culture on the downfall of society. We blame parents. We blame schools. We blame the police. We blame the politicians. We blame each other. We're pretty good at the blame game.

We blame generations. Generations blame technology. Radio messed up the kids. Television messed up families. Microwaves messed up meal time. Computers messed up critical thinking. Cell phones messed up social interactions.

We paint the world we live in as such a dark and negative place. This thing causes that thing. That thing causes Autism. That disease isn't real. People just need to try harder to be happy. Those people are destroying the planet. They're just taking advantage of the system. The system created crime.

Does it have to be this way? No, but what can we do about it? It's always been this way. Nobody likes to change.

Go back to the first three words I typed above.

I. Chose. You.

'I' – refers to Jesus, the son of God. Jesus, the one who fed 5,000 and healed the sick. Jesus, the one who ate with sinners and hypocrites. Jesus, the one who took on every thing the devil had to throw at him. Jesus, the one who won.

'Chose' – Jesus wasn't coerced. He wasn't tricked. He wasn't making a trade. He wasn't settling. He made a decision. He weighed the cost. He chose.

'You' – yes, you. You, the hungry. You, the sick. You, the sinner. You, the hypocrite. You, regardless of your generation. You, regardless of your technological ability. You, regardless of your disaffection for change. You, who sits on the couch eating your microwave meal while not talking to anyone. You, who judges.

Jesus chooses you. Not because he has to. Not because you're the last option. Not because you're the best. Jesus chooses you because he loves you. And that is enough. That is all the reason he needs.

What do you choose? Do you choose to be stuck in the same pattern of behavior you've always been in? Do you choose to be the judge? Do you choose to blame?

Or...

Do you choose break the cycle? Do you choose to be thoughtful? Do you choose to work toward solutions? Do you choose to see people not problems? Do you choose to start the conversation? Do you choose to share? Do you choose hope? Do you choose grace?

Do you choose to love?

Pastor Greg



WORSHIP

Sunday Worship at 8:30am & 10:15am

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 6:15pm

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.

Holy Communion is served during all worship services each week.

Back to School Blessing

Sunday, August 16

8:30am & 10:15am Worship Services

We will be honoring students, teachers, support staff, school administrative, bus drivers, and all those heading back to school. Celebrate the new school year with your FLC family by receiving a blessing and back pack tag during worship. Hope to see you there!



FLC was named the **Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce July Member of the Month**

for our commitment to serving others, building meaningful connections, and making a positive impact in the Fremont community.

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!

SILVER SENIORS

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:

Gloria Jensen turning 95 on August 8

Jerry McPheherran turning 90 on August 24

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*), John Clopper, Joy Horn, Gayle Paschall, Virginia Gard, Ron Pronske, Butch Scott, Jeff Glosser, Ray Meister, Marge Sperling, Jerry Schelling, Marlin Hultgren (*Lori Wells' brother*), Jeff Zimmerman, Rita Pratt, LaVonne Nelsen, Bob Beaver

Prayers of peace for Kathy & Mike Divis and their family on the passing of Kathy's mother, Virginia Huffman; for Lance & Teresa Johnson on the passing of Lance's Dad, Ty Johnson

Baptisms: Mya Whitmore (7/1), Leah Poulas (7/12), Carter Stamper (7/19), Charlee, Frankie, Radley, & Stevie Cram (7/19)

DISCIPLESHIP



TLC is the second Tuesday each month and is designed to provide emotional & spiritual support to all those who have been touched by cancer. This is a no cost, no commitment group that is completely safe & confidential with new topics each month. All materials are provided. Facilitators are Nan Merz & Jill Norenberg. **Questions?** Contact the Church Office.

Next Session: Tuesday, August 11, 6:30-7:30pm at FLC

Whether you're a seasoned pro or have never even threaded a needle, we'd love to have you join our quilting group! **We meet every Wednesday at 1:00 PM in the Quilting Room (Rm 141) for an afternoon of creativity and conversation.** Don't worry if you don't know how to sew—we are more than happy to teach you the ropes. There are plenty of ways to help out while you learn (cut, color match, tie knots, and more!). Come grab a seat, meet some friendly neighbors, and help us piece together something beautiful! All are welcome to come help. Contact Gina (ginad@flcfremont.org) with questions.



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 is studying the Book of Romans. The group meets every Saturday at 8:30am in Room 122. All men are invited to join this study.

Ready to silence destructive thought patterns and guard your peace? Kris Lindgren's **Sunday Small Group** picks back up on Sunday, August 2, with Louie Giglio's Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table. Rooted in timeless truth of Psalm 23, each session includes a short video and discussion on how to recognize and shut down the enemy's lies. All are welcome! Bring a friend and join us for this powerful new series!

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

FLC Women

Faith Focused (previously: *First Monday Morning Bible Study*) will meet on **Tuesday, August 4**, at 10:00am at the home of Judy Jorgensen, 1320 Ruth Ave. Karma Ellermeier will serve as co-hostess. The study will be Chapter 8 of Max Lucado's book, *"Unshakable Hope."* All FLC Women are invited to join us!

Chick Flicks meets the first Tuesday of each month. This month, we will meet on **Tuesday, August 4**, at 6:30pm in the FLY Room.



WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet on **Wednesday, August 12** at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Lucy Klocke will lead us through Chapter 10 of Max Lucado's book, *Psalms: Life Lessons*. New members are always welcome!

Carol Bosshardt has invited **Faith Circle** to her home (720 White Feather Ct, Arlington, NE) on **Thursday, August 13 at 6:30pm**. If you would like to carpool, please meet in the FLC parking lot at 6:15pm. Please bring a salad to share with the group. Bev McKinney will lead the second lesson in the Summer edition of the Gather magazine. We hope you will join us!



"WINE'D DOWN"
AT WINE EXPERIENCE!

MONDAY | AUGUST 31
5:30-7:00PM

ENJOY A NIGHT OF
FELLOWSHIP AND SEASONAL
WINE & SNACK PAIRINGS

\$20 PER PERSON
PAY WHEN YOU
ARRIVE AT
EVENT

RSVP
- FIRST 50 PEOPLE -

- SIGN UP ONLINE: -
WWW.FLCFREMONT.ORG/EVENTS
- SCAN THE QR CODE -
- SIGN UP AT THE MINISTRY CENTER -

WINE EXPERIENCE
415 N MAIN STREET | FREMONT

FANTASY FOOTBALL
FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

DRAFT: SEPTEMBER 1, 7:00PM

Come for the friendly competition, leave with a deeper sense of God's call for you! Be reminded of how we are to live in relationship with Christ and each other. Be encouraged to spread God's love in our everyday lives. **The Fantasy Draft will be held on Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00pm at FLC.** No cost to join, no gambling involved. Scan the QR Code, visit our website, or call the Church Office to sign up! Contact Gina at ginad@flcfremont.org with any questions.

MISSION & OUTREACH

AUGUST MINISTRY PARTNER

LOCAL SCHOOLS

We Are Proud To Support
Students - Teachers - & Staff
Prepare For A New Academic Year

We invite you to join us in surrounding our local school communities with grace, encouragement, and love.

Deliver Treats to Schools

Sponsor Treats For Teacher's Lounges

Make A Payment



Sign Up TODAY!



Sign Up By August 6

Scan the QR Code or visit our website to sign up!

Women of the **ELCA**

saved to serve

AT MIDLAND U | AUG 14-16

PROTEINS FOR THE WARRIOR CUPBOARD

HELP US COLLECT SHELF STABLE PROTEIN ITEMS FOR MIDLAND UNIVERSITY'S WARRIOR CUPBOARD!

EXAMPLES:
CANNED MEAT (TUNA/CHICKEN), CANNED BEANS/LENTILS, NUT BUTTERS, JERKY, ETC.

COLLECTION ENDS: SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 ITEM DROP OFF: FLC CHURCH OFFICE

NE Community Blood Bank — FIRST BUS BLOOD DRIVE!
We were able to collect **15 units of blood**, welcomed **3 walk-in donors**, & had **14 first time NCBBD donors!**
That's enough to help save **45 lives** right here in Nebraska!

HELP FLC SERVE 280 FREE MEALS

AUG FLC MOBILE BANQUET

THURS. AUG 13 5:30-6:30 PM

NEXT DISTRIBUTION HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Soap hand sanitizer

Extra Items: New Hand Soaps & Hand Sanitizers

DISTRIBUTION LOCATION:
FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL
1750 N LINCOLN AVE & 540 JOHNSON RD



The Mobile Banquet will be delivering **280 meals** to FHS, FMS, and LifeHouse, & ASPIRE on **Thursday, August 13, 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 deliver donations to the church kitchen by NOON on Wednesday, August 12.

We are collecting:
new hand sanitizer & hand soap
as our extra items for this month's Mobile Banquet.

Sign up by scanning the QR code or online at www.flcfremont.org/ministries/mission-and-outreach



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF

KITS

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

SCHOOL

PERSONAL

BABY

Items Due:
End of Sept.

OFFER COMFORT & CARE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST!

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

A detailed list of supplies for each LWR Kit can be found at the Ministry Center or scan the QR code to download the PDF!



CHILDREN AND YOUTH



MANY THANKS! Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, prayed for, or attended Rainforest Falls. It was a wonderful week of learning the nature of God. God our creator, knows everything, is our safe place and loves everyone. Wow, God! Children heard about God's love for them through games, stories, songs, crafts, and more! Youth and adult volunteers lived out their faith by praising God, leading littles, and sharing stories of where they saw God in their lives each day. The energy during VBS showed the Spirit is truly alive at FLC. Many thanks to all who make this ministry possible!



FLY56 Returns!

After a great inaugural year, FLY56 will return on Wednesdays from 3:30ish-5:00pm. All 5th and 6th graders are invited to join this group of pre-teens who are excited and ready to learn about Jesus. Through Bible stories, games, activities,

crafts, and serving others, FLY56 students will learn more about who God created them to be and why they need Jesus in their life! **Be sure to get signed up soon through our 2026-27 Youth & Children's Ministries Registration Form as FLY56 kicks off on Wednesday, September 9. The parent meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26 at 7:00pm.**



Confirmation at FLC - Lutheran Yes! helps students grow into the baptismal promises they'll affirm: to worship with God's people, hear and share God's story, and work for justice and peace. Students going in to 7th grade and above are invited to participate in Lutheran YES! Confirmation. Older students are welcome!

Every other Wednesday night, from 7:00-8:30pm, students *(with their Adult Confirmation Partner)* will grow to understand their own faith by digging into the 10 Commandments, Lutheran Worship, Lutheran Theology, Scripture, Baptismal Affirmations, and more. **If your child is ready to say YES, sign up through our 2026-27 Youth & Children's Ministry Registration Form. The kick off student- parent meeting for 2026 will be held on Wednesday, August 26 at 7:00 pm.**



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

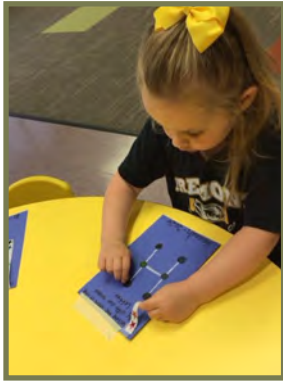
Annual registration assures we have the most accurate information for each family!

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

Registration is now open! Be sure to sign your child(ren) up for one or more of the various opportunities FLC offers for our younger members. From the First Steps Small group on Sunday mornings, to Wednesday afternoon FLY56 and WAM, to Middle and High School FLYS on Wednesday nights. There is something for all ages. Annual registration is necessary to assure we have the latest contact information for families. Register by scanning the QR code, or visiting our website. Contact Gina with any questions (ginad@flcfremont.org).

If you have any questions about **Children & Youth Ministry**, please contact Gina DeBoer at ginad@flcfremont.org or 402-721-2959

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



As August arrives, we are excited to welcome our children and families back to the Early Learning Center and Preschool for a new school year! We thank God for the opportunity to begin another year of growing together in faith, learning, and love.

Our classrooms are prepared to provide a nurturing, Christ-centered environment where every child is encouraged to discover the gifts God has given them. Through Bible stories, daily prayer, worship, hands-on learning, and meaningful relationships, we strive to help children grow not only academically but also spiritually as they learn about God's love and His purpose for their lives.

As we begin new routines and welcome both returning and new families, we ask for God's blessings upon each child, family, teacher, and staff member. May this school year be filled with kindness, joy, patience, and opportunities to share the love of Christ with one another.

We are grateful that you have entrusted us with your children and are honored to partner with you in providing a strong foundation rooted in faith. Together, we look forward to a year of learning, laughter, friendship, and growing closer to God each day.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." — Proverbs 22:6

May God richly bless our ELC, Preschool, and FLC families as we begin this exciting new school year together!



LET'S TACO 'BOUT IT

LA HACIENDA

Fundraiser

DINE-IN OR CARRY OUT!

THURSDAY, AUG 13

11:00AM-9:00PM

10% of your order will go to support ELC. Proceeds will go towards garden beds & cozy coupe cars for the playground! Mention this fundraiser when you order!

LA HACIENDA
• Mexican Restaurant

La Hacienda | 3140 Elk Lane, Fremont



Applebee's

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Fundraiser

AUGUST 25

11AM-11PM



Applebee's will contribute 25% of your order to support our ELC! Mention this fundraiser to your server when you order. Proceeds will go towards soft seating in the Preschool room.

BE A CONFIRMATION PARTNER!

Walk alongside these youth
as they dig deeper into their faith
& make promises of their own!



youth as they dig deeper into their faith and make some promises of their own. **This year's confirmation class could be up to 20 students. Our hope is to have one partner for every student.** Contact the office to help!

The Lutheran tradition includes a time in a teens life where they get to make the choice to affirm their baptismal promises. In Baptism, members of FLC promise to raise up the child by worshiping with them, teaching them God's Word, and working for justice and peace together. *Is God calling you to fulfill that promise today?*

Every other Wednesday night, Pastor Greg will lead confirmation using the Lutheran Yes! curriculum. Adult confirmation partners are needed to walk alongside these

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS — July

July FLC Council Highlights*

*Council Meeting was delayed a week, please reach out to the Church Office if you would like a copy of the Council Meeting minutes.

Monthly Financial Report

	June Actual	June Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$ 47,852.33	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 782,000.00	\$ 745,469.58	\$ 774,532.09
General Income	\$ 75,089.90	\$ 68,197.17	\$ 871,681.66	\$ 871,657.03	\$ 861,060.88
Mission Income	\$ 3,155.00	\$ 4,925.00	\$ 54,750.00	\$ 48,143.52	\$ 56,008.98
Expenses	\$ 95,340.52	\$ 99,479.34	\$ 901,347.32	\$ 828,216.41	\$ 830,611.62
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ (17,095.62)	\$ (26,357.17)	\$ 25,084.34	\$ 91,584.14	\$ 86,458.24
Building Maintenance Fund Contributions	\$ 23,058.00			\$ 58,220.57	\$ 37,121.98
Build Fund Balance	59,646.09				

Pledged giving was \$14K under budget for June and \$37K under budget YTD. Expenses were \$4K under budgeted for the month and \$40K under YTD which helps offset the lower pledge giving. June ended a \$17K deficit for the month but FLC remains at a profit of \$91K YTD. This is \$66K better than the YTD budget and \$5K better than last year at this time. With softer giving in the summer months, a 3 pay period month in July, the unbudgeted boiler replacement, the fiscal year ending 8/31 will end in a deficit. ELC had a \$4K profit for the month but project a loss their fiscal year ending 8/31 as well. With progress and growth comes added expenses. Mark you calendars for the Budget Forum on September 20th and the Annual Meeting on September 27th. See you then!

~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator

Targeted Giving... (as of 6/30/26) 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	\$3,380.71	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$2,737.51	Spoudazo	\$8,108.12
Technology	\$24.55	Good Samaritan	\$2,315.46	ELC Tuition Assistance	\$2,130.17
Church Home	\$474.07	Prayer Shawl	\$1,571.97	Banquet Mobile Meal	\$12,550.66
Building Maint.	\$56,946.09	Quilt Ministry	\$3,611.68	Youth Trips	\$8,247.27
First Lutheran Youth	\$9,164.75	Children's WAM	\$2,572.25	VBS	\$4,388.72

SPONSOR A BIBLE!

GIVEN TO:
3RD GRADERS
7TH GRADERS

HELP US PUT THE
WORD OF GOD IN
THE HANDS OF
CHILDREN!

25+ Students will receive Bibles this
year! Give them the gift of the Word and
a small special message from you!

BIBLES GIVEN AT KICK-OFF
SUNDAY ON SEPTEMBER 13

Contact Gina to choose your
student, ginad@flcfremont.org

\$25
EACH

MAKE A PAYMENT



Remember receiving your first Bible; how special it was to have your own copy of God's word? Who taught you how to look up a verse? What book of the Bible is your favorite? You can create that same excitement for one (or more!) of our children at FLC. **Help FLC fulfill the promise we make at Baptism to place the Word of God in their hands by sponsoring a Bible.**



CHILDREN & YOUTH

LEARN

FROM WHAT THEY SEE!



Do you love kids? Do you love youth? Do you love Jesus? In Children and Youth Ministries, there are opportunities for all types of volunteers. Those who love to prepare supplies, read to children, lead crafts, encourage the littles, or befriend the teen who feels alone. Contact Gina if you feel called to serve in any of these ways. **Together, we can plant seeds of faith, nurture our children, support our youth, and witness how God helps all of us grow!**

We are looking for adults who can help in these areas for the 2026-27 school year:

**Sunday Small Group Leaders | Teen Talk Guides
Confirmation Partners | Bible Sponsors
FLY Fundraiser leaders | Event Drivers | & MORE**

Contact ginad@flcfremont.org to share where you'd like to make a difference!

HOUSE OF DAVID

STARTING MONDAY, AUGUST 17
MONDAYS, NOON OR 6:00PM AT FLC
8 WEEKS | 90 MINS
FACILITATED BY DEACON RICK STRONG

Watch & discuss Season 1 of
House of David.

SIGN UP TODAY!

SCAN THE QR CODE, ON OUR WEBSITE,
OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.



Nominee Packets Available

The list of nominees for Church Council, Endowment Board, & Nominating Committee that will be voted on by confirmed members of FLC are available at the Ministry Center.

Grief Share®

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
August 18-November 10
First Lutheran Church**



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